



**MISSISSIPPI
WATERSHED
MANAGEMENT
ORGANIZATION**

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MEETING MINUTES

Date: 13 May 2025 **Attachment 3**
Time: 3:00 PM
Location: 2522 Marshall Street NE, Minneapolis, MN 55418

Attendance

Commissioners: Connie Buesgens, Columbia Heights and Hilltop; Jeff Dains, Lauderdale; Billy Menz, MPRB; Lona Doolan, St. Anthony Village; and Michael Lukes, St. Paul.

Staff and Guests: Emmy Baskerville, Aaron Goemann, Mirae Guenther, Michelle Spangler, Abby Moore, Kevin Reich, Emily Resseger, Nancy Stowe, and Mary Thelen, MWMO; Glenda Meixell, Anoka Conservation District; and Amy Juntunen, JASS.

The meeting was called to order at 3:01 p.m. by Chair Buesgens.

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Menz, second by Doolan to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2025 regular meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda

- a. 2025-015: 2024 Audit/Financial Report.

- b. 2025-016: CAC Appointment.

Motion by Doolan, second by Dains to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Reports from Staff

New staff member, Spangler, Environmental Outreach Coordinator, was introduced to the Board.

General Business

2025-017: SART Feasibility Study

Staff is requesting funding for the St. Anthony Regional Treatment facility feasibility study. The SART is an underground stormwater treatment facility that was installed in 2016 through a collaboration between MWMO, the cities of St. Anthony Village and Minneapolis, and Hennepin County to treat stormwater runoff from approximately 600 acres of fully-developed urban land. The facility is located at the borders of St. Anthony Village and Minneapolis and has experienced performance challenges in the two-chamber design since shortly after installation. The first chamber is a swirl chamber that removes particulates and floating trash and is working effectively, though the flow entering this chamber is lower than designed. The second chamber is meant to filter soluble pollutants after the swirl chamber and research the effectiveness of different media in capturing soluble pollutants. However, high flows create a backflow into the secondary chamber resulting in the media remaining constantly wet, which makes it ineffective.

This feasibility study will determine the most effective backflow preventer for the second chamber, retrofit the diversion structure to reduce the low-flow issue in the first chamber, and evaluate alternative treatment media for the secondary chamber. Staff are requesting \$62,500 for professional services to conduct this study. Motion by Menz, second by Dains to approve Resolution 2025-017 approving funding not-to-exceed \$62,500 for the St. Anthony Regional Treatment Facility improvement feasibility study. Motion carried unanimously.

2025-018: Marshall Street Corridor Study

Hennepin County will be reconstructing Marshall Street from Lowry to Third Avenue in 2027. This construction project is an opportunity to add stormwater runoff treatment to this highly urbanized area since there are many properties in this area owned by Minneapolis or MPRB. This proposed study would identify opportunities to reduce pollutant discharge to the Mississippi over 11 storm sewer outfalls to the river, create habitat connections to the river, and mitigate flood risk. The reconstruction project will need to meet regulatory treatment for road construction and this study will also identify above-and-beyond treatment. This is a large study

area and Staff is requesting a not-to-exceed amount of \$147,300 for professional engineering services to conduct the Marshall Street Water Quality Improvement Feasibility Study. Motion by Doolan, second by Menz to approve Resolution 2025-18 approving funding for the Marshall Street Corridor and Watershed Feasibility Study. Motion carried unanimously.

2025-019: Cordia Energy Reuse Design

MWMO Resolution 2023-019 approved a feasibility study for reusing excess water from the Cordia Energy Center's steam generation and cooling processes to irrigate existing trees and planters in downtown Minneapolis, as well as potential trees, planters and green walls on the Cordia Energy property. The study identified multiple sources of excess water within Cordia's heating and cooling processes that are currently discharging to the sanitary sewer and suitable for irrigation. The study also looked at storage options for the harvested water and evaluated a variety of reuse scenarios. MWMO staff, along with partners at Green Cities Accord and Cordia Energy, have identified a preferred alternative reuse scenario in which three existing 5,000 gallon storage tanks would be used to store and reuse the recaptured water. Over 900,000 gallons of water would be reused annually to irrigate 100% of trees maintained by the Downtown Improvement District and a significant portion of other vegetated features in the downtown area. Rooftop greening is not an option due to the uncertain loading capacity of the rooftop. The next steps to consider on-site greening will be a site survey and structural analysis. Staff are requesting funding to move forward with the reuse portion 90% design at a cost not-to-exceed \$142,700. Motion by Doolan, second by Menz to approve Resolution 2025-019 approving funding for the Cordia Energy Process Reuse Design. Motion carried unanimously

Board Updates and Announcements

Lukes thanked staff for attending the annual Kasota Ponds cleanup event on Saturday, April 12. There were about 60 attendees that collected 120 bags of trash. MWMO staff presented at the event.

Menz noted that Graco Park was officially opened yesterday. The Park is a vibrant and educational space. MWMO partnered in the design of the park, which draws the audience to the river beach. The entire facility and park area are net-zero with heated walkways to avoid the use of deicer.

Doolan applied for and was recently accepted to the Met Council Land Use Advisory Commission.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 8, 2025.

Open Public Input

None.

Adjourn

There being no further business, motion by Lukes, second by Dains to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.