

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

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2024**

**1. Call to Order of the Workshop**

President Larry Olson called the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District Board of Managers workshop to order at 5:32 p.m. The meeting was held at the NMCWD office, Discovery Point, 12800 Gerard Drive, Eden Prairie.

Managers Present: Bob Cutshall, Chris-Ann Lauria, and Larry Olson. (Grace Butler observed portions of the meeting virtually.)

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

Staff Present: Elizabeth Boor (Watershed Specialist), Brett Eidem (Planning and Project Manager), Cynthia Rubio (Administrative Specialist), Erica Sniegowski (Administrator), Zach Stafslie (Regulatory Program Manager), and Jordan Wein (Water Resources Project Manager).

**2. 2025 Budget Public Hearing**

President Olson opened the public hearing on the District's draft 2025 Budget and Levy and called for public comments.

Erica Sniegowski recapped the District's proposed draft 2025 budget, which is \$6,080,500.00. She said the proposed levy is \$3,660,500, which is a 14.39% increase over the 2024 levy. She explained the difference between the budget and the levy will be funded through the District's reserve funds, grant funding, and revenue from permit fees and cost-sharing. Ms. Sniegowski announced there will be another opportunity for public comment on the District's budget and levy at its December

meeting. She said the District could, at that time, lower the levy but not increase the levy.

**It was moved by Manager Chris-Ann Lauria, seconded by Manager Cutshall, to close the public hearing. Upon vote, the motion carried.**

**a. Resolution 24-03 Adopting 2025 Budget**

**It was moved by Manager Cutshall, seconded by Manager Lauria, to adopt Resolution 24-03, adopting the 2025 budget as presented, totaling \$6,080,500. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried 3-0-2..**

**b. Resolution 24-04 Adopting 2025 Metropolitan Surface Water Management Act Levy**

**It was moved by Manager Lauria, seconded by Manager Cutshall, to adopt Resolution 24-04, adopting and directing the secretary to certify a 2025 levy of \$3,660,500. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried 3-0-2.**

**3. Lake Holiday, Arrowhead Lake, and Indianhead Lake Aeration Contract**

Janna Kieffer reported quotes were received for the aeration contract. Mark Origer summarized the quote from Solitude Lake Management.

**It was moved by Manager Lauria, seconded by Manager Cutshall, to authorize the Administrator to enter into a contract with Solitude Lake Management, with the advice of Legal Counsel, for the installation of aeration systems on Arrowhead Lake and Indianhead Lake and on Lake Holiday for the amount of \$49,410 and \$22,300, respectively, and to authorize change order totaling in aggregated 10 percent. Upon vote, the motion carried.**

**4. Floodplain Variance Discussion**

Zach Stafslie reported some permit application scenarios that staff have seen this year. He said these scenarios have resulted in challenging conversations with applicants regarding project plans and options, including pursuing a floodplain variance from the District.

Mr. Stafslie described scenarios that include site and project challenges and risks around building elevation, water body type, and construction type. He reiterated that one of the purposes of the District is to control or alleviate damage from flood waters.

Regarding home reconstruction above the 100-year flood elevation, Ms. Kieffer noted the District's rules have a key consideration that there either needs to be two

feet of freeboard from the flood elevation or at least one foot above the natural surface overflow. She commented that when the District reviews its rules, it should look at whether one foot above the natural surface overflow is enough.

**5. ALCS Update**

Ms. Kieffer reported that District staff and Barr met with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on August 28<sup>th</sup>. She mentioned that the aim was to present a high-level overview of the District's ALCS study findings and to discuss the benefits of implementing ALCS, potential impacts and changes to flood elevations due to targeted implementation, and the implications from a permitting perspective. Ms. Kieffer mentioned that the group discussed two of the District's objectives for implementing ALCS. These objectives include reducing direct flood risk to properties near the creek or lakes and creating additional flood storage capacity to accommodate future flood risk improvement projects. She mentioned that the discussion had another purpose, which was to consider how these objectives could be integrated into a comprehensive flood management plan to help guide water-related infrastructure improvements in the next 50 years in terms of infrastructure and how to assist member cities in making infrastructure decisions. Ms. Kieffer stated that the discussion underscored the importance of developing such a comprehensive plan. Ms. Kieffer said the recommended next ALCS step is to use the XP-SWMM software to put the Phase I recommendations together to see what the results would be collectively.

**6. Water Management Plan Planning Update**

Brett Eidem displayed and walked the Board through the presentation titled "6<sup>th</sup> Generation 10-Year Watershed Management Plan" to start the discussion about the planning process and timeline for the 2027 plan.

Ms. Sniegowski said staff plans to have a soft kick-off of the 2027 plan process at the District's November 1 board workshop. She said staff will bring some recommendations to the Board to discuss what the three-year process could look like and how to prioritize the work. Ms. Sniegowski mentioned that the timeline should allow time for presentations to the Board and for educating them on topics that would inform new District policies.

7. **Adjourn**


**It was moved by Manager Lauria, seconded by Manager Cutshall, to adjourn the workshop at 7:22 p.m. Upon vote, the motion carried.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Chris-Ann Lauria  

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Chris-Ann Lauria, Secretary

Signature:   
Chris-Ann Lauria (Nov 1, 2024 05:56 CDT)  
Email: calauria21@aol.com






# NMCWD-September-5-2024-Workshop-Minutes

Final Audit Report

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