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MISSISSIPPI
WATERSHED
MANAGEMENT
ORGANIZATION

MEETING MINUTES

Date: 14 November 2017

Attachment 3

Time: 3:00-5:00 PM

Location: 2522 Marshall Street NE, Minneapolis, MN 55418

Commissioners in Attendance

Donna Schmitt, Columbia Heights; Jim Saefke, Fridley; Mary Gaasch, Lauderdale; Kevin Reich, Minneapolis; Jerry Faust, St. Anthony; and Scott Vreeland, Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (MPRB).

Staff and Guests: Marcy Bean, Max Dalton, Brittany Faust, Stephanie Johnson, Dan Kalmon, Abby Moore, Michaela Neu, Udai Singh and Doug Snyder, MWMO; Glenda Meixell, Anoka Conservation District; Ben Shardlow, MDC/MDID; and Amy Juntunen, JASS.

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m. by Commissioner Saefke.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Motion by Vreeland, second by Schmitt to approve the Agenda with the addition of item 6.6, Resolution 2017-045. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Vreeland, second by Schmitt, to approve the Minutes of the September 12, 2017 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda

Motion by Faust, second by Vreeland to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports from Staff

Snyder gave a brief recap of the **conference and visit to India** with Dr. Singh.

The **Mississippi River Green Team** is undergoing a program evaluation after its tenth year in 2017. Over half of participants in the program from 2007-2017 responded to the evaluation survey, with many using the experience gained through the program in current careers. Most respondents easily recalled topics learned while participating and all respondents expressed that they are more concerned about the environment since their time on the Team. Over 80 respondents were able to find employment after participating in the program, with over half of

those careers environment-related. Parents of participants noted that the program had a positive impact. Both the long- and short-term goals of the program are being met. A final report will be completed shortly, with findings used to improve the program. MWMO would like to thank MPRB for working with the program and helping to make it a success.

[Reich arrived 3:11 p.m.]

Another round of grant applications was due October 6 for the **CIP program**, with five applications received. Staff recommends pursuing two of the applications, from a charter school and a cement plant, both water reuse projects.

Staff continue to work with the City of Minneapolis on the **Old Bassett Creek Tunnel** project. The City has assigned a tunnel engineer to write the project specs to create an RFP for the tunnel cleanout. The City will bid the project out at the end of the year. MWMO will provide a grant for the cleanout and hire Barr to test the sediment. Cleanup is expected to begin in February/March 2018.

MWMO is in partnership with **Minneapolis DID** (Downtown Improvement District) to install green infrastructure on downtown streets. This is a rewarding partnership, allowing MWMO exposure to different business entities and property owners. The DID is a 120-block district in downtown Minneapolis formed when commercial property owners decided to assess themselves to install BMPs to make the downtown area cleaner, greener, and more vibrant. The District works to maintain landscaping and promotes Greening Awards to highlight the investments made by property owners. The District also focuses advocacy around capital projects in downtown, particularly street reconstruction, to install green infrastructure. The DID is motivated due to understanding the value of landscaping and the cost of maintaining plantings that require regular watering. The DID sees an opportunity to partner with MWMO, MPRB and others to advance key strategies and pilot projects, such as the recent tree survey, and make targeted investments to support sustainable greening and stormwater management.

[Gaasch arrived 3:22 p.m.]

Construction on **Hall's Island** has begun with earth moving. The construction camera and social media campaign for the project should be operational within a week.

The **Towerside Phase II feasibility study** is anticipated to be completed in spring 2018.

MWMO is in discussion with Hennepin County and Minneapolis re the **Penn Avenue reconstruction** in 2018, specifically about opportunities near the intersection of Penn and Plymouth Avenues for a pilot installation of tree trenches for stormwater management.

MWMO received approval to provide a match for an **LCCMR grant** for an interpretive center at North Mississippi Regional Park. The original grant request was for \$865,000 but only \$500,000 is currently available. The final decision on whether this grant will be funded will be decided in the spring 2018 legislative session. The interpretive center is run by MPRB and is a great opportunity to engage visitors to cross-visit both the center and MWMO.

MWMO has partnered with MPRB to develop an **Ecological Systems Plan** for all Minneapolis parks to manage the parks in a comprehensive manner with the local ecosystems. MWMO is partnering on the stormwater elements of the plan. Staff will bring an updated contract for approval at the January meeting to continue these planning efforts. This contract will request additional funding for 2018 which is within the original budget for the project.

MWMO has received a \$30,000 grant from the McKnight Foundation to further the **Integrated Utility Hub (IUH)** feasibility study initiative at Towerside. MWMO will reach out to other organizations with a similar approach and to a national/international audience for a summit regarding this project in February/March 2018.

Staff met with MPRB staff and three developers in a workshop setting to better conceptualize what a district system can offer the **Upper Harbor Terminal** site. Next steps include a deeper look into operations, management and long-term ownership models.

Staff has been working with member cities over the past 18 months to update **Local Water Plans (LWP)**. Some draft plans have been received that do not meet MWMO requirements. The deadline for approval of LWPs in compliance with the MWMO Watershed Management Plan is December 31, 2018. Cities that are non-compliant will be ineligible for BWSR grant funding and Met Council may choose not to approve their comprehensive plan. MWMO is unable to do conditional approval of an LWP; it is either approved as written or denied. Staff will contact other government agencies to learn more about the consequences of non-compliance for member cities, and craft a message to tactfully advise the cities of these potential consequences.

General Business

Resolution 2017-040: 2018 Levy/Budget. The 2018 levy/budget remains the same as 2017 at \$5.7 million. Health insurance shows a 13% increase. Staff will meet with the insurance broker to investigate options to reduce costs, which will be brought to the Board in January as necessary. This increase is still within budget. Motion by Vreeland, second by Saefke to approve Resolution 2017-040, a resolution approving the MWMO levy amount for FY2018 of \$5,700,000 and directing staff to submit documentation to Anoka, Hennepin, and Ramsey counties. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 2017-041: Mississippi River Green Team Funding. This has been a successful program and partnership with MPRB for 10 years. Staff requests to continue funding this program for 2018-2020 at a total cost of \$200,000. In 2018, staff will investigate the feasibility of

including youth from cities outside of Minneapolis due to several requests. Motion by Vreeland, second by Saefke to approve Resolution 2017-041, a resolution approving funding for the implementation of the Mississippi River Green Team program. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 2017-042: CIP-8th St South Tree Trenches. This request is the first of several for this tree trench pilot project. This is a opportunity to partner with Minneapolis DID and the City of Minneapolis. Using information from previous feasibility studies to streamline the process, MWMO would like to enter into the preliminary design and analysis for this project. This funding request is for consulting services for a one-block design that could be applied to additional blocks within this 10-block reconstruction project. A capital funding request is anticipated in early 2018. Motion by Vreeland, second by Gaasch to approve Resolution 2017-042, a resolution approving funding for the design of a pilot tree trench capital project on 8th Street South in Minneapolis. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 2017-043: St. Paul Local Surface Water Management Plan. This is a request to deny the plan as submitted for review on August 24, 2017 due to non-compliance with the MWMO Watershed Management Plan. The plan as submitted does not address rate control and some aspects of the MWMO volume standard, as well as other items. Staff will continue to work with the city to meet the requirements of the current Management Plan and resubmit the plan for approval prior to the December 31, 2018 deadline. Motion by Vreeland, second by Saefke to approve Resolution 2017-043, a resolution denying the approval of the City of St. Paul Local Surface Water Plan for its 60-day review period. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 2017-044: MOU Towerside – PPP, MPRB, MWMO. This MOU authorizes Staff to take administrative actions to continue meeting with Prospect Park Properties and MPRB to explore opportunities and define roles within the Towerside Innovation District. This MOU does not commit parties to any specific expenditure now or in the future. It formalizes the existing relationship between the three parties in regards to this project to allow continued meetings with these partners. Motion by Faust, second by Vreeland to approve Resolution 2017-044, a resolution to enter into a MOU to explore model options for ownership, development, management, programming, and design of green space within the Towerside Innovation District. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 2017-045: Approving Donation to MWMO. A donation of \$100 has been received from Solo Dock, a company that allows purchasers to designate an organization to which a portion of the sale price is donated. MWMO was named as the beneficiary by a dock purchaser in Brooklyn Park on the Mississippi River. Donations will go into the Capital Program fund for outreach, monitoring, capital projects, etc. Motion by Faust, second by Saefke to approve Resolution 2017-045, a resolution approving the acceptance of a \$100.00 donation to the MWMO. Motion carried unanimously.

Open Public Input

There were no public comments.

Board Updates and Announcements

Vreeland noted that Seward Child Care is abandoning their “green wall” and will give it to MWMO if it is interested in acquiring this piece for repurposing. The green wall was designed by Water Wizards and is 14 ft tall by 10-12 ft wide. Moore noted that MWMO can take the wall and determine another location for it.

Vreeland expressed his pleasure in serving with the other Commissioners on the MWMO for the past 12 years.

Adjourn

There being no further business, motion by Saefke, second by Gaasch to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Juntunen
Recording Secretary

Record of Motions

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