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**MISSISSIPPI  
WATERSHED  
MANAGEMENT  
ORGANIZATION**

# MEETING MINUTES

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**Date:** 10 July 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; and Kale Severson, Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (MPRB).

Staff and Guests: Max Dalton, Brittany Faust, Maddie Hankard, Brian Jastram, Dan Kalmon, Emma Keiski, Rikita Patel, Shanti Penprase, Jim Rudolph, Udai Singh, and Doug Snyder, MWMO; Glenda Meixell, Anoka Conservation District; Steve Christopher, Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR); Bruce Jacobson, landscape architect; Andrew Jenks and Cara Leitheiser, U of M; and Beverly Love, JASS.

The meeting was called to order at 3:07 p.m. by Commissioner Reich.

## Approval of Agenda and Minutes

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

Motion by Schmitt, second by Gaasch, to approve the Minutes of the May 8, 2018 meeting with the following correction:

### Commissioners in Attendance

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

Staff and Guests: Max Dalton, Brett Eidem, Madeline Hankard, Stephanie Johnson, Abby Moore, Udai Singh, and Doug Snyder, MWMO; Glenda Meixell, Anoka Conservation

District; Dr. Bruce Wilson and Dr. Joe Magner, U of M; Cliff Swenson, MPRB; and Amy Juntunen, JASS.

## Consent Agenda

Motion by Schmitt, second by Gaasch to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

## Reports from Staff

Singh introduced **two new interns**: Emma Keiski, Communications and Outreach Intern, and Rikita Patel, Monitoring Intern. Water Quality Intern Shanti Penprase has worked across all programs in the past year and will be completing her internship this month.

Kalmon reported that in June a **series of meetings** was started with Minneapolis staff and elected officials to build a partnership around the integrated utility hub initiative and opportunities at other sites in Minneapolis. We continue to hear good feedback and are optimistic about chances to rally support towards a feasibility study as well.

Staff is beginning to scope a **MOU with Minneapolis Public Works Waters regarding Upper Harbor Terminal** and plan on bringing this MOU to the Board in September. The Park Board is leading another MOU around planning Towerside Phase II. This MOU is intended to provide time to determine if there are significant cost savings and public benefits that could come out of a project in that area over the 20-acre site. Staff also plan to bring this MOU to the Board in September.

At the upcoming September and November Board meetings, Staff anticipate bringing the **member cities' Local Water Plans** to the Board for a decision to approve or disapprove all parts according to MWMO statute. At this time Staff is looking for guidance due to city delays that have come up affecting this process. Due to Phase 1 MS4 permit updates the cities have been going through, they are not at a point of having drafts of ordinances available, and these ordinances are a significant component of approval in terms of content of the Plan. Staff have worked with the cities on anticipated timelines of drafting the future ordinances to meet MWMO standards, and the timelines go beyond the end of this year. This leaves Staff in the position of presenting incomplete Plans to the Board and asking the Board to approve draft standards without having seen them. Snyder reported that Staff have spoken with attorney Troy Gilchrist regarding the timing conflict. Once this Board approves the Plan, MWMO's statutory language says the City must have its ordinance in place within 180 days of MWMO's approval date. Most cities cannot get through a requirements rewrite within that 180 days. They are given a year under the NPDES process. If MWMO were to approve the Local Plan and the City does not comply by the date or meet the standard, MWMO would have lost any opportunity to influence that standard. How does the MWMO maintain the conversation and help the City get to the agreed desired end when there is the conflict with the statutory language? Gilchrist suggested a Letter of Intent with the City so

that the Board could approve the Plan with the Letter of Intent that states the ordinance complying with MWMO standards will be in place by a certain date. Otherwise, since MWMO does only above and beyond work and does not fund normal work for the City, MWMO would only perform work above and beyond MWMO standards regardless of what the City standard might be. Reich recommends a robust Letter of Intent in the spirit of collaboration.

Two small (under \$20,000) **capital improvement project feasibility studies** will be starting in the next month. They will be used to examine the above and beyond stormwater opportunities for two projects submitted for MWMO capital project grants. One is NorthPoint Health and Wellness Center in Hennepin County and the other is Village Green Apartments in Fridley. The results of these feasibility studies will be used to determine if these projects will be awarded a grant and, if so, the amount of the grant for above and beyond treatment.

Snyder reported that for the **budget cycle**, the starting point is a flat forecast for 2019. Then the costs for new capital projects will be aligned with the budget projections for the next three years as capital projects cost is where the largest variation in the budget lies. There will be more concrete information to review at the September meeting, and the top end for the truth-in-taxation statements will also be set at that time..

## **General Business**

**Resolution 2018-022: Reauthorization of Indirect Cost Limit for St. Anthony Fall Hydraulic Laboratory (SAFL) Technical Assistance.** MWMO and SAFL have been working together since 2007 and had both agreed that the limit of indirect costs that SAFL would charge would be 35 percent of the total direct costs. Recently SAFL proposed raising the rate to 65 percent of total direct costs. SAFL agreed to consider extending the present rate if MWMO had a resolution from the Board affirming their desire to continue at the 35 percent indirect cost limit. Staff requests reauthorization of the indirect cost limit not to exceed 35 percent of total direct cost for future SAFL technical assistance. Motion by Faust, second by Saefke to approve Resolution 2018-022, a resolution to reauthorize the prior cost limit, i.e. direct costs (salary plus benefits) and indirect costs (no more than 35 percent of total direct cost) for future St. Anthony Fall Hydraulic Laboratory (SAFL) technical assistance agreement with the MWMO. Motion carried unanimously.

**Presentation: MWMO Initiatives and Influence – Demonstrated Value Beyond Watershed Boundaries.** Landscape architect Bruce Jacobson, who has worked with MWMO for over five years, discussed how innovative MWMO projects such as Towerside are helping to inform a number of other projects in the area. MWMO work and support has been extremely influential and has demonstrated value on many scales, including site, corridor, neighborhood/district, city and county. An example of site scale is the ISLA campus in Minnetonka, which has transformed previously impervious surfaces into a rain garden, butterfly garden and green space, and is currently constructing a system for using stormwater for irrigation. A corridor scan example is Plymouth Avenue around North High School. Towerside is an example of neighborhood/district scale in which districts engage and collaborate on a project. The City of Ramsey, which is

currently working on a city-wide park system with their “Vision for a Green City” project, is an example of city scale.

**Presentation: BWSR PRAP Report.** Steve Christopher, Board Conservationist with the MN Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR), presented an overview of the Draft BWSR Performance Review and Assistance Program (PRAP) for MWMO. After MWMO Staff respond to the draft report and edits are made, a final report will be distributed. Key findings and conclusions were that MWMO has a good record of implementation and accomplishment of their current water management plan which covers the years 2011-2021. MWMO has completed 30 action items and has 198 activities ongoing, which translates to a very impressive 91% success rate. MWMO’s compliance with policy and performance standards is very good in meeting essential administrative planning and communication practices that lead to an effective and efficient organization. MWMO has achieved 10 of 11 high performance benchmarks. MWMO’s partners reinforce these conclusions in their high marks for communication, quality of work, relations with customers and follow-through. BWSR has two recommendations for improvement: 1) Develop and implement a training plan for each Board member, which would include new member orientation as well as individual training plans for continuing education in leadership, organizational management and water resource management, and 2) Make water quality data trends easily accessible and available to the public. BWSR staff have already been working with MWMO water quality and communications staff to implement annual reporting and website changes to accomplish the second recommendation. Overall, MWMO is doing an excellent job and should be commended for its accomplishments.

**Presentation: Mapping Change in the Mississippi River Bathymetry from St. Anthony Falls to Minneapolis Port from 2014-2017.** Cara Leitheiser, a graduate student in the Department of Geography-MGIS program at the U of M, worked on this project as a graduate course on advance topics in Geographic Information Systems and presented her results utilizing the story map application. The goal of the project is to look at the bathymetry of the river, how it has changed over the years, see areas of high scour and low scour, and what can be implemented in the study procedure going forward. A baseline high water level was established for yearly comparison. Bathymetry data was compiled into one database and analyzed to show year-to-year changes.

## Open Public Input

None

## Board Updates and Announcements

On June 27 MWMO hosted a **watershed workshop for elected officials**. Faust reported that several state legislators attended, as well as city representatives. This workshop is important in the education of officials regarding water issues. A public open house was held after the workshop, with an attendance of 165. Wilderness Inquiry brought their ten-person canoes, and the public, as well as several legislators, went out on the water. Today the MWMO, along with the

Met Council and the City of Minneapolis, hosted the Watershed Alliance conference with the theme “One Water.” This conference brings together people from cities, institutes, state and private foundations all dealing with wastewater and stormwater. A tour was set up beginning at MWMO to learn about green infrastructure and how Minnesota organizations work collaboratively in order to design and install green infrastructure. Attendees were eager to learn about the technical aspects of the projects as well as their meaningfulness to the community

## **Adjourn**

There being no further business, motion by Saefke, second by Gaasch to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 4:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Love

Recording Secretary

## Record of Motions

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

Motion by Schmitt, second by Gaasch, to approve the Minutes of the May 8, 2018 meeting with the following correction:

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Motion carried unanimously.

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Motion by Faust, second by Saefke to approve Resolution 2018-022, a resolution to reauthorize the prior cost limit, i.e. direct costs (salary plus benefits) and indirect costs (no more than 35 percent of total direct cost) for future St. Anthony Fall Hydraulic Laboratory (SAFL) technical assistance agreement with the MWMO. Motion carried unanimously.

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