

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2024

- 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: Elizabeth Boor (Watershed Specialist), Brett Eidem (Natural Resources Planning and Project Manager), Erica Sniegowski (Administrator), Zach Stafslie (Regulatory Program Manager), Jordan Wein (Water Resources Project Manager), and Gael Zembal (Education and Outreach Coordinator)
- Others Present: Steve Bennett (Edina), Susan Bennett (Edina), Mike Berndt (Bloomington), Coreen Nordling (Edina), Greg Sullivan (Edina), Bernadette Thomson (Edina), and Jim Thomson (Edina)

Public Hearing

Lake Cornelia Herbicide Treatment

President Larry Olson opened a public hearing on the proposed herbicide treatment of aquatic invasive species in Lake Cornelia by the district at 5:30 p.m. at the NMCWD office.

Janna Kieffer remarked the City of Edina has led the management of curly-leaf pondweed in Lake Cornelia from 2017 to 2022. She said the Lake Cornelia water quality study completed in 2019 recommended continued in-lake management of curly-leaf pondweed. Ms. Kieffer noted no treatment occurred in 2023, and Edina has asked the district to manage curly-leaf pondweed in Lake Cornelia.

President Olson called for public comments.

Mike Berndt, a research scientist living on Normandale Lake in Bloomington, suggested that there may be an inverse relationship between curly-leaf pondweed

treatment and blue-green algae. Mr. Berndt said he found a study from China, where curly-leaf pondweed is a native plant. When curly-leaf pondweed is introduced into ponds, the blue-green algae goes away. He asked if the board and lake residents are aware that curly-leaf removal might mean more free phosphorous in the spring to fuel blue-green algae blooms. Mr. Berndt asked if the herbicide treatment for curly-leaf pondweed also alleviates the blue-green algae. If not, he inquired how certain the district is regarding whether the current phosphorous from the sediment is sufficiently low to prevent the lake from becoming toxic from blue-green algae.

Bernadette Thomson, who lives on Lake Cornelia, urged the district to ensure consistent treatment, year to year, of curly-leaf pondweed. Ms. Thomson also commented that runoff from a number of businesses properties runs into Lake Cornelia and should be treated. Ms. Thomson asked for an update on the management of goldfish in the lake.

President Olson said the change from the City of Edina to the district managing the curly-leaf pondweed treatment of Lake Cornelia means that the district will determine if and when treatment is needed. Regarding stormwater runoff, he said that as properties get redeveloped, stormwater best management practices are put in place to treat stormwater.

Ms. Thomson asked if anything is being done in terms of flood risk with the lake regarding the 100-year or larger storm events around Lake Cornelia. Manager Bob Cutshall said the district is in the early stages of conducting a watershed-wide flood risk assessment.

Steve Bennett said he has lived on Lake Cornelia in Edina for the past two years. He said last year, the curly-leaf pondweed was fairly dense. Mr. Bennett said his understanding is that when the curly-leaf pondweed dies, it fertilizes the blue-green algae. He said it seems that letting the curly-leaf pondweed grow would worsen the lake in terms of curly-leaf pondweed and blue-green algae. Mr. Bennett said he did not think the city's contractor was getting out there to treat the lake at the right time, which is very early in the spring.

Greg Sullivan said he has lived on West Shore Drive in Edina for five years. He said the lake level is lower than it used to be and there is not as much bird activity on the lake as there used to be. Mr. Sullivan said he does not know if the fish populations in the lake have declined, but it seems the water temperature has increased.

Seeing no further comments, President Olson closed the public hearing at 5:43 p.m.

Call to Order of the Workshop

President Olson called the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District Board of Managers workshop to order at 5:43 p.m.

1. Lake Cornelia Herbicide Treatment

- a. After discussion with staff and the engineer, the managers determined that comments received during the public hearing generally supported the district's taking on curly-leaf pondweed management in Lake Cornelia. Michael Welch advised the managers that because the original project ordered by the district in 2020 called for the city to manage invasive aquatic plants in the lake, he and staff have prepared a resolution shifting that element of the lake-improvement project to the district.

Manager Butler moved, and Manager Kvam seconded, adoption of Resolution 2024-01, ordering aquatic invasive-species plant management in Lake Cornelia and authorizing the president to enter an amendment to the cooperative agreement with the City of Edina for the Rosland Park Best Management Practice Project. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion carried 5-0.

- b. Administrator Sniegowski said that given the board's action ordering the herbicide treatment of Lake Cornelia, she is asking the board to authorize her to enter into a contract, on advice of counsel, for the 2024 with the lowest-qualified contractor, as determined by the administrator and district engineer, with a cost not-to-exceed \$20,000. She explained the district will follow its typical process for soliciting quotes. With the required timing of the treatment, she urges authorization of the contract before the board's April workshop.

It was moved by Manager Butler, seconded by Manager Cutshall, to authorize the administrator to enter into a contract, on advice of counsel, for the 2024 herbicide treatment of Lake Cornelia with the lowest-qualified contractor, as determined by the administrator and district engineer, at a cost not to exceed \$20,000. Upon vote, the motion carried.

2. Lake Cornelia and Normandale Lake 2023 Fisheries Management Results

Jordan Wein reported on 2023 fisheries-management activities in Lake Cornelia and Normandale Lake, including techniques such as baited box net trapping and hoop netting. Mr. Wein noted that the district will continue to conduct baited box net trapping for goldfish on Lake Cornelia and carp on

Normandale Lake this year. He said using the electrofishing method of estimating goldfish in Lake Cornelia and by comparing the pre- and post-removal numbers, he estimates the goldfish population in the lake dropped by 50 percent in the 2023 management efforts.

3. Resolution 2024-02: Minnesota GreenCorps Host Site Application

Gael Zembal reported that staff is applying to host a Minnesota GreenCorps member for 2024-2025. Minnesota GreenCorps is coordinated by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. The GreenCorps member will support the district full-time from mid-September through mid-August.

She said the staff is developing a robust work plan and will submit it to the agency next week if the board approves proceeding with the application.

Manager Kvam moved, and Manager Lauria seconded adoption of Resolution 2024-02, committing to Minnesota GreenCorps host site application. On a roll call vote, the motion carried 5-0.

4. 2023 Permitting Year-in-Review

Zach Stafslie summarized the district's 2023 permit activities. The district received 157 permit applications, approved 123, with one requiring the Board's review. He added that some of the applications received are still being reviewed, and some projects have been cancelled. Mr. Stafslie reported the highest number of permits were for projects in the City of Edina, followed by permits for projects in the City of Minnetonka. He pointed out that many of the linear projects are CenterPoint Energy projects.

Mr. Stafslie reported that 35 permits triggered the district's Rule 4.0, Stormwater Management. He said these projects, as designed, achieve 195,138 cubic feet of stormwater retention and remove an estimated 224.4 pounds of phosphorous and 55,931 pounds of total suspended solids. Mr. Stafslie noted the district launched its online permit application in 2023. He reminded the Board that in 2023, the district revised its linear rules to better align with state stormwater-management requirements and also revised the single-family home financial assurance to \$10,000 per permit.

Manager Grace Butler recommended that the staff include the number and age of outstanding permits in its review.

5. Holiday, Wing, Rose Water Quality Improvement Project Cooperative Agreement

After discussion with staff of the need for cooperation and land-use rights with the City of Minnetonka for the Lake Holiday, Wing Lake and Lake Rose project, the managers considered authorizing execution of a cooperative agreement with the city drafted to achieve such purposes.

It was moved by Manager Butler, seconded by Manager Kvam, to authorize the president, on advice of counsel and with such nonsubstantive changes as counsel and the administrator may recommend to achieve the board's intended action, to enter into a cooperative agreement with the City of Minnetonka for the Lake Holiday, Wing Lake and Lake Rose Water Quality Improvement Project. Upon vote, the motion carried.


6. Arrowhead/Indianhead Water Quality Improvement Project Cooperative Agreement

It was moved by Manager Cutshall, seconded by Manager Butler, to authorize the president, on advice of counsel and with such nonsubstantive changes as counsel and the administrator may recommend to achieve the intended purposes, to enter into a cooperative agreement with the City of Edina for the Arrowhead Lake and Indianhead Lake Water Quality Improvement Project. Upon vote, the motion carried.

7. Adjournment

It was moved by Manager Kvam, seconded by Manager Lauria, to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 p.m. Upon vote, the motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,


Chris-Ann Lauria (Apr 29, 2024 10:29 CDT)

Chris-Ann Lauria, Secretary

NMCWD-March-7-2024-Public Hearing-Workshop-Minutes

Final Audit Report


2024-04-29

Created:	2024-04-29
By:	Erica Sniegowski (esniegowski@ninemilecreek.org)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAAgK0B4zzF7zFnHbGLz088tlzot7_3L_Jx


"NMCWD-March-7-2024-Public Hearing-Workshop-Minutes" History

 Document created by Erica Sniegowski (esniegowski@ninemilecreek.org)

2024-04-29 - 2:41:18 PM GMT

 Document emailed to calauria21@aol.com for signature


2024-04-29 - 2:41:33 PM GMT

 Email viewed by calauria21@aol.com

2024-04-29 - 3:29:04 PM GMT

 Signer calauria21@aol.com entered name at signing as Chris-Ann Lauria

2024-04-29 - 3:29:29 PM GMT

 Document e-signed by Chris-Ann Lauria (calauria21@aol.com)

Signature Date: 2024-04-29 - 3:29:31 PM GMT - Time Source: server

 Agreement completed.

2024-04-29 - 3:29:31 PM GMT