



Board of Managers Meeting Minutes

Wednesday - January 10th, 2024 - 3:00 p.m.
West St. Paul City Hall

Managers and Alternates in Attendance:

Sharon Lencowski (Chair), Inver Grove Heights
Steve Gebauer (Sec/Tres), Mendota Heights
Dan Halvorsen, Sunfish Lake
Julie Eastman, West St. Paul
Brian Jastram, Saint Paul

Karen Reid (Vice-Chair), Saint Paul
Leslie Pilgrim, Mendota Heights
Shannon Nelson, Sunfish Lake
Tom Sutton, Lilydale

Advisors and Others in Attendance:

Paul Merchlewicz, Inver Grove Heights
Pat Murphy, Saint Paul
Kwadwo Oduro, West St. Paul
Nick Guilliams, South St. Paul
Greg Williams, Barr Engineering

Chris English, Inver Grove Heights
Cody Joos, West St. Paul
Krista Spreiter, Mendota Heights
Laura Zammiller, Dakota County SWCD
Joe Barten, Dakota County SWCD

1. Call Meeting to Order

1.1 Public Comment / Introductions

Audience members may address the Board regarding items not on the agenda.

1.2 Approval of Agenda* (Additions/Corrections/Deletions)

Motion by Eastman to approve the agenda, second by Gebauer; motion passed.

2. Election of Officers

Motion by Reid to elect the current officers (Lencowski at Chair, Reid at Vice-Chair, and Gebauer as Secretary/Treasurer) to serve again for 2024, second by Sutton; motion passed.

3. Designation of Financial Depository and Official Newspapers

Motion by Sutton to designate Gateway Bank as the sole financial depository as well as the St. Paul Pioneer Press and St. Paul legal ledger as the official newspapers for public notices for LMRWMO business, second by Eastman; motion passed.

4. Approve December 13th, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Halvorsen to approve the previous meeting minutes, second by Gebauer; motion passed.

5. Approve January 10th, 2024 Financial Summary & Invoices

Spreiter provided a summary of the finances.

Motion by Eastman to approve the financial summary, second by Sutton; motion passed.

6. Review Draft 2025-2032 Budget Projections

Barten summarized the draft budget and its potential impact on member dues, noting that this represented an attempt to accomplish all of the activities in the LMRWMO Plan and also relied heavily on seeking and receiving outside grant funding for implementation studies and projects. The Board discussed the potential budget and decided to table setting the 2025 budget until the next meeting. The Administrator will take any feedback he receives between the two meetings and incorporate that into a budget to bring in front of the Board in February.

7. Metro Watershed Partners Membership

The Board discussed continuing membership in the Metro Watershed Partners at a cost of \$1,000 annually. There was consensus on the value of continued membership for Adopt a Drain, use of online resources, and use of educational materials.

Motion by Eastman to approve participation in the Metro Watershed Partners for 2024, second by Sutton; motion passed.

8. Landscaping for Clean Water (LCW) and Water Conservation Marketing Campaign Funding Request

Barten summarized the information in the packet regarding the request from the City of Lakeville. This included around \$7,500 towards participation with other Dakota County Cities and WMOs for a LCW and water conservation campaign with short and long videos and outreach materials to be targeted to the public via social media or streaming television services. The Board discussed the metrics to track campaign success, the cost, whether it could be split into just a LCW campaign, whether this can be extended to a 3 year campaign, vs. one shot, and other items. The decision to participate was table to the next meeting. The Administrator will seek feedback from Lakeville staff to bring to the Board in February.

9. Updates & Handouts

9.1 Williams noted the grant tracking spreadsheet is updated and included in the packet.

9.2 Barten noted that he is waiting on information from the MPCA on the current extent of PCB and PFOS monitoring on LMRWMO lakes.

9.3 Barten explained that he has been in contact with cormorant experts and will begin conversations in the coming months on next steps for Lake Augusta, now that the study is finalized.

9.4 City Staff provided updates on relevant topics and projects in their City.

10. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

The next Board meeting is scheduled for February 14th, 2024 at Fleming Field, the South St. Paul Airport

11. Meeting Adjourned at 4:20 pm