



2522 Marshall Street NE
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55418-3329

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AGENDA

Date: 08 September 2026

Attachment 2

Time: 3:00 PM

Location: 2522 Marshall Street NE, Minneapolis, MN 55418

Agenda

(D) — Signifies Decision Item

- 1) Welcome, Introduction of Commissioners and Roll Call
- 2) Approval of Agenda **(D)** Attachment 2
- 3) Approval of Minutes **(D)** Attachment 3
- 4) Consent Agenda **(D)** Attachment 4
- 5) Reports from Staff..... Attachment 5
- 6) General Business..... Attachment 6
 - a. 2026-022: FY 2027 Draft Levy **(D)** Attachment 6.1
 - i. Preliminary Budget 2027.....Attachment 6.1.1
 - b. 2026-023: Preliminary Stormwater Design 1720 Marshall **(D)** .. Attachment 6.2
 - c. 2026-024: Shoreline Access Enhancement 2100 Marshall **(D)** . Attachment 6.3
 - d. 2026-025: Stewardship Fund Action & Planning Grants **(D)** Attachment 6.4
- 7) Board Updates and Announcements
- 8) Open Public Input (Non-Agenda Items) Sign-in Sheet
- 9) Adjourn **(D)**



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MEETING MINUTES

Date: 14 July 2026

Attachment 3

Time: 3:00 PM

Location: 2522 Marshall Street NE, Minneapolis, MN 55418

Commissioners in Attendance

Connie Buesgens, Columbia Heights; Ann Bolkcom, Fridley; Jeff Dains, Lauderdale; Lona Doolan, St. Anthony Village; Michael Lukes, St. Paul; and Meg Forney, MPRB.

Staff and Guests: Emmy Baskerville-Doeckel, Aaron Goemann, Shameka Gherau, Dan Kalmon (online), Abby Moore, Kevin Reich, Emily Resseger, and Nancy Stowe, MWMO; Glenda Meixell, Anoka Conservation District; and Amy Juntunen, JASS.

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

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Motion by Dains, second by Forney to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously. Motion by Bolkcom, second by Forney to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2026 regular meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda

None.

Reports from Staff

Reich highlighted a positive MWMO event with former Councilmember Andrea Jenkins, a river champion and author/poet for her poem unveiling event on June 13, 2026. The event filled the MWMO meeting room on a summer weekend. Another great way for MWMO to connect to the community and generate positive feelings toward the river.

Resseger introduced the new intern, Julia Kauth, with the monitoring team.

Moore gave an update on the MWMO Climate Action Framework. The framework is nearly completed. The current Watershed Management Plan included development of the Climate Action Framework. Its purpose is to guide MWMO in addressing impacts related to climate change with goals to identify climate hazards and trends, and intersections between people, environment and infrastructure. Moore reviewed the process of the Framework's creation, identified climate hazards and vulnerabilities, and seven climate action strategies that have been developed. Next steps include sharing the framework with partners and communities, applying the checklist to gauge areas of success and further opportunity, and gathering more information.

General Business

2026-016: Artist-in-Residence Extension

Staff are requesting an extension for the Artist-in-Residence. Sarah Sassif, a local artist, has been working with MWMO since 2021. Nassif has been a fantastic asset and help the MWMO's outreach program grow. Recently Staff have been working with Nassif on the Creative Watershed Plan in 2026 to develop an internal toolkit for staff, develop and implement an evaluation strategy, and create workshops and events for the AWE (Art, Water and Ecology) Network. At this point, it is time for MWMO staff to take on implementation of Creative Watershed using the toolkit in 2027. Nassif will continue to work with Staff to develop and grow the AWE Network, a mutually beneficial network of artists and environmental organizations to attract and activate diverse audiences, and nurture the network between art, science and the community. AWE began in 2024 as a pilot with the official network and website launch (artwaterecology.org) in 2025. This year AWE is making connections between members and volunteers through a series of events. In 2027 working groups will be initiated along with member-led excursions and workshops. Staff anticipate engaging 500-600 people through the AWE Network. The plan is to have four meetings per year with the working groups identifying barriers to artists and organizations working together, then paving the way to eliminate those barriers with sample contract language, insurance needs, and examples of the impacts of this work. This program is having a great positive impact on ecological literacy across the watershed. MWMO's contract with Nassif currently ends on December 31, 2026. Staff are requesting an extension of this contract at a cost of \$25,000 to December 31, 2027.

Motion by Forney, second by Dains to approve Resolution 2026-016 approving the artist-in-residence contract extension at a cost not-to-exceed \$25,000. Motion carried unanimously.

2026-017: Storage Closets Upgrade

Staff are requesting approval to renovate three closet spaces at the MWMO facility. These closet spaces were originally open spaces. With expanded programs and equipment, the spaces have been filled and in some cases may cause safety hazards. Improving the spaces will allow greater safety, accessibility, and efficiency with maximized vertical storage and organization. Renderings are available in the meeting packet. Buesgens requested before and after photos.

Motion by Forney, second by Bolkcom to approve Resolution 2026-017 approving the 2026-2028 Upper Harbor general services agreement approving Barr's proposal in the amount of office maintenance/storage closet upgrades at a cost not-to-exceed \$36,805.68. Motion carried unanimously.

2026-018: Digital Asset System Design and Implementation

This is a request to procure and implement a digital asset storage system, mainly for photos and videos. This can make documentation and data including changes in water bodies, construction progress, maintenance inspections, ribbon cuttings and other events, monitoring and equipment deployment, long-term performance tracking, and education and outreach efforts available to all staff. Currently this data is stored across several platforms, some of which are only accessible by certain staff members. The data in it's current format is not easily searchable and no staff member owns the process of where data is stored, resulting in staff members using their own systems.

Modern digital asset platforms leverage machine learning/AI to enhance searchability. Staff would like to hire a consultant to review the over 50 systems available to help select, migrate data, create processes and assist in implementing these processes. Staff have selected Stacks out of Nashville to consult on a five-part process: discovery, match, prepare, build, launch and sustain. After this process MWMO may continue working with Stacks if necessary, or manage the process internally. This request is for \$95,000 in Administrative funds to cover the fees for this five-part process with Stacks. This does not cover the cost of the new platform or any ongoing fees associated with the platform. Staff will take into consideration ecological impact via data centers.

Motion by Dains, second by Forney to approve Resolution 2026-018 approving funding for the digital asset management system procurement and implementation project at a cost not-to-exceed \$95,000. Motion carried unanimously.

2026-019: Increase in Rani Engineering's Upper Harbor Budget

MWMO is responsible for the installation and management of the district systems and pipes until January 31, 2031, including managing current easements. Since the original easements were established, changes have been necessary due to shifts in concept and final plans, including utility easements. It is expected that, as each parcel comes up for development, future easement shifts will likely be necessary. MWMO has a current contract with Rani Engineering of \$60,000 for survey and easement modification. Of that amount, only \$1,286.25 remains. Staff is requesting an additional \$60,000 for professional services to continue this contract with Rani Engineering. Funding for this would come out of the \$2.3 million in professional services costs in the REOA.

Motion by Doolan, second by Dains to approve Resolution 2026-019 approving Rani Engineering's Upper Harbor Professional Services Agreement not-to-exceed amount increasing to \$120,000. Motion carried unanimously.

2026-020: SART Phase I Improvements

In 2016 MWMO and partners collaborated to install the St. Anthony Regional Treatment facility, an underground stormwater treatment system for a 600 acre watershed. Partners included the cities of St. Anthony and Minneapolis, Hennepin County and MWMO. The project included a secondary research chamber championed by MWMO. While the main swirl chamber is performing well, the secondary chamber has had performance issues from the start. MWMO worked with Barr Engineering to complete a performance assessment that identified five main issues and a feasibility study to develop retrofit scenarios to alleviate those issues. The chosen retrofit includes installation of a backflow preventer, a change in the filter media to handle low oxygen conditions and adjusting the pump setpoints.

Phase I will complete an as-built of the system, elevation of the bottom of the system, pipes into and out of the system, bypass pipes, etc. Then include the design, contractor selection and observation of installation of a backflow preventer from the primary treatment system and finally provide monitoring recommendations and operations support. The goal is to see better water quality coming out of the system. After phase I is complete, assuming improvement in stormwater exiting the system, phase II – improving the media in the secondary chamber, will be considered. Staff will collect six months of monitoring data after installation of the backflow preventer.

Motion by Lukes, second by Forney to approve Resolution 2026-20 approving funding for the St. Anthony Regional Treatment Facility Phase I improvement project design at a cost not-to-exceed \$42,000. Motion carried unanimously.

2026-021: Little Earth Stormwater Improvements 90% Design

This project was identified in the East Phillips Feasibility Study and in conjunction with street reconstruction projects. Partners include Hennepin County, Minneapolis, MPRB, and the Little Earth community. The Little Earth Stormwater and Habitat Improvement project recently completed the 30% design/concept phase, including on-site stakeholder engagement sessions. The result is a concept plan for the nearly 10-acre site that incorporates a suite of stormwater management and habitat improvements. The concept design includes a reuse tank with drip irrigation, infiltration tank, tree trenches, tree plantings, native vegetation and edible shrubs, bioretention basins and permeable pavers. The reuse tank will be installed under parking lot E with diversion structures from Cedar Avenue directing about 15 acres of stormwater runoff into the tank. Parking lot C will include an infiltration tank to alleviate flooding and improve water quality. The lot E tank is anticipated to cover 70-75% of irrigation needs. The community requested farm plots and edible shrubs, as well as tough design play areas to handle foot traffic. Additional work is needed to bring the design to 90%, including determining where native plantings are most appropriate. The next phase is to advance the plans from 30% to 90% design to include soil borings, site surveys, utility locates, flood mitigation and water quality improvement estimates, along with continued coordination with residents/board members. Staff are requesting \$330,000 to advance to 90% design.

Motion by Forney, second by Doolan to approve Resolution 2026-21 approving funding for Little Earth stormwater improvements 90% concept design at a cost not-to-exceed \$330,000 in capital project funds. Motion carried unanimously.

Open Public Input

Glenda Meixell introduced herself for new Commissioners as the Anoka Conservation District Conservation Supervisor for the 610 South regions, which has some areas that cross into MWMO boundaries.

Board Updates and Announcements

Lukes reported that the Kasota Ponds buckthorn removal event on June 2 had 18 participants and thanked MWMO for the Community Grant awarded for this project.

Doolan noted that MPR had a Buckthorn Removal Singles Club article.

Buesgens commented that a new developer is looking at the Medtronic site. MWMO, MnDOT and the city are talking about the need to treat stormwater from that site and the MnDOT site. FEMA floodplain issues have held up a project at the former Rainbow Foods site but the project is moving forward with construction hopeful in 2027.

Bolkcom noted that Commons Park recently opened and includes a large public art installation as part of a \$15 million project to improve all parks within the city.

Forney stated that The Overlook at Ole Olson Park has become very popular with a gorgeous view of downtown.

Adjourn

There being no further business, motion by Bolkcom, second by Forney to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 5:09 p.m.



Request for Board Action

Attachment 6.1

Agenda Item: FY 2027 Preliminary Levy

Presenter: Kevin Reich

Meeting Date: 8 September 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: 8 September 2026

Background (Attach Supporting Documents as needed)

The proposed levy is based on our comprehensive plan and its current update, strategic plan, and our members' Capital Improvement Projects (CIPs), and our forecast budget for 2026. We are currently verifying the CIPs slated for 2025–2029 and are estimating our expected current-year expenditures to determine use of prior-year unspent funds. We will bring a final levy to the November board meeting. Currently, staff is recommending the levy not to exceed \$8,505,000. This represents a 3.9 percent increase.

2027 Preliminary Levy**9/8/2026****Levy Limit set at September MWMO Board Meeting****Final Levy set at the November MWMO Board**

Approval of the levy does not constitute approval of individual projects. Funds will be encumbered to a project only after an agreement between the MWMO and the Lead Agency describing the specific scope of work is completed.

2027 Preliminary Levy

Projects Fund	\$ 5,175,000
General Fund	\$ 2,780,000
Capital Asset Replacement Fund	\$ 367,500
Subtotal Budget	\$ 8,322,500
Contingency 2.2% (Uncollected Levy)	\$ 182,500
Total Budget	\$ 8,505,000

Mississippi Watershed Management Organization

RESOLUTION 2026-022

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE MWMO MAXIMUM LEVY AMOUNT FOR FY 2027 AT \$8,505,000

WHEREAS, The MWMO has developed a comprehensive Watershed Management Plan that identifies capital projects, monitoring, watershed assessments and outreach initiatives to implement; and

WHEREAS, The MWMO is required by statute to submit a maximum levy amount to county auditors by September 30 of each year for Truth-in-Taxation statements for the next fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, The MWMO staff have met with its members to determine probable projects for 2025–2029; and

WHEREAS, Approval of the draft levy does not constitute approval of individual projects or initiatives. Funds will be committed to a project only after the MWMO Board approves a specific scope of work to be completed; and

WHEREAS, Staff recommend the Board of Commissioners adopt the maximum levy amount of \$8,505,000 for MWMO fiscal year 2027.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the MWMO Board of Commissioners moves to set the maximum MWMO levy amount for FY 2027 at \$8,505,000 and authorizes MWMO staff to take all necessary administrative actions to implement the resolution.

Adopted this the 8th day of September, 2026.

Review for the Board: _____

Connie Buesgens, Chair

Review for Administration: _____

Kevin Reich, Executive Director

2027 Budget

PRELIMINARY 2027

Levy Limit set at September MWMO Board Meeting

Final Budget set at the November MWMO Board Meeting

Approval of the budget does not constitute approval of individual projects. Funds will be encumbered to a project only after an agreement between the MWMO and the Lead Agency describing the specific scope

	2026 Budget	2026 levy	2027 Budget	2027 levy
		Document		Document
Administration	\$ 2,486,175	\$ 2,490,000	\$ 2,779,761	\$ 2,780,000
PAYROLL & EXPENSES	1,769,821		1,934,990	
HEALTH INSURANCE	209,531		279,416	
OTHER INSURANCE	17,281		17,522	
CONTRACTED IT/PHONE SERVICES	101,378		109,162	
CONTRACTED FINANCIAL AND HR SERVICES	129,655		137,434	
AUDIT, LEGAL AND OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FE	74,750		77,500	
FACILITIES COST	114,819		149,662	
SUPPLIES	41,626		43,300	
STAFF REIMBURSEMENTS	7,190		7,400	
STAFF TRAINING	15,700		16,975	
MISCELLANEOUS	4,425		6,400	
Project Grants & Program operations	\$ 6,963,789	\$ 5,104,000	10,321,049	\$ 5,175,000
Program operations	\$ 1,463,789	1,464,000	1,444,745	\$ 1,450,000
OUTREACH	158,360		198,950	
COMMUNICATIONS	72,696		37,295	
PROJECT IDENTIFICATION, PLANNING AND EVALUATION	658,500		653,000	
MONITORING AND RESEARCH	224,234		205,500	
STEWARDSHIP GRANTS	350,000		350,000	
Project Grants	\$ 5,500,000	\$ 3,640,000	\$ 8,876,304	\$ 3,725,000
RIVER FRONT GRANTS	\$ 3,000,000		\$ 3,025,476	
GREENZONE GRANTS	1,500,000		3,718,628	
OPPORTUNITY SITES GRANTS	1,000,000		2,132,200	
Capital Asset Replacement	\$ 100,000	\$ 477,500	\$ 435,000	\$ 367,500
Other Revenue / Sources				
USE OF FUND BALANCE	1,478,464		5,213,310	
	\$ 1,478,464		5,213,310	
Subtotal Budget	\$ 8,071,500	\$ 8,071,500	\$ 8,322,500	\$ 8,322,500
Contingency 1% (Uncollected Levy)	\$ 110,550	\$ 110,550	\$ 182,500	\$ 182,500
Total Budget	\$ 8,182,050	\$ 8,182,050	\$ 8,505,000	8,505,000

	<u>2027</u>	<u>2026</u>
Levy \$ increase	\$ 322,950	\$ 352,500
Levy % increase	3.9%	4.5%



Request for Board Action

Attachment 6.2

Agenda Item: Preliminary Stormwater Design for 1720 Marshall St NE Redevelopment

Presenter: A. Goemann

Meeting Date: 08 September 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: 08 September 2023

Background (Attach Supporting Documents as needed)

The Mississippi Watershed Management Organization (MWMO) is collaborating with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) to convert a MPRB-owned property from a vacant industrial lot into a public park with a regional stormwater treatment feature. In January 2026, the MWMO Board of Commissioners authorized MWMO staff to fund the demolition of the vacant facilities and conduct initial site preparation for park and stormwater facilities at the MPRB property, 1720 Marshall St NE.

MWMO staff have worked with partners and consultants to progress a stormwater concept based on the outcomes of a feasibility study of Marshall St NE stormwater drainage areas to a level of detail sufficient to understand the opportunities, constraints, and considerations, for stormwater treatment at the site, and to a level of detail where the stormwater treatment practice type and approximate size has been determined. More detailed design is required to aid MWMO staff and collaborators at MPRB, the City of Minneapolis, and Hennepin County, in decision making regarding the final conceptual design of the park and stormwater facilities.

Key details to resolve as part of preliminary stormwater treatment facility design at 1720 Marshall St NE include the following:

- Integration of the stormwater facility within the finalized park design, including coordination with MPRB staff and consultants
- Reconstruction of existing stormwater infrastructure between Marshall St NE and the Mississippi River, including coordination with the City of Minneapolis
- Connection of the stormwater treatment facility to Hennepin County stormwater infrastructure within Marshall St NE, including coordination with Hennepin County and their consultants
- Coordination with permitting entities including MNDNR, USACE, and FEMA regarding additional or altered stormwater outlets into the Mississippi River

Staff are requesting a not to exceed amount of \$50,000 for professional services to develop a 60% design of stormwater treatment facilities at 1720 Marshall St NE that will be fully integrated with the redeveloped park property.

Mississippi Watershed Management Organization

RESOLUTION 2026-023

A RESOLUTION APPROVING PRELIMINARY DESIGN FOR STORMWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES AT 1720 MARSHALL ST NE

WHEREAS, The MWMO strives to protect and improve water quality and habitat within its jurisdiction through the planning and implementation of green stormwater infrastructure;

WHEREAS, The MWMO strives to partner with other entities to collaboratively find cost-effective ways to manage stormwater and improve habitat;

WHEREAS, The MWMO has developed conceptual designs for a regional stormwater treatment facility at 1720 Marshall St NE, in conjunction with its partners, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB), City of Minneapolis, and Hennepin County;

WHEREAS, The MWMO has identified a need to progress stormwater facility designs to a more detailed level in order to integrate the stormwater treatment with designs for public amenities and habitat enhancements;

WHEREAS, The MWMO has sufficient riverfront improvement funds available;

WHEREAS, Staff recommend the Board of Commissioners approve up to \$50,000 in riverfront improvement funds to complete up to 60% designs for stormwater treatment at 1720 Marshall St NE.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the MWMO Board of Commissioners approve up to \$50,000 in riverfront improvement funds to fund professional engineering and design services that will provide up to a 60% design for stormwater treatment facilities at 1720 Marshall St NE, and authorizes MWMO staff to take all necessary administrative actions to implement the resolution.

Adopted this the 8th day of September, 2026.

Review for the Board: _____

Connie Buesgens, Chair

Review for Administration: _____

Kevin Reich, Executive Director



Request for Board Action

Attachment 6.3

Agenda Item: Shoreline Improvement and Access Enhancement – 2100 Marshall St NE

Presenter: A. Goemann

Meeting Date: 08 September 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: 08 September 2026

Background (Attach Supporting Documents as needed)

The Mississippi Watershed Management Organization (MWMO) has completed a feasibility study with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) and Sample Room regarding restoration of shoreline and enhancement of public access along the Mississippi River on the following three properties in northeast Minneapolis:

- MPRB Property (2128 Marshall Street NE)
- The Sample Room (2124 Marshall Street NE)
- Gluek Park (1926 Marshall Street NE) – The project includes the Mississippi River shoreline that extends approximately 150 feet south of The Sample Room property.

Findings from the feasibility study and accompanying stakeholders meetings include:

- Concurrence between MWMO, stakeholders, and consulting engineers and architects that ecological enhancement of the shoreline is desirable and feasible.
- A conceptual plan for land exchange by easement or acquisition between the Sample Room owner and MPRB that will provide MPRB a corridor for a combined

bike and pedestrian path between the shoreline and Sample Room, bridging currently owned MPRB properties.

- A conceptual plan for shoreline enhancement that includes excavation and grading of the slope to remove urban debris and increase slope stability, installation of native vegetation that will support Mississippi Flyway & Critical Corridor wildlife, and reconstruction of public and private overlooks and river access infrastructure.

Progression of the conceptual design to a 90% design, including construction plans and engineer's opinion of cost, is proposed to prepare for reconstruction of the shoreline from 2128 Marshall St NE to a point on the Gluek Park shoreline approximately 150 ft. south of Sample Room's south property line, including excavation and grading, establishment of native vegetation, and reconstruction of existing public and private overlooks and river access. This design work will provide a foundation for the expansion of MPRB's bike and pedestrian trail system and overall park system in accordance with the Above the Falls plan. The design of the shoreline enhancement will place an emphasis on the creation of habitats that supports wildlife species contemplated by the Mississippi Flyway, Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area Plan, and the MWMO Watershed Management Plan, including a variety of mussels, birds, and pollinators.

Staff is requesting a not-to-exceed amount of \$220,700 to pay for professional engineering services to complete 90% Designs and Construction Plans for Shoreline and Access Enhancement at the 2100 Marshall St. NE site.

Mississippi Watershed Management Organization

RESOLUTION 2026-024

A RESOLUTION APPROVING FUNDING FOR SHORELINE IMPROVEMENT AND ACCESS ENHANCEMENT – 2100 MARSHALL ST. NE SITE

WHEREAS, The MWMO strives to protect and improve the ecological health and stability of the Mississippi River shoreline in its 10-Year Watershed Management Plan;

WHEREAS, The MWMO strives to collaborate with other entities to find cost-effective ways to improve water quality, habitat, and public access to the Mississippi River;

WHEREAS, The MWMO has determined that it is feasible at a Site within its jurisdiction to collaboratively reconstruct the shoreline and enhance river access in a manner that provides ecological and public recreational benefits;

WHEREAS, Where MWMO has sufficient riverfront improvement funds available;

WHEREAS, Staff recommend the Board of Commissioners approves up to \$220,700 in riverfront improvement funds to complete 90% Designs and Construction Plans for Shoreline and Access Enhancement at the 2100 Marshall St. NE site.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the MWMO Board of Commissioners approve up to \$220,700 in riverfront improvement funds for professional services to complete 90% Designs and Construction Plans for Shoreline and Access Enhancement at the 2100 Marshall St. NE site and authorizes MWMO staff to take all necessary administrative actions to implement the resolution.

Adopted this the 8th day of September, 2026.

Review for the Board: _____

Connie Buesgens, Chair

Review for Administration: _____

Kevin Reich, Executive Director



Request for Board Action

Attachment 6.4

Agenda Item: Stewardship Fund Action and Planning Grants

Presenter: Emmy Baskerville Doeckel and Adam Flett

Meeting Date: 08 Sept 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: 08 Sept 2026

Background

As directed by Stewardship Fund guidance, staff are recommending the second-round of 2026 Action and Planning Grant applications. These applications have been reviewed and supported by both staff and the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC).

Three (3) Action grant and 3 Planning Grant pre-applications were received, reviewed, and invited back to complete a full application. If approved, funding for this second round of 2026 will total \$180,507.50. Previous application round resulted in a total of \$120,000 grant funds being allocated for grantees, resulting in a total of \$300,507.50 Stewardship Grant funds being spent in 2026.

The following is a summary of each grant application:

1. Augsburg University – Living with Rivers Conference & Pilot Research Workshops (Action Grant - \$47,807.50)

- a. Applicant: Augsburg University
- b. Location: Cedar Riverside
- c. Partners: many

- d. Summary: Augsburg University's River Semester program will host a three-day conference in June 2027, and a follow-on undergraduate research project. The goals of the conference and research are to connect on-water education and recreation to the ongoing work of urban stormwater management. The conference, entitled "Living with Rivers," would be followed by a pilot research project in the Fall of 2027 that examines stormwater flows, urban wetlands, and ecosystem services in the Cedar-Riverside neighborhood.

2. MPRB – Restoration Improvement Plans for East River Flats Park (Action Grant - \$50,000)

- a. Applicant: MPRB
- b. Location: University of Minnesota (UMN)
- c. Partners: UMN, Studio Gro, Fishing For All, East Bank Neighborhoods Partnership
- d. Summary: East River Flats Park is an 18-acre regional park located along the Mississippi River. The proposed restoration project will address approximately 10.31 acres of degraded natural areas, including 4.11 acres of riparian woodland restoration, 4.39 acres of upland woodland restoration, 1.51 acres of prairie restoration, and 0.30 acres of basin restoration. Restoration activities will include the removal and treatment of invasive woody and herbaceous species, management of emerald ash borer-infested ash trees, stabilization of steep slopes and shoreline areas, conversion of maintained turfgrass to native prairie, rehabilitation of stormwater basins, installation of native seed mixes and plantings, and placement of biodegradable erosion-control blankets.

3. We All Need Food and Water – Green Light Puppets Ripple Effect: Cross-Age Environmental Education Through Storytelling (Action - \$27,000)

- a. Applicant: WANFAW
- b. Location: Near North; Willard Hay
- c. Partners: Minneapolis Public Schools (North Career and Technical Education [CTE] Tech Center, North Community High School, Franklin Middle School, Elizabeth Hall STEM Academy), Hennepin County Library

- d. Summary: This apprenticeship-style model of older middle and high school youth teaching early elementary-aged students combines environmental education, performing arts, and youth leadership. Middle and high school students will develop performance, communication, and teaching skills while serving as environmental ambassadors for younger students. These older students learn about water, stormwater management, the MWMO, the art of puppetry, and leadership skills. Then, these trained middle and high school students will perform water-focused puppet shows for elementary students during an all-school assembly and after-school programming at Hall STEM Academy. The youth will take the shows “on the road,” performing a minimum of three times at nearby Hennepin County Libraries (such as Webber Park, North Regional, Northeast, Pierre Bottineau, and/or Sumner)

4. Lyndale Neighborhood Association – Patio Drainage Correction (Planning - \$15,700)

- a. Applicant: Lyndale Neighborhood Association
- b. Location: Lyndale
- c. Partners: TBD
- d. Summary: The patio at the back of the Lyndale Neighborhood Association’s office was installed in 2011 as part of a major storm water management project with financial support from MWMO. In the 15 years since the previous patio was installed, issues have arisen with the patio space including drainage sloping towards the building, water leakage into the building’s first floor and basement, and cracked and deteriorating brick pavers along the building wall. The grant will be used to evaluate the site and identify the best approaches to mitigate damage, address drainage issues, and restore a community-supported example of functional stormwater infrastructure.

5. McKinley Community – McKinley Green and Grow Together (Planning - \$20,000)

- a. Applicant: McKinley Community
- b. Location: McKinley
- c. Partners: Master Gardeners Program, Step Up Youth Employment Program, McKinley residents and volunteers,

- d. Summary: The McKinley Community Center proposes the development of a comprehensive Green Infrastructure and Community Stewardship Plan for our campus and adjacent community garden sites located in North Minneapolis. The planning process will evaluate opportunities to improve stormwater management, increase native plantings, expand pollinator habitat, reduce runoff, and create educational spaces that connect residents to environmental stewardship practices.

6. Towerside Innovation District – Stormwater Management for MN Textile Center, MPHA’s Glendale Townhomes, and Prospect Park Properties (Planning - \$20,000)

- a. Applicant: Towerside Innovation District
- b. Location: Prospect Park
- c. Partners: MN Textile Center, Prospect Park Properties, LLC, Minneapolis Public Housing Authority / Glendale Townhomes
- d. Summary: The Towerside Innovation District (TID) will lead a collaborative process to help determine how a district stormwater system would be able to serve four properties that are contiguous within the TID. The properties include the Minnesota Textile Center at 3000 University Ave SE, the Minneapolis public Housing Authority Glendale Townhomes, Prospect Park Properties at 2828 university Ave., and the M-Flats condominiums at 2900 University Avenue SE.

MWMO staff is requesting approval of a not-to-exceed amount of \$180,507.50 in Capital Project funding for professional engineering services to advance to 90% Design Plans for the Little Earth Stormwater and Habitat Improvements project.

Mississippi Watershed Management Organization

RESOLUTION 2026-025

A RESOLUTION APPROVING FUNDING THE 2026 ACTION AND PLANNING GRANTS

WHEREAS, The Mississippi Watershed Management Organization works to protect and improve water quality, habitat and natural resources in an urban watershed that drains directly into the Mississippi River; and

WHEREAS, The MWMO Board of Commissioners has created the Stewardship Fund to engage the community in the protection of said resources; and

WHEREAS, Six applications were submitted which meet the MWMO Board guidance of the Stewardship Fund; and

WHEREAS, Staff and the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) have reviewed the applications; and

WHEREAS, Staff and the Citizen Advisory Committee recommend funding to implement the Action and Planning Grants described above; and

WHEREAS, Funding is available in the Stewardship Fund for Community, Planning and Action grants in FY 2026.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the MWMO Board of Commissioners approves not-to-exceed \$180,507.50 from the Stewardship Fund and authorizes MWMO staff to take

Adopted this the 8th day of September, 2026.

Review for the Board: _____

Connie Buesgens, Chair

Review for Administration: _____

Kevin Reich, Executive Director