

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

**THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2020**

**Call to Order**

Chair Peterson called the Special Meeting of the Board of Managers of the Nine Mile Watershed District to order at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, March 5, 2020, at the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District Office, 12800 Gerard Drive, Eden Prairie, MN 55346.

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

Manager Absent: None

Advisors Present: District Administrator Randy Anhorn, Janna Kieffer (Barr Engineering), and Program and Project Manager Erica Sniegowski

**Lake Cornelia Goldfish and Carp Assessment**

Administrator Anhorn stated the scope of work is broken into two parts: goldfish and a small component for carp. He noted the District has been awarded \$20,000 in grant funds from Hennepin County for assessing the goldfish and their behavior. Administrator Anhorn explained PIT tags (passive integrated transponders) will be placed on the goldfish so their movement patterns can be tracked, and data will be collected for use in the management phase. He said the total budgeted amount is \$36,304. He said about \$31,000 is for the goldfish and \$5,337 is for the carp. There was a brief discussion about the different contractors that provide these types of carp management services.

Administrator Anhorn and Engineer Kieffer talked in further detail about the project and locations. Administrator Anhorn said this work would be done over the summer, and District interns and volunteers will bait the trap nets. He said this project has come out of the feasibility study, which determined the District should do an assessment, and this project is a result of the assessment regarding how to handle the carp. Engineer Kieffer explained this project is to monitor and gather data so we know how to answer some of the big questions that need to be addressed to develop a management plan. Manager Sheely asked if signage could be part of this

project and proactively tell people about the project. Administrator Anhorn said the District could decide to add signage during the fishery management part of the project.

Administrator Anhorn said he is looking for authorization from the Board to enter into an agreement with WSB & Associates to undertake that scope of work at a cost not to exceed \$36,500. He reminded the Board the District has been awarded \$20,000 in grant funds from Hennepin County for this project.

**Manager Sheely moved, seconded by Manager Olson to enter into an agreement with WSB & Associates for a cost of work not to exceed \$36,500. Upon a vote, the motion carried.**

**Manager Hunker moved, seconded by Manager Sheely to authorize the administrator to enter into agreement with Hennepin County for the AIS grant funds. Upon a vote, the motion carried.**

### **Landbridge Discovery Point Landscape Maintenance Proposal**

Program and Project Manager Erica Sniegowski updated the group about the seeding and planting that has been completed. She explained that until June 2019, the District had a contract with Minnesota Native Landscapes for the maintenance of two restoration phases and site-wide invasive weed control. She noted the contract expired in June, giving the District time to figure out next steps. Program and Project Manager Erica Sniegowski talked about landscaping plans and resource challenges with maintaining landscaping, rain gardens, and restoration areas. She explained the District had Landbridge do some work in the end of the 2019 season as a trial, and subsequently the District asked the company to submit a proposal for landscape maintenance.

Program and Project Manager Erica Sniegowski listed the items included in the landscape maintenance proposal for 2020, pointing out items that need to be done in 2020 but don't happen each year such as mulching and cutting down the honeysuckle. There was discussion about items proposed but the District isn't planning to undertake in 2020, such as a prescribed burn.

Administrator Anhorn and Program and Project Manager Erica Sniegowski reported the District has \$10,000 in its Discovery Point Restoration budget and funds can be used from the District's maintenance fund. Administrator Anhorn commented that he hopes in following years the cost will go down as the District performs annual care and maintenance of the landscaping. Administrator Anhorn and Program and Project Manager Erica Sniegowski responded to questions about tasks that will be undertaken by the groundskeeping contract, and the frequency and costs of those tasks. There was discussion about how landscaping costs could be reduced in future years, as invasive plants are reduced and if volunteers can be utilized. Program and Project Manager Erica Sniegowski says she is hearing that the Board wants maintenance costs included in the District's Discovery Point Ecological Master Plan. Manager Sheely said yes, people will want to know maintenance costs. Program and Project Manager Erica Sniegowski said the

Master Plan is meant to be a living document, and this information will be a good addition to it.

**Manager Hunker moved to approve entering into contract with Landbridge for the proposal as discussed by the Board for a cost not to exceed \$18,000, seconded by Manager Cutshall. Upon a vote, the motion carried.**

### **MPCA Water Quality Fee Rule Support**

Administrator Anhorn reminded the Board that at its last meeting, Attorney Welch reported that the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) had gone out for comments on potentially amending their rules that govern their water quality fees for their permits. He summarized the issues that have particular importance to the District, and he highlighted the points the District has made in its draft letter to the MPCA.

**Manager Cutshall moved, seconded by Manager Olson to authorize Chair Peterson to sign and staff send the District's comment letter to the MPCA. Upon a vote, the motion carried.**

### **Barr Scope of Work for Developing a Data-sharing Web Map for Lake and Groundwater Data**

Administrator Anhorn reported one of the items that came out of the TAC workshop was the TAC was interested in more analysis about what high water levels and spring melt could do to landlocked lakes in the watershed. He noted that at the Board's last meeting it directed Barr Engineering Company to undertake that analysis.

Administrator Anhorn said another item the TAC was interested in pursuing is sewing together the XP-SWMM model for the communities with new structure information and putting it together regionally. He stated the District doesn't have budget for sewing together the XP-SWMM, so staff will bring this item forward in the future.

Administrator Anhorn said one other item the TAC indicated interest for the District to pursue is sharing up-to-date monitoring data. Engineer Kieffer explained in detail how a data-sharing web map would work. She remarked that this initiative is a step toward having more of the District's data public facing and accessible. There was a lengthy discussion about data, the cost of obtaining the data, and the types of data the Board and staff want to prioritize making accessible to the public. Administrator Anhorn stated the District hasn't submitted its water quality data or lake levels to the MPCA for years. He said if the District submits its data to the MPCA, the data can be searchable through the MPCA's tools.

**Manager Sheely moved, seconded by Manager Olson to direct staff and Barr to undertake a scope of work for developing a data-sharing web map for lake and**

**groundwater data for a cost not to exceed \$9,000. Upon a vote, the motion carried.**

### **AIS**

Administrator Anhorn reminded the Board of previous discussions and decisions. He said the next step is prioritizing lakes, and he shared information about the prioritization process undertaken by the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission. Administrator Anhorn said this item is on the agenda as a way to start the conversation about prioritizing Nine Mile Watershed District lakes based on using a prioritization process similar to Bassett Creek's. He collected comments from the managers during an extensive discussion.

Administrator Anhorn suggested he continue working on the prioritization spreadsheet and reorganizing the data to focus on priorities one and two on what the Board and staff are identifying as priority lakes. He said he could bring this updated spreadsheet back to the Board for the managers' review and comment. He said staff could touch base with the cities, too, and find out their priorities. Program and Project Manager Erica Sniegowski suggested creating a decision tree matrix. Administrator Anhorn said he will work on updating the spreadsheet and will work with Program and Project Manager Erica Sniegowski regarding fleshing out the idea of a decision tree matrix.

### **Board Retreat Draft Agenda**

Administrator Anhorn asked for feedback on the Board Retreat draft agenda he had distributed to the managers and staff. No one raised any comments, and Administrator Anhorn asked the Board and staff to send him comments if they have any after reviewing the draft agenda.

### **Building Addition Bid**

Administrator Anhorn reported three contractors attended the mandatory pre-bid walk-through of the District building for the building addition project. He stated he and Attorney Welch added to the bid amendment already prepared a second pre-bid walk-through for Tuesday, March 10. Administrator Anhorn explained this second pre-bid walk-through means the bid opening will be delayed to March 17.

**Adjournment**

**It was moved by Manager Olson, seconded by Manager Hunker, to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m. Upon a vote, the motion carried.**

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Erin Hunker", is written over a horizontal line.

Erin Hunker, Secretary

