

**LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT  
MINUTES**

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2009, 7:00 PM**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

President Kremer called the regular meeting of the Board of Managers of the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District to order at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, May 20, 2009 in the Council Chambers at the City of Chaska, Chaska, Minnesota.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Managers Present: Len Kremer, Ed Schlampp, Larry Samstad, Don McCready  
Also Present: Districts' Attorney Bruce Malkerson, Laura Jester, Dakota County SWCD, Allen Dye & Tony Howell, MAC, Leslie Stovring, City of Eden Prairie, Walter Eshenaur, SRF, staff members Terry Schwalbe and Joan Ellis

**3. APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA**

Manager Samstad requested that MN/Dot I35W Drainage Area be added to the agenda at Old Business 10.b. **It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda as amended. VOTE: Ayes 4; Nays 0.**

**4. CONSENT AGENDA**

President Kremer removed the minutes from the Consent Agenda. It was moved and seconded to approve the Consent Agenda as amended.. **VOTE: Ayes 4; Nays 0.**

**5. OPEN FORUM**

No one spoke.

**6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

President Kremer indicated that on 10.c. Courthouse Lake, last sentence was unclear as to what the District had said they would partner on with the City of Chaska and Carver County in regards to Courthouse Lake. It was clarified that the District had offered to partner on a chemical alum treatment of Courthouse Lake but not until 2010. **It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes as amended. VOTE: Ayes 4; Nays 0.**

**7. PRESENTATIONS**

**a. MAC Annual Report, Allen Dye and Toni Howell, MAC**

The annual report was given to the board. A map of the 2009 Mpls/St.Paul airport projects is included in the master minutes. Also, Flying Cloud Airport second phase earthwork is starting. BRAA had looked at the stormwater plan in 2008. Manager Samstad said that MAC can petition the District to move the boundary of the District to include all MAC property which now drains to the District.

**b. City of Eden Prairie Study Area 3, Leslie Stovring, Walkter Eshenaur, SRF**

Ms. Stovring indicated the Hustep family is located half way between the bluff houses and 75' from high water level. The family is aware of the issue. Russell Snyder, USACOE has offered to provide technical guidance and if homes may be impacted the USACOE could get involved. Section 14 funding is not available. The city is willing to move forward if homes are threatened. The board recommended the City of Eden Prairie complete the technical investigations and analysis, complete their plan and come back to the board for further discussion.

## **8. PRESENTATIONS FOR BOARD ACTION**

### **a. 2008 Audit by HLB Tautges Redpath**

The board requested staff contact other financial companies.

## **9. NEW BUSINESS**

### **a. Metro Watershed Partnership, T. Schwalbe**

Mr. Schwalbe reviewed his meeting with the board and will continue to work with them.

### **b. Set 2010 First budget workshop**

The board requested staff email them to get available dates and times for the first 2010 board workshop.

### **c. Metro Watershed Partners education membership, J. Ellis**

Mrs. Ellis explained the education opportunities available to the District when a member of this organization. **It was moved and seconded to give \$200.00 for membership and re-consider funding again next year for Metro Watershed Partners. VOTE: Ayes 4; Nays 0.**

## **10. OLD BUSINESS**

### **a. J. Ellis review**

It was moved and seconded to give Mrs. Ellis a 3% COL retroactive to March 1, 2009 based on Mr. Schwalbe's review of Mrs. Ellis. **VOTE: Ayes 4; Nays 0.**

### **b. MN/Dot 35W/62 Stormwater**

Manager Samstad explained that this project has routed 35W & 62 to Wood Lake then to I494 then into our District with MCWD approval. He suggested we re-define our boundaries to incorporate this area into our District. The board requested staff talk with Mr. Ireland of MN/Dot and determine who is responsible for stormwater management in this area, research the current drainage and bring back to the board at the next meeting.

## **11. ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

### **a. Seminary Fen/Assumption Creek**

Mr. Schwalbe reported that no negotiations are being conducted right now. Mrs. Ellis reported that she has 10 members for the Friends of the Seminary Fen volunteer group. She understands that their first work will be to remove garlic mustard.

### **b. Update on legislative resolution implementing a MN River Valley Basin Commission and for federal and state funding**

Mr. Schwalbe said that four very good legislative sponsors have been acquired for the basin bill. He said he also spoke at the last MRB meeting about the bill and he is trying to set up a meeting with Executive Director Shannon Fisher and Commissioner Judy Hanson and other commissioners to discuss the bill in detail and get their input.

### **c. Dredge Sites**

Mr. Schwalbe had an inspection with the USACOE at the Cargill site because the DNR is concerned about the bank soil erosion. The USACOE is going to look at changing the slope so water would flow back onto the site. He also indicated he will make a boat trip up to the Eden Prairie river bank area.

### **d. USACOE and Navigation Channel**

Mr. Schwalbe updated the board on letters sent to the USACOE and Judy Mader. The board indicated that once we hear from the USACOE we can then bring in the legislators. We should include not only the Nine-foot Channel, but also the Four-foot Channel as Representative Beard, for economic reasons, is interested in address the Four-foot Channel. The board directed staff to complete a Four-foot Channel funding letter after we hear back from the USACOE. Mr. Schwalbe said that UMWA has been in contact with Oberstar's office.

**e. U.S.Fish and Wildlife meeting**

Mr. Schwalbe said he had a very good meeting with the wildlife service. They discussed the joint stormwater retro fit signage of the Visitor Center parking lot, the continued erosion of Bluff Creek and the maintenance of the MN/Dot box culvert at T.H. 101 in Chanhassen, the operation of the discharge gates at Rice and Long Meadow Lakes, the potential for canoe and small boat access to the floodplain lakes, the status of the potential trout stream designation for the stream in Bloomington which has its headwaters near MOA, partnering opportunities and NURP ponds.

**f. MN River Watershed Tour**

The MPCA is attempting to organize the administrative and technical people of the Minnesota River Basin into a group which will meet quarterly to exchange ideas and share thoughts on projects which are occurring throughout the Basin. There were approximately 30 people in attendance. Forrest Peterson, MPCA Willmar office, moderated the meeting as we exchanged thoughts and ideas of how to implement better communication throughout the Basin. Several SWCD's and Watershed Partner's discussed current and past projects.

At the conclusion of the meeting it was agreed that this type of discussion needs to be continued.

M. Schwalbe proposed the district sponsor a barge tour event. He has talked with Greg Genz of UMWA and he will arrange for barge transportation. This would leave us with bus transportation, food, beverage and other miscellaneous expenses. Mr. Schwalbe proposed a \$10 - \$15 registration fee to assist in the costs and the remainder of expenses be covered by the district. Mr. Schwalbe said there is contingency money to fund the bus transportation. **It was moved and seconded to sponsor a tour with the MN River Communication Network. VOTE: Ayes 4; Nays 0.**

**g. River Resources Forum**

The USACOE received grant funding for work at locks and dams on the Mississippi River.

**h. Visions of Sustainability on the Mississippi River Conference**

Mr. Schwalbe reviewed this upcoming conference with the board.

**12. DISTRICT ATTORNEY REPORT** There was nothing to report.

**13. UPCOMING MEETINGS/TOURS/EVENTS**

**a. Simple Tools for Stream, Stormwater, Lake and Watershed Assessment Course, July 7-8,2009**

Mr. Schwalbe reviewed this upcoming course with the board

**b. MAWD Summer Tour**

Mr. Schwalbe reminded the board about the MAWD summer tour and to let staff know if they were interested in attending.

**ADJOURN**

**It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:12 PM. VOTE: Ayes 4; Nays 0.**