

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

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2024**

**1. Call to Order**

Vice President Bob Cutshall called the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District Board of Managers regular meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The meeting was held at the NMCWD office, Discovery Point, 12800 Gerard Drive, Eden Prairie.

Managers Present: Bob Cutshall, Brian Kirk, Chris-Ann Lauria, Peggy Kvam, and Larry Olson

Advisors Present: Brendan Dougherty, Janna Kieffer, Katie Turpin-Nagel (Barr Engineering Company), and Michael Welch (Smith Partners)

Staff Present: Elizabeth Boor (Watershed Specialist), Brett Eidem (Project and Planning Manager), Cynthia Rubio (Administrative Specialist), Erica Sniegowski (Administrator), Zach Stafslie (Regulatory Program Manager), Claire Volk (GreenCorps Member), Jordan Wein (Water Resources Project Manager), and Gael Zembal (Education and Outreach Coordinator)

**2. Approval of Agenda**

**Manager Kirk moved, seconded by Manager Kvam, to approve the meeting agenda as presented. Upon vote, the motion carried**

*(President Larry Olson arrived, 6:31 p.m.)*

3. **Public Open Forum**

None.

4. **Action Items**

a. **Solar on Public Buildings Project**

Elizabeth Boor reported that the district has awarded \$17,491.50 in grant funding from the state to help cover the costs of a proposed 26-panel solar-energy array on the roof of Discovery Point. The lowest quote the district received for the work was from MN Solar, at \$34,983. Ms. Boor explained that the state Department of Commerce grant and a federal tax credit that applies will lower the district's contribution toward the cost to \$11,944.05. Mr. Boor said staff recommends that the managers authorize the administrator to enter the grant agreement on behalf of the district.

**Manager Kirk moved, seconded by Manager Lauria, to authorize the administrator to enter into a grant agreement with the state for solar installation on Discovery Point. Upon vote, the motion carried.**

5. **Treasurer's Report**

**Manager Kvam moved, seconded by Manager Kirk, to accept the treasurer's report and pay the district's bills. Upon vote, the motion carried.**

a. **Solitude Payment Application #3 for Sediment Treatments**

b. **Solitude Payment Application #1 for Lake Holiday Aeration**

c. **Solitude Payment Application #1 for Arrowhead Lake and Indianhead Lake Aeration**

Janna Kieffer reported that all the information for the two pay applications for the aeration systems was received and reviewed, and Barr recommends payment. She said additional information is needed from Solitude to support the pay application for the sediment treatments. Ms. Kieffer recommended approval of the sediment treatments pay app contingent on receiving the affidavit of costs incurred and completed tax-withholding form.

**Manager Lauria moved, seconded by Manager Kvam, to approve payment of Solitude payment application #1 for Lake Holiday aeration and payment application #1 for Arrowhead Lake/Indianhead Lake for \$22,300 and \$50,660, respectively, and payment application #3 for sediment treatments for \$81,426.97, contingent on receipt of all contractually required documents. Upon vote, the motion carried.**

**d. Sunram Payment Application #2 for South Fork**

Brett Eidem reported that the district received payment application #2 from Sunram Construction for the South Fork project and noted that the project engineer, EOR, recommended payment.

**Manager Cutshall moved, seconded by Manager Lauria, to pay Sunram payment application #2 for \$215,731.86 for the South Fork project. Upon vote, the motion carried.**

**6. Consent Agenda**

**a. October 3, 2024, Meeting Minutes**

**b. October 23, 2024, Meeting Minutes**

**c. Holiday, Wing, Rose, Birch Island Lake Drainage Study Cooperative Agreement**

**Manager Cutshall moved, seconded by Manager Kirk, to approve the consent agenda. Upon vote, the motion carried.**

**7. Discussion Items**

**a. Mirror Lake**

Katie Turpin-Nagel reviewed the engineer's assessment of options and recommendations for improving water quality in Mirror Lake. To reduce the release of phosphorous from the lake sediment, Ms. Turpin-Nagel recommended up to three alum doses over a 10-year period.

Brendan Dougherty reviewed opportunities and options for shoreline stabilization. He estimated total capital cost for stabilizing the shoreline of the Interlachen Country Club property at \$645,500, with an estimated annual maintenance cost of \$10,000 after the first three years of vegetative establishment. He said stabilization of the residential properties around the lake would cost an estimated \$637,000 if 50 percent of the property owners participate and \$1,040,000 if 100 percent participate.

Ms. Kieffer said there would be benefits from these projects, they are costly, so the district engineer is presenting the information rather than making a recommendation.

Erica Sniegowski noted the district has already levied \$600,000 for Mirror Lake.

Manager Bob Cutshall expressed uncertainty about investing in shoreline restoration without the City of Edina providing public access for

recreation. He said the district should get an agreement with the City of Edina regarding public access for recreational opportunities on the lake if the district pursues shoreline stabilization. Manager Chris-Ann Lauria agreed.

Manager Kirk asked if the alum treatments on the lake are sustainable in light of the level of bank erosion. Ms. Kieffer said she does not see the sediment release from the erosion having a significant impact on the efficacy of an alum treatment. She would be more concerned if there was a more significant continual watershed load input. Ms. Kieffer stated she would not recommend holding off on the alum treatment to do the shoreline restoration.

Manager Kirk commented that maybe the district needs to focus on the worst erosion instead of the entire project as presented.

Administrator Sniegowski stated that if the managers wish to continue discussing the shoreline restoration, but feel confident proceeding with the recommended alum treatment, the district can move forward by notifying the public and holding a hearing for alum treatment of the lake. Shoreline-stabilization work could be ordered later.

**b. Adaptive Level Control Phase 2 Scoping**

Administrator Sniegowski stated the district received a letter from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources addressing the results of and options considered by the ALCS phase 1 report.

Ms. Kieffer said the letter was helpful, as were comments from the district's Technical Advisory Committee, and the feedback will be reflected in the final scope for phase 2 of the work, which is in the process of being developed. She described the recommended tasks, including a geomorphological vulnerability assessment of Nine Mile Creek and evaluation of the accuracy of storm-event forecasting.

Manager Cutshall stated that the district cannot afford inaction due to the potential for flooding to cause extensive and costly damage. He said there is a need for flood storage, and an ALCS system may be the only feasible way to address the problem. Manager Lauria noted that the district may need to consider acquiring property in vulnerable areas.

Ms. Kieffer said that, in parallel with the ALCS, the district will further consider an overall flood management plan. She said that as part of that, the district will explore flood storage.

**c. Governance Manual Proposed Updates**

Administrator Sniegowski said that for the past year, staff have collected comments from managers on potential Governance Manual changes. She said staff will bring these items to the managers for discussion at the next board meeting.

**d. Hopkins Advancing Careers and Employment Program**

Lizzy Boor described the Hopkins' Advancing Careers and Employment program, which provides internships for underserved youth. She inquired with the city about the district being a potential host site for an intern and wanted to know if the managers support the idea. She mentioned that Hopkins has a partnership with Minnetonka to be a host site, so the district could review the agreement between the two cities to help determine how the Hopkins-NMCWD relationship might work. Ms. Boor said staff envisions having two interns through the program to assist Jordan Wein with the summer fisheries work.

The managers encouraged Ms. Boor to explore the opportunity.

**e. Minnesota Watersheds Conference**

Administrator Sniegowski noted the district's delegates will vote on resolutions put forward by member organizations for adoption and inclusion into Minnesota Watersheds' legislative agenda. She, and Michael Welch are comfortable with the Resolutions Committee's recommendations, which include adoption of the district's resolution seeking support for regulatory approaches to chloride reductions.

**8. Updates**

**a. Staff Reports**

Ms. Zembal mentioned the district's photo calendar timeline and the Salt Suitcase educational display.


9. **Adjournment**

**It was moved by Manager Lauria, seconded by Manager Kirk, to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 p.m. Upon vote, the motion carried.**

Respectfully Submitted,

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Chris-Ann Lauria, Secretary

Signature:   
Chris-Ann Lauria (Dec 19, 2024 13:35 CST)  
Email: calauria21@aol.com

Signature:  
Email: