



**Title:** Lake Nokomis Area Groundwater and Surface Water Evaluation Briefing

**Prepared by:** Name: Tiffany Schaufler  
Phone: 952-641-4513  
Email: [tschaufler@minnehahacreek.org](mailto:tschaufler@minnehahacreek.org)

**Purpose:**

At the December 8, 2021 meeting of the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), staff will brief the CAC on the Lake Nokomis groundwater and surface water evaluation, identify how this evaluation has helped to inform MCWD's draft Climate Action Framework, and provide an update on a Board discussion regarding the draft Climate Action Framework that the CAC helped to develop.

**Background:**

Since November 2017, the District has been participating in an evaluation to understand water concerns that arose for South Minneapolis residents near Solomon Park and Lake Nokomis, and their impact on public and private infrastructure as well as residential structures. In response to these water concerns, the City of Minneapolis assembled a multi-agency team ("Team") because surface water and groundwater management fall under several jurisdictions. Staff from the U.S. Geological Survey, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Hennepin County, MCWD, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, and the City of Minneapolis came together to evaluate and understand what could be contributing to the water concerns and help identify actions to mitigate impacts for homeowners and community leaders.

Over the past four years these agencies have collectively reviewed over 70 studies and resources, invested over \$140,000 to install six new groundwater wells, held over 20 multi-agency team meetings, participated in five meetings with policy makers and members of the public, and created a webpage to summarize the ongoing evaluation. After concluding their study, the Team recommended preparation of a white paper to document the evaluation, findings, next steps, and recommendations into one comprehensive document. Given the District's expertise in watershed science, the District took a lead role to synthesize the work of the Team into a white paper. The white paper synthesis is now complete and has been reviewed by the Team.

**CAC meeting focus and next steps:**

At the May 13, 2021 MCWD Operations & Programs Committee meeting, District staff provided the Board a briefing on the Lake Nokomis area evaluation and identified how it helped to inform MCWD's draft Climate Action Framework. At the December 2, 2021 MCWD Operations & Programs Committee meeting, District staff facilitated a focused discussion with the Board on MCWD's draft Climate Action Framework.

At the December 8, 2021 CAC meeting, staff will:

- Provide the CAC a presentation on the Lake Nokomis area evaluation
- Summarize how the Lake Nokomis area evaluation helped to inform MCWD's draft Climate Action Framework
- Provide an update on the Board's December 2, 2021 discussion on MCWD's draft Climate Action Framework