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**MISSISSIPPI
WATERSHED
MANAGEMENT
ORGANIZATION**

MEETING MINUTES

Date: 14 September 2021

Time: 3:00-5:00 PM

Location: 2522 Marshall Street NE, Minneapolis, MN 55418

Commissioners in Attendance

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

Staff and Guests: Alicia Beattie, Brett Eidem, Abby Moore, Michaela Neu, Udai Singh, Nancy Stowe, and Doug Snyder, MWMO; Glenda Meixelle, Anoka Conservation District; and Amy Juntunen, JASS.

The meeting was called to order at 3:36 p.m. by Chair Reich.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Motion by Dains, second by Eggert to approve the May 10, 2021 and July 13, 2021 minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda

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

Reports from Staff

Snyder is focused on completing the 2022 levy requirements and creating a new budget format for use going forward. The new format will be presented to the Board for approval at the January Board meeting.

The MWMO COVID policies have just been updated. The public will not be allowed to reserve the MWMO meeting space through November 1, 2021 and staff are working 2-3 days in office and 2-3 days remotely due to the Delta variant. Some employees are in the office full-time. COVID policies and strategies will be reviewed monthly.

Moore has completed an outreach study for the Hmong and east African communities which indicates, along with feedback from the Water Bar and a focus group with U of M researchers, that the community is interested in assembling a Community Advisory Group representing the many diverse communities within the watershed to work with Staff to create messaging, outreach, and be ambassadors to their communities to share MWMO's messages as well as obtain feedback about what is important to the residents. A pilot program will be created over the next year and a funding request for this program is likely within the next few months.

Neu is working on a partnership with a local artist to display artwork in Fall 2022 and ways to involve youth with the exhibition. This may include asking youth to work with graphic design to explore stormwater and develop graphic art to display with the exhibit. Updates will be provided as this project progresses.

Singh reported on the monitoring program. The monitoring program goal is to support science-based watershed management and respond to current and emerging issues with an emphasis on monitoring installed projects to collect data on the effectiveness of those projects. The monitoring data also helps member cities meet requirements to renew their MS4 permits. Monitoring data is assessed and included in the total maximum daily load (TMDL) study at seven river sampling sites and seven outfall/tunnel sites. A minimum of two base samples and three event samples per month are analyzed for E. coli, temperature, dissolved oxygen, total suspended solids, total phosphorus, and pH. Thirty-one interns have assisted with the monitoring program since 2012, with at least eight going on to pursue a Master's or PhD in science.

Singh also described the biochar study/monitoring that has been funded by the Minnesota Stormwater Research Council and MnDOT.

General Business

Resolution 2021-036: Final draft levy for Truth-in-Taxation Meeting. Staff propose to increase the levy by 7.6%, or just under \$500,000, to a total of \$6.4 million. The increase is due to the cost of materials and labor for budgeted projects increasing substantially. The increase in the administration budget is slightly under 3%. Historical increases were usually around 3%, but the budget has not had any increases over the past four years. Staff recommends setting a not-to-exceed levy amount at \$6.4 million for 2022 with the final levy amount to be provided at the November Board meeting.

Motion by Eggert, second by Dains to approve the not-to-exceed levy at \$6.4 million. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 2021-037: Stormwater Research Council Funding. MWMO, along with various other organizations, began this Council in 2016. Staff recommends funding the Council at \$25,000 as it has for the past five years. MWMO has benefited from Council grants in the past. The funds are used to leverage research projects in Minnesota. Singh serves on the Board and helps to select research projects for funding.

Motion by Dains, second by Stille to approve funding the Stormwater Research Council at \$25,000. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 2021-038: Columbia Heights Snowmelt System. Located at the southeast corner of Central Avenue and 40th Avenue at the new City Hall, the snowmelt system is listed in the MWMO Capital Improvement Plan. A feasibility study was completed last February with construction to begin in January 2022. This project will heat 5,000 SF of sidewalk and parking garage driveway to prevent ice accumulation. This is a busy intersection with heavy foot traffic. The project would eliminate the need for chloride-based de-icers, preventing the contamination of millions of gallons of water per year and saving the city \$200 per year in salt and snow removal costs. The funding request for this project is not-to-exceed \$131,800. The City has paid for the design work and will cover the expense of operation. The MWMO funding is for the boiler pump and hydronic accessories, piping, insulation, etc. This cost does not include the concrete for sidewalks or parking garage driveway.

Motion by Eggert, second by Stille to approve Resolution 2021-038 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 2021-039: Fifth Street Diversion Manhole Design Services. This project is located in the 1NE watershed, in the northwest corner of the Columbia Golf Course. This project is associated with the golf course and park best management practices (BMP) project. This diversion manhole will bring some lower flows from a currently untreated area, which tends to be the most

polluted stormwater, into the infiltration basin. This project will benefit 200 acres of untreated area and provide secondary treatment to another 200 acres. Staff is requesting funding not-to-exceed \$39,000 to hire SRF Consulting to design the diversion manhole to direct that stormwater to the infiltration basin in the Columbia Golf Course. Due to the timing to complete a feasibility study, this project was unable to be completed with the original golf course BMP installation.

Motion by Stille, second by Dains to approve Resolution 2021-039 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 2021-040: Focus Arts Rooftop Farm. This is a capital grant application as the final phase of the Seward redesign. In 2016, MWMO funded a project in the Minneapolis ROW and allowed Growing Lots Urban Farms to use an existing parking lot as an urban farm that has become a pillar of the community. That parcel will now be developed into affordable housing. The Urban Farm can be moved to the rooftop of the existing building on this parcel. One of the anchor tenants of this building is Foci Minnesota Center for Glass Arts. Foci has acquired a McKnight Grant to fund the reinforcement of the roof and install an elevator. The urban farm would not only help manage stormwater, but also the heat created by the kilns for glass blowing. This project did receive an MWMO planning grant. The project would capture approximately 50% of roof runoff for a 1” event. The cost of this project is not-to-exceed \$200,000 and the funding will be used for the rainwater collection, storage, and reuse system.

Motion by Eggert, second by Dains to approve Resolution 2021-040 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 2021-041: Xcel Energy Marshall Operations Center. This project site is at 3356 Marshall St NE, on the northwest corner of St. Anthony Parkway and Marshall. This site was previously undeveloped and lies adjacent to the Mississippi River. The site design includes prairie habitat near the river and other native plantings to blend in with the surrounding habitat. The project will include tiered raingardens on site and an infiltration basin for stormwater management. This is a brown site formerly used for fly ash dumping. All stormwater will be captured and treated on site with 95% removal of total suspended solids and total phosphorus. Funding request for this project is not-to-exceed \$295,000 to support the above-and-beyond treatment in the public gateway area, structured raingardens, no-mow grass, prairie seed, trees, and educational signage.

Motion by Stille, second by Eggert to approve Resolution 2021-041. Dains left the meeting at 5:05 p.m., prior to this motion, breaking quorum. This item will be moved to the November agenda.

Open Public Input

None.

Board Updates and Announcements

The next meeting is scheduled for November 9, 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

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Motion by Eggert, second by Dains to approve the not-to-exceed levy at \$6.4 million. Motion carried unanimously.

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