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**MISSISSIPPI  
WATERSHED  
MANAGEMENT  
ORGANIZATION**

# MEETING MINUTES

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**Date:** 13 September 2016

**Attachment 3**

**Time:** 3:00-5:00 PM

**Location:** 2522 Marshall Street NE, Minneapolis, MN 55418

## Commissioners in Attendance

Donna Schmitt, Columbia Heights; 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, Laura Haven, Brian Jastram, Stephanie Johnson, Dan Kalmon, Michaela Neu, Shelly Rueckert, Tammy Schmitz, Udai Singh, and Shannon Skally, MWMO; Dr. Magner, U of M; and Amy Juntunen, JASS.

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

## Approval of Agenda and Minutes

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

Motion by Vreeland, second by Faust to approve the Minutes of the July 12, 2016 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

## Consent Agenda

Motion by Vreeland, second by Gaasch to approve the Consent Agenda, except the proposed building rental policy update. Motion carried unanimously.

Vreeland inquired about the additional charges for rental listed under item 8. The item was amended to state charges for additional resources not covered by daytime staffing. Motion by

Faust, second by Vreeland to approve the building rental policy as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

## Reports from Staff

Snyder introduced Skally, the new part-time Administrative Assistant.

MWMO has applied for a **BWSR Community Partners grant** and will apply for a **Hennepin County Opportunity grant** to implement green infrastructure projects at six properties in partnership with Metro Blooms.

The **View of the Big River Event** was postponed due to staff turnover. Staff is planning to reinitiate the project in spring 2017.

The **Clean Water Summit** at the Arboretum on September 22 will highlight two projects in MWMO, Edison High School and Green 4th. Commissioner attendance at the Summit is encouraged and MWMO will cover the cost to attend for Commissioners.

At the March 2016 meeting, the Board approved up to \$35,000 for development of an **online planning tool**. The project is still in research and no funds have been expended yet.

Several large **capital projects** will be completed prior to the November meeting. Completed projects continue to be monitored and have outreach and other communications.

Staff has completed a **minor plan amendment** to the Watershed Management Plan with a new capital improvement schedule. The amendment was sent out for review on August 22. Agencies and Cities have until September 27 to comment on the changes in this minor plan amendment. The public hearing required by the plan amendment process will be held during the November regular meeting and the Board will be asked to approve the amendment at that time.

Twenty youth and three adults participated in the **Green Team** program this summer. Twelve will be graduating high school this year and many alumni of the program have found jobs in a related field. MWMO has begun offering an off-site **macroinvertebrate sampling** program to school groups this year for students in grades 9-12. An on-site program will begin next month using an MPCA exhibit for grades 4-8.

Over 180 people attended the **Share the River Nordeast** event this summer. The river access was used to bring attendees on canoe rides. Ribbon cuttings and ground-breaking events occurred for six projects this year. The **new website** is promoting the projects and events. The press release

for the **Edison ribbon-cutting** got the most hits the new website has ever had and many shares on social media. Other events included water workshops for homeowners.

Seventeen **Master Water Stewards** are working on their capstone projects which should be completed by November. Staff is investigating a possible grant program for Stewards to allow them to continue projects and anticipates a proposal to the Board at the November meeting. Most Stewards would like to maintain their existing projects and assist people in maintaining raingardens.

Jastram was introduced as the new Monitoring and Instrumentation Specialist. A new intern since June, Haven, was introduced.

Singh attended and presented at the international conference in India. Many there are interested in adopting monitoring measures.

**Instruments** have been installed at the St. Anthony stormwater research facility, measuring water velocity, depth, and discharge from the individual treatment chambers. The Edison High School phase two project has also been instrumented. Monitoring equipment will also be installed in the Franklin tunnel and at the MWMO Stormwater Park and Learning Center.

Vreeland requested an isometric report of changes to the river over time besides charts and numbers. That report is in the Work Plan. A consultant may be needed.

The **next meeting** has been moved from the regular date to Wednesday, November 9, 2016, due to election day.

## **General Business**

Six projects were submitted for **Planning Grants**. Staff recommends three projects be approved for funding. Motion by Faust, second by Vreeland to approve the Planning Grant awards for fall 2016 as recommended by both Staff and the CAC, and assign \$24,400 from the Stewardship Grant Fund to the projects. Motion carried unanimously. Projects approved are: FamilyWise Phase III - \$8,000, Nicollet Island East - \$8,900, and TreHus Stormwater Improvements - \$7,500.

A feasibility study has been completed for the **Old Bassett Creek Tunnel Water Reuse and Water Quality Improvement** project. Motion by Vreeland, second by Schmitt to accept and file the feasibility study. Motion carried unanimously.

Staff is requesting funds for the first year of a two-year field study in partnership with the U of M to determine the water quality values for city streets, sidewalks, parking lots and rooftops. Staff

will work with Minneapolis staff to identify sites for the study. Motion by Vreeland, second by Schmitt to approve the **Analysis of Runoff from Impervious Surfaces study**, enter into an agreement with the Bioproducts and Biosystems Engineering department at the University of Minnesota, and assign \$117,945 from the Watershed Assessment Fund to carry out the study. Motion carried unanimously.

**Eco Education** has donated \$6,000 to MWMO, requesting that the Board assign the use of these funds to develop a program of summer internships or career development for alumni of the Mississippi River Green Team. Motion by Vreeland, second by Schmitt to accept the \$6,000 donation and assign the funds to youth education. Motion carried unanimously.

The **proposed 2017 budget** has no increase over the 2016 budget. Motion by Vreeland, second by Gaasch to approve the budget and set a maximum MWMO levy amount for FY2017 at \$5,700,000, and direct Staff to submit Truth-in-Taxation documentation to Anoka, Hennepin, and Ramsey Counties. Motion carried unanimously. Reich commended Staff on the new format.

## Open Public Input

There were no public comments.

## Board Updates and Announcements

St. Anthony holds its annual Village Fest in August of every year. The event included a Green Corps “walkabout” to look at raingardens, solar roofs, electric cars, and other sustainability projects which was well-attended. The City is also working with the Rice Creek Watershed District to remove approximately two feet of sediment from Mirror Lake. Faust expressed appreciation to all who attended the stormwater research facility ribbon-cutting.

The Minneapolis Park Board is a leader in the responsible use of pesticides. However, a new movement has begun to ban all pesticide use in Minneapolis parks. Is there an appropriate role that MWMO plays in these developments? This social issue is not based on science, but belief. Perhaps some information could be made available.

## Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Juntunen

Recording Secretary

## Record of Motions

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