



Board of Managers Meeting Minutes

Wednesday - February 14th, 2024 - 3:00 p.m.
Fleming Field – South St. Paul Airport

Managers and Alternates in Attendance:

Sharon Lencowski (Chair), Inver Grove Heights
Steve Gebauer (Sec/Tres), Mendota Heights
Michael Randle, South St. Paul
Analiese Miller, West St. Paul
Tom Sutton, Lilydale

Karen Reid (Vice-Chair), Saint Paul
Leslie Pilgrim, Mendota Heights
Dawn Gaetke, Inver Grove Heights
Shannon Nelson, Sunfish Lake
Brian Jastram, Saint Paul

Advisors and Others in Attendance:

Paul Merchlewicz, Inver Grove Heights
Krista Spreiter, Mendota Heights
Kelsey Gelhar, South St. Paul
Greg Williams, Barr Engineering

Ryan Ruzek, Mendota Heights
Pat Murphy, Saint Paul
Laura Zanmiller, 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 Nelson to approve the agenda, second by Sutton; motion passed.

2. Approve January 10th, 2024 Meeting Minutes

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

3. Approve February 14th, 2024 Financial Summary & Invoices

Spreiter provided a summary of the finances.

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

4. Review Proposals for the Mississippi River Direct Drainages Study and Select Preferred Consultant

Pilgrim served as the spokesperson for the review committee and summarized the review and ranking of the six proposals received. She noted that WSB had the highest combined ranking from the reviewers. Upon discussion of the top proposals, which were all close, the committee recommends that the Board choose WSB as the consultant to perform the study. She noted that WSB had remaining budget, and the committee asked the Administrator to see if WSB could both add the Pickerel Lake subwatershed to the scope of study and provide a presentation to the Board upon completion of the results. The Board discussed the proposals and the committee recommendation.

Motion by Reid to accept the recommendation of the review committee and authorize the Board Chair to execute a contract with WSB for the Direct Drainage study, pending finalization of a scope of work by the Administrator for the potential addition of the Pickerel Lake subwatershed into the study and final study presentation to the Board, second by Sutton; motion passed.

5. Review 2025-2032 Budget Projections

The Board discussed the draft 2025 budget and 2025-2032 budget projections. There was discussion on the incremental increases being necessary to implement the items in the WMO plan and helpful to pursue outside grant funding. The Board noted that the projection can be changed as needed in the annual budgeting process.

Motion by Reid to preliminarily approve a 15% increase in LMRWMO member dues for 2025, for City budgeting purposes, with the final 2025 budget and member dues to be approved by the Board later in 2024, second by Sutton; motion passed.

6. Approve 2024-2025 Ramsey County Agreement for Services

Motion by Nelson to authorize the Board Chair to execute an agreement with Ramsey County for the two-year agreement for services as shown in the packet, second by Miller; motion passed.

7. Approve Engagement with Peterson Co. for 2023 Audit

Motion by Gebauer to engage with Peterson Co. to perform the 2023 LMRWMO financial audit, second by Reid; motion passed.

8. Contaminant Monitoring Approach Discussion

Barten summarized the information in the packet. The Board discussed the potential approach to requesting funds and investigating contaminants and agreed with the letter first and re-evaluation once Cities respond with their willingness to participate. Members suggested looking at the feasibility of remediation of the contaminants, what the data would be used for, the source of contaminants, presence in private wells vs. surface waters, and starting with lakes first for testing. Board members suggested including links to additional information in the letter and offering to present to City Councils on the request.

Motion by Sutton to send the letter, with the changes discussed, to member Cities to request funding as noted in the letter, second by Randle; motion passed.

9. Updates & Handouts

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

9.2 Barten updated on Lake Augusta information gathering, the Seidls Lake shoreline restoration project, and a potential future project at Butler Ave. in West St. Paul

9.3 City Staff provided updates on relevant topics and projects in their City

10. Adjournment and Next Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 with the next Board meeting scheduled for March 13th, 2024 at Fleming Field.