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**MISSISSIPPI
WATERSHED
MANAGEMENT
ORGANIZATION**

MEETING MINUTES

Date: 13 March 2018

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; Cailin Rogers, St. Paul; and Kale Severson, Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (MPRB).

Staff and Guests: Marcy Bean, Max Dalton, Brett Eidem, Stephanie Johnson, Dan Kalmon, Abby Moore, Michaela Neu, Tammy Schmitz, and Doug Snyder, MWWMO; Glenda Meixell, Anoka Conservation District; Steve Christopher, Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR); Edna Brazaitis and Alex Roth, Friends of the Mississippi River; Jeremy Barrick and Cliff Swenson, MPRB; and Amy Juntunen, JASS.

The meeting was called to order at 3:03 p.m. by Commissioner Reich.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Motion by Saefke, second by Faust to approve the Agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Schmitt, second by Saefke, to approve the Minutes of the January 9, 2018 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda

None.

Reports from Staff

Neu provided an update on the **Mississippi River Green Team 10-year program evaluation**. The intent of the evaluation is to determine if the goals of the program are being met. Interviews were conducted with 24 of 58 alumni of the program, including some parents and current students. Most alumni reported caring more about the environment after participation, 75% reported learning about environmental careers and 41% reported that they have held some kind of environmental job. Staff will continue working with MPRB to improve connections to environmental career pathways during and after the program.

[Gaasch arrived 3:07 p.m.]

Moore reported that development of a new **watershed workshop series** to engage elected officials is underway. The series will bring 3-4 workshops per year focusing on different areas of the watershed and/or stormwater management with different presentations, presentations by MWMO partners, and networking time. Summer and fall workshops are planned for 2018. The intent of the workshop series is to help elected officials develop a basic understanding of watershed science, the roles and responsibilities of WMOs, and barriers faced by MWMO. The workshops are also an opportunity to help MWMO staff and Board build relationships and strengthen networks. The first workshop is scheduled for June 27, 2018 3:00-5:00 p.m. just prior to the Share the River event. This workshop will welcome people to the facility, cover a short section on what MWMO does, include a short site tour, and encourage participants to get out on the river and paddle to one or more project sites. A save-the-date Email will be sent to elected officials throughout the watershed. Commissioners are encouraged to invite colleagues to attend. The fall workshop will discuss innovation and highlight the Towerside District. Commissioners are also encouraged to share potential topics for future workshops with Moore. As content is developed, the workshops may expand to other events outside MWMO.

Johnson provided a **Capital Projects Program update**. MWMO continues to work with the Downtown Improvement District to install Green Planters on 8th Street, working with partners to define ownership and maintenance responsibilities. A funding request for this project is expected in May or July. The Story Map and Travel Time application developed last year has been a successful tool and staff is talking to service providers about taking the app to the next level by updating and geographically expanding the story map feature. A funding request is expected in May. Over the past three years Staff have been working on a modeling initiative. Staff will be publishing an RFP for modeling of the northernmost portion of the watershed in Columbia Heights and Fridley in April. Applications for the Capital Project Grant Program are due in early April.

In the **Planning Initiatives** report, Kalmon has been working on reviewing Local Water Plans (LWPs) for the cities of St. Anthony, Lauderdale, and Minneapolis. A \$125,000 Pisces Foundation Urban Waters grant was applied for and is in the second part of a three-part application process for the IUH Initiative. This grant would be used for a feasibility study, design and construction drawings, testing of materials, etc. Coalition members are seeing multiple grants in 2018. Any grants requiring a match of over \$20,000 will be brought to the Board for approval.

Administrative Updates. Staff met with the auditor last Friday. The auditor submitted a clean opinion on the audit and final copies are expected soon. Snyder offered special thanks to St. Anthony employees who assisted with the audit process.

A Chloride Bill is in the MN House to limit the liability of commercial applicators certified by the MPCA. BWSR is proposing legislative changes to allow approved local water plans to act as a TMDL or TMDL implementation Plan so the watershed would not need to wait for a new plan to begin implementation, but the bill hasn't been introduced yet.

BWSR introduced a pilot plan to distribute Clean Water Legacy funds directly to Metro area counties. The counties have until June 30 to create a work plan to disburse those funds. Snyder has been participating with Anoka, Hennepin and Ramsey county work groups and each county is contemplating different disbursement methods. Ramsey will distribute the funds evenly between four watersheds, Anoka is considering distribution by water resource impacted, and Hennepin may be distributed by major river basin to the Minnesota, Mississippi and Crow Rivers. Within each basin, the watersheds may disburse funds by formula or by competitive process. If the funds are not disbursed, they will go back to BWSR for disbursement through the current competitive grant process.

MWMO staff are participating in a large group of agencies re water re-use. The Dept. of Health released a study to the legislature erring on the side of extreme caution, suggesting treatment higher than needed for swimming water and requesting 1-2 additional years for additional research and to develop a risk-based management system. MWMO will stay involved with the goal of not treating re-use water to potable standards.

General Business

Resolution 2018-012: 2018 Action Grants. Nine Action Grant applications were received. Staff recommends awarding four Action Grants, two to be constructed in spring/summer 2018, one restoration will take the full year of the grant timeline, and one is an education program that will extend to spring 2019. The grants are for Mill City Commons, Washburn Center Raingarden, Nicollet Island Natural Areas Restoration project, and Tending Our Shared Waters through the Freshwater Society. Motion by Faust, second by Rogers to approve Resolution 2018-012, a resolution approving the 2018 Action Grants. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 2018-013: Capital Asset Replacement Fund. The auditors recommended creating an additional fund outside the Operating and Project funds specifically for replacement of capital assets – the building, boat, vehicle, etc. Staff recommends creating this new fund with a transfer of \$300,000 from the Capital Project and Initiative fund. Contributions to this fund will be part of the 2019 and future budgets. Motion by Saefke, second by Gaasch to approve Resolution 2018-013, a resolution approving the creation of a new fund called the MWMO Capital Asset Replacement Fund and authorizing a one-time transfer of funds from the MWMO Capital Projects and Initiatives Fund of \$300,000 to the new fund. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 2018-014: OBCT Phase 1 Clean-Out. Staff is requesting approval of up to \$187,000 for removal of sediment from a 1,100 foot section of the uppermost portion of the Old Basset Creek tunnel. This clean-out is expected to remove 1,200 tons of sediment. Minneapolis has put this project out for bid and will follow the general procedures from the feasibility study and access the tunnel from the outlet or new access hatch for the first phase. Barr has created a suggested inspection plan for the tunnel and it is expected to take 50 years before sediment in the tunnel reaches the current point again. The City will have responsibility to maintain the structure of the tunnel and future clean-outs, MWMO is committed to helping the City monitor sediment accumulation. Motion by Schmitt, second by Gaasch to approve Resolution 2018-014, a resolution authorizing up to \$187,000 for the Old Bassett Creek tunnel cleanout phase 1. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 2018-015: Towerside Amendment 3. This agreement is with all owners of the Towerside District Stormwater System. As part of putting together the initial Phase I, MWMO agreed to take on five years of administration of the district. After the first five years, administration will be turned over to the owners. This amendment is to adjust stormwater management declaration and easements for parcels 1, 2, 3, 6 and 8 to allow additional partial ownership, and additional stormwater pipe, and changes to allotted treatment. Motion by Schmitt, second by Saefke to approve Resolution 2018-015, a resolution approving an amendment to the Towerside District stormwater management declaration and easement agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 2018-016: Columbia Golf Course Field Investigation. This is a request for funding the next phase of work with Minneapolis and MPRB to initiate a contract for data collection for the surface and groundwater on this site. The intention is to improve the current functionality of the golf course which currently is shut down several times a year due to flooding. This is a planning phase to learn potential improvements that could be installed to reduce flooding and improve usability of the site. Motion by Severson, second by Rogers to approve Resolution 2018-016, a resolution approving funding for the Columbia Golf Course field investigations project. Motion carried unanimously.

BWSR PRAP. Christopher reviewed the Performance Review and Assistance Program (PRAP) that MWMO will perform with BWSR in 2018. This review is mandated by the legislature once every

10 years to compare progress with the watershed's Management Plan. Last Tuesday, BWSR met with MWMO staff to review the 90-day process. The Board was asked to participate in a survey that will be sent by BWSR as part of the process.

Towerside Phase II Design. Kalmon shared findings from the Phase II stormwater feasibility study that began in July 2017. The study was a 50/50 cost-share partnership and resulted in three concepts 1) continued grid approach/just above minimum city requirements for rate control; 2) reduction of impervious area and increased space for a parkway/manage a 10-year storm event; and 3) a stormwater, habitat, and regional park connection to the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area/manage a 100-year storm event. Staff is continuing to work with partners to establish formal relationships as the project moves forward. Concept one would include an MWMO contribution of \$2.5 million, concept two would include a contribution of \$2.7 million, and concept three would include a contribution of \$4 million. The developers and partners will be reviewing their preferred build-out against the three concepts. MWMO currently has \$1.6 million remaining of the total \$3.5 million budgeted for the Towerside projects. Commissioners expressed concern about going over budget.

Open Public Input

None.

Board Updates and Announcements

None

Adjourn

There being no further business, motion by Saefke, second by Schmitt to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 4:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Juntunen

Recording Secretary

Record of Motions

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There being no further business, motion by Saefke, second by Schmitt to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 4:54 p.m.