



2522 Marshall Street NE
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55418-3329

612-465-8780
contacts@mwmoo.org

mwmoo.org

**MISSISSIPPI
WATERSHED
MANAGEMENT
ORGANIZATION**

MEETING MINUTES

Date: 10 May 2016

Attachment 3

Time: 3:00-5:00 PM

Location: 2522 Marshall Street NE, Minneapolis, MN 55418

Commissioners in Attendance

Donna Schmitt, Columbia Heights; Jim Saefke, Fridley; Mary Gaasch, Lauderdale; Kevin Reich, Minneapolis; Jerry Faust, St. Anthony; and Scott Vreeland, Minneapolis Park & Recreation.

Staff and Guests: Doug Snyder, Marcy Bean, Nick Busse, Max Dalton, Stephanie Johnson, Tammy Schmitz, Michaela Neu, and Udai Singh, MWMO; Todd Hubner, WSB; Shawn Tracey, HDR; Reverend Dr. Timothy Hart-Anderson and Jess Broadhunter, Westminster Presbyterian project; and Amy Juntunen, JASS.

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Commissioner Reich.

Commissioners Absent

Matt Hass, St. Paul.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Motion by Vreeland, second by Saefke to approve the Agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Vreeland, second by Saefke to approve the minutes of the March 8, 2016 meeting and April 7, 2016 special Board meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda

Motion by Faust, second by Gaasch to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports from Staff

The **gravel bed tree nursery** has been planted on site with eight different species, including fruit trees, as part of a mini-grant project. Some trees have been slated for mini-grant sites already.

The **2015 Planning Grants** have been officially closed out. The Wild River Academy successfully created four themed videos about watersheds and transportation on the river. Each video has paired curriculum to be used by educators. MWMO will use the videos onsite on the MWMO project page for constituent viewing.

The **Minneapolis Sculpture Garden** groundbreaking went well. Construction will continue through spring 2017 with seeding to follow. Staff is working with the Walker Art Center to get approval for a blog post to highlight the sustainability components.

The **Green 4th District Stormwater** project is moving forward with the agreements to proceed signed and a tentative start date of mid-June. A groundbreaking event will be held for the project.

Construction on the **St. Anthony Regional Treatment Facility** will be completed soon with final grading and planting anticipated to occur later this month and the system functioning in June. There may be a community event on the site.

The **Columbia Heights Library** grand opening is scheduled for June 25, 2016, 12:00-4:00 p.m. Staff will provide more details as they become available.

The **partnership with St. Anthony Village** for a Green Corps member was unsuccessful because partnerships are not allowed. An intern will be hired this fall to fulfill project needs identified by Staff including working with the Stewardship Fund group, mapping locations of past Stewardship Fund projects, and cataloguing education projects produced for future use. Another application for a Green Corps member will be submitted in 2017. Faust noted that the Green Corps member working with his City has been aggressive in grant writing and has obtained over \$35,000 in grants since she began working with the City last September, as well as working with the Citizens for Sustainability program and other events.

The spring deadline for the **Capital Projects grant program** was April 15. Four applications totaling over \$1.4 million were received. Staff are reviewing the applications to determine which should be

supported. Two projects will be discussed later in the agenda, Westminster and Living Green Farms. The two other projects may be considered at the July meeting.

The **Green 4th District Stormwater System** has moved into the construction phase of the project. Staff will create recommended guidance for replications of stormwater systems based on what was learned during the planning phase of the project. There is a lot of interest from other parties in the contractual agreement for long-term maintenance of projects on private land and how MWMO worked through that process with the land owners. Staff is also working with the Capitol Region Watershed District staff as they are working through a similar situation. This type of agreement was also a main topic at the Philadelphia conference.

Staff will also be meeting with a development group operating on Near North that is interested in stormwater management. A grant leadership team from Duluth will be in Minneapolis to discuss stacked shared uses such as this project. Staff submitted an abstract to the U of M Water Resource Conference this fall to talk about the physical system and treatment as well.

The **Mississippi River Critical Area Rules** from DNR is in the final round of public review. Staff will submit comments, which are due at the end of June.

Snyder and Yunker attended a conference hosted by the League of Minnesota Cities and learned that some **policies should be updated**, including policies on social media, Fair Labor Standards Act, exempt/non-exempt employees, and employment contracts. A package of updated policies will be presented for Board approval at the July meeting.

General Business

The Board approved Staff to begin work on a feasibility study for the **Westminster Presbyterian Stormwater Reuse System** in November 2015. The study estimated the cost for the system at \$761,000 for the demonstration fountain, toilets, and onsite irrigation. The State updated the plumbing code and regulations for stormwater reuse projects in January 2016. Motion by Vreeland, second by Gaasch to approve a grant not to exceed \$600,000 to Westminster Presbyterian Church for installation of a stormwater reuse system and associated interpretive elements as part of their Open Doors, Open Futures project. Motion carried unanimously.

Staff requested approval to submit **Met Council grant applications** for two capital projects, Westminster Church and Living Green Farms. Motion by Vreeland, second by Saefke to approve Staff to apply for a \$200,000 grant from Metropolitan Council for use toward installation of a stormwater reuse system at Westminster Presbyterian Church and a second \$200,000 grant for use toward the installation of a stormwater reuse system at the Living Green Farms facility. Motion carried unanimously.

Construction of the **St. Anthony Village Regional Treatment and Research Facility** went over budget by \$71,000. Staff met with City Staff and the engineering firm to determine how this occurred and how to avoid repetition in future projects. Part of the overrun was due to changes requested by MWMO after construction had begun so, although the Agreement with the City states that all overages are the responsibility of the grantee, Staff recommends that the Board increase the grant amount to St. Anthony Village for this project by \$35,000.

Motion by Vreeland, second by Saefke to commit an additional \$35,000 to the St. Anthony Village Regional Treatment System project grant. Motion carried unanimously.

The Executive Committee completed the **2016 Executive Director** review and the consensus is that the Director has worked to provide the MWMO Board and employees with direction, purpose, and engagement with the community. The Committee recommends a 5% salary increase. Motion by Vreeland, second by Gaasch to accept the annual performance review and salary increase of 5%. Motion carried unanimously.

Open Public Input

There were no public comments.

Board Updates and Announcements

St. Anthony Village and MWMO will jointly pursue a Green Corps intern next year.

The Governor should be invited to tour the MWMO facility after the legislative session ends.

The Board is invited to attend the Columbia Heights library grand opening. MWMO is providing a guest speaker.

Snyder and Johnson attended a reuse group to discuss how water reuse is evolving using the CHS Field project as an example. MWMO has more large-scale water reuse projects, including CHS Field, than any other area and Staff will work to promote this. Faust suggested that Met Council list the BMPs on their website and list BMPs throughout the state.

The Water Bar operates at 2516 Central Avenue and is a new way to engage the community in discussions about water. The bar is doing well in social and traditional media.

Adjourn

There being no further business, motion by Vreeland, second by Saefke to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Juntunen

Recording Secretary