

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

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2023**

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

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

Staff Present: Randy Anhorn (Administrator), Lizzy Boor (Watershed Specialist), Brett Eidem\* (Natural Resources Planning and Project Manager), and Zach Stafslie (Regulatory Program Manager)

Others Present: Miranda Etienne (Bolton & Menk) and Jan Rabbers (resident)

\*attended virtually.

**I. Public Hearing – Proposed Revisions to the District Rules**

President Bob Cutshall opened a public hearing on proposed revisions to the district’s rules for stormwater management on linear or road projects at 5:30 p.m.

Randy Anhorn stated the proposed revisions have been issued for public comment, and the comment period ends December 11. He no comments have been received yet.

Miranda Etienne of Bolton & Menk said she has no comments at this time but is working with some cities to prepare comments.

Upon hearing no additional comments, President Cutshall closed the public hearing at 5:33 p.m.

## **II. Public Hearing on Holiday, Wing and Rose Lakes Feasibility Study and Preliminary Engineering Report**

President Cutshall opened the public hearing on the Holiday, Wing and Rose Lake feasibility study and preliminary engineering report at 5:33 p.m.

Mr. Anhorn reported the district held a community stakeholder meeting on this study and preliminary report on December 6, 2023.

Jen Rabbers of 15604 Dawn Drive said she lives across the street from Wing Lake and is here also on behalf of a neighbor who has property by the lake. Ms. Rabbers raised concerns that water pumped from Lake Holiday to Wing Lake is causing a sediment buildup in Wing Lake.

Mr. Anhorn said the city did hear this feedback and did some dredging at the outfalls around Wing Lake. Janna Kieffer said it is her understanding the city removed accumulated sediment at several storm sewer outfalls.

Ms. Rabbers said she is concerned about the outfall on the south side of the Dawn Drive cul-de-sac. In response to a question from Manager Grace Butler, Ms. Rabbers said muck has been building up and the only visible source is the culvert there. Ms. Rabbers said she is interested in seeing the silt removed.

Ms. Kieffer said Phil Olson, City Engineer for Minnetonka, indicated that the city intends to collect some additional information to try to understand if there is accumulated material in that portion of the lake and if so, to what extent.

Mr. Anhorn said the sediment buildup Ms. Rabbers mentions was not assessed as part of the feasibility work and cannot readily be added to the project recommended in the Holiday, Wing, and Rose Lake, but he will take Ms. Rabbers' comments into consideration with the City of Minnetonka.

Ms. Kieffer reviewed the preliminary engineering report, noting that the engineer recommends curly-leaf pondweed management and aluminum and iron sediment treatment and aeration in Lake Holiday, aluminum and iron treatment in Wing Lake and aluminum treatment of sediment in Lake Rose.

Mr. Anhorn said the board will consider ordering the project at its December 20 meeting.

Asked by Manager Butler to clarify her request to the district, Ms. Rabbers said she is requesting that the district urge and, if possible, support the city financially to remove silt buildup in the northwest bay of Wing Lake.

Upon hearing no additional comments, President Cutshall closed the public hearing at 6:04 p.m.

### III. Barr Engineering Scope of Work for the Mirror Lake Feasibility Study

President Cutshall called the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District Board of Managers workshop to order at 6:04 p.m.

Ms. Kieffer said that the Mirror Lake Water Quality Study concluded in November and recommendations were to conduct an aluminum sediment treatment and pursue shoreline stabilization opportunities.

Ms. Kieffer presented the proposed scope of work, the timeline for a total estimated cost of \$92,055.

Peggy Kvam asked if any of the residents were attentive over the years to their shorelines and could be used as an example for the others? Ms. Kieffer said she does not know if there has been someone who has been attentive in using the techniques the district wants to see. She said she can bring a response to this question back to the managers.

Chris-Ann Luria said residents all have different ideas about what should be done. Ms. Kieffer agreed and said this scope of work is to understand what should be done and how much it would cost, recognizing that residents will have preferences and the district will need to consider how to incorporate those preferences.

Mr. Welch said the district is proposing to undertake work with public money, so the work needs to serve watershed purposes.

Manager Butler commented if the district could use one contractor for the projects on public and private property, the district could affect better cost management. Ms. Kieffer said this is something to consider and to discover during the feasibility process.

**It was moved by Manager Olson, seconded by Manager Kvam to authorize Barr Engineering's scope of work for the Mirror Lake feasibility study at a cost not to exceed \$92,055. On a vote, the motion was approved.**

### IV. Cost-Share Grant Application

Lizzy Boor summarized the Lake Smetana Habitat Restoration grant application from the City of Eden Prairie to remove invasive species on the Lake Smetana shoreline and revegetate with native plant plugs and seed. She said the total estimated project cost is \$13,737 and the City has requested \$6,817 in grant funds from the district. Ms. Boor recommends a grant of \$6,817.

**It was moved by Manager Butler, seconded by Manager Lauria to authorize the administrator to enter into a cost-share grant agreement with the City of Eden Prairie for the Lake Smetana Habitat Restoration project and cost-share funds not to exceed \$6,817. Upon vote, the motion carried.**

V. **Rosland Park Stormwater Filtration BMP Update**

Ms. Kieffer reviewed the results of an assessment of the Rosland Park stormwater filtration vault. She reminded the managers that the project's primary purpose was to address the external phosphorous loading to Lake Cornelia.

Ms. Kieffer described the filtration system – an active system treating water on a continuous basis. She reported the pre-treatment is successfully filtering out the algae, although the filter gets plugged quickly and once plugged the water goes through to overflow without filtration.

Ms. Kieffer said the backwash flows to Swimming Pool Pond and the district has informally talked to the city about the possibility of sending the backwash water down to the sanitary sewer system.

Manager Butler said she did not realize the anthracite pre-treatment would remove phosphorous. Ms. Kieffer said yes, it removes phosphorous via filtration.

Ms. Kieffer shared the data about the percentages of total phosphorous removed by the different filtration media and in combinations. She reported the total phosphorous removal from pretreatment plus the upflow filters is 40 percent. She said this is on the low end of what was anticipated and she would still like to see a higher percentage of phosphorus removal.

Ms. Kieffer reported staff met with the city staff to discuss the monitoring data and system operational concerns. She said next steps include engineer review of possible options for troubleshooting to address concerns related to the data results and system operation, revisiting options for troubleshooting in the winter with the city and NMCWD.

VI. **Adjournment**

**It was moved by Manager Olson, seconded by Manager Kvam to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. On a vote, the motion was approved.**

Respectfully Submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Grace Butler, Secretary