



2522 Marshall Street NE  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55418-3329

612-746-4970  
contacts@mwmoo.org

mwmoo.org

**MISSISSIPPI  
WATERSHED  
MANAGEMENT  
ORGANIZATION**

# MEETING MINUTES

---

**Date:** 10 November 2020

**Attachment 3**

**Time:** 3:00-5:00 PM

**Location:** 2522 Marshall Street NE, Minneapolis, MN 55418  
This meeting was held via Zoom video conferencing platform

## Commissioners in Attendance

Donna Schmitt, Columbia Heights; Steve Eggert, Fridley; Jeffrey Dains, Lauderdale; and Randy Stille, St. Anthony.

Staff and Guests: Nick Busse, Brett Eidem, Brittany Faust, Bill Howlett, Dan Kalmon, Sadie Loose, Abby Moore, John Mueller, Michaela Neu, Jim Rudolph, Udai Singh, Nancy Stowe, and Doug Snyder MWMO; John Bilotta, U of M; Glenda Meixell, Anoka Conservation District; and Amy Juntunen, JASS.

The meeting was called to order at 3:03 p.m. by Vice Chair Dains.

## Approval of Agenda and Minutes

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

Motion by Eggert, second by Schmitt to approve the Minutes of the September 8, 2020 meeting with a correction to the date in the footer. Motion carried unanimously.

## Consent Agenda

Motion by Stille, second by Eggert to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

## Reports from Staff

The December 8, 2020 planning meeting has been canceled. The first draft of the Watershed Management Plan is complete and has been submitted for the initial 60-day review period. This item will be included on the January regular meeting agenda.

After review of current COVID conditions and in light of the recent restrictions expected from the Governor, the MWMO offices will remain closed until June 1, 2021 unless and until the vaccine is widely available. Employees will continue to work remotely.

This Saturday is the last fall work day opportunity for the Mississippi River Green Team, weather dependent. Videos are available on the Green Team web page. The last funding request was for 2017-2020. Staff is working with Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board (MPRB) to coordinate and will bring a new funding request to the Board early next year.

Singh recognized the monitoring team for following all COVID protocols throughout the year. All field activities are on schedule. New initiatives for 2020 included preparing the filter media lab for the research grant in conjunction with U of M and the Natural Resources Institute from UMD. This will be ready to install next spring and staff will be working with the Fridley Public Works department to monitor water quality at the inflow and outflow points. Staff are in the process of summarizing the water quality data from the 65th Avenue outfall. The weather station at the MWMO facility has been tested and is now installed at Towerside. The infiltration loggers have collected the first year of data at the downtown project. Data will be submitted to partners after it has been summarized. The St. Anthony Village regional treatment system maintenance was completed by MWMO for the years 2017-2020. The city will take over maintenance starting next year.

Partners, including MWMO, are finalizing the contract with Barr Engineering for the Towerside Phase II project. Funding sources included a \$100,000 grant from Met Council and partners contributing \$35,000 each. MWMO's role in the development project is the district stormwater system, including habitat, that will be built to manage up to the 100-year storm event. This is a 20-acre site that currently does not have water management practices. The project anticipates much more above-ground water conveyance, water storage, and privately held easements to enhance the stormwater system, much like the Upper Harbor Terminal site.

## General Business

**Resolution 2020-034: MN Water Stewards Training.** Formerly the Master Water Steward program, MWMO has trained over 50 Minnesota Water Stewards since 2016 and a leadership team of Water Stewards has been developed to ensure long-term engagement, education and experience for all Water Stewards. Stewards have completed installation of 21 capstone projects, increased participation in the MWMO Stewardship grant program, education and outreach, and hundreds of hours of volunteer time on various projects. Beginning in 2021, the training will be moved entirely online, reducing the cost of training. The MWMO seeks to fund training and capstone project funding for ten new Water Stewards in 2021. Motion by Eggert, second by Schmitt to approve Resolution 2020-034 approving \$30,000 in funding for the 2021 MWMO Minnesota Water Steward cohort. Motion carried unanimously.

**Resolution 2020-035: MN Stormwater Research Council Funding.** MWMO is one of several partners that make up the Minnesota Stormwater Research Council. Singh is a board member on the Council, which was founded in 2016 to facilitate the completion of needed applied research for water resource management in urbanized areas. MWMO has contributed \$25,000 in funding to the Council annually from 2016-2020. Motion by Stille, second by Eggert to approve Resolution 2020-035 approving \$25,000 funding to the Minnesota Stormwater Research Council for applied stormwater research for 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

**Resolution 2020-036: 4th Street Landscape O&M Agreement.** On September 12, 2017 the MWMO Board approved a \$500,000 grant to the Towerside Innovation District to construct and maintain improvements in a linear stormwater system and habitat plantings. The construction cost was \$400,000 with the remaining \$100,000 to be held for operations and maintenance which was expected to cover the first three to five years of operations. However, the O&M Agreement was not created and executed in a timely manner. Motion by Eggert, second by Schmitt to approve Resolution 2020-036 approving an agreement with Towerside for operations and maintenance of the 4th Street SE landscape plantings for habitat at a cost not to exceed \$100,000. Motion carried unanimously.

**Resolution 2020-037: Restorative Partnership Extension and Funding.** Staff is requesting an extension of timing and funding with the firm hired to build capacity within the partnership. In January 2020 the Board approved a motion to contract with Carroll, Frank and Associates at a cost of \$35,000 to build capacity within the partnership through December 31, 2020. Due to COVID, it is taking more time to build that partnership and complete outreach while incurring unanticipated costs. Staff is requesting an extension of the contract to March 31, 2021 and an additional \$12,000 in funding to complete this project. Motion by Schmitt, second by Stille to approve Resolution 2020-037 approving an extension to March 31, 2021 and additional funding of \$12,000 for professional services for the Restorative Development Partnership. Motion carried unanimously.

**Resolution 2020-038:** UHT Community Engagement. MWMO has been actively participating in the Upper Harbor Terminal (UHT) project since 2015 with a goal of establishing Restorative District and Regional stormwater systems that will improve water quality and habitat. There is a clear need to engage the leadership within this community more directly to ensure the design reflects the needs and preferences of the community. Motion by Eggert, second by Schmitt to approve Resolution 2020-037 approving up to \$50,000 to fund professional services and Upper Harbor Terminal community engagement on infrastructure design. Motion carried unanimously.

**Resolution 2020-039:** Towerside Tank. The water reuse tank at Towerside continues to leak. Barr Engineering recommended an injection method to seal the tank called hydrophilic grout injection. Motion by Eggert, second by Stille to approve Resolution 2020-039 committing \$135,000 for the repair of the stormwater reuse tank at Towerside. Motion carried unanimously.

**Resolution 2020-040:** Levy Certification. This levy is based on the budget approved by the Commission earlier this year. The 2021 levy of \$5.95 million represents a 4.4% increase over the 2020 levy. Motion by Schmitt, second by Eggert to approve Resolution 2020-040 approving the MWMO levy amount for FY2021 of \$5,950,000. Motion carried unanimously.

## Open Public Input

None.

## Board Updates and Announcements

Schmitt noted that two Columbia Heights City Council members have been diagnosed with COVID-19, though they likely contracted it at their place of work, not at the City. The groundbreaking ceremony for the new City Hall will occur on November 12 with an anticipated completion in 2022. The new City Hall site will be mixed use with residential apartments above. The project includes Opportunity Zone funding. Schmitt is retiring and did not run for a City Council seat this year. Her last day as an MWMO Commissioner is December 31, 2020.

Dains recognized Moore for the presentation she provided to the Lauderdale City Council. The presentation was well-organized and well received by residents. He recommended that other Councils invite her to present at a future meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 12, 2021 and will continue on the second Tuesday of odd-numbered months in 2021.

## **Adjourn**

There being no further business, motion by Eggert, second by Schmitt to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 4:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Juntunen

Recording Secretary

## Record of Motions

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

Motion by Eggert, second by Schmitt to approve the Minutes of the September 8, 2020 meeting with a correction to the date in the footer. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Stille, second by Eggert to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Eggert, second by Schmitt to approve Resolution 2020-034 approving \$30,000 in funding for the 2021 MWMO Minnesota Water Steward cohort. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Stille, second by Eggert to approve Resolution 2020-035 approving \$25,000 funding to the Minnesota Stormwater Research Council for applied stormwater research. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Eggert, second by Schmitt to approve Resolution 2020-036 approving an agreement with Towerside for operations and maintenance of the 4th Street SE landscape plantings for habitat at a cost not to exceed \$100,000. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Schmitt, second by Stille to approve Resolution 2020-037 approving an extension and additional funding for professional services for the Restorative Development Partnership. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Eggert, second by Schmitt to approve Resolution 2020-037 approving up to \$50,000 to fund professional services and Upper Harbor Terminal community engagement on infrastructure design. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Eggert, second by Stille to approve Resolution 2020-039 committing \$135,000 for the repair of the stormwater reuse tank at Towrside. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Schmitt, second by Eggert to approve Resolution 2020-040 approving the MWMO levy amount for FY2021 of \$5,950,000. Motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business, motion by Eggert, second by Schmitt to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 4:22 p.m.