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NEWS RELEASE

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MWWMO Executive Director Doug Snyder Announces Retirement

Former Board Chair Kevin Reich Appointed Interim Executive Director as Search Begins for Permanent Replacement

MINNEAPOLIS —Mississippi Watershed Management Organization (MWWMO) Executive Director Doug Snyder will retire at the end of February 2022, after nearly 20 years of service at the MWWMO.

“It has been my great privilege to lead the MWWMO and watch it grow into the organization it is today,” Snyder said. “Although leaving is bittersweet, I’m excited for the future — both for myself personally as well as for the MWWMO.”

Snyder’s retirement will precipitate a slate of leadership changes at the MWWMO, which will begin searching for a new permanent executive director. In the meantime, former Minneapolis City Council Member and long-time MWWMO Board Chair Kevin Reich will take over as interim executive director.

The MWWMO is also set to welcome four new commissioners in the coming weeks, with new appointments from Minneapolis, Columbia Heights, St. Paul, and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. (See details below.)

Snyder was one of two original staff hired by the MWWMO in 2002. Over the course of two decades, he oversaw the development of the MWWMO into a robust organization with a full staff complement, a riverfront office facility, and wide-ranging impacts on the community.

“Building relationships and creating opportunities for collaboration have been key to our success over the years,” Snyder said. “Because we lack regulatory authority, we needed to seek out partners and build trust with our member communities in order to achieve our shared goals.”

Snyder will continue working on a part-time basis through the end of February to help ease the transition. After that, his plans include traveling, golf, and spending time with his family.

The MWMO plans to post the executive director position in late January/early February and anticipates selecting a final candidate sometime between May and June. An executive search firm has been hired to aid in the selection process.

Reich Named Interim Executive Director; New Commissioners Appointed

The MWMO Board of Commissioners voted Jan. 11, 2022, to appoint Kevin Reich as interim executive director.

Reich, the former Minneapolis City Council Member from Ward 1, has spent a total of 12 years on the MWMO Board of Commissioners, including the last 10 years as board chair. He will serve as interim executive director effective Jan. 25, 2022, and continue until a permanent replacement is announced.

“During Doug’s tenure, the MWMO has seen expanded organizational capacity and deep, meaningful advancement our mission serving community and improving the river,” Reich said. “I am committed to the uninterrupted trajectory of this success moving forward.”

The board will elect new officers at its March 8 meeting, following anticipated new appointments from the Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul. The City of Columbia Heights and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) recently appointed new commissioners to the MWMO.

As of January 25, 2022, current members of the MWMO’s Board of Commissioners are:

Member Organization	Commissioner	Alternate
Columbia Heights/Hilltop	Connie Buesgens.....	Bertha Risdahl
Fridley	Steve Eggert (Vice-Chair).....	Tom Tilberry
Lauderdale	Jeff Dains	Mary Gaasch
Minneapolis	LaTrisha Vetaw	<i>Vacant</i>
MPRB.....	Becka Thompson	Billy Menz
St. Anthony Village	Randy Stille (Treasurer)	Jan Jenson
St. Paul.....	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Vacant</i>

The city council or governing body from each MWMO member community appoints a commissioner to the MWMO in accordance with state law.

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