



2522 Marshall Street NE
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55418-3329

612-746-4970
contacts@mwmoo.org

mwmoo.org

**MISSISSIPPI
WATERSHED
MANAGEMENT
ORGANIZATION**

MEETING MINUTES

Date: 13 July 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, Brittany Faust, Adam Flett, Dan Kalmon, Abby Moore, Michaela Neu, Udai Singh, Nancy Stowe, and Doug Snyder, MWMO; Steve Christopher, BWSR; Andrew Blackbird, Red River Water Warriors; Wendy Darst; Seth Fine; Rebecca Walker; and Amy Juntunen, JASS.

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

[The regular meeting was suspended at 3:03 p.m.]

Public Hearing

A public hearing was convened to receive comments on the MWMO Draft Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. Comments were received from Blackbird, Darst, and Fine at this hearing. The comments and responses can be found at <https://www.mwmoo.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Staff-Response-to-Public-Hearing-Comments.pdf>

[There being no further comments, the public hearing was closed at 3:14 p.m. and the regular meeting resumed.]

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Motion to approve agenda by Dains, second by Eggert to approve the July 13, 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda

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

Reports from Staff

The 2022 budget forecast includes a 5%-7.5% increase (\$6,250,000-\$6,350,000). The Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) needs to be finalized to complete the budget forecast. The detailed budget will be presented at the September regular meeting. Construction costs for planned capital projects has increased.

MWMO Staff are working with Minneapolis on the Upper Harbor Terminal district stormwater system project. The project is currently in the 30% design phase. MWMO is mainly involved in coordination with Public Works, MPRB, and the development team on community engagement. Staff will attend Public Works regular meetings and focus groups in August. Community engagement will begin in the next week and continue through mid-October to gather ideas and concepts about additional features community members would like to see in the district stormwater system/habitat. After that, the project will move to the 60% design phase and include a second phase of community engagement that will focus more on the details of the district stormwater system and working with all partners at the design level to incorporate the ideas and concepts shared by the community and partners. A restorative Integrated Utility Hub (IUH) system is compatible with the volume of water coming through this site, but it is not currently part of the developer's land use planning. A feasibility study has been completed if the developer and/or city are interested in pursuing the IUH.

The Towerside district system is a forward-thinking, sustainable stormwater system that achieves MWMO goals for water quality and volume control with redevelopment of multiple adjacent parcels, creating a larger habitat patch. The system creates a public benefit through habitat and recycling of stormwater from multiple properties. The basin was installed in 2015-2016 and a new UV treatment system was recently completed on an adjacent MPRB park property for stormwater reuse treatment. The reuse system was brought online this spring and includes a remote monitoring system to limit staff on-site time. MWMO will provide the operations and maintenance for the first five years and will on-board the landowner for transition of maintenance. Staff is working with the landowners to fine tune the pump schedules and irrigation demand to ensure the system is not over-taxed. Three of four developments, as well as MPRB, are using the reuse water for irrigation of lawns and community gardens. There is one three-inch line for watering trucks as well. The system is working as intended. On 4th Street is a

five-block boulevard with a depressed stormwater collection planting that was installed in 2019. MWMO maintained the BMP through last year and is now working with one landowner to take over maintenance for weeding and watering the BMP. The reuse tank is providing 2,000-4,000 gallons of water per day to water the boulevard.

Staff is entering the final year for maintenance. The new contract for Towerside maintenance will likely be under \$20,000 and the landowners are already budgeting for taking on that cost. Documentation on maintenance will be provided to the landowners taking over maintenance responsibilities. MWMO will continue to monitor by gauge frequency and volume of overflows and the volume of water reused from the tank.

Rasmien Vang, a former Green Team member, has come on board as a water quality monitoring intern.

General Business

Resolution 2021-029: MWMO/RCWD Boundary Change. Rice Creek Watershed District (RCWD) is proposing a change to the MWMO/RCWD boundary within Anoka County that results in a small loss of land area for MWMO. This change would likely result in a very minor adjustment to the overall tax base. Staff has reviewed the proposed changes and recommends approval of the boundary change.

Motion by Eggert, second by Dains to approve Resolution 2021-029 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 2021-030: Downtown East Capital Project: Greening program. This project began as a street reconstruction project and will include voluntary green stormwater infrastructure (GSI), flood protection and sustainable landscaping in the urban core of the City of Minneapolis. This project will treat runoff from 4.3 acres that was previously untreated. The surface GSI will be very visible to the public and appear as a natural landscape, rather than plantings. This project will be maintained entirely by the city. Staff is recommending project partnership and funding not-to-exceed \$500,000 to support the installation of GSI.

Motion by Eggert, second by Dains to approve Resolution 2021-030 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 2021-031: Juxtaposition Arts Campus Expansion. This is a grant application for installation of a stormwater retention/reuse project, native habitat and educational opportunities as part of a \$12 million expansion project on the site. This project includes a tree vault system to treat the parking lot, a series of six tree planters along the public sidewalk on Emerson Avenue to collect runoff from the sidewalk, and a reuse cistern for irrigation. This project is above-and-beyond city requirements for stormwater management. Staff is recommending \$216,000 in capital project funding to support the installation of the stormwater and habitat features at the site.

Motion by Stille, second by Eggert to approve Resolution 2021-031 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 2021-032: Stewardship Fund Planning Grants. Three grant applications were received and invited to submit final applications. Two final applications were received. The first application is from Greater Minneapolis Community Connections applied for \$20,000 for a tired garden concept at several levels of the property. The second application is for \$19,250.01 from the North Loop Neighborhood Association (NLNA) for a community-led restoration at James Rice Park. This would develop a volunteer-centric Natural Resources Management Plan for 6.25 acres of the riverside areas at the park. Currently, much of these areas are dominated by buckthorn and other invasive vegetation. Planning Grant funding will support an FMR ecologist and staff time to develop the plan, grant management by NLNA, digital content creation, and outreach materials.

Motion by Eggert, second by Dains to approve Resolution 2021-032 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 2021-033: Upper Harbor Terminal 60 percent Design. The MWMO Watershed Management Plan includes \$11,000,000 in funding as part of the CIP schedule for potential projects at the UHT site. In 2019 MWMO committed \$169,260 for the 30% design of the district stormwater system at UHT. In May 2021, MWMO approved additional funding for Barr to complete the 30% design and initiate the community engagement process. Staff is now requesting \$272,440 to contract with Barr Engineering for the completion of the 60% district stormwater system design, engineering, and phase 2 community engagement. This amount includes \$11,000 to be used as a stipend budget for community engagement, including food, childcare, and transportation costs.

Motion by Eggert, second by Stille to approve Resolution 2021-033 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 2021-034: Restorative Development Partnership Phase 2 Agreement. This is an amendment to the Restorative Development Partnership to continue the services of Carroll, Franck & Associates to guide the growth of the public/private partnership that is currently overseeing a city-wide feasibility study for a restorative development pilot project in Minneapolis. Members of the partnership have contributed time and funding to raise \$280,000 for this study. This request is for \$40,000 to continue to grow the partnership and raise funding (\$600,000) for phase two of the feasibility study. This is a not-to-exceed amount and will match/leverage funding provided by other organizations.

Motion by Eggert, second by Dains to approve Resolution 2021-034 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Open Public Input

None.

Board Updates and Announcements

The next meeting is scheduled for September 14, 2021. The meeting will be held in-person at MWMO barring any new emergency orders.

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Juntunen,
Recording Secretary

Record of Motions

Motion by Eggert, second by Dains to approve Resolution 2021-029 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Eggert, second by Dains to approve Resolution 2021-030 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Stille, second by Eggert to approve Resolution 2021-031 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Eggert, second by Dains to approve Resolution 2021-032 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Eggert, second by Stille to approve Resolution 2021-033 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Eggert, second by Dains to approve Resolution 2021-034 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.