Mississippi Watershed Management Organization

2522 Marshall Street NE
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55418-3329

612-746-4970
contacts@mwmo.org

mwmo.org

AGENDA

Date: 10 November 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. 2026-026: FY 2027 FINAL Levy **(D)** ..... Attachment 6.1
        i. Final Budget 2027 ..... Attachment 6.1.1
    b. 2026-027: NE Green Campus **(D)** ..... Attachment 6.2
        i. Concept Visual ..... Attachment 6.2.1
        ii. Geothermal Wells Visual ..... Attachment 6.2.2
        iii. Aerial Map ..... Attachment 6.2.3
        iv. NE Green campus Map ..... Attachment 6.2.4
    c. 2026-028: Stewardship Fund Increases **(D)** ..... Attachment 6.3
7) Board Updates and Announcements
8) Open Public Input (Non-Agenda Items) ..... Sign-in Sheet
9) Adjourn **(D)**

Mississippi Watershed Management Organization

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MEETING MINUTES

Date: 8 September 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; Kate Lowisz, St. Paul; Meg Forney, MPRB (online); and LaTrisha Vetaw, Minneapolis (online).

Staff and Guests: Emmy Baskerville-Doeckel, Adam Flett, Aaron Goemann, Shameka Gherau, Kevin Reich, Emily Resseger, Grace Polverari; and Nancy Stowe, MWMO; Glenda Meixell, Anoka Conservation District; and Amy Juntunen, JASS.

The meeting was called to order at 3:04 p.m. by Chair Buesgens.

The new Commissioner for St. Paul, Kate Lowisz, introduced herself to the Commission and staff.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

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

Consent Agenda

None.

Reports from Staff

None.

General Business

2026-0022: FY2027 Draft Levy

Staff propose a 3.9 percent levy increase over fiscal year 2026 for a total of $8,505,000. This amount reflects the current Watershed Management Plan including Capital Improvement Projects, general operations, and a contribution to MWMO's capital asset replacement fund. This resolution sets the maximum levy. The final levy will be submitted for approval at the November Board meeting and may decrease but cannot increase beyond this proposal.

Motion by Dains, second by Doolan to approve Resolution 2026-0022 approving the MWMO maximum levy amount for Fiscal Year 2027 of $8,505,000. Motion carried unanimously.

2026-023: Preliminary Stormwater Design 1720 Marshall

MWMO is collaborating with MPRB to convert a property acquired by MPRB from a vacant industrial lot into a public park with a regional stormwater treatment feature. The site is just south of MWMO and across the river from the 27th Avenue Overlook and Ole Olson park. This is part of the MPRB River First and Above the Falls plan to convert properties on both sides of the river into parkland. The Marshall Street Study identified and ranked 70 opportunities for water quality improvement, habitat connections, flood mitigation, and public amenities.

This property was identified as an opportunity area. A regional stormwater treatment feature on this site would treat 39 acres, reducing TSS by 13,576 lbs./year and TP by 43 lbs./year from the 18th Avenue outfall. 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. MPRB's long-term vision for this site includes pedestrian and bicycle access, a boat launch, and a pedestrian bridge over the river.

Next steps are to refine the location for the stormwater treatment feature, determine how the feature will integrate with the finalized park design, design reconstruction of existing stormwater infrastructure between Marshall St NE and the river, coordinate with

permitting entities, and continue collaborating with partners, to reach a 60% design of the stormwater treatment facilities at this site. Staff are requesting $50,000 for professional services to develop a 60% design of stormwater treatment facilities at this site to be fully integrated with the redeveloped park property. Full buildout of the park and facility is anticipated to take three years.

Motion by Forney, second by Lowisz to approve Resolution 2026-0014 approving preliminary design for stormwater treatment facilities at1720 Marshall Street NE at a cost not-to-exceed $50,000. Motion carried unanimously.

2026-024: Shoreline Access Enhancement 2100 Marshall

In 2025 the Board approved a feasibility study with MPRB to extend an existing bike/pedestrian path from Gluek Park, located directly south of this property, through this property behind The Sample Room, a restaurant located on this property, to MPRB property north of the site. The owners of the parcel have agreed to allow the path extension across the property, including shoreline stabilization and the rebuilding of an existing stairway to allow access to the river.

Current conditions on the site include eroded, steep slopes, an existing private dock and staircase, a mix of riprap and urban fill, and invasive species. The area has become degraded and overgrown. Overall goals for this site are to enhance habitat, stability, and make the area amenable to public access. This property is not conducive for stormwater treatment but is prime for ecological enhancement. This site is within the Mississippi flyway. This proposal includes coordination with MnDNR to install amendable mussel habitat and includes 90% design completion, defining easements/land exchange, a more enhanced ecological plan, pre-permit coordination with DNR, NPS and USACOE, and finalization of construction phases with MPRB for shoreline and access enhancements and parkland enhancement and connection.

Staff are requesting approval of $220,700 for professional engineering services to complete 90% design and construction plans for shoreline and access enhancements.

Motion by Forney, second by Dains to approve Resolution 2026-024 approving funding for shoreline improvement and access enhancement at the 2100 Marshall Street NE site at a cost not-to-exceed $220,700.

Motion carried unanimously.

2026-025: Stewardship Fund Action & Planning Grants

MWMO staff received three applications for planning grants and three applications for action grants. Grant applications were reviewed by staff and the CAC and all six grants are recommended for approval. Action and Planning grants are open for application twice a year with Action grants available up to $50,000 and Planning grants available up to $20,000.

Action grants recommended for approval include:

Augsburg University – Living with Rivers conference and pilot research workshop. This application is for a three-day workshop for their river semester program and connects on-water education and recreation to the ongoing work of urban stormwater management, paired with a pilot research project on stormwater flows, urban wetlands, and ecosystem services in the Cedar-Riverside neighborhood. Total grant requested $47,807.50 for 120 people to participate in this program.

MPRB – East River Flats. This is a $50,000 grant application to support rehabilitation of a stormwater BMP and 2500 LF of shoreline restoration including invasive species removal, removal of infected ash trees, stabilization of steep slopes and turf to prairie conversion at East River Flats. Long-term maintenance will be done by MPRB.

We All Need Food and Water – Green Light Puppets youth outreach and education event. This application is requesting $27,000 to teach North High and Frankle Middle school students to conduct a puppet performance about stormwater, pollution, habitat, etc. This program teaches the students about these topics as well as pubic speaking and confidence. Students will then perform the puppet show for elementary school students at at least four events with performances to be scheduled this winter or next spring.

All action grants include match either in-kind or cash.

Planning grants include:

Lyndale Neighborhood Association – patio drainage correction. MWMO funded a permeable paver patio at this location in 2009 and 2011. The Association is requesting funding for a redesign and retrofit. Installation included a liner under the pavers, and the patio is sloped toward the building instead of away from the building, resulting in stormwater flow toward the building. This request is for $15,700 and includes a 45% cash match. This building is also shared with multiple community groups and the project will include outreach via their regular newsletter and newspaper.

McKinley Community – Green and Grow Together neighborhoood organization is requesting $20,000 to complete a design for stormwater management and habitat improvement on site. The project will engage the community in the planning process and create a concept plan including community gathering spaces, green stormwater infrastructure, food production, and environmental education opportunities. Match is in-kind and volunteer engagement time.

The Towerside Innovation District request is for $20,000 for extensive engagement with four properties adjacent to TID covering 14 acres. These properties are planning for fairly extensive improvements so it is a good time to engage regarding stormwater and habitat enhancement. This request is for $20,000 with 25% match via in-kind (staff time) to increase education on MWMOs investment in the Towerside Improvement District.

Total request across all six grants is for $180,508 in Stewardship Grant Funding.

Motion by Dains, second by Lowisz to approve Resolution 2026-025 approving funding the 2026 Action and Planning grants at a cost not-to-exceed $180,507.50. Motion carried unanimously.

Open Public Input

None.

Board Updates and Announcements

Doolan attended the Minnesota Watersheds annual meeting on August 31, 2026. Plumbers have proposed legislation to limit stormwater reuse, it was voted to not support that restriction. The other main topic was regulation of wake boat usage. However, legislation is needed to bring statewide consistency and determine enforcement authority.

Lowisz announced that Friends of the Mississippi River will be holding their annual fundraiser on September 24, 2026.

Forney noted that the 2026 Nobel Conference at Gustavus Adolphus is called “Mighty Mississippi: Currents of Change” and will be held October 6-7.

Adjourn

There being no further business, motion by Dains, second by Forney to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

Request for Board Action

Attachment 5

Agenda Item: Staff Updates

Presenter: K. Reich

Meeting Date: 10 November 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: 10 November 2026

Background (Attach Supporting Documents as needed)

Kevin Reich

- Jass board meeting minutes recorder — MWMO working on designating new recorder in 2027
- Reminder:
  - Executive Committee Meeting will be held on: 12/29/26
  - January Board Meeting will be held on: 1/12/2027

Request for Board Action

Attachment 6.1

Agenda Item: FY 2027 Final Levy

Presenter: K. Reich

Meeting Date: 10 November 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: 10 November 2026

Background (Attach Supporting Documents as needed)

The 2027 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 2027. We have reviewed the CIPs estimated costs for 2025–2029 used for the 2027 preliminary levy. We have confirmed that amounts included in the preliminary levy are at the appropriate amounts. Therefore staff is continuing to recommend levy not to exceed $8,505,000. This represents a 3.9 percent increase.

Mississippi Watershed Management Organization

RESOLUTION 2026-026

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE MWMO FINAL 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 2026–2029; and

WHEREAS, Approval of the 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 Final 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 Final 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 10th day of November, 2026.

Review for the Board: _____

Connie Buesgens, Chair

Review for Administration: _____

Kevin Reich, Executive Director

2027 Budget

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 of work is completed.

FINAL 2027

	2026 Budget	2026 levy Document	2027 Budget	2027 levy Document
Administration	$ 2,486,175	**$ 2,490,000**	$ 2,666,870	**$ 2,667,000**
PAYROLL & EXPENSES	1,769,821		1,843,428	
HEALTH INSURANCE	209,531		261,905	
OTHER INSURANCE	17,281		17,522	
CONTRACTED IT/PHONE SERVICES	101,378		105,344	
CONTRACTED FINANCIAL AND HR SERVICES	129,655		137,434	
AUDIT, LEGAL AND OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FEE	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**	10,471,049	**$ 5,175,000**
Program operations	$ 1,463,789	1,464,000	1,594,745	$ 1,600,000
OUTREACH	158,360		198,950	
COMMUNICATIONS	72,696		37,295	
PROJECT INDENTIFCATION, PLANNING AND EVALUATION	658,500		653,000	
MONITORING AND RESEARCH	224,234		205,500	
STEWARDSHIP GRANTS	350,000		500,000	
Project Grants	$ 5,500,000	$ 3,640,000	$ 8,876,304	$ 3,575,000
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		5,363,419	
	$ 1,478,464		5,363,419	
Subtotal Budget	**$ 8,071,500**	**$ 8,071,500**	**$ 8,209,500**	**$ 8,209,500**
Contingency 1% (Uncollected Levy)	$ 110,550	$ 110,550	$ 295,500	$ 295,500
Total Budget	**$ 8,182,050**	**$ 8,182,050**	**$ 8,505,000**	**8,505,000**

	2027
Levy $ increase	**$ 322,950**
Levy % increase	**3.9%**

Request for Board Action

Attachment 6.2

Agenda Item: NE Green Campus: Civil Engineering, Design and site preparation for district Storm water system and project elements of UPI site.

Presenter: K.Reich

Meeting Date: 10 November 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: 10 November 2026

Background (Attach Supporting Documents as needed)

In response to flooding that severely impacted Edison High School and surrounding area in 1997, there was push for improved, better-coordinated stormwater management. These efforts ultimately spawned a “Northeast Green Campus Initiative.” Initial phases of the project incorporated many best practices and stormwater infrastructure. Also, Edison and Spark Y have integrated the stormwater BMPs into the school’s educational programming.

Additional aspects of the Green Campus Plan were not incorporated as they required additional land to the south (the former Universal Plating ‘UPI’ site) owned by Hennepin County that wasn’t available as pollution issues were being addressed. Discussions about end uses that would meet the objectives of the County and MWMO and site partners: Clare Housing, Spark Y, and MPS resulted in a provisional plan (attached concept drawing) and an agreement with the County to transfer the land to the MWMO. The MWMO acquisition and subsequent work have allowed a remediation plan to be approved by the State and multiple cleanup funds to be assigned to this property. After the cleanup, the affordable housing, youth workforce training center and school green campus expansion will be integrated into the existing district storm water system.

The NE Green Campus includes the current UPI site, Minneapolis Public School property, Minneapolis Public Works flood mitigation basin, Jackson Sq. Park and the Mpls. Right of way in between these properties. Early phase work has been successfully conducted on most sites except for the UPI site and Jackson Square.

MWMO has been implementing a comprehensive strategy to combine a series of best practices and educational opportunities that anchor two locations in the Green Zone that are part of the River First/Above the Falls plan for river connector corridors (22nd Ave. NE & 26th Ave. N.).

Funds to remediate the pollution at the former UPT site have been awarded from DEED, MPCA and Hennepin County and completion of the work is scheduled to take place in the Spring of 2027. To further advance project objectives post remediation Engineering, Design and site preparation work needs to be conducted.

The Board has requested approval in advancing NE Green Campus work, approval up to $612,000 to this phase of the project.

Mississippi Watershed Management Organization

RESOLUTION 2026-027

A RESOLUTION APPROVING FUNDS CONTRIBTATUNG TO CIVIL ENGINEERING, DESIGN AND SITE PREPARATION OF THE FORMER UPI SITE FOR THE AMOUNT OF $612,000

WHEREAS, The Mississippi Watershed Management Organization (MWMO) has purchased certain real properties ("Property") located at the former Universal Plating Inc. site ("UPI site") at the N.W. corner of Monroe Street N.E. and 19th Avenue NE, Minneapolis; and

WHEREAS, The MWMO is authorized by its joint powers agreement and applicable law to acquire such real property and remove pollution as the purposes of the MWMO may require; and;

WHEREAS, NE Geen Campus area is identified in the RiverFirst/Above the Falls plan of MPRB as a linear Mississippi river connecter along 22nd Ave. NE and is in Minneapolis' Northern Green Zone; and

WHEREAS, Remediation of the site will eliminate harmful impacts to the soil and ground water and allow for the positive expansion of the NE Green Campus
WHEREAS, Where does the money go or how much does it cost...;

WHEREAS, MWMO has successfully implemented the first phase of the district water collection and reuse system in the NE Green Campus, and this would allow the expansion of that work; and

WHEREAS, Remediation, site work, engineering documents, and system design are essential steps to implement the NE Green Campus Expansion

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the MWMO Board of Commissioners FUNDS CONTRIBTATUNG TO Civil Engineering, Design and Site Preparation OF THE FORMER UPI SITE FOR THE AMOUNT OF $612,000 and authorizes MWMO staff to take all necessary administrative actions to implement the resolution.

Adopted this the 10th day of November, 2026.

Review for the Board: _____

Connie Buesgens, Chair

Review for Administration: _____

Kevin Reich, Executive Director


Concept Elements
Action Lab
Bioswale
Cistern
Driveway
Four Story Housing
Garage
Greenhouse
Hoop House
Parking
Plaza
Pump House and Storage
Raised Garden Bed
Tree Trench (~4x400')
1,520 sq ft
1,549 sq ft
960 sq ft
578 sq ft
215 sq ft
1,235 sq ft
506 sq ft
3,410 sq ft
4,654 sq ft
218 sq ft
559 sq ft
218 sq ft
268 sq ft
10,539 sq ft
10,048 sq ft
Esri Community Maps Contributors, City of Minneapolis, Metropolitan Council, MetroGIS, Three Rivers Park District, MN Dept Natural Resources, © OpenStreetMap, Microsoft, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau, USDA, USFWS

STORM PIPE W/ 15' TOTAL WIDTH TRENCH

LID STORMWATER TREATMENT TRAIN UPSTREAM OF DISCHARGE TO EDISON SYSTEM

SPARK-Y PARCEL
100% IMPERVIOUS

COMPOST

GREENHOUSE

HOOP

PLAZA

AGRICULTURAL

RAIN GARDEN

SY HQ PUMP+ GARAGE

SHIPPING CONTAINER

60 GEOTHERMAL WELLS - PARKING AREA

27 GEOTHERMAL WELLS - BUILDING AREA

15' MIN SIDE YARD SETBACK

NORTHSTAR COMMUTER RAIL

BURLINGTON NORTHERN SANTA FE RAIL

BNSF RAILROAD
NORTHSTAR COMMUTER RAIL

661 19TH AVENUE NORTHEAST

1922 MONROE STREET NORTHEAST

1912 MONROE STREET NORTHEAST

1900 MONROE STREET NORTHEAST

FFE=845.00

LOT AREA = 34655 SF

19TH AVENUE NORTHEAST
(60 FOOT WIDE PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY)

MONROE STREET NORTHEAST
(60 FOOT WIDE PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY)

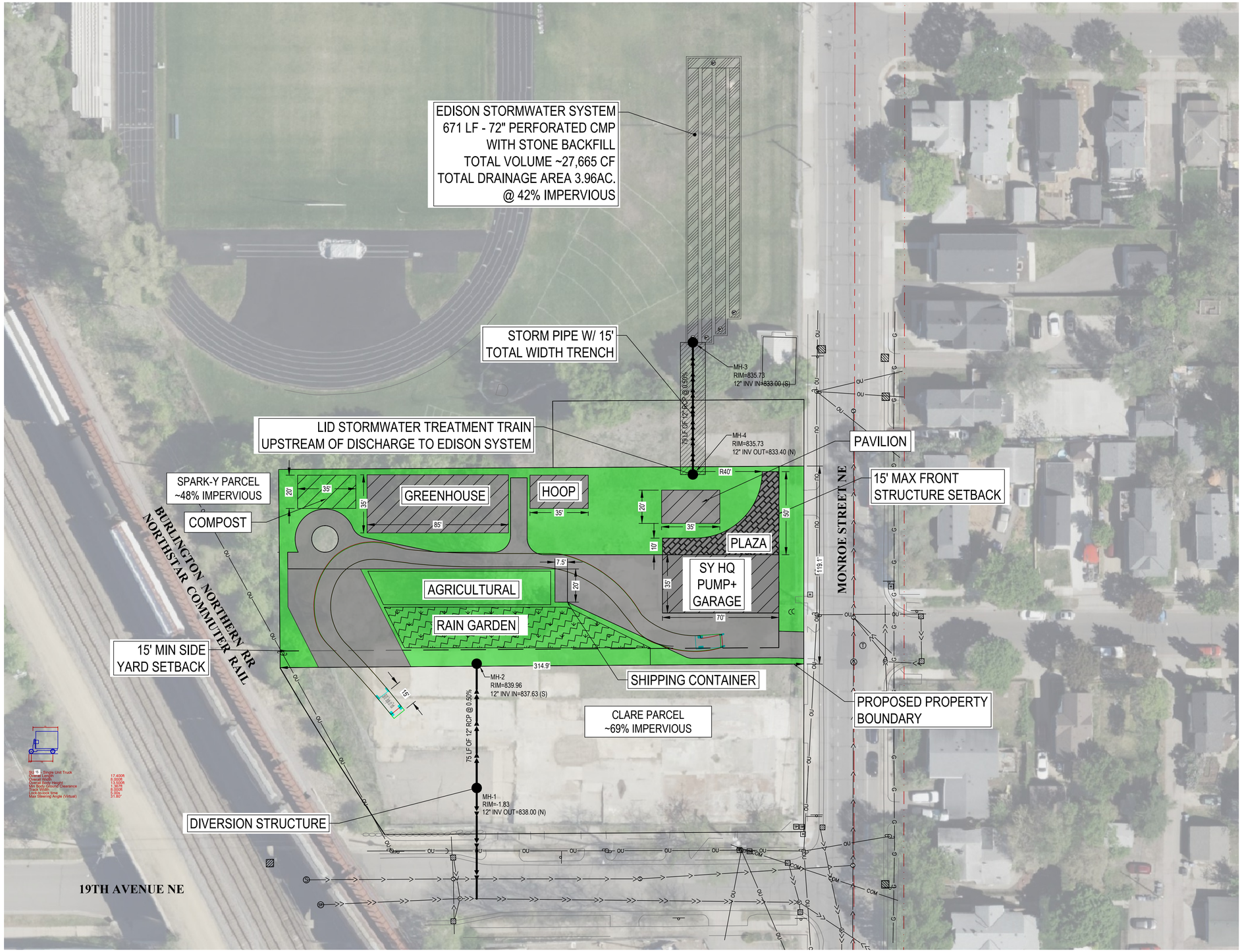
GEOTHERMAL WELLS EXHIBIT

0 10' 20' 40'

PLOT DATE: 2026/11/04 3:37 PM
FILE PATH: M:\23Proj\230304\500 Drawings\Civil\EXHIBITS\230304 GEOTHERMAL EXH.dwg

LHB
701 Washington Ave. N, Ste 200 | Minneapolis, MN 55401 | 612.338.2029


23rd Ave NE
23rd Ave NE
23rd Ave NE
Jackson Square Park
22nd Ave NE
Thomas Edison High School
22nd Ave NE
Edison Tech Center
EDISON HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL FIELD
Best Choice Home Care
NE 20th Ave
NE 20th Ave
Monroe St NE
Quincy St NE
Monroe Village
Jefferson St NE
The Whim
19th Ave NE
19th Ave NE
NE Jackson St
19th Ave NE
Maya Cuisine - Minneapolis
65
65
65



N

GRAPHIC SCALE

30 0 30 60

(IN FEET)
1 inch = 30 ft.

EXISTING LEGEND

- PROPERTY BOUNDARY
- LOT LINE
- ROAD CENTERLINE
- SIDEWALK
- RIGHT-OF-WAY (ROW)
- SANITARY SEWER PIPE
- STORM SEWER PIPE
- GAS LINE
- OVERHEAD POWER LINE
- EDGE OF PAVEMENT
- CHAIN LINK FENCE
- EXISTING UNDERGROUND DETENTION
- EXISTING BUILDING
- TREE
- SIGN
- STORM MANHOLE
- STORM CATCHBASIN

PROPOSED LEGEND

- STORM PIPE
- UTILITY TRENCH
- PROPOSED IMPERVIOUS
- PROPOSED STORMWATER BMP

Stantec

STANTEC CONSULTING LTD.
733 MARQUETTE AVENUE, SUITE 1000
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402
TEL. 780.917.7000
WWW.STANTEC.COM

CLIENT:

MWMO
SPARK-Y

PROJECT TITLE:

NE GREEN CAMPUS

1922 MONROE ST NE

MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55418

ISSUE NO.:	DESCRIPTION:	DATE:
CONCEPT-1	POR STORMWATER MEETING	10/9/26
CONCEPT-1	INITIAL CLIENT CONCEPT MEETING	10/14/26
CONCEPT-1	PRELIMINARY LAYOUT	10/23/26

CERTIFICATION:

PROJECT NO.:

DWN BY:	CHK'D BY:	APP'D BY:
EAL	EWY	BMB

ISSUE DATE: 10/22/2026

ISSUE NO.: CONCEPT-1

SHEET TITLE:

DRAINAGE CONCEPT

SHEET NO.:

1 OF 1

Request for Board Action

Attachment 6.3

Agenda Item: Stewardship Fund Program Update

Presenter: Emmy Baskerville Doeckel and Adam Flett

Meeting Date: 10 November 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: 10 November 2026

Background

MWMO Staff responsible for the implementation of the Stewardship Fund program conducted an evaluation to determine if changes were needed to the program. Program changes are proposed based on project metrics, input gathered from meetings with current and former grantees, feedback from MWMO staff and Community Advisory Committee, discussions with community partners, and in consideration of labor and material cost increases over the past several years.

The proposed changes of the program include:

- an increase in the maximum funding level of the Planning Grant from $20,000 to $25,000,
- an increase in the maximum funding level of the Action Grants from $50,000 to $75,000,
- and an increase in the overall annual program budget from $350,000 to $500,000, and finally,
- grant maximum per project is increased from $75,000 to $105,000.

Mississippi Watershed Management Organization

RESOLUTION 2026-028

A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN INCREASE IN STEWARDSHIP FUND

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, Staff have conducted a comprehensive review of the Stewardship Program, which included discussions with current and former grantees, MWMO Staff, and the CAC, and analysis of program metrics; and

WHEREAS, Stewardship Fund Planning Grant amounts have remained unchanged since 2022, and Action Grant amounts since the program's inception in 2008;

WHEREAS, The Stewardship Fund's annual program budget was last increased in 2022; and

WHEREAS, Staff and the Citizen Advisory Committee recommend increasing the maximum Planning Grant award to $25,000, the maximum Action Grant award to $75,000, and the annual program budget to $500,000.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the MWMO Board of Commissioners approves increasing the maximum funding level of the Planning Grants to $25,000, the maximum funding level for Action Grants to $75,000, and the overall program budget increasing to $500,000

Adopted this the 10th day of November, 2026.

Review for the Board: _____

Connie Buesgens, Chair

Review for Administration: _____

Kevin Reich, Executive Director