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**MISSISSIPPI  
WATERSHED  
MANAGEMENT  
ORGANIZATION**

## MEETING MINUTES

**Date:** March 10, 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; Mary Gaasch, Lauderdale; Jim Saefke, Fridley; Donna Schmitt, Columbia Heights; Betty Wheeler, St. Paul; and Kevin Reich, Minneapolis.

### **Commissioners Absent**

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; Michele Ross, MWMO; and Bruce Jacobson, Metropolitan Design Center.

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

### **Approval of Agenda and Minutes**

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

Motion by Faust, second by Saefke to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2015 Board Meeting with the following corrections: Wheeler represents St. Paul, not Columbia Heights. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Consent Agenda**

Schmitt requested Item 4.2 be removed from the Consent Agenda for additional background. Motion by Saefke, second by Schmitt to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion carried unanimously. Dan Kalmon and Bruce Jacobson presented a summary of the MWMO work with the Prospect North Partnership. Motion by Saefke, second by Schmitt to approve the amended partnership agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

## **Reports from Staff**

Staff presented an update with the Stewardship Fund Mini-grants. In total 17 applicant's applied with 8 high quality grants receiving funding, totaling \$22, 610. In addition, one grant from two UMN students was awarded as a noncompetitive grant. Faust expressed concern that the Wild River Academy grant did not clearly meet MWMO and Stewardship Fund goals; staff should ensure that MWMO goals and its mission are met and the grant is not just for recreational purposes.

Staff introduced Bruce Jacobson of the Metropolitan Design Center to help present information on the Green 4<sup>th</sup> Street Project. Jacobson presented the background information of the project as a whole and the intent of creating a Green 4<sup>th</sup> Street. Wheeler agreed how important the project was and noted a error on one of the graphics.

Staff informed the Board that the Plan Amendment had been submitted to BWSR for the 90-Day Review Period. Update should be ready in April and will be brought to the Board for approval in May. It was noted that there have been no changes at this time.

Staff informed the Board that the MOU for the Land Acquisition with the MPRB was reviewed by staff and is going back to the MPRB with comments from staff to ensure the issues brought up at the time of approval are captured in the agreement.

Staff updated the Board on several CIP's that are being worked on at this time. A feasibility study with the City of Hilltop for Harbor Freight Pond is currently underway. The Hawthorne Eco-Village Project is in the phase of meeting with developers and is moving forward. Seward Commons is also moving forward and will be brought to the Board in May for funding. Jackson Pond is currently under construction and Labelle Pond has been awarded a bid but construction has not yet started.

Staff is working on interpretive elements of the facility and is primarily focusing on signage for the outdoor elements of our site at this time. Staff retained Barr Engineering since they are familiar with the site. Staff will present quotes for signage options at the May Board Meeting.

Staff presented an update on the Crochet Coral Reef that will be displayed at the MWMO in the fall. Collection for crochet begins on Monday and goes to the end of July. The display at the MWMO is part of the community Crochet Coral Reef with the Minneapolis Institute of Arts displaying a separate one. Wheeler noted she attended a workshop and was very impressed.

## **Administrative Updates**

Snyder noted that the attorney is currently updating and reviewing the MWMO contracts; in addition, the Snyder reported the 2014 audit is complete and there were no issues.

**General Business**

In 2013, the Stewardship Fund Action and Planning Grants underwent an evaluation process and came back with recommendations for an improved application process. In October of 2014 the program was reopened and the MWMO received 21 pre-application for the Planning and Action Grants. 9 Planning and 3 action grants were asked to submit a full application. Staff request approval to fund the 7 grants listed on the Request for Board Action. Faust noted the Wild River Academy Grant needs to show the MWMO goals and mission and not focus on the recreation aspect. Wheeler questioned the ownership of videos. Staff noted that in MWMO agreements the MWMO owns all property produced. Staff also noted that this will be outlined in the agreement.

**Action Grant:**

- 1. South Quarter Phase IV “The Rose” \$ 50,000

**Planning Grants:**

- 1. Paddle Forward: Urban Watershed Interactive Curriculum \$ 10,000
- 2. Lincoln Playground Resurgence \$ 10,000
- 3. 4<sup>th</sup> Street Guild Stormwater Improvements \$ 9,965
- 4. Village Green Stormwater Detention Expansion \$ 9,650
- 5. Northeast Middle School Green Campus Initiative \$ 9,640
- 6. Children’s Dental Services \$ 10,000

Total Award **\$ 109,255**

Motion by Faust, second by Saefke to approve and fund the g Planning and Action Grant awards for Spring 2015 as recommended by both Staff and Citizen Advisory Committee: Motion carried unanimously.

During the construction of the MWMO facility, the intent was to install solar and thus the roof area directly above the garage was designed to support the additional weight. Staff are in contact with contractors to apply for the Made in Minnesota Solar Grant. At this time staff are ready to proceed with the solar installation project with a do-not-exceed amount of \$200,000. Snyder noted that the amount is if the MWMO was to install the largest system possible without receiving the grant. Faust noted that Minneapolis City Ordinances should be looked into as part of this project.

Motion by Reich, second by Faust to authorize MWMO Staff to move forward in soliciting bids for the Photovoltaic (Solar) Installation Project with a not-to-exceed amount of \$200,000. Motion carried unanimously.

Staff will be working with Fortin and Green Jeans Media to create a short 15 minute for best management practices for turf maintenance. Staff has worked with both contractors in the past and indicated that it may be possible to use old clips from previous videos. Faust questioned if these videos had been done before. Staff

noted that previous videos was targeted for residential and that the new videos would be focused on commercial.

Motion by Faust, second by Saefke to approve the contracting of professional services and videographer to create a seasonal turf maintenance video not to exceed \$25,000. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Election of Officers**

Motion by Faust, second by Saefke to elect Kevin Reich Chair of the MWMO Board. Reich accepted. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Faust, second by Reich to elect James Saefke Vice-Chair of the MWMO Board. Saefke accepted. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Faust, second by Saefke to elect Mary Gaasch Treasurer of the MWMO Board. Gaasch accepted. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Board Updates and Announcements**

Faust noted that carp removal at Silver Lake occurred and only cost those involved \$1,800. Faust also noted that the goal isn't to eradicate the carp but to simply limit their numbers to avoid overgrowth of plant life.

Faust noted that the 4th Annual Sustainability Fair will be held November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

Ross noted that the MWMO's Fall Event will be held September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015, which is a Saturday. Snyder noted the event will be similar in structure to the Grand Opening.

Snyder noted that the Communications Staff Position application period has been closed and that there look to be several good applicants.

### **Public Input**

There were no public comments.

### **Adjourn**

There being no further business, motion by Saefke, second by Snyder to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 4:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Max Dalton, Administrative Specialist

## **Record of Motions**

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Motion by Faust, second by Saefke to accept and fund the following Planning and Action Grant awards for Spring 2015 as recommended by both Staff and Citizen Advisory Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

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