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**MISSISSIPPI
WATERSHED
MANAGEMENT
ORGANIZATION**

MEETING MINUTES

Date: 13 September 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; Jan Jenson, St. Anthony Village; Michael Lukes, St. Paul; and Becka Thompson, Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board (MPRB).

Staff and Guests: Madelin DelCastillo, Brian Jastram, Dan Kalmon, Udai Singh, Nancy Stowe, and Kevin Reich, MWMO; Glenda Meixell, Anoka Conservation District; Michaela Neu, Green Minneapolis; John Bilotta, University of Minnesota; and Amy Juntunen, JASS.

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

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

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

Motion by Thompson, second by Buesgens to approve the July 12, 2022 minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda

None.

Reports from Staff

Singh introduced DelCastillo, the new intern at MWMO.

Reich reported that the 2021 audit is complete and was a clean audit with no findings to discuss. He thanked St. Anthony staff for making the process smooth.

Kalmon reviewed an overview and background of the Upper Harbor Terminal (UHT) infrastructure funded by MWMO, project phasing, and bridge loans. The UHT design is completed to 60%. Staff will create an MOU with partners between now and January 2023. This will be a regional stormwater treatment system and includes habitat and public places in addition to treating surface stormwater. The total grant for the project is \$9.032 million, plus \$1.6 million in bridge loans, for a total of \$10,623 million. At the November Board meeting staff will have a not-to-exceed request for the project to allow staff to negotiate the final MOU with CIP and O&M costs. The final MOU and related grants/bridge loan will be approved at the January 2023 meeting.

Stowe shared that MWMO staff, along with County and City staff, have discussed completing a feasibility study of the 150 acre watershed that drains to Lowry Avenue aimed at improving water quality and mitigating flood risk. Due to the pollutant loading to the river, a large sand filter was constructed under the plaza in Edgewater Park. There have been reports that the sand filter is not operating as designed because it fills with sediment too quickly. Staff are also looking at the long-term urban design of a raingarden street. Goals in working with County and City staff include improving flood resiliency, improving quality of water discharged to the Mississippi River, and enhancing habitat, along with economic revitalization of the Lowry Avenue corridor. An RFP will be published and funds may be requested at the January or March 2023 meeting to allow MWMO to take the lead and host a critical role in this project.

A full water quality monitoring report will be given at the November meeting.

General Business

Resolution 2022-027: FY 2023 Draft Levy. The proposed levy is in an amount not-to-exceed \$6.971 million. This is an 8.2% increase over the 2022 levy due to anticipated project timelines for the UHT capital project, as well as others. MWMO can submit a final levy that is less than this amount, but no higher. A public hearing will be held as part of the November Board meeting to certify the levy.

Motion by Dains, second by Buesgens to approve Resolution 2022-027 approving the draft levy at \$6.971 million. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 2022-028: UHT District Stormwater 90% Design. This is a request to approve a \$440,000 contract with Barr Engineering to complete the 90% design engineering for the UHT district stormwater project. The project is currently at 60% design. The 90% design will include assistance in developing the MOU and O&M Agreements. Commissioners noted that they enjoyed seeing coverage of this project

and MWMO's participation in the local press. The City and MPRB have set up webcams to document the project.

Motion by Lukes, second by Dains to approve Resolution 2022-028 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 2022-029: 2022 MN Stormwater Research Council Funding. MWMO has been a part of the Council since it was established about 15 years ago and formally established in 2016. MWMO has provided \$25,000 in funding each year for the past five years. The Council's goal is to raise \$150,000 for 2023. Most projects completed by the Council are for applied research that would not be completed without this collaborative effort. Eighteen projects have been completed or are ongoing since 2016 with seven more projects scheduled.

Motion by Thompson, second by Buesgens to approve Resolution 2022-029 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 2022-030: Twin Cities Climate Resiliency Initiative. Neu from Green Minneapolis presented a request for MWMO to join the Twin Cities Climate Resiliency Coalition. Green Minneapolis is a 501(c)(3) founded in 2014 to build and maintain green and public spaces throughout the metro area. The Initiative is focused on urban tree canopy and expansion of trees through urban areas. The Initiative will work to fundraise and connect public and private entities with a goal of increasing the urban tree canopy by 30%, specifically in areas suffering from heat island effect and environmentally disadvantaged neighborhoods. Coalition partners include the Nature Conservancy, Friends of the Mississippi River, the Minneapolis Chamber, Mississippi Park Connection, Minneapolis Parks Foundation, and Trust for Public Land, among others. Carbon credits will be available for sale beginning this fall for corporate partners to bring in additional funding for the Initiative. Partner logistics include attending monthly meetings, providing input and feedback on key actions, and distributing communications throughout MWMO's networks about the work and goals achieved. Plantings are currently focused on public land, but private plantings will also be supported. The Initiative will also help to build a green career workforce. The request at this time is not for funding, just a formalized connection to become part of the Initiative coalition.

Motion by Buesgens, second by Thompson to approve Resolution 2022-030 approving MWMO's membership in the Twin Cities Climate Resiliency Coalition. Motion carried unanimously.

Open Public Input

None.

Board Updates and Announcements

Lukes noted that the St. Paul City Council and Environmental Committee are concerned with the return of buckthorn around Kasota Ponds, as well as the chlorine content in the ponds. MWMO staff will engage with Lukes and the St. Paul Environmental Committee on those issues. MWMO has monitored Kasota Ponds, which is actually a wetland system, and worked with the Environmental Committee in the past. MWMO also participates in the annual cleanup event around Kasota Ponds. Staff continue to monitor the water level and are very active with the Environmental Committee.

Fridley is in the process of a master park redevelopment. There are 38 parks in the city, including three major parks such as Moore Lake Park, which will be under construction in the summer and fall of 2023. Part of the Moore Lake Park redevelopment includes a \$100,000 stormwater treatment project prior to discharge into Moore Lake.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 8, 2022. The meeting will be held in-person at MWMO.

Adjourn

There being no further business, motion by Buesgens, second by Thompson to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 4:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Juntunen
Recording Secretary

Record of Motions

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

Motion by Thompson, second by Buesgens to approve the July 12, 2022 minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Dains, second by Buesgens to approve Resolution 2022-027 approving the draft levy at \$6.971 million. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Lukes, second by Dains to approve Resolution 2022-028 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Thompson, second by Buesgens to approve Resolution 2022-029 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Buesgens, second by Thompson to approve Resolution 2022-030 approving MWMO's membership in the Twin Cities Climate Resiliency Coalition. Motion carried unanimously.