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**MISSISSIPPI
WATERSHED
MANAGEMENT
ORGANIZATION**

MEETING MINUTES

Date: 11 May 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

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

Staff and Guests: Nick Busse, Brett Eidem, Brittany Faust, Dan Kalmon, 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 3:02 p.m. by Chair Reich.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Motion by Meyer, second by Ostwald to approve the May 10, 2021 Agenda and the Minutes of the March 9, 2021 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda

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

Reports from Staff

MWMO is working with City Manager Charlie Yunker at St. Anthony Village to hire a shared Human Resources Coordinator. It is intended to have this position filled prior to the next Board meeting.

St. Anthony Village staff are assisting with the MWMO annual audit. A draft audit report is complete. However, there was a delay on the final audit. The close-out meeting with the auditor to finish the process will occur this Thursday afternoon. The deadline to submit the annual audit is June 30. Any recommendations resulting from the audit will be shared at the July meeting.

MWMO supported the U of M in seeking a 2020 federal grant for the LTER study to examine the relationship between long-term ecological research within urban nature and urban ecosystems. MWMO staff will serve on the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for this study and provide natural resource inventory and information collected over the years.

In discussions with the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD) and Watershed District Administrators re Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) Watershed-Based Implementation Funding (WBIF), BWSR had determined that Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) annual plans are equal to 10-year Watershed Management Plans and qualify to receive funding through this program. The Minnesota Association of Watershed Administrators (MAWA) has created a policy statement adopted by MAWD and sent to BWSR stating a belief that the language regarding the program was changed to allow SWCDs in the metro to access WBIF funds. The idea of WBIF at the legislature was to provide a steady source of funding to implement existing watershed management plans to complete projects that were otherwise unattainable. MWMO has not received any WBIF funding in the first two rounds of funding, which each consisted of a two-year biennium. Staff would like to ensure that watersheds get funding and SWCDs work with watersheds as partners on implementation to ensure funding is prioritized. SWCDs are funded by the County and do not levy like watersheds do. Most SWCDs provide incentive programs for citizens to adopt best practices by providing technical and installation assistance.

Staff is completing the final content edits and responses to agency comments on the 10-year Watershed Management Plan. Comment responses will be completed and sent to reviewing agencies by the end of May. A meeting will be held in June to allow member cities and agencies additional opportunity to comment and the public hearing on the Plan will be held during the July Board meeting. The final 90-day review will begin following the July meeting with final approval/adoption of the Plan anticipated at the November Board meeting.

Water resources monitoring is focused on four priority areas for field monitoring: the Mississippi River, implemented capital projects, BMP effectiveness, and source monitoring. Monitoring is conducted on the Mississippi by boat. Source monitoring is specific to outfalls draining to the Mississippi. The City of Fridley requested water quality monitoring on the tunnel that drains most of the City and part of Columbia Heights to the river. Monitoring equipment was stolen, so staff worked with MnDot to install a fence in the right-of-way and is waiting for final connection to electricity now. Continuous monitoring for water quality and quantity is occurring via battery at this time. The v-notch flow system designed for the Thomas Edison Phase One tree trench needs to be modified to monitor that BMP. Jackson pond monitoring in 2020 discovered higher levels of E. coli, possibly due to the use of iron-enhanced sand filters. Staff is also monitoring water level, temperature and conductivity at Jackson Pond with a remote system powered by solar. Staff is working with the City of Minneapolis for the 8th Street stormwater planting monitoring for infiltration effectiveness over time. Other monitoring is being conducted at the Fridley City Hall stormwater pond and St. Anthony Regional Treatment facility.

The 2021 Mississippi River Green Team will take place at Theo Wirth Park with a different summer model to allow social distancing.

General Business

Resolution 2021-021: South Columbia Golf Course Investigations. As part of the 1NE Watershed Stormwater Management initiative with City of Minneapolis and MPRB, a BMP project is currently being implemented on the northern part of the Columbia Golf Course. MWMO also solicited the services of SRF Consulting to perform field investigations in 2018 to gain a better understanding of the area's groundwater system on the southern part of the golf course which experiences nuisance flooding. There was insufficient data in 2018 to complete the water balance equation, so staff has been collecting data for the past few years to help understand what type, if any, project should be implemented in this area. Staff is requesting \$33,000 in capital project funding to complete stage two of the South Columbia Golf Course investigation.

Motion by Meyer, second by Dains to approve Resolution 2021-021 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 2021-022: General Engineering Agreement. This is the agreement for engineering support services that may be needed by staff. This agreement creates a not-to-exceed \$100,000 threshold for a two-year period to conduct small investigations and help staff in development of standards, GIS modeling, etc. This is a request to renew the existing agreement with Barr Engineering through January 2023 as part of the biennial process.

Motion by Ostwald, second by Meyer to approve Resolution 2021-0022 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 2021-023: UHT 30% Design. This is a professional services agreement to increase the not-to-exceed amount for the Upper Harbor Terminal 30% design to \$195,000. The prior not-to-exceed amount was \$169,260 but, due to COVID and the complexity of the project, some unanticipated costs have arisen and the original scope as a one-year project has been extended to a two-year project. This agreement will be extended to January 31, 2023. The additional funding will allow MWMO to complete the required level of 30% design for the project.

Motion by Stille, second by Dains to approve Resolution 2021-023 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Open Public Input

None.

Board Updates and Announcements

The next meeting is scheduled for July 13, 2021. The meeting location, whether in-person at MWMO offices or via Zoom, will be determined closer to the meeting date.

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Juntunen, Recording Secretary

Record of Motions

Motion by Meyer, second by Ostwald to approve the Agenda and the Minutes of the March 9, 2021 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Motion by Meyer, second by Dains to approve Resolution 2021-021 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Ostwald, second by Meyer to approve Resolution 2021-0022 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Stille, second by Dains to approve Resolution 2021-023 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.