



2522 Marshall Street NE
Minneapolis, MN 55418-3329

(612) 465-8780
(612) 465- 8785 fax

www.mwmo.org

MISSISSIPPI
WATERSHED
MANAGEMENT
ORGANIZATION

MEETING MINUTES

Date: May 12, 2015
Time: 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Location: Mississippi Watershed Management Organization
2522 Marshall St. NE
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55418

ATTACHMENT 3

Commissioners in Attendance

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

Staff and Guests: Doug Snyder, MWMO; Marcy Bean, MWMO; Stephanie Johnson, MWMO; Dan Kalmon, MWMO; Max Dalton, MWMO; Michaela Neu, MWMO; Tammy Schmitz, MWMO; Udai Singh, MWMO; Steve Christopher, Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR); 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 Gaasch, second by Vreeland to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2015 meeting with the following correction: Motion by Reich, second by Faust to authorize MWMO Staff to move forward in soliciting bids for the Photovoltaic (Solar) Installation project. Motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda

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

Reports from Staff

The most recent update to the **CIP Process** for 2015 requesting information from partners seeking funding for Capital Projects was included in the packet. Motion by Reich, second by Saefke to receive and file the updated process. Motion carried unanimously.

An update on the **Land Conservation Initiative** regarding the purchase of three parcels from Robert Andrews was included in the packet. The formal request for these parcels is anticipated to be brought before the Board at the July meeting. Motion by Reich, second by Gaasch to accept the report and continue to move forward with the process. Motion carried unanimously.

Neu provided an overview of the status of the **Interpretive Build-out Phase I** for the community facility including plans for the floor map, scale model of the site and BMPs, digital signage, and macroinvertebrate display. Local artwork of the river was purchased and Staff is working on a call for other local artists to exhibit their work in the space. The coral exhibit by Minneapolis Institute of Art will be in the space August 23 through September 30. A backyard open house is scheduled for September 19 and Staff is working to

have all items completed and installed by then. Elected officials will be invited to the open house, with the first hour dedicated to those officials and the community event held later in the day. A project tour is scheduled for May 27 from 9:00-11:00 a.m. Information will be sent to Board members.

Singh reported that the **2014 Annual Monitoring Report** is complete and review and comments are requested from Board members. The **2014 Annual Activity Report** was also completed and submitted to BWSR on time. Staff is working in partnership with Fridley to perform **flow monitoring** on the stormwater network and working with the Edison High School **tree trench monitoring** program.

Snyder noted that a **Communications Principal** has been hired and will start May 26. This person has experience working at the state legislature and MnDOT, and understands a government communications role. The **St. Anthony Shared Services** has been approved by the Board and is awaiting signatures. The **second Board Retreat** could be scheduled for late June. Possible dates will be sent to Board members or the retreat could take place two hours prior to the July Board meeting. Staff has been participating in the **Minnesota Water Research Digital Library** doing digital input. MWMO has the opportunity to be a curator, which is a group that reviews articles on urban stormwater retrofits, or an affiliate that maintains some data on our website. MWMO has applied jointly for a grant with Capital Region/Ramsey Metro for a shared full-time data entry person over the summer.

General Business

The **Illicit Discharge Detection Agreement** between the City of Minneapolis and MWMO expired in December 2014. The agreement terms included Minneapolis providing MWMO with four automated water quality samplers, associated equipment and staff time to assist with the installation of the samplers at monitoring sites. The City also provided boat access prior to MWMO purchasing its own boat. MWMO agreed to provide the City with staff assistance for illicit discharge sampling activities at stormwater outfalls on the Mississippi River and up to \$71,664.14 for lab analysis of the samples over the 10-year term of the contract. During the contract term, MWMO expended \$30,790.53 to service providers or as reimbursement to the City. Several illicit discharges were detected and eliminated during the term of the agreement. MWMO continues to use the automated samplers and associated equipment. The cost to replace the equipment would be over \$40,000. Staff proposes a new five-year Agreement with the City of Minneapolis to continue the illicit discharge detection program.

Motion by Faust, second by Saefke to approve an Agreement with the City of Minneapolis for illicit discharge detection activities expiring December 31, 2019 for an amount not to exceed \$30,000. Motion carried unanimously.

The **Green 4th feasibility study** was recently completed by Staff, who worked with the City of Minneapolis, the Prospect North Partnership, and landowners, to determine if a stormwater treatment system sized at a District scale and integrated with other District infrastructure would result in cost efficiencies that could be used for additional stormwater improvements and re-use. The study's findings show that a University Avenue District Stormwater System could provide more efficient stormwater treatment, store and re-use stormwater, and add pockets of habitat within the 35 acre redevelopment adjacent to Green 4th (SE 4th Street) and north of the U of M transitway. This demonstration project is intended to align with the first two blocks of the reconstruction of SE 4th Street from Malcolm Avenue to 29th Avenue. In addition, the District Stormwater project would model the difference between a conventional stormwater system layer that provides a singular treatment and conveyance function, and a District Stormwater System that manages stormwater as a valued resource and redesigns stormwater infrastructure at a net savings to public spaces. Once established the District's non-profit entity could replicate this innovative model throughout the remaining 330 acres within the University Avenue District. The landowners and the Prospect North Partnership have shown a high level of support during this process. The next step is to work with the committed landowners and Barr Engineering to complete a 30% construction design to learn what will be

achievable and alternatives to the proposed design as necessary. This project collaborates with many different entities and may be a signature project for MWMO with potential for innovation and public education.

Motion by Faust, second by Saefke to allow staff to proceed with contracting and hiring Barr Engineering for engineering services and Bruce Jacobson for landscape architecture and planning services necessary to complete 30% construction design documents for the Prospect North District Stormwater System at a cost not to exceed \$220,000. Motion carried unanimously.

The **2015 Watershed Management Plan Amendment** has been approved by BWSR. The Plan is effective 2011-2021. The amendment primarily modified the MWMO's standards and integrated projects, mapping and assessments from the new member cities of Columbia Heights, Fridley and Hilltop into the MWMO Watershed Management Plan. Staff is moving ahead with the memorandum of understanding with MnDOT. Staff will work with individual member cities to address offsite mitigation options if requirements cannot be met onsite. The Plan will be sent to agencies and posted on MWMO's website by May 22.

Motion by Saefke, second by Gaasch to adopt the MWMO Watershed Management Plan 2011-2021 (5-12-2015 Amended Version). Motion carried unanimously.

The **St. Anthony Village Regional Stormwater Treatment** is on the CIP and was budgeted in 2012. Design began in 2013. The project is a stormwater treatment facility which will intercept and treat a significant volume of water from over 600 acres in the southern portion of St. Anthony Village prior to overflow into Minneapolis and ultimately the Mississippi River. In March 2013 the Board granted \$1,209,000 for the design and construction of the facility. The project went out for bid in April 2015 with the lowest bid at \$1,494,860, significantly higher than the estimate due to higher labor and material costs. The project is designed to remove 200 lbs. of phosphorus annually. This facility will give the ability to try additional treatment options, such as an ionizer, a sand filter augmented with different materials, and drum filters to learn their effectiveness.

Motion by Saefke, second by Schmitt to grant an additional \$400,000 to St. Anthony Village for the Regional Stormwater Treatment Facility, raising the total to \$1,609,000. The funds will be reallocated from the funds previously committed to Vikings Stadium. Motion carried unanimously.

A **draft Memorandum of Understanding for 1828 Marshall** was included in the meeting packet addressing concerns of Commissioners for when the parcel should be cleared of structures.

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) has negotiated the **land acquisition of three BNSF Railroad parcels**. The property is in an area of mixed commercial/industrial and residential properties along the east bank of the Mississippi targeted for acquisition as the parcels become available. MPRB has requested funds from the Met Council Park Acquisition Opportunity Grant program for 75% of the cost and is seeking funding from MWMO for the 25% local match required to apply for this grant. Pending approval of both grants, the property is expected to close in June 2015. A Memorandum of Understanding would be created for these parcels as with 1828 Marshall.

Motion by Gaasch, second by Saefke to approve an allocation not to exceed \$59,135 as a 25% local match for the MPRB to acquire three railroad right-of-way parcels located between Marshall Street NE and the Mississippi River. Motion carried unanimously.

The **Master Water Stewards Program** was started as a partnership between the Freshwater Society and Minnehaha Creek Watershed District to train, certify, and support community leaders to install pollution prevention projects that educate community members, reduce pollutants from runoff, and allow more water to infiltrate before entering storm sewer systems. The Freshwater Society runs classes, hires a facilitator, and supports each Steward with \$2,500 for a capstone project. The Freshwater Society proposes partnering with

MWMO to create a satellite master water stewards program to citizens in the MWMO area. MWMO is asked to provide a meeting space, access to technology, a watershed tour, subject matter experts, and up to \$3,000 per steward for capstone projects for up to 16 stewards per year for three years. Costs for the program would not exceed \$2,500 per steward for the classes and \$3,000 per year for completed capstone projects.

Motion by Faust, second by Schmitt to enter into an agreement with the Freshwater Society to implement the Master Water Stewards program with the MWMO for three years in an amount not to exceed \$264,000, or \$88,000 per year. Motion carried unanimously.

The City of Minneapolis Public Works Dept. and MWMO are interested in creating **hydrologic and hydraulic (H&H) models** of the respective jurisdictional areas. MWMO has embarked on an effort to create H&H and water quality models across the entire watershed. To date, two studies are complete. MWMO has budgeted \$250,000 to partner with the city in completing the H&H model of the Southern NE Minneapolis watershed on a 50/50 basis. Each party will be responsible for the project tasks that meet the objective of only one organization. The City is unsure whether they will undertake the water quality modeling.

Motion by Faust, second by Saefke to approve Staff to contract with the City of Minneapolis to partner in creating an H&H model of the Southern NE Minneapolis Watershed at a cost not to exceed \$250,000. Motion carried.

Staff propose the purchase of a **digital globe** to be installed and used by school age and adult groups to illustrate both local and global water issues. The system comes with numerous programs that show weather, flow, temperature, storm events, etc. The system can be programmed with local data, video, and other information related to the MWMO watershed as well. The globe is very engaging for audiences and can be continually updated and customized. The globe is approximately three feet in diameter. This item should work well with other digital signage.

Motion by Faust, second by Saefke to approve the purchase of a digital globe not to exceed \$65,000.

The **outdoor signage** preliminary designs include 12 medium-sized signs with various content for BMPs and other information, a large overview map, 10 engraved pavers, and a minimum of 64 raingarden signage to be used onsite and in raingardens throughout the watershed. The signs are imbedded into a countertop material to be sturdy and resist water damage and fading. Staff will request durability specs.

Motion by Gaasch, second by Saefke to approve the fabrication and installation of outdoor signage at a cost not to exceed \$24,000.

Board Updates and Announcements

The **MWMO Open House** will be moved to Saturday, September 26 due to scheduling conflicts. The open house hours will be 9:00-10:00 a.m. for policy makers, and 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. for the general public, with the ribbon-cutting occurring after 10:00 a.m. More information will be presented at the July meeting.

The Met Council now has a toolbox regarding water management and included a photo of the stormwater reuse project in St. Anthony.

Public Input

There were no public comments.

Adjourn

There being no further business, motion by Vreeland, second by Saefke to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 4:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Juntunen
Recording Secretary

Record of Motions

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