



2522 Marshall Street NE
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55418-3329

612-465-8780
contacts@mwmoo.org

mwmoo.org

**MISSISSIPPI
WATERSHED
MANAGEMENT
ORGANIZATION**

MEETING MINUTES

Date: 9 November 2016

Attachment 3

Time: 3:00-4:30 PM

Location: 2522 Marshall Street NE, Minneapolis, MN 55418

Commissioners in Attendance

Jim Saefke, Fridley; Mary Gaasch, Lauderdale; Kevin Reich, Minneapolis; Jerry Faust, St. Anthony; Cailin Rogers, St. Paul; and Scott Vreeland, Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (MPRB).

Staff and Guests: Doug Snyder, Marcy Bean, Max Dalton, Brett Eidem, Rachel Johnson, Stephanie Johnson, Dan Kalmon, Michaela Neu, Tammy Schmitz, and Udai Singh, MWMO; and Amy Juntunen, JASS.

The meeting was called to order at 3:02 p.m. by Commissioner Reich.

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 September 13, 2016 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Input-Watershed Management Plan

The public hearing was opened at 3:05 p.m. No one wished to speak. The public hearing was closed at 3:05 p.m. Motion by Vreeland, second by Saefke to approve the 2016 CIP Minor Plan Amendment and direct staff to distribute the revised plan to member cities and agencies. Motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda

Motion by Reich, second by Vreeland to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports from Staff

New staff members Rachel Johnson and Brett Eidem were introduced.

S. Johnson recapped the **Capital Project Grant Applications** received in spring 2016. All grants have been closed on those projects and staff is preparing to call for new applications in spring 2017.

MWMO staff met with the City of Minneapolis and MPRB last week to launch a **feasibility study** to plan practices throughout area 1-E to make improvements for multiple stormwater issues.

The **Executive Director's review** will be conducted in the same manner as last year. Yunker will provide each Commissioner with the evaluation and feedback form. Each Commissioner will complete the form and return to Yunker who will summarize and present the information to the Executive Committee.

The **Board retreat** may be moved to December or early January, rather than late January, to match the staff work planning schedule. The move is also a better fit for the budget cycle. Commissioners were asked to provide ideas for discussion topics for the retreat and work planning session. The retreat will also include discussion on whether the Commission would like staff to focus funding on private or public projects. Reich commented that Cities appoint new Commissioners in December. It may be better to move the retreat to August to coincide with the budget cycle, rather than incrementally move dates. Staff is planning to begin the formal update to the Comprehensive Water Resource Management Plan in 2017 and would like Board input on the direction of the Commission for the next five years so staff knows where to focus energies. Mid-July or end of August would be the best timing for the retreat to inform that process. Snyder will present ideas regarding retreat timing and topics at the next meeting.

The **motion format** will change to a resolution format beginning in January 2017.

Buckthorn along the river has been an issue for over 20 years. Volunteer groups pulling seedlings have made tremendous progress in some areas, but other areas are not as easy to maintain. Vreeland and Snyder have been discussing a possible pilot project and research on girdling buckthorn, since cutting leads to vigorous re-sprouts. This could be a joint effort with MPRB funding, an LCCMR grant, and MWMO as a third partner working with Friends of the

Mississippi River. Staff will look at the Green Team schedule to determine if the program has time available for this project. MWMO would not have a role in ongoing maintenance. It does fit the MWMO mission as habitat improvement along the river as buckthorn also has a connection to erosion impacts. Staff will pursue this further and update the Board at the January meeting.

General Business

Schmitz created guidelines for a **Master Water Steward Grant program** to incentivize Stewards to continue working on projects in the community. The grant would be funded by unallocated dollars from the Stewardship Fund. This program will be piloted for certified Master Water Stewards for one year. Projects must occur within the MWMO boundaries and include an education/outreach component. Motion by Vreeland, second by Gaasch to approve creation of a pilot Master Water Steward Grant initiative and reallocate up to \$30,000 of unused Stewardship Fund dollars from 2016 to implement the program in 2017. Motion carried unanimously.

Scherer Park has been on the MWMO CIP for several years. Funding of \$1.5 million was budgeted and raised in 2012 and 2014. MPRB has requested that MWMO funding be used toward the construction of Hall's Island and habitat creation as Phase I of the park. The construction and development of 4.4 acre Hall's Island will restore an historic island, provide unique river access, restore habitat, and enhance ecological function. Motion by Saefke, second by Gaasch to assign \$1,500,000 in the form of a grant to MPRB toward the design and construction of Hall's Island to create river corridor habitat at Scherer Park. Motion carried unanimously.

The **2017 levy** must be set. The budget includes pre-funding for some capital projects. The budget represents a 0% increase over 2016. Motion by Vreeland, second by Faust to set the MWMO levy amount for FY 2017 at \$5,700,000 and direct staff to submit documentation to Anoka, Hennepin and Ramsey Counties. Motion carried unanimously.

Open Public Input

There were no public comments.

Board Updates and Announcements

On November 2, 2016, Congressman Ellison visited the St. Anthony Research Facility. His visit lasted about 40 minutes and included discussion on testing the river after the bridge collapse and a number of other issues. Snyder noted that NRCS has contacted MWMO to investigate options for water collection and urban gardens.

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

Record of Motions

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 September 13, 2016 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Vreeland, second by Saefke to approve the 2016 CIP Minor Plan Amendment and direct staff to distribute the revised plan to member cities and agencies. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Reich, second by Vreeland to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Vreeland, second by Gaasch to approve creation of a pilot Master Water Steward Grant initiative and reallocate up to \$30,000 of unused Stewardship Fund dollars from 2016 to implement the program in 2017. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Saefke, second by Gaasch to assign \$1,500,000 in the form of a grant to MPRB toward the design and construction of Hall's Island to create river corridor habitat at Scherer Park. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Vreeland, second by Faust to set the MWMO levy amount for FY 2017 at \$5,700,000 and directs staff to submit documentation to Anoka, Hennepin and Ramsey Counties. Motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business, motion by Vreeland, second by Saefke to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.