



MISSISSIPPI
WATERSHED
MANAGEMENT
ORGANIZATION

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MEETING MINUTES

Date: 8 July 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: Akadia Johnson, Nixon Pfeiffer, Kevin Reich, Emily Resseger, Shelly Rueckert, Michelle Spangler, Ashley Binstock, and Nancy Stowe, MWMO; Glenda Meixell, Anoka Conservation District; and Amy Juntunen, JASS.

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

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Doolan, second by Menz to approve the minutes of the May 13, 2025 regular meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda

None.

Reports from Staff

New staff members, Pfeiffer, Technical Communications Intern, and Binstock, Water Quality Monitoring Intern, were introduced to the Board.

Stowe provided an update on the East Phillips Feasibility Study. This study is being completed in collaboration with Hennepin County and the Little Earth Community housing complex. This area is also within the Southside Green Zone. This area is currently untreated and discharges over 200 lbs. of TP annually to the Mississippi River. There are a series of upcoming road and park projects in the area, including several street reconstruction projects that provide opportunities to install retrofits for water quality treatment. The goals of this study are to identify and assess these opportunities to improve water quality, enhance ecological value, improve local equity and public health, flood mitigation, and reduce heat island effect. Multiple opportunities have been identified, and opportunity clusters have been mapped but road construction design must be completed before water reuse designs can be done since additional structural components under the road will need to be completed during road construction. The consultant and County engineers are working together to design the under-roadway components. A funding request will be brought to the Board in September. This is a great opportunity in conjunction with the redevelopment of this area. The City and MPRB hosted several community engagement events to bring indigenous culture into the design to really represent the neighborhood and incorporate their desires into the project. MWMO will provide education and resources for maintenance of the installation and usually provides maintenance support for a period of time after installation. Buesgens suggested using Placemaking tools because it gives participants and area residents a sense of ownership and pride in the space.

Rueckert provided a financial overview of MWMO and processes for accomplishing financial goals. She shared the annual financial process with monthly tasks.

General Business

2025-020: Little & Co. Strategic and Creative Services Contract

It's been about ten years since the MWMO's brand and messaging protocol was established. It is good practice to review these items for needed changes or adaptations to include new strategic approaches or lenses such as DEI, regional projects, and collaborative efforts. The purpose of this project is to gain a crystallized representation of where we are as an organization, and where

we want to go, with a professional product at the end delivering a comprehensive brand strategy and identity system for MWMO. Lukes noted that the messaging should include water quantity as well as quality. The all-in cost for this brand review and update is \$70,000.

Motion by Dains, second by Menz to approve Resolution 2025-020 approving the strategic and creative services contract with Little & Co. in an amount not-to-exceed \$70,000. Motion carried unanimously.

Board Updates and Announcements

Buesgens requested a staff update regarding efforts to improve maintenance of projects after installation because Councilmembers have expressed some concern about ongoing maintenance of projects. Staff have been engaged with partners and half of Adam Flett's time is now dedicated to project operations and maintenance. A report will be completed later this year.

Lukes noted that the St. Paul Environmental Committee is looking for support with the annual Kasota Ponds cleanup, potentially a grant to purchase more safety vests and cleanup gear. Buckthorn removal is currently underway at Kasota Ponds.

Schieks cave is located about 70 feet beneath downtown Minneapolis and is accessible via a manhole cover. The cave was used for sewage at one point and drains to the Fourth Street Tunnel. You can see a video tour of the cave at <https://worldofcaves.com/schieks-cave/>

Doolan noted that she spent three hours this morning maintaining MWMO-funded raingardens that were installed about 10 years ago. It is important to educate how to remove invasives from installations without the use of herbicides, especially in a space that is a high functioning rain/pollinator garden. Could signage be made available with a QR code for public area raingardens to educate residents on the purpose, funding, maintenance, and how to get involved with these installations or report issues?

Open Public Input

None.

Adjourn

There being no further business, motion by Lukes, second by Dains to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 4:33 p.m.