



Title: MCWD Climate Conversations – Kick-Off

Prepared by: Name: Tiffany Schaufler
Phone: 952-641-4513
tschaufler@minnehahacreek.org

Purpose:

To provide background information on the climate conversations that are planned to occur with the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) throughout the first half of 2020, and provide foundational information on precipitation and hydrology trends.

Background:

MCWD recognizes that precipitation patterns within the District, the region, and the state are changing based on the District's review of state and federal reports on precipitation patterns and its own data collection.

As a leader in watershed management, the operator of Gray's Bay Dam, and an agency responsible for a significant number of natural resources across a diverse landscape, communities within the watershed are looking to the District for clarification on its role in climate adaptation.

The District currently implements programming that stewards water management in a variety of ways. From permitting the water resource impacts related to land use change, to constructing capital improvements that manage the rate and volume of water, to monitoring conditions across the watershed and conducting outreach to inform and educate stakeholders.

However, the District recognizes that climate change will require us to thoughtfully and strategically evaluate our current programming to ensure that it evolves in the face of a changing climate. Therefore, to ensure the District remains focused on our strategic priorities and continues to add value to our communities, we recognize the need to explore how our programming and policies may need to adjust and align to address the impacts of a changing climate.

Therefore, as part of the CAC meetings planned for the first half of 2020, the CAC will explore the District's programming and policies and discuss what may need to be adjusted or realigned in light of changing climatic conditions and precipitation patterns. Between March and August, the CAC will engage in a series of discussions, exploring:

- Climate science
- Governance
- Existing MCWD programming
- Potential change to MCWD programming

These CAC discussions, along with similar Board Planning and Policy Committee discussions in May, June and July, will help define the District's role in climate adaptation.

United States National Climate Assessment

In 2014, the National Climate Assessment (<https://nca2014.globalchange.gov/>) summarized the impacts of climate change on the United States, now and in the future. This report was produced by a team of more than 300 experts guided by a 60-member Federal Advisory Committee and was extensively reviewed by the public and the experts, including federal agencies and a panel of the National Academy of Sciences, and provides a good foundational background on the science behind climate change.

Through this link you can explore how climate change is affecting the Midwest Region:

<https://nca2014.globalchange.gov/report/regions/midwest#intro-section-2>

Through this link you can explore how climate change impacts are affecting water resources:

<https://nca2014.globalchange.gov/report/sectors/water>

Summary:

At the beginning of the March 3 meeting, staff will outline the purpose and desired outcomes for these climate conversations with the CAC. Staff will then turn the discussion over to Kenny Blumenfeld, a Senior Climatologist with the Minnesota DNR's State Climatology Office, who will provide an overview on the hydroclimatic conditions and changes that have occurred throughout the Twin Cities.