

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE
BOARD OF MANAGERS
OF THE
NINE MILE CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT**

THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2020

Call to Order

Chair Cutshall called the Special Meeting of the Board of Managers of the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District to order at 5:31 p.m., Thursday, May 7, 2020. The meeting was conducted by web-based video conference, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 13D.021, after the Chair determined that because of the COVID-19 pandemic, it was not prudent for the Board of Managers, or any committee thereof, to meet in person.

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

Manager Absent: None.

Advisors Present: Randy Anhorn, Janna Kieffer, Lauren Foley, and Erica Sniegowski

Administrator Anhorn provided a brief update on current District projects, including the Normandale Lake herbicide treatment, the Cornelia Lake alum treatment, the District's building addition and upcoming pre-construction walk-through, and the District's water quality monitoring. Program and Project Manager Sniegowski provided an update on the Nonprofit BMP retrofit project, adding that rain garden installations are underway, and ground is broken at St. Luke's Mount Olivet Site. She said Sunram will start the rain garden at Oak Grove Presbyterian next.

Office Furniture

Administrator Anhorn reported the updated office furniture cost estimate from Commercial Furniture Services is \$13,107.26. He asked the Board to authorize him to purchase the office furniture from Commercial Furniture Services at a not-to-exceed amount of \$13,108.

It was moved by Manager Sheely, seconded by Manager Olson, to authorize Administrator Anhorn to purchase District office furniture from Commercial Furniture

Services at a not to exceed amount of \$13,108. On a roll call vote, the motion was approved unanimously.

Flood Vulnerability for Land-Locked Lakes Analysis

Engineer Kieffer described the two-phase analysis, the first phase looking at snow melt and potential for flooding, and the second phase, a screening analysis to identify risk of flooding at land-locked lakes in the watershed, focusing on precipitation. She listed the six lakes included in the analysis: Shady Oak and Lone Lake in Minnetonka, Birch Island Lake in Eden Prairie, Bush Lake in Bloomington, and Arrowhead Lake and Indianhead Lake in Edina.

Engineer Kieffer shared an on-screen presentation and described the data reviewed and analyzed. She presented results of the analysis on a lake-by-lake basis. Engineer Kieffer and Administrator Anhorn talked about communicating with the cities about the results and the request by the City of Edina to participate in developing lake water-level management plans with for Arrowhead and Indianhead lakes. Engineer Kieffer noted that the cities, if interested, could use the graphs as living tools throughout the season by updating monthly precipitation measurements.

President Cutshall asked about the District's historic financial participation in projects such as the lake water level management. Administrator Anhorn described previous projects in which the project costs were divided 50-50 between the District and the cities. He said that the district partnered with the City of Bloomington on the development of a lake level management/pumping plan for Bush lake. He said he would bring the scope of work for the lake level management plans for Arrowhead and Indianhead lakes to the Board at its next meeting. He explained the cost ends up being \$15,000 per lake, or \$30,000 in total costs, which will be split with the City of Edina.

Atlas 14

Engineer Kieffer shared an online presentation and walked through the historic flood management modeling tool the District developed in the mid-2000s; the development of Atlas 14 precipitation frequency estimates in 2013 and the District's subsequent model updates to incorporate Atlas 14 precipitation estimates into the District's model and estimate Atlas 14 flood elevations along Nine Mile Creek; and what the District has been doing related to flood management in more recent years. She pointed out that Atlas 14 looks backward, meaning it is based purely on past data. Engineer Kieffer toured the group through the District's Atlas 14 flood mapping. She talked about work the District has jointly participated in during the past few years using the District's Atlas 14-updated models. Engineer Kieffer indicated that there are a lot of flood-related issues throughout the watershed.

Engineer Kieffer went through ideas regarding potential next steps for the Board to discuss and consider. She recommended updating the District's hydrologic XP SWMM model to

incorporate updated information from the cities that have recently updated and included additional details in their models. She further noted the Board might also consider reviewing and potentially updating portions of the watershed model where the respective cities have not updated their models recently, including Eden Prairie and the Hopkins. Engineer Kieffer said that following the updating of the District's model, a good second step could be undertaking a flood risk assessment. She noted a third potential step is identifying flood mitigation and resilience project opportunities to provide and/or utilize additional flood storage in the creek corridor and reduce flood risk. Engineer Kieffer added that modeling climate change precipitation scenarios is another step to consider, as is evaluating flood risk through the lens of social vulnerability. She said identifying and prioritizing flood mitigation options are also future steps for the District to consider taking.

Administrator Anhorn asked if the Board is interested in staff bringing back the scope of work presented in February for updating the District's XP SWMM model or adding the item to the District's 2021 budget discussion. Manager Peterson said she thinks staff should bring it to the Board sooner rather than later. President Cutshall and Manager Sheely agreed. There was a brief discussion. Administrator Anhorn indicated that given it is the consensus of the Board that they are in favor of the work to update the District's XP SWMM model, he will put the project and scope of work on the agenda for the May 20th Board meeting.

AIS Management Strategy

Administrator Anhorn said the next step for the District is to prioritize lakes in terms of the District's AIS management strategy. He noted the following phase will be to look at the various AIS activities and determine where the District will have a role and what role it will have. Administrator Anhorn shared online a flow chart and went through the flowchart, defining the priority classifications. He asked for feedback on the flowcharts and the system he has set up for prioritizing. Manager Olson noted the City of Edina uses three levels of prioritization, and he's in favor of adding a third priority level to the District's prioritization scale. The managers spoke in favor of the flowcharts being useful and adding a third level of prioritization.

Administrator Anhorn said he will add the priority three level and will email the updated flowcharts to the managers. He addressed next steps in the process.

Adjournment

It was moved by Manager Hunker, seconded by Manager Peterson, to adjourn the meeting at 7:19 p.m. On a roll call vote, the motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Erin Hunker, Secretary