

1 **DRAFT**

2 **MINUTES OF THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

3
4
5 **June 22nd, 2016**

6
7 **CALL TO ORDER**

8
9 Ms. Christopher called the Committee to order at 1:00 p.m. at the District Offices,

10
11 15320 Minnetonka Blvd

12 Minnetonka, MN 55345

13
14 **COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

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16 Terry Jeffery, Ross Bintner, Jessica Vanderwerff Wilson, Nate Stanley, Liz Stout, Tom Dietrich,
17 Derek Asche, Erick Francis, Mike Kelly, Mike Wanous, Randy Anhorn, Steve Christopher,
18 Jason Spiegel, Rachael Crabb, Chris Zadak, and Rich Brasch.

19
20 **OTHERS PRESENT**

21
22 Becky Christopher, Lead Planner & Project Manager; and Matthew Cook, Planning Assistant.

23
24 **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

25
26 The agenda was approved without amendment.

27
28 **COMMITTEE MEETING**

29
30 Ms. Christopher stated that District staff would transition to drafting the 2017 Comprehensive
31 Plan soon, so any future meetings of the Committee to review Plan drafts would be scheduled as
32 needed.

33
34 Ms. Christopher stated that the District seeks the Committee's input on which new roles (if any)
35 the District should undertake concerning natural resource management. She noted that any new
36 roles identified by the Committee that are incorporated into the Plan may not be operationalized
37 immediately upon adoption of the Plan. Ms. Christopher added that potential roles for the
38 District that she would lay out had not yet been vetted by the Board.

39
40 **Long-term Maintenance of Best Management Practices (BMPs)**

41
42 Ms. Christopher stated that across the watershed, there are many old stormwater ponds and other
43 BMPs that are not being inspected or maintained. She noted that currently, the District maintains
44 District-owned BMPs, requires BMPs and declarations through rules, inspects BMPs, and leads
45 education efforts on BMP maintenance. Ms. Christopher stated that the District could expand its

46 inspection and enforcement initiatives, expand its education programming, or develop a
47 programmatic approach to address BMPs that are not being maintained.

48
49 Ms. Wilson expressed her support for the District leading the development of a maintenance
50 program for unmaintained BMPs.

51
52 Mr. Zadak stated that the ecological conditions around a stormwater pond heavily impact the
53 functionality of the stormwater pond. He recommended that the District explore research
54 opportunities to determine the effect of certain ecological factors on stormwater ponds. Ms.
55 Christopher noted that the District could potentially pursue such research through the Joint
56 Watershed Research Grant (JWRG).

57
58 Mr. Dietrich stated that while developing a stormwater BMP inventory and maintenance
59 schedule would be an expensive task, he underscored that it was a worthwhile undertaking.

60
61 Mr. Kelly noted that installing pre-treatment facilities that intercept water bound for a
62 stormwater pond could simplify BMP maintenance.

63
64 Mr. Anhorn asked whether or not city governments currently explore the possibility of reducing
65 stormwater utility fees for sites with stormwater treatment facilities. A number of the Committee
66 members confirmed that their cities have such incentives. Mr. Anhorn suggested that the District
67 gather information regarding cities' incentives programs concerning stormwater utilities.

68
69 Wetland Banking

70
71 Ms. Christopher stated that there are currently no wetland banks in the District, and that
72 developers do not want to take on the associated risks. She noted that the District's rules allow
73 for the District to own and operate a wetland credit bank. Ms. Christopher presented a map of the
74 Mader wetland bank, which was being developed by a permit applicant in cooperation with the
75 District.

76
77 Ms. Christopher stated that, moving forward, the District could consider establishing its own
78 wetland banks and promoting the creation of private wetland banks, as done with the Mader
79 wetland bank.

80
81 Mr. Bintner suggested that the District promote wetland restorations that increase the wetland's
82 volume, so it may store more stormwater. Mr. Spiegel noted that the USACE is not interested in
83 exchanging impact to shallow wetlands for the purchase of credits from deep wetland banks.

84
85 Chloride Management

86
87 Ms. Christopher stated that the EPA had recently approved new TMDLs for chlorides. She
88 explained that currently, the District focuses on monitoring, education, and training efforts
89 concerning chloride management. Ms. Christopher suggested that the District could consider
90 expanding its role to include the following:

- 91
92 • Targeted outreach events
93 • Research
94 • Supporting relevant legislation (such as limiting liability of salt applicators)
95 • Offering cost share funding for salt application equipment upgrades and innovative
96 practices
97

98 Ms. Wilson underscored that the District should target private sector salt applicators to change
99 chloride impact to waterbodies. Mr. Asche suggested that the District support legislation that
100 would limit the liability of private applicators who apply reduced amounts of salt to roadways
101 and parking lots. Regarding the state legislation that Mr. Asche was referring to, Mr. Zadak
102 noted that both bills did not reach committee, and that future efforts would need more
103 coordinated support. He recommended that the District work with the Minnesota Cities
104 Stormwater Coalition (MCSC), a service of the League of Minnesota Cities (LMC).
105

106 Mr. Bintner stated that the District may find success in partnering with Master Water Stewards to
107 implement a grassroots, door-to-door campaign to build awareness of and support for future
108 legislation concerning limited liability for private salt applicators.
109

110 Mr. Jeffery noted that the City of Chanhassen received cost-share funds from Riley-Purgatory
111 Bluff Creek Watershed District (RPBCWD) to upgrade the city's snow plows with improved salt
112 application devices. He expressed his support for the District offering similar grants to its cities.
113

114 Bacteria Management

115

116 Ms. Christopher stated that TMDLs for bacteria currently indicate pet waste, wild animal waste,
117 and septic system / sanitary sewer seepage as main contributors to bacteria impairments to
118 waterbodies.
119

120 Ms. Christopher noted that the District currently monitors for bacteria in waterbodies and
121 performs education and outreach surrounding pet and wild animal waste management. She added
122 that the District includes promotes installation of infiltration and filtration BMPs through capital
123 projects, cost share grants, and permitting rules. Ms. Christopher stated that the District could
124 increase its role in research regarding bacteria management.
125

126 Ms. Stout stated that the City of Minneapolis saw management of harmful bacteria as a priority.
127 She noted that the city would be undertaking a study of harmful bacteria present in the
128 Minnehaha Creek, and was considering developing source identification capacities to aid in
129 enforcement efforts concerning proper bacteria management.
130

131 Ms. Wilson encouraged the District to prioritize source monitoring and outcome monitoring for
132 bacteria management initiatives.
133

134 Climate Change Adaptation

135

136 Ms. Christopher stated that the District currently encourages and implements water quantity
137 management across the watershed through education efforts, capital projects, and permit
138 requirements. She explained that the District also offers technical assistance and baseline
139 modeling to inform city flood management planning. Ms. Christopher noted that the District
140 recently coordinated with the NOAA on the Stormwater Adaptation Study of the watershed.

141
142 Mr. Dietrich noted that the District should use the Atlas-14 model as an educational tool to show
143 communities in the watershed that areas considered upland can become floodplain, given the
144 right series of rain events.

145
146 Mr. Bintner suggested that the District update its own model to the Atlas-14 model if it has not
147 already done so. He stressed that climate change adaptation – especially preparation for
148 increased flooding – ought to be of the priority for municipalities.

149
150 Mr. Anhorn underscored the notable difference between the current FEMA model and the Atlas-
151 14 model, and encouraged the District to adopt the Atlas-14 model. He noted that RPBCWD has
152 already updated its model using Atlas-14 information.

153
154 Ms. Christopher noted that the District did not currently have plans to update its floodplain
155 model.

156
157 Aquatic Invasive Species

158
159 Ms. Christopher stated that the District currently fills many roles concerning AIS management:

- 160
161 • Monitoring
162 • Research
163 • Prevention and management
164 • Education and outreach
165 • Lobbying

166
167 Ms. Christopher noted that the District would be discontinuing some prevention efforts due to
168 lack of partner interest. She added that the District will focus on monitoring, education, and
169 research efforts moving forward.

170
171 Mr. Asche stated that he saw lake associations as the appropriate entities to implement local AIS
172 management, not the District. He suggested that District staff could help the lake associations
173 plan their management actions. Ms. Wilson concurred.

174
175 Ms. Christopher explained that the District's AIS program is now mostly focused on monitoring
176 efforts.

177
178 Ms. Crabb noted the importance of technical and financial support the District currently
179 provides.

180

181 Ms. Wilson stated that the District and cities should coordinate messaging to the public and to
182 lake associations.

183

184 Groundwater

185

186 Ms. Christopher stated that the District is currently involved in managing the interaction between
187 groundwater aquifers and surface water bodies. She explained that the District's role largely
188 comprises of implementing and promoting infiltration, where possible.

189

190 Mr. Asche stated that the City of Plymouth is offering rebates – funded by grants from the
191 Metropolitan Council – to landowners who reduce water usage. He added that the rebate
192 program was working well. A number of Committee members noted that nearby cities were
193 employing similar incentives to reduce water usage.

194

195 Mr. Asche stated that irrigation technology has advanced significantly. He explained that many
196 landowners use “smart” controllers that alter the amount of water used for irrigation based on
197 forecasted precipitation, and the water savings are notable.

198

199 Mr. Anhorn stated that Hennepin County was interested in working with other agencies on
200 educational efforts concerning sustainable groundwater use.

201

202 Ms. Wilson suggested that the District coordinate with cities to make sure rules promoting or
203 requiring stormwater infiltration adhere to wellhead protection areas. Mr. Bintner recommended
204 that the District double-check for any relevant restrictions made by the Minnesota Department of
205 Health.

206

207 Agriculture and the State Buffer Law

208

209 Ms. Christopher stated that the District does not currently play a notable role in managing
210 agricultural land. She noted that the District used to offer grants – in partnership with the NRCS
211 – for BMPs to manage agricultural runoff, as well as habitat restoration grants.

212

213 Concerning the state buffer law, Ms. Christopher stated that the law targets cropland and open
214 soils. She explained that because any perennial groundcover – including conventional turf grass
215 – meets the requirement of the law, much of the District will not be affected by the law. Ms.
216 Christopher noted that the District could opt to pursue an enforcement role regarding the buffer
217 law, but would likely offer technical assistance, where applicable, instead.

218

219 Ms. Christopher offered that the District could coordinate discussions on what exactly comprises
220 an “exempt” area.

221

222 Next Steps

223

224 Ms. Christopher encouraged the Committee members to fill out the survey distributed at the
225 meeting if they had any additional feedback for the District to consider. She stated that the

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Minnehaha Creek Watershed District
06-22-16

226 District had begun drafting sections of the 2017 Comprehensive Plan, and would schedule
227 additional meetings of the Committee as needed for review of draft materials.

228

229 The Committee meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

230

231 Respectfully submitted,

232

233 Matthew Cook

234 Planning Assistant

DRAFT