



Request for Board Action

Attachment 6.1

Agenda Item: MWMO Artist in Residence 2026

Presenter: A. Moore

Meeting Date: 14 July 2026

Flexibility: ☐ Yes ☒ No

Estimated Time: ☐ Consent Agenda ☒ 10 Min. ☐ 15 Min. ☐ 30 Min. ☐ 45 Min. ☐ 1 Hour

Action Request: ☐ Information/Review ☒ Motion to approve ☐ Budget Change ☐ Other

Board Action: ☐ Approved ☐ Denied ☐ Tabled ☐ Accepted Report ☐ Other

Date of Action: 14 July 2026

Background

During Sarah Nassif's time as the MWMO Artist-in-Residence, the outreach program has transformed and reached many new audiences. In 2024, we finished developing the Creative Watershed Plan, a strategic plan to integrate creativity and work with artists, into the outreach program and the organization in general. In 2025, we officially launched AWE (Art+Water+Ecology), a professional network that brings together artists and staff from water-serving organizations to look for ways to enhance each other's work through collaboration. Through quarterly meetings, use of a website, and a Google group, we have already seen significant collaboration between artists and environmental organizations that would not have happened without AWE. The MWMO benefits greatly from this burgeoning network and continues to be a leader in this space.

In order to maintain the momentum of AWE and the implementation of the Creative Watershed Plan through a period of staff transition, we are requesting an extension of Sarah Nassif's contract through December 31, 2027 and an addition of \$25,000 to the budget in order to cover this work through the end of 2027. In addition to coordinating and hosting AWE meetings and managing the

website and all communications, Sarah Nassif will work with MWMO staff to develop a long-term model for sustainability of the AWE network and the Creative Watershed Plan after 2027.

Mississippi Watershed Management Organization

RESOLUTION 2026-016

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE MWMO ARTIST IN RESIDENCE CONTRACT EXTENSION

WHEREAS, The MWMO strives to protect and improve water quality, habitat and natural resources in an urban watershed that drains to the Mississippi River; and

WHEREAS, The MWMO has interest in engaging new communities in stewardship of water quality and habitat in the watershed; and

WHEREAS, Previous work with local artist, Sarah Nassif, has proven to be a highly effective way to engage various and diverse communities in conversations about water; and

WHEREAS, The Creative Watershed Plan states that the artist-in-residence plays an important role in connecting communities with the need to protect water quality in the watershed and the work of the MWMO; and

WHEREAS, The MWMO has funds available through its outreach program for an Artist in Residence; and

WHEREAS, Staff recommends the Board of Commissioners approves funding for an extension of the 2026 MWMO Artist in Residence contract through 2027.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the MWMO Board of Commissioners approves \$25,000 for the MWMO Artist in Residence contract extension and authorizes MWMO staff to take necessary administrative actions to implement this resolution.

Adopted this the 14th day of July, 2026.

Review for the Board:

Connie Buesgens, Chair

Review for Administration: _____

Kevin Reich, Executive Director