

**MINUTES OF THE  
NINE MILE CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT  
PUBLIC HEARING**

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 2020**

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Cutshall called the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District public hearing to order at 6:15 p.m., Wednesday, July 15, 2020. The meeting was conducted by web-based video conference, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 13D.021 after the president determined that because of the COVID-19 pandemic it was not prudent to conduct the public hearing in person.

Managers Present: Bob Cutshall, Erin Hunker, Larry Olson, Grace Sheely, and Jodi Peterson

Managers Absent: None

Advisors Present: Randy Anhorn, Megan Jester, Janna Kieffer, Kurt Leuthold, Erica Sniegowski, Michael Welch, Gael Zembal

Other Attendees: Tracie Bell, Ross Bintner (City of Edina), Bill Kruckeberg, Joann Kruckeberg, Bev Lonsbury

**2. Lake Cornelia Stormwater Treatment Best Management Practice Project Public Hearing**

Chair Cutshall opened the public hearing, stating the purpose of the hearing is for the District to receive comments on the Lake Cornelia Stormwater Treatment BMP project, which would be constructed in Rosland Park in the City of Edina. He explained the project originated from several years of study of water quality in Lake Edina and Lake Cornelia. Chair Cutshall said excessive phosphorous levels cause excessive algae growth, which degrades lake quality, leading to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency listing Lake Cornelia as impaired. He stated the Lake Cornelia Stormwater Treatment BMP is designed to reduce phosphorous-loading to Lake Cornelia. Chair Cutshall said the project's estimated cost is \$744,000, plus or minus 15%. He explained that the project, if ordered, would be funded out of the general tax levy assessed on all real property in the NMCWD.

Administrator Anhorn noted the public hearing is being recorded, and he reviewed the process for the public providing comments.

*(Manager Peterson joined the meeting at 6:21 p.m.)*

Engineer Kieffer shared PowerPoint slides and explained the project's background and why the District is proposing to undertake this project. She explained Lake Cornelia and Lake Edina don't meet state water quality standards and shared data summarizing summer average phosphorous concentrations in Lake Cornelia as well as Lake Edina, which is downstream of Lake Cornelia. She pointed out the summer average phosphorus concentrations historically have been above the state standard for shallow lakes. Engineer Kieffer summarized the findings of the 2019 Lake Cornelia and Lake Edina Water Quality Study. She stated that phosphorous levels in Lake Cornelia result both from release from bottom sediments and from stormwater runoff.

Engineer Kieffer explained the reason for stormwater treatment in Rosland Park and went into detail about the proposed treatment method: a stormwater filtration vault. She showed a rendering of what the vault could look like and noted the vault will be designed to fit in nicely with the aesthetics of the park. Engineer Kieffer went through a pumping analysis, explaining when the pump would run and how the pumping from Swimming Pool Pond may affect water levels on upstream Lake Otto, which is upgradient and hydraulically connected to Swimming Pool Pond by two large culverts under Trunk Highway 62. She described how the vault system would function, including the use of several different filtration media to remove phosphorus from the water. She presented the cost-benefit analysis, highlighting that the project is estimated to remove 22 pounds of phosphorous a year, on average, from entering Lake Cornelia. Engineer Kieffer reiterated that the construction cost estimate is \$744,000, with a cost range of \$632,000 to \$892,000. In addition, she said, there will be an annual maintenance cost, which is estimated at \$11,000. She pointed out the annualized cost of total phosphorous removed is \$2,200 per pound.

Engineer Kieffer outlined the next steps, which include the Board's consideration of ordering the project at the Board's August meeting, and if the project is ordered, designing the project in fall 2020 for construction in spring 2021.

Administrator Anhorn opened the floor for public comment. He stated that a letter was sent out to residents around Lake Otto, which is upstream from Lake Cornelia and Swimming Pool Pond and will experience lower water levels at times because of the project, notifying them of the meeting and proposed project. He reported that while he did not receive any emails from anyone requesting to speak at the public hearing, he received one phone call and one email prior to the hearing from people who are attending this meeting. He underscored that anyone can offer comments, even if they didn't request to do so by email in advance. He asked if anyone in attendance had questions or wanted to speak. Mr. Bintner said City of Edina staff tentatively plan to bring this project to the Edina City Council at its August 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. Hearing no additional comments,

Administrator Anhorn stated that the managers would discuss the project and consider ordering the project at their August 19, 2020, meeting.

Chair Cutshall closed the public hearing.

**3. Adjournment**

**It was moved by Manager Sheely, seconded by Manager Peterson to adjourn the meeting at 6:46 p.m. Upon a roll call vote, the motion was approved 5-0.**

Respectfully Submitted,

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Erin Hunker, Secretary

DRAFT