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# AGENDA

**Date:** 10 September 2024

**Attachment 2**

**Time:** 3:00 PM

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

## Agenda

**(D)** — Signifies Decision Item

- 1) Welcome, Introduction of Commissioners and Roll Call
- 2) Approval of Agenda **(D)** ..... Attachment 2
- 3) Approval of Minutes **(D)** ..... Attachment 3
- 4) Consent Agenda **(D)** ..... Attachment 4
- 5) Reports from Staff..... Attachment 5
  - a. UPI Site Update
- 6) General Business..... Attachment 6
  - a. 2024-023: St UACC Planning Grant **(D)**..... Attachment 6.1
  - b. 2024-024: Minnesota Stormwater Research Council Funding **(D)** ..... Attachment 6.2
  - c. 2024-025: SART Performance Assessment **(D)**..... Attachment 6.3
  - d. 2024-026: FY 2025 Draft Levy **(D)**..... Attachment 6.4
- 7) Board Updates and Announcements
- 8) Open Public Input (Non-Agenda Items)..... Sign-in Sheet
- 9) Adjourn **(D)**



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# MEETING MINUTES

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**Date:** 9 July 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; Randy Stille, St. Anthony Village; Billy Menz, MPRB; and Michael Lukes, St. Paul.

**Staff and Guests:** Emmy Baskerville, Nick Busse, Dan Kalmon, Kevin Reich, Emily Resseger, and Nancy Stowe, MWMO; Glenda Meixell, Anoka Conservation District; Zach Robinson, Spark-Y; and Amy Juntunen, JASS.

The meeting was called to order at 3:02 p.m. by Chair Stille.

## Approval of Agenda

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

## Approval of Minutes

Motion by Vetaw, second by Dains to approve the minutes of the May 14, 2024 regular meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

# Consent Agenda

None.

## Reports from Staff

Robinson with **Spark-Y** described the educational activities of the organization and its partnership with MWMO in working with youth. Spark-Y is headquartered in Northeast Minneapolis and provides hands-on math and science-based education to students, which can include topics such as carpentry, plumbing, and aquaponics to teach communication, teamwork, and problem-solving skills. Spark-Y works with students in K-8 grades and focuses on youth activation from 14–24 years old. Spark-Y designs its own curriculum to meet state standards with a mix of text and practical, hands-on elements.

[Buesgens arrived 3:11 p.m.]

The MWMO **green roof** was determined to no longer be functioning as planned. A two-year rehabilitation plan was created in conjunction with Spark-Y. In 2023, new modular trays and soil media were installed on the roof. In 2024, youth from Spark-Y built and installed the irrigation system and 550 plugs of native prairie vegetation. The new plantings consist of 20 different species that will be monitored for establishment, overwintering success, and sustainability. While the soil depth is only about five inches, heat from the roof should help with successful overwintering.

For the past two years MWMO staff have been serving on planning committees of the **Mississippi Centennial Celebration** occurring in 2026. The event is meant to celebrate 100 years of water quality improvement. In the early 1900s, the state of the Mississippi River was terrible, with only three fish found between St. Paul and Hastings. Raw sewage sent directly to the Mississippi impacted the river with sludge and offensive odors, among other pollutants. Since the sanitary/storm sewer separation, wastewater treatment plants opening, the Clean Water Act, etc., the river has improved immensely. The goal is to coordinate and promote a broad and inclusive series of events for the celebration. A brand will be created as an umbrella to use at regular events where outreach is performed annually, such as Share the River, Aquatennial, and Stone Arch Bridge Festival. For 2026, branded outreach materials will provide a venue for outreach about water quality, telling the story of how the river became so polluted and how it has been improved. The goal is to create a brand identity and visual outreach materials inclusive enough for all partner organizations (watersheds, neighborhood organizations, local partners, Met Council, event hosts, etc.) to use to tell their part of the story about how they are making the Mississippi a better place. The cost of the brand and material creation is estimated at \$50,000. Met Council has committed \$5,000 to the branding and materials, with another \$2,000 received in private donations. Staff have tentatively committed up to \$10,000 from MWMO. This cost covers the branding and community engagement process to ensure the messaging is inclusive.

Further funding will be needed for production of banners and such. Staff believe fundraising will be easier once the branding package is complete. An RFP has been sent to six firms.

Kalmon described how the Upper Harbor Terminal regional treatment system will work to convert stormwater to a **living ephemeral stream** and how the ecosystem is designed with considerations of material, slope, shape, etc., to be attractive habitat for macroinvertebrates. This system will be remotely monitored on a regular basis to inform operations of any changes needed. This will be the first living ephemeral stream in the region. Data gained from this project can be shared with other organizations that may implement future living streams. MPRB has begun construction, which should be completed by the end of 2024. Pumps to operate the stream will be installed in 2025.

## **General Business**

### **2024-021: Ramsey Boundary Change**

Staff have reviewed a proposal by Rice Creek Watershed District (RCWD) to revise the jurisdictional boundary between MWMO and RCWD within Ramsey County. Staff reviewed each parcel proposed for transfer based on LiDAR, elevation data, hydrologic delineations completed by MWMO, storm sewer infrastructure, and communications with member cities as appropriate and propose adjustments to the border per Attachments 1 and 2 in the meeting packet. The overall result of the border adjustment transfers 131 parcels totaling 35 acres from MWMO to RCWD and 176 parcels totaling just over 52 acres from RCWD to MWMO. This equates to a net gain of 45 parcels and roughly 17 acres, a nominal gain in tax base. There was a small area in the city of Roseville that was found to be within the MWMO hydrologic boundary and a small portion of Minneapolis that drains to Rice Creek. However, because the cities are not already members of the respective organizations, it was decided to leave those parcels as-is. Staff are requesting approval to submit the boundary change to BWSR. Motion by Vetaw, second by Tillberry to approve Resolution 2024-021 approving concurrence for watershed boundary change/adjustment. Motion carried unanimously.

### **2024-022: Universal Plating Inc. Site LOI**

Flooding in 1997 severely impacted Edison High School and the surrounding area, resulting in the Green Campus Initiative that incorporated many BMPs and stormwater infrastructure on the school site. Spark-Y and Edison High School also incorporated these stormwater practices into the school's educational programming. Some aspects of the Green Campus Plan were not incorporated because they required additional land from the former Universal Plating (UPI) site located south of the school, then owned by Hennepin County, due to pollution issues on the site. In 2023, MWMO applied for and received a State brownfield grant to revisit the status of the UPI site. Site partners Clare Housing, Spark-Y, MWMO, and Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS)

created a provisional plan and agreement with Hennepin County to transfer the land to MWMO at a cost of \$50,000, which allowed for project opportunities to be refined and land use determined. This Letter of Intent (LOI) outlines the terms by which Clare Housing agrees to maximize the efficiency of their building and fully integrate with the unified water systems of the Green Campus as public purpose terms for the potential nominally priced purchase option of one dollar. While these are the agreed conditions, the LOI is not a final binding agreement but is needed to show possession of the land to obtain funding from the Minnesota Housing Division. The deadline for Clare to submit this to Fair Housing is this coming Thursday. The final agreement will be brought to the Board when conditions have been met. Motion by Buesgens, second by Tillberry to approve Resolution 2024-022 approving the terms of the letter of intent with Clare Housing regarding a portion of the former UPI site. Motion carried unanimously.

## **Board Updates and Announcements**

Staff are working with Buesgens to drum up excitement for improving Sullivan Lake, one of the few lakes within the MWMO's jurisdiction. The community is excited to find a way to clean the water coming into the lake through a district stormwater system.

Staff will contact Board members regarding scheduling a Board retreat in October. The retreat would be a three-hour event scheduled for an afternoon.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 9, 2024.

## **Open Public Input**

The Coon Rapids Senior Center will have a group touring the MWMO facility on July 31.

## **Adjourn**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 4:43 p.m.



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# Request for Board Action

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Attachment 5

**Agenda Item:** Staff Updates

**Presenter:** Various

**Meeting Date:** 10 September 2024      **Flexibility:**    Yes    No

**Estimated Time:**    Consent Agenda    10 Min.    15 Min.    30 Min.    45 Min.    1 Hour

**Action Request:**    Information/Review    Motion to approve    Budget Change    Other

**Board Action:**    Approved    Denied    Tabled    Accepted Report    Other

**Date of Action:** 10 September 2024

## Background

Kevin Reich:

- UPI Site Update



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# Request for Board Action

Attachment 6.1

**Agenda Item:** Ukrainian American Community Center Stormwater Management Plan

**Presenter:** Emmy Baskerville Doeckel

**Meeting Date:** 10 September 2024

**Flexibility:**  Yes  No

**Estimated Time:**  Consent Agenda  10 Min.  15 Min.  30 Min.  45 Min.  1 Hour

**Action Request:**  Information/Review  Motion to approve  Budget Change  Other

**Board Action:**  Approved  Denied  Tabled  Accepted Report  Other

**Date of Action:** 10 September 2024

## Background

As directed by Stewardship Fund guidance, staff is presenting one Planning Grant application. This application has been reviewed and recommended by staff and the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC).

The Ukrainian American Community Center (UACC) has requested \$20,000 in Stewardship Fund Planning Grant funds to complete a Stormwater Management Plan for their 2-acre property in Minneapolis. The property currently contains a large parking lot that directly drains untreated to the Mississippi River about a half a block away via the storm sewer. The property is also next door to B.F. Nelson Park, which directly abuts the Mississippi River.

The project will fund the completion of a stormwater management plan that will assess the site and evaluate the potential to install stormwater BMPs at the UACC to intercept stormwater and treat it prior to discharge into the Mississippi River. The stormwater management plan will also focus on the potential for incorporating wildlife and pollinator habitat into the site. The grant application included letters of support from two organizations, the Great River Coalition and the Saint Anthony West Neighborhood Organization (STAWNO).

# Mississippi Watershed Management Organization

## RESOLUTION 2024-023

### A RESOLUTION APPROVING A 2024 PLANNING GRANT.

WHEREAS, the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization works to protect and improve water quality, habitat and natural resources in an urban watershed that drains directly to the Mississippi River; and

WHEREAS, the MWMO Board of Commissioners created the Stewardship Fund to engage the community in the protection of said resources

WHEREAS, one application was submitted in this second round of the 2024 Stewardship Fund Grant cycle; and

WHEREAS, staff and the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) have reviewed the application; and

WHEREAS, staff and the CAC recommended funding the Planning Grant to the UACC as described above; and

WHEREAS, there are sufficient funds remaining in the Stewardship Fund for FY 2024.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the MWMO Board of Commissioners hereby approves up to \$20,000 for the Ukrainian American Community Center and authorizes MWMO staff to take all necessary administrative actions to implement the resolution.

Adopted this the 10<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2024.

Review for the Board: \_\_\_\_\_

Randy Stille, Chair

Review for Administration: \_\_\_\_\_

Kevin Reich, Executive Director





# Request for Board Action

Attachment 6.2

**Agenda Item:** Funding to Minnesota Stormwater Research Council

**Presenter:** Kevin Reich

**Meeting Date:** 10 September 2024 **Flexibility:**  Yes  No

**Estimated Time:**  Consent Agenda  10 Min.  15 Min.  30 Min.  45 Min.  1 Hour

**Action Request:**  Information/Review  Motion to approve  Budget Change  Other

**Board Action:**  Approved  Denied  Tabled  Accepted Report  Other

**Date of Action:** 10 September 2024

## Background (Attach Supporting Documents as needed)

The Minnesota Stormwater Research Council (MNRC) is a not-for-profit organization established in 2016 to:

1. Facilitate the completion of needed applied research that enables more informed decisions about the use, management and protection of our water resources in urbanized areas;
2. Periodically assess the status of research, identify consensus research priorities, and communicate these to Minnesota’s public and private research agencies and organizations;
3. Promote coordination of research goals, objectives and funding among the research agencies and organizations; and
4. Facilitate technology transfer of stormwater research to practitioners, agencies, organizations and others. For the Council, technology transfer includes supporting and facilitating education, outreach and training, and translating research results into related manuals and policies.

## **Purpose of the Minnesota Stormwater Research Council**

The MSRC facilitates relevant, applied stormwater research and supports education and technology transfer to connect surface water managers, practitioners, and other professionals to actionable research that is responsive to their needs and to benefit Minnesota and its public waters through the following efforts:

- Coordinate and build partnerships at local, regional, state, and federal levels to leverage stormwater research resources (personnel and funding).
- Provide a clear process for identifying research needs, and prioritizing, soliciting, submitting, approving and implementing stormwater-related research proposals.
- Find solutions that improve the design, constructability, maintainability, cost-effectiveness, hydraulic performance, and treatment efficiency of stormwater facilities, as well as stormwater management operations and maintenance practices.
- Improve the compilation, tracking, and dissemination of stormwater research findings.
- Facilitate a collaborative approach that ensures the involvement of stakeholders in identification, prioritization, and implementation of stormwater research.
- Provide a sustainable source of funding and a process that ensures independent, unbiased, and objective research.

This is the eighth year the Minnesota Stormwater Research Council has requested local funding from local partners. This local contribution makes it easier to secure state funding for the applied research the council undertakes. Staff is recommending the Board approves \$25,000 in funding to the Minnesota Stormwater Research Council for applied stormwater research from the Watershed Assessments (Research, Hydrologic and Hydraulic Studies) funds.

# Mississippi Watershed Management Organization

## RESOLUTION 2024-024

### A RESOLUTION APPROVING \$25,000 FUNDING TO THE MINNESOTA STORMWATER RESEARCH COUNCIL FOR APPLIED STORMWATER RESEARCH

WHEREAS, The MWMO has identified promoting unique and innovative solutions for stormwater management in highly developed urban areas in the Watershed Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, The MWMO historically has promoted and partnered with partner watersheds, local and state agencies as well as academic and research institutions to conduct applied stormwater research; and

WHEREAS, The Minnesota Stormwater Research Council is established to facilitate relevant applied stormwater research and connect surface water managers to actionable research that is responsive to their needs to benefit Minnesota and its public waters; and

WHEREAS, The funding will be utilized for priority-based applied stormwater research; and

WHEREAS, The funding will come from the MWMO's Watershed Assessment funds; and

WHEREAS, Staff recommends approval to provide \$25,000 to the Minnesota Stormwater Research Council for applied stormwater research.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the MWMO Board of Commissioners approves \$25,000 in funding to the Minnesota Stormwater Research Council for applied stormwater research and authorizes MWMO staff to take all necessary administrative actions to implement the resolution.

Adopted this the 10<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2024.

Review for the Board: \_\_\_\_\_

Randy Stille, Chair

Review for Administration: \_\_\_\_\_

Kevin Reich, Executive Director



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# Request for Board Action

Attachment 6.3

**Agenda Item:** St. Anthony Regional Treatment - Performance Assessment

**Presenter:** Nancy Stowe

**Meeting Date:** 10 September 2024

**Flexibility:**  Yes  No

**Estimated Time:**  Consent Agenda  10 Min.  15 Min.  30 Min.  45 Min.  1 Hour

**Action Request:**  Information/Review  Motion to approve  Budget Change  Other

**Board Action:**  Approved  Denied  Tabled  Accepted Report  Other

**Date of Action:** 10 September 2024

## Background (Attach Supporting Documents as needed)

In 2016, the Mississippi Water Management Organization (MWWMO), City of St. Anthony Village, City of Minneapolis, and Hennepin County collaborated to construct an underground stormwater treatment system that diverts stormwater runoff from approximately 600 acres of fully developed urban land use in the City of St. Anthony Village and County State Aid Highway 88 (CSAH 88).

The facility has a primary treatment component consisting of a swirl chamber to remove particulate matter, floating trash, and debris from stormwater. The facility has a secondary treatment system designed to remove the soluble pollutants from the stormwater. It is a key research component to help determine the effectiveness of available and emerging treatment technologies such as iron sand filtration, filter media with activated alumina, alum flocculation, ionization, ozone, and other future technologies. New technologies can be plugged into the system and monitored for their effectiveness at pollutant removal and cost for operation.

The MWMO has been monitoring its performance since 2016, which has revealed some performance challenges over the past few years, primarily in the secondary treatment area.

MWMO staff is recommending that the causes of the lower-than-expected performance be assessed according to the following scope of work:

1. Gather and review original design calculations, as-built plans, and several years of monitoring data;
2. Review system hydraulics and concerns related to tailwater issues, utilizing detailed simulation models that have been developed since the original design;
3. Consider alternative technologies for secondary treatment; and
4. Document findings and develop recommendations for next steps, which may include feasibility and design efforts of a potential retrofit.

Staff is requesting a not-to-exceed amount of \$28,500 to pay for professional engineering services to conduct St. Anthony Regional Stormwater Treatment Performance Assessment.

# Mississippi Watershed Management Organization

## RESOLUTION 2024-025

### A RESOLUTION APPROVING FUNDING FOR THE CORDIA ENERGY BUILDING FEASIBILITY STUDY

WHEREAS, the MWMO strives to protect and improve water quality and habitat within its jurisdiction through the planning and implementation of stormwater best management practices; and

WHEREAS, the MWMO strives to partner with other entities to find cost-effective ways to manage stormwater and improve habitat collaboratively; and

WHEREAS, the MWMO, City of St. Anthony Village, City of Minneapolis, and Hennepin County collaborated to construct an underground stormwater treatment system in 2016; and

WHEREAS, the MWMO has sufficient Watershed Assessment funds available; and

WHEREAS, staff recommends the Board of Commissioners approves up to \$28,500 in watershed assessment funds to complete study to identify reasons the facility is performing less than design specifications and identify potential solutions.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the MWMO Board of Commissioners approve up to \$28,500 in watershed assessment funds for professional services to complete a St. Anthony regional stormwater treatment and research system performance study and authorizes MWMO staff to take all necessary administrative actions to implement the resolution.

Adopted this the 10<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2024.

Review for the Board: \_\_\_\_\_

Randy Stille, Chair

Review for Administration: \_\_\_\_\_

Kevin Reich, Executive Director



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# Request for Board Action

Attachment 6.4

**Agenda Item:** FY 2025 Draft Levy

**Presenter:** Kevin Reich

**Meeting Date:** 10 September 2024

**Flexibility:**  Yes  No

**Estimated Time:**  Consent Agenda  10 Min.  15 Min.  30 Min.  45 Min.  1 Hour

**Action Request:**  Information/Review  Motion to approve  Budget Change  Other

**Board Action:**  Approved  Denied  Tabled  Accepted Report  Other

**Date of Action:** 10 September 2024

**Background** (Attach Supporting Documents as needed)

The proposed levy is based on our comprehensive plan and its current update, strategic plan and our members’ Capital Improvement Projects (CIPs), and our forecast budget for 2025. We are currently verifying the CIPs slated for 2023–2027 and are reviewing our current-year expenditures to look for ways to reallocate prior-year unspent funds. We will bring a final levy to the November board meeting. At this time, staff is recommending the levy not to exceed \$7,830,000. This represents a 5.7 percent increase.



**2025 Draft Levy**

**9/10/2024**

**Levy Limit set at September MWMO Board Meeting**

**Final Levy set at the November MWMO Board**

Approval of the levy does not constitute approval of individual projects. Funds will be encumbered to a project only after an agreement between the MWMO and the Lead Agency describing the specific scope of work is completed.

**2022 Draft Levy**

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<b>Projects Fund</b>	<b>\$ 5,487,150</b>
<b>General Fund</b>	<b>\$ 2,132,300</b>
<b>Capital Asset Replacement Fund</b>	<b>\$ 100,000</b>
Subtotal Budget	<b>\$ 7,719,450</b>
Contingency 1.5% (Uncollected Levy)	<b>\$ 110,550</b>
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>\$ 7,830,000</b>

# Mississippi Watershed Management Organization

## RESOLUTION 2024-026

### A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE MWMO MAXIMUM LEVY AMOUNT FOR FY 2024 AT \$7,830,000

WHEREAS, The MWMO has developed a comprehensive Watershed Management Plan that identifies capital projects, monitoring, watershed assessments and outreach initiatives to implement; and

WHEREAS, The MWMO is required by statute to submit a maximum levy amount to county auditors by September 30 of each year for Truth-in-Taxation statements for the next fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, The MWMO staff have met with its members to determine probable projects for 2023–2027; and

WHEREAS, Approval of the draft levy does not constitute approval of individual projects or initiatives. Funds will be committed to a project only after the MWMO Board approves a specific scope of work to be completed; and

WHEREAS, Staff recommend the Board of Commissioners adopt the maximum levy amount of \$7,830,000 for MWMO fiscal year 2025.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the MWMO Board of Commissioners moves to set the maximum MWMO levy amount for FY 2025 at \$7,830,000 and authorizes MWMO staff to take all necessary administrative actions to implement the resolution.

Adopted this the 10<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2024.

Review for the Board: \_\_\_\_\_

Randy Stille, Chair

Review for Administration: \_\_\_\_\_

Kevin Reich, Executive Director