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

THURSDAY, AUGUST 3, 2023

Call to Order of the Workshop

President Bob Cutshall 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, MN.

Managers Present:	Grace Butler, Bob Cutshall, Erin Hunker, Peggy Kvam, and Larry Olson
Advisors Present:	Janna Kieffer and Michael McKinney (Barr Engineering Company), and Michael Welch (Smith Partners)
Staff Present:	Randy Anhorn (Administrator), Brett Eidem (Natural Resources Planning and Project Manager), Zach Stafslien* (Regulatory Program Manager), and Erica Sniegowski (Deputy Administrator)

*Attended virtually

I. Update on Permit 2022-029 -- I-494

Randy Anhorn advised the managers that he had released permit 2022-029 to the Minnesota Department of Transportation for the reconstruction of Interstate 494. The board's July 2022 approval authorized him to release the permit on submission of final design documents, but he has moved ahead with approval even though MnDOT is submitting designs that are incomplete and will be supplemented with design details as construction proceeds so as to facilitate MnDOT's pursuit of the project. Also, Mr. Anhorn stated that he has shifted the condition of submission of low-floor information from a condition to a stipulation of approval. The managers expressed understanding and concurrence in the administrator's exercise of his authority to approve the permit.

II. Phase 3 of Flood Risk Reduction and Update

a. Presentation

Janna Kieffer and Michael McKinney shared the PowerPoint presentation "Atlas 14 Flood Risk and Resiliency – Phase 3: Board Meeting #6 – Task 2.3 – flood area prioritization."

Ms. Kieffer summarized Task 2.3, in which the Board and District staff, plus input from the TAC, will prioritize 40 flood areas considered as "regional" to help determine where the District is interested in leading future flood studies.

Ms. Kieffer indicated that the 40 flood areas were identified and grouped based on the definition of regional flood areas previously discussed by the Board as part of Task 2.2.

Manager Butler asked if the 40 areas could be broken into groups, to get the numbers down. She said she considers downstream impact as a prioritization consideration. Manager Butler asked if any of the proposed projects would provide resiliency for drought or provide more storage capacity. Mr. McKinney mentioned options along Bredesen Park, the ability to divert water, and the concept of an automated level control system. He said an automated level control system project is not being actively considered as part of this flood risk reduction study but is the type of project to keep in mind for next steps.

Mr. McKinney introduced staff's proposed prioritization scoring methodology and asked for manager feedback on criteria to include and not include and specifically whether the scoring should include considerations of social vulnerability, multiple benefits, and level of project complexity.

Manager Kvam commented on the need to differentiate between prioritizing the flood areas for future evaluation versus prioritizing implementation projects. Ms. Kieffer agreed with her comment and noted that at this point specific projects to address flooding issues are not yet identified. President Cutshall said he thinks the scoring should include criteria about economic damage. He also suggested that quantification of economic damages should include consideration of land use. The group discussed the task of quantifying the criteria. Manager Butler suggested cutting the group of possible flood areas for prioritizing to 20. Mr. McKinney said the scoring outcomes might help direct possible groupings of flood areas.

Mr. McKinney said staff is leaning toward not including the consideration of multiple benefits in the scoring. Manager Kvam said the multiple benefits criteria could be layered on at a later stage of prioritization.

President Cutshall commented he thinks the District should begin with the end in mind and identify what it wants to do for the overall system before

considering the individual areas or projects. He said he thinks the public would be more receptive to projects in their communities if the District can show the overall plan and its goals.

Manager Butler stated the District wants to know flood storage and flow data and the District has not gotten to that point in this study. Ms. Kieffer said potential next steps from an overall system-wide perspective include looking at the potential benefits from use of automated systems and assessing what the District has learned from identifying flood storage opportunities along the creek corridor and investigating automated systems, as it relates to an overall plan for flood risk reduction and what additional efforts may be necessary to address the various regional flooding areas.

Erica Sniegowski said she is hearing the Board say it thinks there should be a clear problem statement and an overarching vision of where the District wants to go and where the District wants to position itself regarding flood risk reduction. She said it does not feel like the District has identified these yet.

Ms. Kieffer indicated that the District's 10-year plan identifies flood management goals, but re-evaluating or refining the goals and objectives would be a valuable pursuit. She indicated that considers few specific goals for flood risk reduction are to maximize use of the corridor for flood storage, reduce flooding along the creek, and do something along the creek involving storage to assist in addressing some of the upland flooding problems. Ms. Kieffer said development of an overall plan could be considered for next year and further discussion on goals and vision could be done prior to or as part of developing an overall plan. Ms. Sniegowski said she thinks that discussion could take place during a Board workshop with the goal of clarifying the District's direction moving forward.

Ms. Kieffer asked the Board if staff should keep moving forward with Task 2.3 or pause until the discussion happens about the overall vision and plan. Manager Olson said he would like staff to keep working on the task. Manager Butler said the Board would like to see which of the 40 identified areas could be grouped together. The Board agreed by consensus for staff to continue moving forward.

III. Furniture/Cubicle Quotes

Mr. Anhorn proposed updating Discovery Point's interactive room to convert the two temporary workstations to four permanent workstations. He said the update would bring the total number of permanent workstations to 10.

Ms. Sniegowski shared a variety of furniture options that were considered. She said staff's high-level recommendation is to go with Commercial Furniture Services, which submitted a cost estimate of $15,296.86 including design fees.

Manager Butler moved, seconded by Manager Olson to authorize the administrator to enter into a contract with Commercial Furniture Services for a not to exceed amount of $16,000 for new office furniture. On a vote, the motion was approved.

IV. 2024 Draft Budget and Proposed Levy

a. Draft Budget

Mr. Anhorn presented the draft 2024 budget. He said the budget will be on the Board's August 16th meeting agenda and that the District will hold a public hearing on the proposed 2024 budget on September 7th.

Manager Butler asked why the WOMP station costs are increasing and if the increase is related to equipment improvements or renovations to the stations. Mr. Anhorn said the WOMP budget is increasing to reflect the cost trend for the WOMP activities. Ms. Kieffer responded that she was not aware of specific equipment upgrades needed, but acknowledged that much of the equipment is older. She indicated that she will inquire with staff regarding status of the WOMP equipment. Mr. Anhorn said the proposed 2024 budget has $10,000 budgeted for monitoring equipment and the WOMP station equipment, if needed, would fall under that budget.

Mr. Anhorn said the District's proposed 2024 program budget is pretty even with this year's budget. He said the biggest budget increase is for the District's projects budget, which is proposed to increase by more than 60%. He pointed out the District will have five different alum treatment projects in 2024.

Mr. Anhorn said the 2024 budget proposes three new Capital Projects line items: Mirror Lake Projects, Birch Island Lake Projects, and Wetland Restoration Projects. He said he plans for the District to levy for these three projects to assign money specifically for these projects.

Mr. Anhorn said the 2024 budget as proposed and presented is a 25% increase to a total budget of $5,759,000.00 in 2024. He compared this amount to $4,594,000.00 in 2023. He said the proposed 2024 levy is a 14% increase to $3,200,000.00 over the 2023 levy of $ 2,800,00.00. Mr. Anhorn said District staff hopes to receive grant funds for some of the projects, such as potentially being awarded $600,000 for the South Fork Nine Mile Creek project.

On a different topic Mr. Anhorn mentioned he received a communication yesterday from a party interested in purchasing the Supervalu site in Eden Prairie. President Cutshall suggested Mr. Anhorn continue to look into it.

V. Adjournment

It was moved by Manager Butler, seconded by Manager Olson to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 p.m. On a vote, the motion was approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Grace Butler

Grace Butler, Secretary