

Summary of Information Submitted for MCWD Comprehensive Plan Update

The Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) is in the process of updating its Comprehensive Water Resources Management Plan. As required per MN Rules Chapter 8410, on April 23, 2015 the District requested information related to local water management issues, goals and priorities from the state agencies, cities, counties, and other stakeholders. The District received submittals from several cities and agencies, and a summary of the submittals is provided below. This information will be taken into consideration as the District works to develop its Plan. The full submittals can be viewed at <http://minnehahacreek.org/8410-submittals>.

City of Edina:

- Referred to links to the City's Comprehensive Water Resources Management Plan, recent major amendment that added the Lakes and Ponds Policy, and Wellhead Protection Plan.
- City staff is considering policy options in a few related areas:
 - Education and engagement partnership agreements with local WDs to meet MS4 requirements.
 - Residential redevelopment and the increasing imperviousness of the landscape that result
 - Aging infrastructure and sanitary infiltration and inflow
 - Floodplain risk management

City of Excelsior:

- Sent the City's updated stormwater ordinance (available at <http://minnehahacreek.org/8410-submittals>).

City of Independence:

- Local Water-Related Issues:
 - Impairments of Painter Creek for *E. coli* and Jennings Bay for nutrients.
- Water Management Goals:
 - Goal 1: Preserve, maintain and improve aesthetic, physical, chemical and biological composition of surface waters and groundwater within the City.
 - Goal 2: Achieve an annual load reduction of 79 pounds of phosphorus in the Painter Creek Watershed.
- Official Controls:
 - Require infiltration of 1.0" on new impervious surface on appropriate sites
 - Sediment and erosion control ordinance
 - Stream and wetland buffer requirements dependent on quality

- SWPPP requirements for development
- Street sweeping
- Annual SWPPP inspections on storm ponds and pollution control devices
- Programs:
 - Implement the Wetland Conservation Act
 - PUD allowances
 - Capital Improvement Program
 - Pursue grant opportunities when available

City of Medina:

- Local Water-Related Issues:
 - Nutrient impairments in several lakes;
 - High water conditions on Mooney and Wolsfeld lakes;
 - Possible erosion and instability in numerous channels.
- Water Management Goals:
 - Manage land disturbance and increased impervious surfaces to prevent flooding and adverse impacts to water resources.
 - Maintain existing runoff volumes so that runoff from development does not increase volume loading to wetlands, lakes and streams.
 - Control the rate of stormwater runoff from development to reduce downstream flooding and erosion and protect water resources.
 - Provide adequate storage and conveyance of runoff to protect the public safety and minimize property damage.
 - Reduce the nutrient and sediment loads over current conditions.
 - Prevent sediment from construction sites from entering the City's surface water resources.
 - Protect the City's wetlands, lakes, streams and groundwater to preserve the functions and values of these resources for future generations.
 - Protect and preserve wetlands to maintain or improve their function and value.
 - Manage lakes to improve water quality and protect resource values.
 - Improve water quality, provide wildlife habitat and protect the resource value of streams.
 - Address target pollutants identified in TMDL studies to improve the quality of impaired waters.
- Official Controls:
 - Manure ordinance in zoning code which provides BMPs for manure management and requires no net increase in runoff from the site and setback requirements
 - Require infiltration of 1.1" on new impervious surface on appropriate sites
 - Optional volume control with irrigation

- Stream and wetland buffer requirements dependent on quality
- SWPPP requirements for development
- Programs:
 - Stormwater Utility fee to fund projects related to water quality and quantity and active grant requests.
 - Stormwater Project Capital Improvement Program
 - Medina Stormwater Design Manual: new development requires rate and volume control as well as water quality standards (20% reduction from existing conditions)
 - Erosion and Sediment Control Program
 - Implement the Wetland Conservation Act

City of Minneapolis:

- Minneapolis would like to partner with MCWD and the other stakeholders on discussions of the following:
 - Flood control/Flood mitigation -- including the topics of public safety, implications for public and private property, implications for shoreline/bank destabilization, implications for water quality degradation, issues related to aging infrastructure, opportunities for upstream storage enhancements, cost-benefit analysis of viable alternatives, and minimizing recurrence to improve quality of life
 - Outfalls -- definition of roles and responsibilities, opportunities for outfall upgrades that benefit public safety, water quality, shoreline/bank stabilization, and cost-benefit of viable alternatives
 - Water quality -- especially on cost-benefit analysis of viable alternatives that address impaired waters, and on focusing projects/policies on actual benefit to the water body
 - Stream bank restoration projects – work with municipalities to review opportunities/issues related to structural integrity of bridges and other public infrastructure
 - TAC opportunity – discuss establishment of a permanent TAC consisting of representatives of the member municipalities, that would meet regularly to discuss selected MCWD initiatives and provide feedback/expertise/concerns from the municipal perspective
 - Modeling – continue sharing of data, models, floodplain modifications, capital project information and other relevant items that promote timely and accurate H&H and water quality models

City of Minnetonka:

- Sent City's 2010 Water Resources Management Plan (Goals and Policies), 2014 MS4 permit and TMDL compliance schedule, and 2010 Stormwater Management Design Guidelines and Standards document (available at <http://minnehahacreek.org/8410-submittals>).

City of Wayzata:

- City goals and priorities:
 - Continue to provide pertinent educational materials to the general public and contractors related to stormwater management.
 - Work with MCWD to create a "laundry list" of BMPs and their treatment value to assist developers/homeowners in site design.
 - Continue to look to retrofit stormwater management into its own Capital Improvement projects to meet City and District phosphorus removal goals.

City of Woodland:

- City priorities:
 - Protection of shoreline and maintaining high quality surface waters and groundwater
 - Coordination of AIS control
 - Stormwater management and pollution prevention
 - Wetland management and protection
 - Review and clarification of wetland rules for individual properties
 - Maintaining good communication between MCWD and City
 - Shavers Lake Restoration

Hennepin County, Environment and Energy Department:

- Sent County's draft Natural Resources Strategic Plan (available at <http://minnehahacreek.org/8410-submittals>).

Metropolitan Council Environmental Services:

- Include policies related to the protection of area water resources with the end goal of water sustainability, consistent with the Council's new policy plans.
- Include quantifiable and measurable goals and policies that address water quantity, water quality, recreation, fish and wildlife, enhancement of public participation, groundwater, wetlands, and erosion issues.

- Address the issues and problems in the watershed and include projects or actions and funding to address the issues and problems. At a minimum the watershed should address:
 - Any problems with lake and stream water quality and quantity including information on impaired waters in the watershed and the District's role in addressing the impairments,
 - Flooding issues in the watershed,
 - Storm water rate control issues in the watershed,
 - Impacts of water management on the recreation opportunities,
 - Impact of soil erosion problems on water quantity and quality,
 - The general impact of land use practices on water quantity and quality
 - Policies and strategies related to monitoring of area water resources
 - Policies and strategies related to use of best management practices
 - Issues concerning the interaction of surface water and groundwater in the watershed
 - A list of the requirements for local surface water management plans
 - Erosion and sediment control standards and requirements
 - Volume reduction goals at least as restrictive as requirements in the NPDES construction general permit, and,
 - Capital improvement plan with itemized list of actions, estimated costs, and timeline.

Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board:

- Goals for the future of the MCWD system and our local issues are:
 - Recovery from 2014 flood
 - Repair previously completed reach projects
 - Repair new erosion
 - Identify and rectify incipient problem areas
 - Progress on Impairments and TMDL projects
 - Phosphorus
 - Bacteria
 - Chloride
 - Biota
 - Preserve base flow to protect stream biota
 - Plan for future floods - Preserve flood storage
 - Trash reduction
 - Preserve historic elements, while naturalizing creek
 - Retain AIS focus
- Policy-related goals for the next-generation plan are:
 - To more closely align the MPRB CIP plan with the MCWD CIP plan, in order to more effectively partner on projects that meet our common goals.
 - To have MPRB area masterplans recognized in future MCWD planning processes.

- To balance recreational use and the historic landscape of the MPRB system with environmental issues and water quality improvements to the system.
- To address illicit discharge to receiving waters that occur across jurisdictional boundaries.
- That MCWD addresses mitigating flood issues that may be exacerbated by changing rainfall patterns.
- List of MPRB water-quality-related programs and activities that take place within MCWD boundaries:
 - Canines for Clean Water (address bacteria loading)
 - WQ education tabling at Neighborhood events (annual, number of sites varies)
 - Goose control (address bacteria loading)
 - Lake Monitoring Program (chemistry, aquatic plants, phytoplankton, zooplankton)
 - Beach Monitoring Program (11 MPRB beaches within MCWD boundaries)
 - Stormwater monitoring partnership with City of Minneapolis, two annually - monitored sites within MCWD
 - Xerxes Ave stream monitoring station (rating-curve creation, flow monitoring, flow-paced sampling)
 - Vegetation management (parkland, riparian, and shoreline)
 - Periodic training for MPRB staff (pesticide applicators license, chloride applicators certification, pertinent water quality training topics)
 - Aquatic Invasive Species early detection program, Boat inspection program, Education Program (in partnership with MCWD)
 - Groundwater level monitoring

MN Board of Water and Soil Resources:

- The Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) studies that have been completed should guide implementation planning.
- The Plan should include reference to the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area Chloride TMDL and incorporate elements of Chloride Management Plan.
- BWSR would like to see the Plan focus on addressing impaired waters in the upper watershed. Partnership with Hennepin County Dept. of Energy and Environment, Carver Soil & Water Conservation District, and University of Minnesota Extension is encouraged.
- The District should establish a policy on its approach to in-lake treatment systems.

MN Department of Agriculture:

- Referred to MDA website and handout “Drainage Recommendations for Local Water Management Plans” (noting that recommendations are intended more for outstate areas).
 - Consider developing a Comprehensive Drainage Management Plan

- Create a permanent Drainage Advisory Committee
- Develop a system-wide inventory of culverts and open tiles
- Establish drainage co-efficients based on engineering data
- Encourage development and implementation of Drainage Water Management Plans
- Consider demonstration sites for drainage BMPs
- Consider both short- and long-term storage

MN Department of Natural Resources:

- DNR priority issues:
 - Integrated water resource management - focus on achieving healthy watersheds through a “whole-system” approach that considers hydrology, biology, connectivity, geomorphology and water quality.
 - Groundwater sustainability - would like to see the District play a stronger role in promoting groundwater use conservation.
 - Aquatic invasive species - encourage the District to continue its leadership role in this area.
 - Governor’s buffer initiative - consider what role the District could play in implementation of the new “Governors Buffer Initiative”.
 - Stream and lake bank stabilization and restoration - encourages MCWD to consider stream dynamics when planning stream stabilization or restoration projects.
 - Consideration of plant communities, rare species, and special features - recommends using assessment data relating to special natural resource features when completing long-range watershed planning efforts.