

**MINUTES OF THE WORKSHOP
OF THE
BOARD OF MANAGERS
OF THE
NINE MILE CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT**

THURSDAY, JUNE 3, 2021

I. Call to Order

Chair Cutshall called the workshop of the Board of Managers of the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District to order at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, June 3, 2021. 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: Grace Butler, Bob Cutshall, Erin Hunker, Peggy Kvam, and Larry Olson

Manager Absent: None

Advisors Present: Janna Kieffer and Kurt Leuthold (Barr Engineering), Michael Welch (Smith Partners)

Staff Present: Randy Anhorn (arrived at 6:30 p.m.), Lauren Foley, and Erica Sniegowski

Others Present: Jessica Wilson, City of Edina

II. Braemar Golf Course Project Partnership Highlight and Presentation

Program and Project Manager Sniegowski introduced Ms. Jessica Wilson of the City of Edina to share highlights of the Braemar Golf Course Project, which was conducted in partnership with NMCWD. Ms. Wilson shared information from the report “Braemar Golf Course Natural Resource Enhancements” prepared by Deric Deuschle and Rebecca Beduhn of SEH.

Ms. Wilson explained the golf course was a 27-hole course that went through reconstruction in 2015 through 2018. She said the project reduced the number of

holes to 18, providing space for natural resources restoration and enhancement. Ms. Wilson talked about the site conditions prior to the project, goals of the project, and components of the project that utilized cost-share funds, such as creating flood storage. She summarized the enhancements made to the Academy 9 area of the course, including increased flood storage area, decreased square footage of maintained turf, and increased oak savanna and native prairie acreage. Ms. Wilson also described the project accomplishments on the main course area, including additional flood storage, additional wetland buffer, and additional prairie and oak savanna acreage. She described the project's wetland impacts and mitigation. She described on-going monitoring and maintenance, including actively managing the natural areas.

Manager Olson asked how often the prescribed burn will occur. Ms. Wilson said every two or three years per the recommendation of the contracted ecologist. She said that at this point the contracts go out every three years. Manager Butler brought up nitrate application and asked if the wetlands are staying clear of algae. Ms. Wilson said she does not know if there is less, the same, or more algae. Manager Butler said it could be an interesting study for the District to work with the City of Edina on understanding nitrate application and wetlands. Ms. Wilson said the City is open to discussing this further, particularly on how to make the nitrate issue in Nine Mile Creek better.

Program and Project Manager Sniegowski stated the District has a monitoring station below Braemar and will be installing one above as well.

III. Rosland Park Stormwater Filtration BMP Update

Program and Project Manager Sniegowski explained Barr Engineering will be providing an update on the Rosland Park Stormwater Filtration BMP.

Mr. Kurt Leuthold, PE, of Barr Engineering shared PowerPoint slides and provided a project overview, describing how the system was designed and how it will function. He stated the opinion of cost remains the same at \$1.2 million total cost for design and construction and the plus-minus range of \$982,000 to \$1.4 million.

Mr. Leuthold went through details about the onsite testing of filtration media, reporting the media that performed the best were the granite sand with iron filings, the CC17 crushed limestone with iron filings, and the granite sand with the activated alumina. He announced that those are the three media that will be added to the vault for this project. Engineer Kieffer noted the onsite testing of filtration media received an innovation grant from Barr Engineering, which partially funded the testing.

[Administrator Anhorn joined the meeting].

Manager Butler commented that she's not hearing in the presentation anything about the education components of this project. Mr. Leuthold said the educational

components are all still part of this project, and he summarized the education components. Administrator Anhorn stated there will be signage around the project as well.

There was a discussion about maintenance of the filter vault.

Attorney Welch said when the Board ordered the project last summer, it authorized District staff to release the project for bids.

IV. Return to In-Person Meetings and Return to Office Discussion

Administrator Anhorn summarized the recent developments with regard to the state's COVID-19 efforts, to be taken into consideration as the board considers returning to in-person meetings. Managers, staff, and advisors discussed the options, including the fact that any change in meeting venue, meaning moving from a scheduled in-person meeting to a virtual meeting due to a rise in new COVID case numbers, would need to be publicly noticed three business days before the meeting. The Board by consensus agreed the District will ask staff, managers, and advisors to voluntarily provide the District with proof of vaccination, will post signage at the District office stating anyone entering the office and who is not a vaccinated employee, manager, or advisor, will need to wear a mask, and the July regular Board meeting will be in person, unless a review of new COVID case numbers in Hennepin County provides a reason to hold the meeting virtually instead, in which case public notice will be given at least three business days prior to the meeting.

Administrator Anhorn said he will put this discussion item on the June regular meeting agenda.

V. Adjournment

It was moved by Manager Hunker, seconded by Manager Butler, to adjourn the meeting. On a roll call vote, the motion was approved 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Erin Hunker, Secretary