

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

THURSDAY, AUGUST 1, 2024

1. Call to Order

President Larry Olson called the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District Board of Managers workshop to order at 5:30 p.m. The meeting was held at the NMCWD office, Discovery Point, 12800 Gerard Drive, Eden Prairie, Minnesota.

Managers Present: Grace Butler, Bob Cutshall, Peggy Kvam, Chris-Ann Lauria, and Larry Olson

Advisors Present: Janna Kieffer and Tyler Olson (Barr Engineering) and Michael Welch* (Smith Partners)

Staff Present: Brett Eidem (Natural Resources Planning and Project Manager), Nik Luckow (Education & Outreach Intern), Cynthia Rubio (Administrative Specialist), Erica Sniegowski (Administrator), Jordan Wein (Water Resources Project Manager), and Gael Zembal (Education and Outreach Coordinator)

Other Attendees: Mike Majeski (Emmons & Olivier Resources)

*Indicates virtual attendance

2. Introduction of New Staff

Administrator Erica Sniegowski introduced Cynthia Rubio, the district's new administrative specialist, and Nik Luckow, the district's summer intern, who is an environmental science student at University of Wisconsin-Madison.

3. **South Fork Restoration Contract for Eden Prairie reaches**

Brett Eidem reported the district received six bids for construction of the Eden Prairie portion of its Nine Mile Creek South Fork Stabilization Project. Sunram Construction submitted the lowest bid with a base bid of \$458,085, which is below the project engineer's cost estimate. Mr. Eidem said staff and Emmons & Olivier Resources, the project engineering consultant, reviewed the bids and recommend awarding the contract to Sunram Construction at a cost of \$458,985.

Mr. Eidem noted that the district was awarded \$100,000 in state watershed-based implementation funding a Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund grant through Great River Greening for \$600,000 over three years.

Manager Lauria moved, and Manager Cutshall seconded, to award the construction contract to Sunram Construction Inc. and to authorize the administrator to enter a contract with Sunram for not-to-exceed \$458,985 and to authorize the administrator to execute change orders as necessary up to an aggregate total of 10 percent of the contract price. Upon vote, the motion carried.

4. **Penn Lake Water Quality Study**

Tyler Olson of Barr Engineering provided an overview of the engineers' draft Penn Lake Water Quality Study. He said the lake is high in nutrients, which leads to algal blooms, resulting in reduced water clarity and reduced aquatic plant growth. He indicated that external phosphorus loading is the primary source of phosphorus to upper Penn Lake, while the primary sources of phosphorus to lower Penn Lake include both external and internal loading.

Mr. Olson said significant reductions in internal and external phosphorus loading would be necessary to achieve the phosphorous standard for lower Penn Lake. He identified several stormwater management best management practice concept designs evaluated as part of the study and indicated that implementation of these practices would not achieve the phosphorus standard based on in-lake modeling results.

Mr. Olson acknowledged the management of Penn Lake requires an understanding of the magnitude of the challenge and that improvement would require a long timeframe and an adaptive management approach. He recommended that the district look for partnerships to implement BMPs on redevelopment sites. He shared examples like the redevelopment of the Hennepin County Library and the south-town shopping area.

Manager Chris-Ann Lauria noted that the GDM parking lot is rarely half full, which seems to be a waste of space. Manager Grace Butler said that as redevelopment happens, the district needs to consider what can be done under the surface level of parks and parking lots.

Manager Bob Cutshall said that while he realizes dredging is expensive, it may be on par with the estimated costs of the four concept designs described. Janna Kieffer said dredging was not one of the options considered and there are permitting challenges with dredging, but it is an interesting idea.

Mr. Olson recommended that the district consider sediment treatment in lower Penn Lake to minimize internal phosphorus loading. He said Adelmann Pond is likely a source of nutrients for upper Penn Lake, and he recommended that the district collect sediment cores to understand internal loading potential, evaluate options for increasing pond performance, and conduct a fisheries survey.

Mr. Olson suggested that the district conduct a street sweeping analysis, similar to the analysis done for Mirror Lake, and consider looking at fisheries and rough fish management of upper Penn Lake and lower Penn Lake. Mr. Olson said the district could partner with the City of Bloomington for activities like monitoring and evaluation, community participation, and pollution prevention across five-year cycles, among others.

Ms. Kieffer said the next steps include the managers submitting comments on the draft report to Erica Sniegowski, then finalizing the report.

Administrator Sniegowski said managers should send her any comments about the draft report and summary within three weeks.

5. 2025 Draft Budget and Proposed Levy

Administrator Sniegowski reviewed the draft 2025 budget, addressing line items with changes compared to the 2024 budget. She recommended that the district build up its unassigned reserves to about half of its annual budget.

Regarding the staff's proposal to purchase a vehicle, Manager Butler asked if staff has evaluated renting a vehicle for the months it needs it for fieldwork. She asked if staff needs a vehicle all 12 months of the year, noting there would be insurance and maintenance costs as well as the need to store the vehicle. Mr. Wein said he will evaluate the idea.

Manager Butler said she would like the district to assess, for each of its grants, whether signage is needed and, if so, if the costs will come from outside the grant. She said the signs cost \$300 to \$500 per sign. Manager Butler said she believes signs

have become an important part of education. Manager Butler said she does not think the district has budgeted enough for signage. Administrator Sniegowski said the signage costs have always come from the district's communications and marketing materials budget, which is currently \$25,000. Staff will discuss increasing that amount.

Administrator Sniegowski pointed out it is time for the district to kick off its sixth-generation water management plan. She said she budgeted \$75,000 for 2025 for the water management plan update.

Administrator Sniegowski summarized the proposed draft 2025 budget as \$6,080,500, a 5.56 percent increase over 2024. She explained for the budget as proposed, \$1,660,000 will come from the district's assigned reserve, \$150,000 from the unassigned reserve, and \$610,000 from income/grants. She said the proposed 2025 levy is \$3,660,500, a 14.39 percent increase over the 2024 levy.

Manager Cutshall said he is concerned about the status of the district's funds a year from now and said the district needs to evaluate its cash flow. Administrator Sniegowski responded that the district needs to look at its budget in two to three-year timeframes.

Manager Butler said the district's message to the public should address that the district has transitioned to conducting adaptive management, like flood management, which has a longer timeframe and project life and is more expensive. Administrator Sniegowski noted she plans to schedule a soft kickoff in November of the plan-update process, which will include discussing reprioritizing the last three years of the current plan.

6. Indianhead/ Arrowhead Lakes Project Update

Ms. Kieffer said Barr's plans to issue the request for quotes for the aeration systems for Arrowhead Lake, Indianhead Lake, and Lake Holiday. She said Barr also will bring to the board a quote for electrical work related to the project.

7. Minnesota Waters Resolutions

Michael Welch said the district may wish to consider regulatory approaches to chloride reductions and may wish to submit a resolution proposing that potential Minnesota Watershed support such efforts. The managers directed Mr. Welch to bring a draft of a resolution for the board's review at its August meeting.

8. **Adjourn**

Manager Butler moved, and Manager Lauria seconded, to adjourn the workshop at 7:31 p.m. Upon vote, the motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,



[Chris-Ann Lauria \(Sep 21, 2024 17:01 CDT\)](#)

Chris-Ann Lauria, Secretary






NMCWD-August-1-2024-Workshop-Minutes

Final Audit Report

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