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MISSISSIPPI  
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# MEETING MINUTES

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**Date:** 10 September 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 (via Teams); Randy Stille, St. Anthony Village; and Michael Lukes, St. Paul.

**Staff and Guests:** Emmy Baskerville, Akadia Johnson, Kevin Reich, Emily Resseger, and Nancy Stowe, MWMO; Glenda Meixell, Anoka Conservation District; John Bilotta, U of M Extension; and Amy Juntunen, JASS.

The meeting was called to order at 3:03 p.m. by Chair Stille.

## Approval of Agenda

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

## Approval of Minutes

Motion by Dains, second by Buesgens to approve the minutes of the July 9, 2024 regular meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

## **Consent Agenda**

None.

## **Reports from Staff**

Staff are in process of working with Stantec to apply for grants for the **Universal Plating Site**. Along with Hennepin County, MWMO will apply for an EPA grant. However, there are no EPA grants sufficient to cover the entire cost of site remediation. MWMO will also apply for four local grants to make up the difference. The total grant application amount across all four grants is \$2.1 million. The EPA grant maximum is \$500,000. The estimated cost for cleanup is between \$1.5-\$2 million.

## **General Business**

### **2024-023: UACC Planning Grant**

The Ukrainian American Community Center has submitted an application for an MWMO Planning Grant. Planning grants are awarded once per year for up to \$20,000. The site is close to the Mississippi River and has two acres of untreated parking lot next to a busy trail system adjacent to B.F. Nelson Park. This grant application is to fund completion of a stormwater management plan for the site and to add habitat. Currently, there is only a very small green space next to the building, while most of the site is parking lot. There are two storm drains in the parking lot with one catch basin to receive runoff that requires regular cleaning to keep it unclogged. A second catch basin may exist in the green space area. Staff and CAC recommend approval of this grant application not-to-exceed \$20,000 as a Stewardship Funds grant for development of a stormwater management and habitat plan for the site. Motion by Dains, second by Tillberry to approve Resolution 2024-023 approving a 2024 Planning Grant for the Ukrainian American Community Center as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

### **2024-024: Minnesota Stormwater Research Council Funding**

Resseger and Bilotta presented a request to continue funding the Minnesota Stormwater Research Council in the amount of \$25,000. MWMO has been supporting the Council since its inception in 2016, both financially and through staff contributions. The Council undertakes research projects and works to discover information gaps and identify priorities for stormwater management. The annual report was provided to the Board. Motion by Lukes, second by Dains to approve Resolution 2024-024 approving \$25,000 funding to the Minnesota Stormwater Research Council. Motion carried unanimously.

## **2024-025: SART Performance Assessment**

In 2016, MWMO, City of St. Anthony, City of Minneapolis and Hennepin County collaborated to install an underground stormwater treatment system to treat a 600-acre watershed. Stormwater is diverted to a primary swirl chamber to remove particulate matter and large debris along with a secondary system to remove soluble pollutants in two separate chambers, one with a sand filtration bed and one with other filter media, with each of the secondary chambers receiving about 50% of the water from the main swirl chamber. This allows for research on the effectiveness of different types of filter media. While the system is still performing well, it has not been performing at expected levels. Performance monitoring has revealed challenges with the secondary system including the sand filter getting clogged faster than anticipated, too much water in the filter cartridge area, and potential backflow issues. There is also low dissolved oxygen throughout the system and critters entering the system. Staff are requesting \$28,500 for professional engineering services to conduct a performance assessment to determine why performance is lower than expected and what retrofit options could improve performance. This is a performance study and does not include funding any improvements or media replacements. While the City of St. Anthony has assumed financial responsibility, MWMO retains maintenance responsibilities. The City will eventually assume maintenance responsibility for the swirl chamber and MWMO will keep control and responsibility for the secondary chambers. The main swirl chamber has been cleaned out in 2017, 2020 and 2023. Motion by Dains, second by Buesgens to approve Resolution 2024-025 approving funding not-to-exceed \$28,500 to complete a performance study of the St. Anthony Regional Treatment system. Motion carried unanimously.

## **2024-026: FY2025 Draft Levy**

This resolution sets the annual limit for the 2025 levy. The actual levy will be set in November and could be lower than the limit approved today, but cannot be higher. The 2024 levy increase was 6.2% and the proposed 2025 levy increase is 5.7%. The budget includes a 1.5% contingency and is based on MWMO's operating budget, comprehensive plan, strategic plan and capital improvement projects. Staff is recommending a maximum levy of \$7,830,000. A proforma will be available in November. Motion by Dains, second by Tillberry to approve Resolution 2024-026 approving the MWMO maximum levy amount for FY25 at \$7,830,000. Motion carried unanimously.

## **Board Updates and Announcements**

Lukes noted that there will be an amendment on the November ballot to renew the Land and Natural Resources Trust, funded by the Minnesota Lottery, to extend funding to 2050 and increase funding from 3.5% to 7% of lottery profits. If the amendment portion of the ballot is not completed it will count as a vote against the amendment.

The Board retreat is scheduled for October 17, 2024, 2:00-5:00 p.m. at the Moore Lake Community Building in Fridley.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 12, 2024.

## **Open Public Input**

None.

## **Adjourn**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 4:09 p.m.