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MISSISSIPPI
WATERSHED
MANAGEMENT
ORGANIZATION

MEETING MINUTES

Date: March 14, 2017

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; Cailin Rogers, St. Paul; Jerry Faust, St. Anthony; and Liz Wielinski, Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (MPRB).

Staff and Guests: Marcy Bean, Nick Busse, Max Dalton, Brett Eidem, Laura Hayden, Stephanie Johnson, Dan Kalmon, Abby Moore, Michaela Neu, Udai Singh, Doug Snyder, and Charlie Yunker MWMO; John Bilotta, U of M Extension; Joshua Foss, The Ecala Group; Dr. Zonuna Renthie, Mizoram University, India; and Amy Juntunen, JASS.

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

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Motion by Rogers, second by Gaasch to approve the Agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Faust, second by Rogers, to approve the Minutes of the January 10, 2017 meeting with the following changes under Board Meetings and Announcements:

Faust ~~and~~ attended the first class hosted by...
St. Anthony entered into the ~~Ask the~~ COPS program...

Motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda

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

Reports from Staff

Snyder and Dalton are seeking quotes to repaint the south and west sides of the building due to sun fading. More information will be available at the May Board meeting.

Staff and Redpath finished the 2016 financial audit last week. Staff expressed appreciation to the St. Anthony Village staff for their assistance in completing the audit. The audit resulted in a clean review. The audit will be posted to the website soon. Copies will also be distributed to member City Administrators.

On January 25 the City of Minneapolis and Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) selected a master developer team led by United Properties. Currently the Upper Harbor Terminal planning process has a goal of identifying key studies related to infrastructure on the site between April and July 2017. Between now and the next Board meeting staff will be meeting with the developer to discuss opportunities for stormwater management.

MWMO has been working with Ecala Group and Barr Engineering on the Towerside Phase II study over the past 45 days. Towerside Phase II is a 21-acre undeveloped site east of TCF Stadium with a challenge of managing a 100-year storm event on site. There is a potential for demonstrating stormwater management as the site is a potential candidate for the 2023 World Expo. Barr's recommendation is that a feasible district stormwater system may be possible and that MWMO should proceed further with data collection and a feasibility study. Ecala Group notes that it is also possible to integrate a restorative treatment facility into the treatment system. Wall Companies is ready to co-fund the remainder of the study. Staff expects to bring a funding request for the Towerside Phase II study to the May meeting. The Towerside group is forming a 501(c)3, which will be a great value in leveraging grants and other funding opportunities.

MWMO is also working with Ecala Group on a watershed-wide planning study to define the role of water resources within a restorative system's urban development model. A restorative system seeks to re-establish the full functionality of natural ecosystems. A full copy of the study is in the packet. MWMO is actively looking for partners to fund non-water areas of the restorative system at Towerside and potentially future developments.

MWMO has been working on a modeling initiative for the past 3-4 years. The initiative works in partnership with the member cities to create hydrology and hydraulic models across the entire watershed. The models will create joint decision-making tools for use in the future. The goals of the initiative are to understand how water and pollutants move through the system, target

locations for treatment, and prioritize capital projects. The work began late in 2013 and completion is anticipated in 2019. The total estimated cost of the modeling study is \$3.2 million, or \$2 million if partnering with Minneapolis on the Hydrology and Hydraulic models in the MWMO portion of the city. Some models are already being used for capital project planning with the Fridley street reconstruction project in 2017, and projects in Columbia Heights planned for 2018/2019. The models can also analyze potential impacts for capital project grant opportunities.

MWMO has received official notification of approval of the BWSR Community Partners grant and the Hennepin County Opportunity grant. Staff are working through the contracting and work planning portions to obtain the grant funds, expected to be completed in the next month. Once complete, MWMO will contract with Metro Blooms to begin their work in April.

The Edison Green digital signage design is complete and Staff expect to move forward with implementing the signage in the next 30-60 days. The initial quotes to complete the work are under \$10,000. Staff will report on progress in May and may also request contract work to update the website with real-time monitoring results.

The Metropolitan Council 2017 Regional Stormwater Innovation Grant is now accepting applications. MWMO received a grant last year for the Westminster Church water reuse system. Staff will research 2017 Capital Projects to determine if any are a good fit for this program.

Projects including Towerside Phase I and the Sculpture Garden will resume as early as April and should be completed this spring. The Sculpture Garden has a planned reopening date of June 3. Staff will provide an update on sculpture garden events Commissioners may want to attend at the May meeting. The Westminster reuse project has a link on the MWMO website to a time-lapse camera. The stormwater portion of the project is not anticipated to be completed until late 2017. Staff is currently working on the interpretive signage portion of the project.

The Mississippi River Green Team internship program is a two-year employment program to expand job experience, learn about environmental careers, and acquire new skills. Interested parties, including member cities, will host the Green Team internship program.

Over the winter months staff completed the bathymetric mapping of three Kasota pond wetlands by drilling holes through the ice using a power auger and then measuring the depth from the top of the ice surface to bottom. It was done using a square grid pattern. Staff is also working on writing the 2016 annual water monitoring report.

Staff is working collaboratively with researchers from the University Minnesota to identify sites to perform field experiments to analyze the runoff from four types (roof, city street, side walk and parking lots) of impervious surfaces in the Minneapolis downtown area.

Dr. R. Zonunsanga from the Mizoram University in India will be completing his visiting faculty tenure at the University of Minnesota and MWMO on March 25, 2017. Dr. Zonusanga made an small presentation to the Board about his experience and knowledge gained during his time at MWMO and expressed his gratitude to the MWMO Board, Executive Director and staff.

Laura Hayden is ending her internship with MWMO. She extended special thanks to MWMO Board and Staff for providing the internship program. She has accepted a position at Washington Conservation District as a BMP Specialist and would not have had the opportunity without MWMO's internship program. The Board thanked her for taking the opportunity to learn through the program, expressed pride in Staff being great teachers, and wished her luck in her new endeavor.

General Business

The Mississippi River Green Team is planning to engage a third-party evaluator to review the program's effectiveness, determine the strengths of the program, and identify ways to support Green Team alumni. Three proposals were received based on the RFP and Staff recommends contracting with Wilder Research as the evaluator of the program. Motion by Faust, second by Rogers to approve Resolution 2017-12, a Resolution approving funding for the evaluation of Mississippi River Green Team Program. Motion carried unanimously.

The Greening Teen Teamworks program is a joint program between MWMO and MPRB employing two field educators that hire and train approximately 200 at-risk teens from Minneapolis each summer, combining paid work, experience, and education. Teens do a final project to engage other park users to relay messages about the watersheds, stormwater runoff, keeping storm drains clear of debris, and best management practices. A few years ago the EPA completed an audit for the NPDES permit and noted they were very impressed with the program due to the effectiveness in changing behavior. The proposed resolution will allocate funds to continue the program. Motion by Wielinski, second by Schmitt to approve Resolution 2017-013, a Resolution approving funding for the implementation of the Greening Teen Teamworks program. Motion carried unanimously.

The Minnesota Stormwater Research Council is requesting \$25,000 for research funding. Singh is a Board member on the Council, which is a coalition of watershed districts, WMOs, cities, government agencies and non-government organizations established in 2016 to pool applied research funds to meet stormwater research needs, leverage resources, learn from each other, and advocate to policymakers about changes needed at the legislative level. The pooled funds are controlled by the 22 member Board with the U of M serving as Administrator. The pool is approaching \$75,000 that will be spent on applied research over the next two years. The Board will complete an RFP for research in three areas, including chloride research. MWMO, in conjunction with Barr Engineering, will submit a proposal to complete the research. In the past,

MWMO has partnered with Minnehaha Creek Watershed District to complete applied research at a cost of \$100,000 over three to four years. The Council is the next step in a continuum to obtain applied research to define better implementation efforts. There are seven watershed districts contributing to the Council in 2017. The proposed funding from MWMO would ensure MWMO is seen as a leader of this effort. The research generated will be public information. Commissioners expressed concern about whether this effort may be a duplication of other efforts, but Staff noted that no other efforts are currently completing the applied research needed on urban stormwater. Motion by Faust, second by Rogers to approve Resolution 2017-014, a Resolution approving \$25,000 funding to the Minnesota Stormwater Research Council for applied stormwater research. Motion carried unanimously.

MWMO has identified a need for ongoing engineering services to support initiatives such as the Stewardship Fund, capital project feasibility, project reviews, watershed assessments and review of grant proposals. MWMO has had a contract with Barr Engineering for up to \$100,000 from September 8, 2015 to January 10, 2017. During that time period approximately \$40,000 was expended for engineering services. Staff proposes a new contract with Barr for up to \$100,000 to cover engineering services through the end of 2017 and will have the contract considered at each January meeting of the MWMO Board. An RFP is not required since Barr is included in the stated pool of engineering firms used by MWMO. Motion by Rogers, second by Schmitt to approve Resolution 2017-015, a Resolution approving agreement with Barr Engineering for engineering services. Motion carried unanimously.

MWMO has been working on the 1NE Watershed Stormwater project over the past 18 months. The project is watershed-scale planning with Minneapolis and MPRB. An Agreement or MOU on this project is expected in May. Staff have finalized the planning and preliminary design RFP and are requesting approval to publish the RFP. The first phase of the project is to look at opportunities to negate current issues within the watershed. Motion by Faust, second by Wielinski to approve Resolution 2017-016, a Resolution approving the release of the 1NE Watershed Stormwater Management Planning and Preliminary Design Project request for proposals. Motion carried unanimously. If the Agreement/MOU requires approval prior to the May meeting, a special Board meeting can be called with a minimum three day notice.

Five Stewardship Fund Action Grant applications were received. One was withdrawn and one recommended to submit a Planning Grant application. Three applications are recommended by Staff and the CAC to be awarded. It is anticipated that all three projects will be constructed in early summer 2017. Motion by Rogers, second by Faust to approve Resolution 2017-017, a Resolution approving Stewardship Fund Action Grants to the Walker Art Center and MPRB Board, Minneapolis Public Schools and Marcy Open Parent Council, and the City of Fridley in 2017. Motion carried unanimously.

MWMO is partnering with the City of Minneapolis to complete the Old Bassett Creek Tunnel capital improvement project to remove deposited sediments, improve water quality, and reduce

the volume of stormwater discharging to the Mississippi River. MWMO conducted a feasibility study for this project in 2016. An RFP for completion of the project was released and three bids have been received ranging from \$105,000 to \$160,000. Staff recommends Barr Engineering to complete the project at a cost not to exceed \$130,000. The lowest bidder at \$105,000 is Barr Engineering, though Staff is recommending a higher not-to-exceed amount due to providing a contingency for changes in scope that may occur. The Commissioners noted that the bid for work should already include a contingency. Motion by Faust, second by Schmitt to approve Resolution 2017-018, a Resolution approving funding for the Old Bassett Creek Tunnel condition assessment, clean out plan, and structural integrity study at a cost up to \$105,0000. Motion carried unanimously.

Joshua Foss, President of The Ecala Group, gave a presentation on the Towerside Phase II project and describing restorative water management using an integrated utility hub. There are four core elements in the study: Clearly define a successful restorative urban watershed that align environmental, social and economic performance; understanding current water system design and economy; modeling an integrated utility hub (IUH) and identifying factors to inform best locations for IUH implementation and networking across the watershed; and creation of a cost/benefit analysis and value proposition. The preliminary modeling of the Towerside site capitalizes on the value of district systems. The modeling was built to understand the water and energy demand and waste for a 30-acre site. The facility would capture stormwater and wastewater, taking pressure off the surrounding area. The stormwater would be treated and reused where possible, providing the facility with an alternative water supply for non-potable uses including the canal/wetland areas, washing machines, toilets, even swimming pools. Water can also be used to generate energy and power to the District, enabling a level of resilience that isn't currently met. Food can also be grown in the facility. The cost for an IUH to the specifications of this study and sited on approximately half-an-acre of the site would not exceed \$25 million. The District becomes a self-sufficient enterprise to capture waste and turn it into value. The IUH would create 15-40 permanent green-collar jobs and may generate up to \$10 million per year in eco-tourism dollars. It would save 90 million gallons in recycled supply and prevent 110 million gallons in discharge. The top two users of water are energy and agriculture, so producing food and energy within the community will save a lot of fresh water.

The study is currently about one-quarter complete. Water management is only one component of a multi-faceted system and partnerships are being sought with Metropolitan Council, the McKnight Foundation and others for other components. A closed system like this could offer opportunities to alleviate issues in existing systems or as part of new developments to not impact adjacent resources. These systems also tend to be profitable, so private investors will be invited into projects as well.

Open Public Input

There were no public comments.

Board Updates and Announcements.

Snyder will send a Doodle Poll with dates in the second week of July for the one-day offsite Board Retreat. Topics will include the Comprehensive Plan update, BMP implementation, business planning, core values and vision, and the vision and mission statements.

The St. Anthony Park Community Council is holding a cleaning event at Kasota Park on April 8. Singh will do water quality monitoring and education at the event.

People will be cleaning up the Mississippi River banks on Earth Day, April 22, from 9:30 a.m. – noon.

Adjourn

There being no further business, motion by Wielinski, second by Rogers to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 4:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Juntunen
Recording Secretary

Record of Motions

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