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**MISSISSIPPI
WATERSHED
MANAGEMENT
ORGANIZATION**

MEETING MINUTES

Date: 10 May 2022

Time: 3:00-5:00 PM

Location: 2522 Marshall Street NE, Minneapolis, MN 55418

Commissioners in Attendance

Connie Buesgens, Columbia Heights and Hilltop; Steve Eggert, Fridley; Jeffrey Dains, Lauderdale; LaTrisha Vetaw, Minneapolis; and Randy Stille, St. Anthony Village.

Staff and Guests: Alicia Beattie, Nick Busse, Brian Jastram, Dan Kalmon, Udai Singh, Nancy Stowe, and Kevin Reich, MWMO; Glenda Meixell, Anoka Conservation District; and Amy Juntunen, JASS.

The meeting was called to order at 3:02 p.m. by Chair Eggert.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Motion by Buesgens, second by Vetaw to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Vetaw, second by Buesgens to approve the March 14, 2022 minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda

None.

Reports from Staff

The Board recognized Reich as the new Executive Director of the MWMO.

Kalmon provided an overview of the Towerside District Stormwater System. MWMO is currently acting as temporary administrator overseeing maintenance of the system until 2023, when the administration will be turned over to the landowners. The project has a long-term contract with the U of M for monitoring of the system and tracking reuse. Phase II of the Towerside development is moving forward now and will integrate an additional 15 acres of land to the system when complete.

Staff have been working with partners on the Upper Harbor Terminal Project. Development plans were shown to the Board to show surface and underground stormwater systems, plantings and habitat to be incorporated into the development. The systems will treat 140 total acres, including 52 impervious acres. Plans are still in concept phase. MWMO is suggesting a shoreline restoration with MPRB on the site to include oak forest as key habitat for migratory birds. MPRB worked with MWMO to include an overlook on the river and informational pieces about the critical corridor area. Partners on this project have been provided a list of projects that MWMO is interesting in funding on the property, such as the overlook and riverbank restoration. MPRB will begin grading the area this year including cleaning up any contaminated soils.

Stowe reviewed the MWMO capital project funding. Capital project funding makes up about 44% of the MWMO budget. These funds are used to support implementation of above-and-beyond water and natural resource infrastructure that otherwise would not be included in redevelopment projects. Funding is provided for a five-year Capital Improvement Project (CIP) list that is incorporated in the 10-year Watershed Management Plan. This allows forecasting of budget needs for larger projects. There are also competitive grants awarded by MWMO for capital projects at \$50,000-\$750,000. There are usually one or two competitive grant cycles per year.

General Business

Resolution 2022-015: Audio Video (A/V) Equipment upgrades. During COVID it became apparent that the A/V equipment currently in use is not sufficient to host online meetings, hybrid conferencing, and remote and in-person presentations. The current A/V equipment is ten years old and beginning to fail. Staff received quotes from three providers to purchase, install and program new equipment including a new projector, cameras, adapters, and ancillary hardware. The new equipment will allow wireless connectivity and allow any remote attendees to be able to see and hear everyone present. Most equipment is for the main/board room with some additional equipment to be installed in the conference room. There is a three month warranty on all equipment. Staff is requesting approval of funds not to exceed \$60,000 for upgrading the equipment.

Dains noted that this equipment should be included in the capital asset replacement budget in the future.

Motion by Dains, second by Buesgens to approve Resolution 2022-015 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 2022-016: Minneapolis Southside Green Zone Infrastructure Improvements. This is a funding request as part of the MWMO competitive grant program to fund voluntary green infrastructure to be incorporated into a road renovation project in the Longfellow neighborhood at two intersections along Minnehaha Avenue. Minneapolis Public Works submitted the grant as part of the City's Concrete Rehabilitation Program (CRP) to manage the renovation of deteriorated concrete panels in streets. Traditionally the CRP is limited to the restoration of existing pavement since these projects do not trigger any stormwater ordinance. This collaboration between the City's Transportation and Surface Water and Sewers divisions of the Public Works department will help inform approaches and designs that could be replicated in future CRP projects. The Green Zone is a City initiative aimed at improving the health and supporting economic development using environmentally conscious efforts in communities that face the effects of environmental pollution as well as social, political and economic vulnerability.

This is a high pollutant area to the Mississippi River and prone to ponding and moderate flooding. This project will incorporate bio-retention basins and sustainable landscaping areas and include pollinator habitat at both intersections. The City will partner with youth-centric organizations like the Mississippi Green Team for plant installation and up to five years of maintenance, providing a learning lab that invests in local, green jobs. In this project, 8500SF of impervious surface will be converted to green space.

Staff recommends approval of a grant to Minneapolis Public Works in an amount not to exceed \$210,000 for the design, installation, and up to five years of maintenance for stormwater infrastructure and habitat feature incorporation in this CRP project.

Motion by Vetaw, second by Stille to approve Resolution 2022-016 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 2022-017: 3030 Nicollet. A capital grant was submitted by Project for Pride in Living for this project and approved in January 2022 for a rainwater harvesting system, stormwater infiltration tank, raingarden and permeable paver patio at this mixed-use development at a cost of \$289,000. A second grant application was received to cover additional project costs due to design modifications, including the removal of one infiltration tank and enlargement and relocation of the second infiltration tank. Costs also increased due to supply challenges and inflation. The current lead time on the infiltration tank is 43 weeks. Construction design is expected winter 2022-spring 2023 with construction to occur March 2023-summer 2024. The system is above-and-beyond ordinance requirements and will provide reused water for 70% of toilet flushing and irrigation, saving about 330,000 gallons of potable water per year. Stormwater treatment will also benefit with removal of TP at 1.5 lbs. and TSS at 387 lbs. above ordinance requirements per year.

Staff recommends approval of a grant not to exceed \$197,900 toward additional costs for the installation of stormwater infrastructure on this site.

Motion by Vetaw, second by Dains to approve Resolution 2022-017 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Open Public Input

None.

Board Updates and Announcements

Kalmon noted an article in the *StarTribune* regarding a U of M and MPRB collaboration to close the missing link for the regional trail system.

The Board asked if there is a plan to provide maintenance of stormwater infrastructure in the future as cities and schools seem to struggle with the maintenance of these items. The Minnesota Stormwater Council is working on how to advance a maintenance system or train service providers in this work. The Stormwater Council is also creating guides for maintenance on different types of BMPs and on the best pollinator/native mix for our climate.

Board members asked if there will be a future tour to view some of these larger projects. Reich noted that staff is working on social and tour activities for board members.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 12, 2022. The meeting will be held in-person at MWMO.

Adjourn

There being no further business, motion by Buesgens, second by Dains to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Juntunen
Recording Secretary

Record of Motions

Motion by Dains, second by Buesgens to approve Resolution 2022-015 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Vetaw, second by Stille to approve Resolution 2022-016 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Vetaw, second by Dains to approve Resolution 2022-017 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.