

---

---

# **Joint and Cooperative Agreement for the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization**

---

City of Columbia Heights  
City of Fridley  
City of Hilltop  
City of Lauderdale  
City of Minneapolis  
City of St. Anthony Village  
City of Saint Paul  
Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

---

---

\_\_\_\_\_ 2012

## Table of Contents

	Page
Membership	1
Article I      Legal Purpose	2
Article II     Definitions	3
Article III    Board of Commissioners	5
Article IV    Powers and Duties of the Board of Commissioners	7
Article V     Budget and Financial Matters	11
Article VI    Capital Projects	13
Article VII   Duration	15
Article VIII  Dissolution	16
Article IX    Amendments	17
Article X     Effective Date	18
Member Authorization	19
Legal Description	Appendix A
Watershed Boundaries	Appendix B

## **Membership**

This Agreement entered into as of the date of execution by and among the following:

Cities of

Columbia Heights

Fridley

Hilltop

Lauderdale

Minneapolis

Saint Anthony Village

Saint Paul, and

the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

for the establishment of a Watershed Management Organization. The aforementioned cities and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board shall hereinafter be referred to as Members.

WHEREAS, the Members have authority pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 471.59 to jointly and cooperatively by agreement exercise powers common to the contracting bodies pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 103B.201 to 103B.253 and

WHEREAS, the Members desire to plan a comprehensive water management program in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103B.201 to 103B.253;

NOW THEREFORE, the parties to this Agreement do mutually agree as follows:

## **Article I**

### **Legal Purpose**

The purpose of this Joint and Cooperative Agreement for the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization is to replace the Joint Powers Agreement for the Middle Mississippi River Watershed Management Organization executed in 1985, the Joint and Cooperative Agreement for the Middle Mississippi River Watershed Management Organization of January 1997, the Joint and Cooperative Agreement for the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization of January 2002, and the Joint and Cooperative Agreement for the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization of May 2011.

The purpose of the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization, as provided for in this Agreement, is to provide for the wise, long-term management of water and associated land resources within the watershed through implementation measures that realize multiple objectives, respect ecosystem principles, and cultural and historical community values. The Mississippi Watershed Management Organization seeks to: (a) protect, enhance, and restore the quality and quantity of surface and ground water resources within the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization jurisdiction; (b) protect, preserve, and use natural surface and ground water storage and retention systems; (c) efficiently utilize public capital expenditures needed to correct and control flooding and water quality problems; (d) identify and plan for means to use protect and improve surface and ground water quality; (e) establish more uniform local policies and official controls for surface and ground water management; (f) promote ground water recharge; (g) protect and enhance fish and wildlife habitat and water recreation opportunities; (h) secure the other benefits associated with the proper management of surface and ground water; and (i) promote and encourage cooperation among Members and among other organizations in coordinating local comprehensive water management programs.

A legal description and map, Appendix A and Appendix B of this Agreement, respectively, of the boundaries of the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization are included pursuant to Minnesota Rules 8410.0030, Subpart 1.B.

## **Article II**

### **Definitions**

For the purpose of this Agreement, the terms used herein shall have the meanings defined in this article.

Subdivision 1: “Organization” means the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization.

Subdivision 2: “Commission” means the governing body of the Organization and shall consist of a Commissioner or Alternate from each of its Members.

Subdivision 3: “Commissioner” means any person appointed to the Commission by each Member’s governing body, or in the Commissioner’s absence, the Alternate.

Subdivision 4: “Alternate” means any person appointed to the Commission by each Member’s governing body to represent the Member in the absence of the Commissioner.

Subdivision 5: “Council” means the governing body of a Member. In the case of municipalities, this shall be the elected officials responsible for governing the city and for Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board, its Board of Commissioners.

Subdivision 6: “Member” or “Member Community” means any city, county, or special purpose government entity within the watershed that enters into this Agreement.

Subdivision 7: “Agreement” means this Agreement.

Subdivision 8: “Plan” means the Watershed Management Plan adopted by the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization.

Subdivision 9: “Watershed” means the area contained within a line drawn around the extremities of all terrain whose surface drainage is tributary to the Mississippi River and within the mapped

areas reasonably demonstrated on the map identified as Appendix B, as defined within the legal description identified in Appendix A.

Subdivision 10: “Act” means the Metropolitan Surface Water Management Act as found in Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103B.201 to 103B.253.

Subdivision 11: “Budget” means a statement of the expected income and expenses of the Organization for each Year. The Commission may divide the Budget into an Administrative Budget, covering staff salary and benefits, Commission expenses, rent, office expenses and other administrative expenses, and a Programs and Projects Budget, covering the programs and projects of the Organization, including capital projects.

Subdivision 12: “Capital Improvement Project” means a physical improvement project required by the Act to be included in the capital improvements program of the Plan.

Subdivision 13: “Majority” means greater than half of the quorum.

Subdivision 14: “Subwatershed” means a smaller geographic section of a larger watershed unit with a drainage area the boundaries of which include all the land area draining to a point.

Subdivision 15: “Year” means from January 1 to December 31.

Subdivision 16: “Quorum” means the number of Commissioners or Alternates required to be present for business to be legally transacted. This number shall be any number that is greater than half of the Members. Any number less than a quorum may adjourn a scheduled meeting.

Subdivision 17: “Executive Director” means the Organization’s administrator appointed by the Commission.

## **Article III**

### **Board of Commissioners**

Subdivision 1: The governing body of the Organization shall be its Commission, which shall consist of seven (7) voting Commissioners. Each Commissioner shall have one vote. All appointments to the Commission shall be in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, Section 103B.227. The Board of Water and Soil Resources shall be notified of all appointments and vacancies of the Commission within 30 days. All vacancies shall be filled within ninety (90) days after they occur. Notices of all vacancies and appointments shall be published in a legal publication of the Members community appointing the Commissioner at least fifteen (15) days prior to the appointment. Vacancies shall be filled for the remainder of the term by the Council that appointed or had the right to appoint the Commissioner. With the exception of the City of Hilltop, the Council of each Member shall appoint one (1) Commissioner to represent the Member to the Commission. The Council of the City of Columbia Heights, after consultation with the Council of the City of Hilltop, will appoint one (1) Commissioner to represent the Cities of Columbia Heights and Hilltop. Each Commissioner shall serve until his or her successor is appointed.

Subdivision 2: A Commissioner may not be removed from the Commission except for just cause by the Council that made the appointment.

Subdivision 3: Member Councils may select and appoint alternates to the Commission in the same manner as Commissioners. In the absence of a Member's Commissioner, the designated Alternate may vote and act in the Commissioner's place. The Alternate shall serve a term concurrent with the Member's Commissioner.

Subdivision 4: Each Member's Council shall, within thirty (30) days of appointment, file with the Executive Director of the Commission a record of the appointment of its Commissioner and Alternate. The Organization shall notify the Board of Water and Soil Resources of Member appointments and vacancies within thirty (30) days after receiving notice from the Member.

Subdivision 5: In accordance with Minnesota Statutes, Section 103B.227, the Council of each Member shall determine the eligibility and qualifications of its Commissioner and Alternate. However, the term of each Commissioner shall be the calendar year.

Subdivision 6: Regular meetings shall be held by the Commission periodically at the time and place determined by the Commission pursuant to open meeting law, Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 13D.

Subdivision 7: At the first meeting of the Commission and each calendar year thereafter, the Commission shall elect from its Members a chairperson, a vice chairperson, a treasurer, a secretary, and such other officers as it deems necessary to conduct its meetings and affairs.

Subdivision 8: The Commission shall adopt those bylaws and procedures necessary for the conduct of its meetings. Such rules may be amended at either a regular or special meeting of the Commission provided that a ten (10) day prior notice of the proposed amendment has been furnished to each Commissioner and Alternate to whom notice of meetings is required to be sent.

Subdivision 9: The Commission may create such committees, task forces or working groups as needed to accomplish its mission.

Subdivision 10: The commission may set such compensation for its Commissioners as it deems appropriate, provided such compensation does not exceed the compensation allowed for managers of watershed districts under Minnesota Statutes, Section 103D.315, subd. 8. However, no member's Council is prevented from providing compensation for its Commissioner for serving on the Commission, if such compensation is authorized by such governmental unit and by law.



## **Article IV**

### **Powers and Duties of the Board of Commissioners**

Subdivision 1: The Commission shall employ an Executive Director and may delegate to the Executive Director any power or authority that may be delegated to a city manager in a Minnesota Plan B statutory city. The Commission shall employ such other persons as it deems necessary to accomplish its duties and powers. The Commission may hire staff on a full time, part time or consulting basis. The Commission may also incur expenses and expenditures necessary and incidental to the effectuation and/or implementation of its purposes and powers.

Subdivision 2: In order for the Commission to conduct business, a quorum must be present. Decisions by the Commission require a majority vote of the quorum present.

Subdivision 3: The Commission shall have an established Citizen Advisory Committee and Technical Advisory Committee to provide input and to serve in an advisory role.

Subdivision 4: The Commission shall review and approve a Local Water Management Plan for each of its Member Communities as established under Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 103B.

Subdivision 5: The Commission may acquire, operate, construct, and maintain capital improvement projects delineated in the Watershed Management Organization Watershed Management Plan for the protection, enhancement, and improvement of the watershed.

Subdivision 6: The Commission shall make a reasonable attempt to assess the compatibility of proposed capital improvement projects with other existing policies, programs, and projects within the MWMO and across its boundaries. In particular, compatibility with neighborhood association and community council plans in the project area should be considered. An informal review should occur at least two months before the capital improvement project proposal is approved in the MWMO budget.

Subdivision 7: The Commission shall develop a comprehensive Watershed Management Plan to meet the requirements of Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 103B. The plan shall establish comprehensive goals and policies for the protection, enhancement, and improvement of the watershed, and shall establish specific implementation strategies to realize these goals and policies.

Subdivision 8: The Commission shall have the power to contract with any governmental unit, private or nonprofit association to accomplish the purposes for which it is organized.

Subdivision 9: The Commission has the authority to apply for, accept, and use grants, loans, money or other property from the United States, the State of Minnesota, a unit of government or any person or entity for the Organization. The Organization may use and dispose of such money or property for any expenses/fees, policies, goals, capital improvement projects, or any use the Organization deems necessary to pursue its goals and policies.

Subdivision 10: The Commission may establish and maintain devices for acquiring and recording hydrologic and water quality data within the watershed.

Subdivision 11: The Commission may contract for, or purchase such insurance, as they deem necessary for the protection of the Organization.

Subdivision 12: The Commission shall have the authority to invite governmental entities within the area of the watershed to join the Organization. Furthermore, any governmental entities within the area of the watershed may petition for membership in the Organization. The addition of new Members shall require a majority vote of the Commission and appropriate resolution by current Member Councils. The effective date shall be the date of filing by the last Council resolution approving the addition. As Members are added to the Organization, there shall be created one voting Commissioner.

Subdivision 13: The Commission has the authority to contract for the space, equipment, and supplies to carry on its activities either with an individual Member or elsewhere.

Subdivision 14: The Commission may investigate on its own initiative or upon petition of any Member, complaints relating to the pollution of surface or ground water in the watershed. Upon a finding that the watershed is being polluted, the Commission may take appropriate action to alleviate the pollution including recommending enforcement and other regulatory actions to the appropriate jurisdiction.

Subdivision 15: Commissioners and staff may enter upon lands within or without the watershed to make surveys and investigations to accomplish the purposes, goals and policies of the Organization. Such entrance shall occur after obtaining a duly executed search warrant, with permission of the property owner, or when a search warrant for access to the property is not required. The Commission shall be liable for actual damages resulting therefrom, subject to the limitations of Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 466. Every person who claims damages shall serve the Chair or Secretary of the Commission with a notice of claim as required by Minnesota Statutes, Section 466.05. In accordance with Minnesota Statutes, Section 471.59, Subd. 1a(b) the Organization is considered a single governmental unit and the total liability for the Members and the Organization shall not exceed the limits on governmental liability for a single governmental unit as specified in Minnesota Statutes, Section 466.04, Subd. 1.

Subdivision 16: The Commission may vote to provide legal and technical assistance in connection with litigation or other proceedings between one or more of its Members and any other political subdivision, commission, board or agency relating to the planning or construction of capital improvement projects approved by the Organization.

Subdivision 17: The Commission shall at least every 2 years solicit interest proposals for professional or technical consultant services before retaining the services of a consultant or extending annual service agreements.

Subdivision 18: The Commission may designate one or more national or state bank or trust companies authorized by Chapters 118A or 427 of Minnesota Statutes to receive deposits of public monies to act as depositories for the Organization's funds. No funds may be disbursed without the signature of two officers. The Treasurer shall be required to file with the Secretary of the

Commission a bond in the sum of at least \$10,000 or such higher amount as shall be determined by the Commission. The Commission shall pay the premium on said bond.

Subdivision 19: The Commission may acquire real or personal property, conduct programs and projects, and exercise all other powers necessary and incidental to the implementation of the purposes and powers set forth herein and to carry out the obligation of a watershed management organization under the Act.

Subdivision 20: The Commission shall have the authority to adopt a budget, to decide on the total amount necessary to be raised from ad valorem taxes to meet the budget and to certify its budget to the county auditor of each county having territory within the watershed. Taxes may be levied for any purpose authorized by the Act in accordance with procedures specified in the Act, and subject only to the limitations set forth in the Act and this Agreement. The Commission shall also have the authority to certify for payment by the counties all or any part of the cost of a capital improvement contained in the capital improvement program of the Plan, in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, Section 103B.251.

## **Article V**

### **Budget and Financial Matters**

Subdivision 1: A proposed preliminary budget will be presented to the Commission at its July meeting. The Commission shall hold at least one public hearing on the proposed preliminary budget prior to adoption of the preliminary budget. At least 30 days' notice to Members and such other public notice as is directed by the Commission shall be given prior to the hearing. The Commission will hear all comments and objections to the proposed preliminary budget from any Member as well as comments from the public. The Commission may adopt the preliminary budget as proposed or modify or amend the preliminary budget. The Commission shall adopt a preliminary budget and a proposed tax levy for the ensuing year on or before September 15 of each year. The preliminary budget shall then be certified by the Executive Director of the Organization on or before September 15 to the clerk of each Member's Council and each of the County Auditors. The Commission shall adopt a final budget and certify a tax levy to the Counties by December 31 of each year.

Subdivision 2: The Commission has the duty to make a full and complete financial accounting report to each Member at least once annually. A certified public accountant shall perform the audit of the Organization. The report shall include the approved budget; a reporting of revenues; a reporting of expenditures; a financial audit report or section that includes a balance sheet; a classification of revenues and expenditures; an analysis of changes in final balances; and any additional statements considered necessary for full financial disclosure; and the status of all Organization's projects and work within the watershed; copies of said report shall be transmitted to the clerk, or appropriate staff member of each Member's Council.

Subdivision 3: Projects or other necessary expenditures that cannot be accomplished through the ad valorem tax levy shall be addressed by mutual agreement of the affected Members outside of this Agreement.

The Commission will endeavor to equitably apportion the expenditure of Commission funds for projects and programs among the Members' jurisdictions, giving due regard to the financial

contributions from tax levies within each Member's jurisdiction as well as the merit of each project and program according to criteria established in the Plan or approved by the Commission.

## **Article VI**

### **Capital Projects**

Subdivision 1: The Members recognize that on-going capital expenditures will be required to solve some of the water resource problems within the watershed. For the purposes of this Agreement, capital improvement projects are those determined necessary to implement the Organization's Capital Improvement Program.

Subdivision 2: Capital Projects will be financed over the entire watershed.

Subdivision 3: In order to finance an approved capital improvement project, the Commission may levy an ad valorem tax against the entire watershed.

Subdivision 4: Approval of capital improvement projects shall require a majority vote of the quorum present and other such bodies as required by law. Capital improvement projects shall be financed in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, Chapters 103B and 103D.

Subdivision 5: The Commission shall have the authority to prepare and adopt a Capital Improvement Program as defined in Minnesota Statutes, Section 103B.205 Subd. 3 as part of the Watershed Management Plan. The Capital Improvement Program shall set forth the schedule of capital projects identified in the Watershed Management Plan as well as designating Members for participation in each project and estimating the total costs for such projects. Projects not identified in the Watershed Management Plan shall not be included in the Capital Improvement Program until and unless the Watershed Management Plan is amended to include such projects. Implementation of the Capital Improvement Program will begin upon adoption of the Watershed Management Plan subject to the availability of funding.

Subdivision 6: All capital improvement projects need to be listed in the Watershed Management Plan.

Subdivision 7: Funding for any and all capital improvement projects may only occur if the project(s) is in the approved capital budget.

Subdivision 8: If a Member is responsible for the completion of a capital project, the Organization's approved share of the project cost coming from its tax levy will be reimbursed to the Member from actual tax revenues received in a manner agreed to. The Member being reimbursed for project costs by the Organization shall agree to be responsible for providing any requested documentation of costs requested by the Organization or its auditors.



## **Article VII**

### **Duration**

Each Member agrees to be bound by the terms of this Agreement until January 1, 2031, and it may be continued thereafter upon the agreement of all Members.

## **Article VIII**

### **Dissolution**

Any Member may petition the Commission to dissolve the Organization. Upon thirty days advance written notice to each Member, the Commission shall hold a hearing to consider dissolution of the Organization. If a majority of the Commission votes in favor of dissolution, the Commission shall submit a resolution for dissolution of the Organization for consideration by each Member's Council, the board of each affected County and the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources. Each governmental unit shall have 90 days in which to consider dissolution of the Organization. If, within 90 days of the date the notice was given, a majority of Members' Councils has ratified said resolution; then the Organization shall be dissolved and this Agreement shall be terminated.

Upon dissolution, the Organization shall complete all work in progress and dispose of all property. All property of the Organization shall be sold and the proceeds thereof, together with monies on hand, shall be distributed to the eligible Members of the Commission as follows: assets shall be apportioned and distributed in the percentage of the tax levy within the jurisdiction of each Member received by the Organization in the preceding full calendar year.

## **Article IX**

### **Amendments**

Any Member may recommend to the Commission amendments to this Agreement. Upon a majority vote, amendments to this Agreement shall be forwarded by the Commission to its Members' Councils. No amendment shall be effective until the amendment has been ratified by the Council of each Member. The effective date of any amendment shall be the date on which the last Member's Council ratifies the amendment and is filed with the Executive Director of the Organization.

## **Article X**

### **Effective Date**

This Agreement shall be adopted upon ratification by the Council of each Member and the execution of the Agreement by each Member. Upon voting to ratify the Agreement, the clerk of the Council of the ratifying Member shall file a certified copy of the resolution of the ratification with the Executive Director of the Commission. The effective date of the Agreement shall be the date on which the last Member to ratify files its resolution of ratification. Upon adoption of this Agreement, the Executive Director shall supply to each Member and the Board of Water and Soil Resources a copy of the Members' ratification resolutions and a copy of the signed Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned Members, by action of their Councils, have caused this agreement to be executed in accordance with the authority of Minnesota Statutes Sections 103B.211 and 471.59.

*City of Columbia Heights*

By: \_\_\_\_\_ Dated: \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_  
Gary Peterson, Mayor

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ Dated: \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_  
Patty Muscovitz, City Clerk

*City of Fridley*

By: \_\_\_\_\_ Dated: \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_  
Scott Lund, Mayor

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ Dated: \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_  
Debra Skogen, City Clerk

*City of Hilltop*

By: \_\_\_\_\_ Dated: \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_  
Jerry Murphy, Mayor

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ Dated: \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_  
Ruth Nelsen, City Clerk

*City of Lauderdale*

By: \_\_\_\_\_ Dated: \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_  
Jeffrey Dains, Mayor

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ Dated: \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_  
Heather Butkowski, City Administrator



*City of Minneapolis*

By: \_\_\_\_\_ Dated: \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_  
R.T. Rybak, Mayor

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ Dated: \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

Countersigned: \_\_\_\_\_ Dated: \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_  
Finance Officer

Approved as to Form

By: \_\_\_\_\_ Dated: \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_  
Assistant City Attorney

*City of St. Anthony Village*

By: \_\_\_\_\_ Dated: \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_\_  
Jerry Faust, Mayor

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ Dated: \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_\_  
Michael Mornson, City Manager

*City of Saint Paul*

By: \_\_\_\_\_ Dated: \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_  
Chris Coleman, Mayor

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ Dated: \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_  
Director of Finance and Management Service

Approved as to Form

By: \_\_\_\_\_ Dated: \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_  
Assistant City Attorney

***Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board***

By: \_\_\_\_\_ Dated: \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_  
John Irwin, President MPRB

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ Dated: \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_  
Don Siggelkow, Board Secretary

Approved as to Form, Legality, and Execution

By: \_\_\_\_\_ Dated: \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_  
MPRB Attorney

## **Appendix A: Legal Description**

# Appendix B: Mississippi Watershed Management Organization Map