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**MISSISSIPPI
WATERSHED
MANAGEMENT
ORGANIZATION**

MEETING MINUTES

Date: 9 March 2021

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

Steve Eggert, Fridley; Jeffrey Dains, Lauderdale; Kevin Reich, Minneapolis; Chris Meyer, MPRB; and Randy Stille, St. Anthony.

Staff and Guests: Alicia Beattie, Nick Busse, Brett Eidem, Adam Flett, Sadie Loose, Abby Moore, Michaela Neu, Udai Singh, Nancy Stowe, and Doug Snyder, MWMO; Glenda Meixell, Anoka Conservation District; and Amy Juntunen, JASS.

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m. by Chair Reich.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Motion by Reich, second by Dains to approve the Agenda and the Minutes of the January 12, 2021 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda

Motion by Dains, second by Meyer to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports from Staff

The MWMO shares a Human Resources Coordinator with St. Anthony Village. The HR Coordinator has been offered a full-time City Manager position and will not be able to continue as the HR Coordinator. This position is expected to be hired within the next six weeks.

St. Anthony Village staff are assisting with the MWMO annual audit and a draft audit report is expected by mid-April. The final audit should be available at the May meeting for approval. The deadline to submit the annual audit is June 30.

Snyder requested the Commission to consider supporting CenterPoint Energy's Natural Gas Innovation Act legislation which could positively impact the integrated utility hub development. Staff can write a letter stating that the legislation has MWMO staff support instead of MWMO Commission support. The legislation will most likely be heard prior to the next meeting. Commissioners noted that staff support of this legislation is allowed. The Commissioners are not ready to support the legislation at this time.

The Commission should consider providing input regarding the disposition of the Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam. The upper falls lock has been closed since 2015 to prevent invasive carp from moving upriver. The Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) would like to gift the lock and dam to the city of Minneapolis or MWMO. Only the lock would be shut down. Staff would prefer to see that ACOE continue ownership and maintenance, as the property is also tied to the lower St. Anthony lock and dam. The lands around the structure could be transferred to the city for recreational use. This would ensure that the integrity of both lock and dam structures would be maintained over time. The Commissioners support staff's recommendation and are not interested in taking ownership of the lock and dam. The Board encouraged staff to submit their comments as discussed.

The Watershed Management Plan 60-day comment period was opened in October 2020. Comments were received in December 2020. Staff continues to edit and refine the plan per comments. The final 90-day review is expected to begin in July 2021 with BWSR approval following and Commission approval and adoption expected at the November 2021 meeting.

The North Columbia Golf Course and Park BMP project is currently in phase one, which began in October 2020 and is expected to be completed later this month. Work includes the removal/abandonment of old storm sewer pipes, installation of larger capacity storm sewer, earthwork to create new basins, BMP installation, grading, and woody invasive species removal. Phase two will be completed over the summer and includes final grading, golf course restoration, and 19 acres of habitat restoration. This is the first project where MWMO has taken the lead on a major capital project with MPRB. Drone footage of the project is available on the website. Contaminated soils were discovered, additional excavation needed, trees found that required removal, etc., resulting in six change orders to date. One change order will be 100% covered by MPRB to change the fairway seed for the golf course. However, partners need to contribute to the

increased costs totaling \$317,205, which remain under the 15% contingency, at this time. Additional contingency funds are not expected to be needed.

Singh presented to the Commissioners his experience as a keynote speaker at _____ University in India February 25-26, 2021. The Vice Chancellor and Dean of the University expressed gratitude to the MWMO Board for allowing his participation. Singh thanked Snyder and the Commissioners for allowing him to share MWMO's accomplishments with others.

MWMO has begun annual BMP effectiveness monitoring at the Fridley stormwater ponds built as part of the new Fridley city campus. Seven samples were taken last year. Singh detailed the analysis for Chlorophyll A, *E. coli*, Total Suspended Solids (TSS), Total Phosphorus (TP), and chlorides.

MWMO is also monitoring the Jackson Pond with the iron-enhanced sand filter. The filter is providing almost two-thirds of the removal of TP out of three samples obtained last year. The filter also provided good removal of TSS. However, there is more *E. Coli* in the outflow than inflow, so the sand filter will need to be cleaned.

A water quality monitoring video has been created and shared on the website. Eggert noted the video was very good and thanked staff for their monitoring efforts in Fridley.

General Business

Resolution 2021-017: Stewardship Fund Action Grant. Four applications were received for Stewardship Fund Action Grants:

- Abbot Northwestern Transportation Hub at \$50,000 to add 5,000 SF of new native, pollinator-friendly plantings and educational signage to the new transportation hub structure adjacent to the Midtown Greenway.
- Sundial Building Water Management and Reuse Demonstration project at \$49,825 to implement stormwater management strategies at a 12-unit multi-family apartment building, including water reuse and rain gardens, as well as development of educational materials for local residents and nearby property owners and developers to learn about the planning and execution of the project.
- Children's Dental Services at \$50,000 to reconstruct the parking lot as a permeable parking lot that will infiltrate stormwater runoff onsite, as well as educational materials.
- University Baptist Church at \$50,000 to install rock swales and vegetated rain gardens to divert runoff away from the church foundation and allow infiltration.

Many of these current applicants started with planning grants from MWMO and are now moving to the implementation stage. The total request for 2021 Stewardship Fund Action Grants, paid by the Stewardship Fund, is \$199,825.

Motion by Eggert, second by Stille to approve Resolution 2021-017 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 2021-018: Como Semi-URP P8 Water Quality Modeling Project. The goal of modeling is to refine planning and outreach efforts by understanding which areas are most high risk for flooding or contribute the most pollutants. The Hydrologic and Hydraulic model has already been completed. This request is to contract with Houston Engineering to complete this modeling project at a cost not to exceed \$84,000.

Motion by Stille, second by Dains to approve Resolution 2021-018 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 2021-019: Mississippi River Green Team. The Green Team did not operate fully in 2020 due to COVID-19. To operate at full capacity in 2021, youth will be split into two separate teams. The crews will continue to wear masks and physically distance while working. Staff is requesting \$51,000 in 2021 to continue the partnership with MPRB for this program.

Motion by Eggert, second by Dains to approve Resolution 2021-019 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Open Public Input

None.

Board Updates and Announcements

A great article re MWMO was published in the Fridley city newsletter. Eggert thanked Snyder for providing the article.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 11, 2021 via Zoom.

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Juntunen, Recording Secretary

Record of Motions

Motion by Reich, second by Dains to approve the Agenda and the Minutes of the January 12, 2021 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Dains, second by Meyer to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Eggert, second by Stille to approve Resolution 2021-017 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Stille, second by Dains to approve Resolution 2021-018 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Eggert, second by Dains to approve Resolution 2021-019 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.