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**MISSISSIPPI  
WATERSHED  
MANAGEMENT  
ORGANIZATION**

# MEETING MINUTES

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**Date:** 14 May 2024

**Attachment 3**

**Time:** 3:00 PM

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

## Attendance

**Commissioners:** Connie Buesgens, Columbia Heights and Hilltop; Tom Tillberry, Fridley; Jeff Dains, Lauderdale; LaTrisha Vetaw, Minneapolis (remote); Randy Stille, St. Anthony Village; and Michael Lukes, St. Paul.

**Staff and Guests:** Emmy Baskerville, Nick Busse, Kevin Reich, and Nancy Stowe, MWWMO; Glenda Meixell, Anoka Conservation District; and Amy Juntunen, JASS.

The meeting was called to order at 3:01 p.m. by Chair Stille.

## Approval of Agenda

Motion by Dains, second by Buesgens to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

## Approval of Minutes

Motion by Tillberry, second by Dains to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2024 regular meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

## Consent Agenda

Motion by Tillberry, second by Dains to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

[Vetaw arrived 3:04 p.m.]

## Reports from Staff

Reich provided an update on the extension of the Edison Green Campus onto the former Universal Plating site. While everything above ground has been cleaned up, MWMO is now looking into applying for an EPA loan/grant to cover the cost of pollution cleanup at the site. The eligibility review process takes up to three months. If the EPA loan/grant is not awarded, other funding sources will need to be found.

In January, the Board approved funding for a redesign of the MWMO website. The overhaul of the website is complete and includes a new project map color-coded by project type for all capital projects. Each project has a page starting with the key accomplishments of the project. Search functionality has also been improved, and links to the MWMO podcast, River of Ideas, are included. In June, an accessibility audit will be performed on the site to ensure the site is compatible with screen reading software and other accessibility tools. MWMO does not accept comments through the website. Comments can be sent to staff by email. Board noted that a history or timeline of capital projects would be helpful. MWMO staff still have ability to update page content regularly.

## General Business

### **2024-017: MNL for North Columbia 2-Year Maintenance**

This was a collaborative project between MWMO, City of Minneapolis and MPRB constructed in 2020-2021. Since construction, the BMPs on site have undergone an array of vegetation establishment work to install native habitat, remove invasive species, and manage soil health. Per the Construction Cooperative Agreement (CCA), MWMO is responsible for supporting an additional two years of vegetation work in 2024-2025 to complete the vegetation establishment period. Also, per the CCA, MWMO will hire the vegetation management contractor to conduct training for City and MPRB staff on vegetation management techniques in preparation for them to take over the long-term maintenance work.

Motion by Dains, second by Lukes to approve Resolution 2024-017 approving a professional services contract with Minnesota Native Landscapes, Inc. at a cost not to exceed \$120,000 to

provide two years of native vegetation management at Northern Columbia Golf Course BMPs. Motion carried unanimously.

### **2024-018: St. Boniface Catholic Parking Lot**

This is a stormwater and habitat rehabilitation project in Northeast Minneapolis. This project received a Stewardship Grant in 2023 to explore water management options and create a concept design with the goal of managing excess stormwater that accumulates against the building and exploring opportunities to leverage the use of stormwater to expand a greenspace corridor, as well as an outreach component. This is a large, mainly impervious parking lot serving 180-200 families for church attendance, as well as the Northeast Farmers Market, so the area is already a community gathering space. The project would include a series of stormwater gardens/infiltration basins within the parking lot and a large L-shaped infiltration basin at the edge of the parking lot, as well as channel drains to direct water to the infiltration basins. The project also includes a swale between the church and residence buildings and three small stormwater gardens around the residence. This project includes a total of eight new infiltration basins and will reduce 324 lbs. of TSS per year and 1.78 lbs. of TP per year from the Mississippi. The project will also provide 6,400 square feet of native vegetation and habitat, including new trees at a showcase location with a large audience.

Motion by Buesgens, second by Tillberry to approve Resolution 2024-018 approving a Capital Project grant to St. Boniface Church for the construction of water quality and habitat features at the church campus in NE Minneapolis at a cost not-to-exceed \$260,000. Motion carried unanimously.

### **2024-019: Cordia Building Feasibility Study**

This building is located in downtown Minneapolis and serves the downtown area with district electricity, producing steam, hot water and chilled water. The system uses 100-150 million gallons of water per year, with about 20% of that discharged through sanitary sewer. The feasibility study will look at runoff from the site as well as ways to use the excess water currently discharged through sanitary sewer. Potential projects include installing tree and green areas which may also reduce urban heat island effect, capture and treatment of runoff and harvesting excess water for reuse on-site or to refill water trucks for irrigating downtown parks.

Motion by Vetaw, second by Dains to approve Resolution 2024-019 approving funding for the Cordia Energy Building Feasibility Study at a cost not-to-exceed \$66,300. Motion carried unanimously.

## **2024-020: MWMO Building Security Upgrades**

Staff is preparing to completely overhaul the current security system. Current video footage is grainy and such bad resolution it is impossible for police to use to verify the identity of any people causing issues on the property. New high-resolution cameras will be purchased for the parking lot and other trouble spots on the property. The new camera system will be supported by MWMO's current IT service, Metro INET. An annual fee will also be paid to Ehost the video service and server management. The building's access control system also needs upgrading as it is losing reliability. This will be done with new card readers at doors and an additional keypad to reduce false alarms. System upgrades will save MWMO \$3,300 per year by consolidating vendors.

Motion by Lukes, second by Buesgens to approve Resolution 2024-020 approving installation of video security system and door access control system upgrades at the MWMO facility at a cost not-to-exceed \$46,854. Motion carried unanimously.

## **Board Updates and Announcements**

Lukes reported a successful cleanup event at Kasota Ponds on April 13. Around 50 people participated, collecting approximately 55 bags of trash with other miscellaneous items. Lukes also thanked MWMO staff who attended to share education and outreach about macroinvertebrates on site. Busse provided an educational video.

Buesgens asked if MWMO will be participating with the effort to monitor water quality on the Mississippi from its headwaters to the Iowa border this year. The MPCA is leading the monitoring effort and staff have reached out to let them know that MWMO has a boat and can assist with monitoring within its watershed.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 9, 2024.

## **Open Public Input**

The Coon Rapids Senior Center will have a group touring the MWMO facility in July.

## **Adjourn**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 4:16 p.m.