



Title: Public Hearing for the Morningside Stormwater Improvement Project

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Purpose:

A public hearing will be held at the February 13, 2025 Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (District or MCWD) Board Meeting to obtain public input on the proposed Morningside Stormwater Improvement Project (Project).

Background:

In January 2024, the MCWD launched the new [Land and Water Partnership \(LWP\) program](#) to provide technical and financial resources to support partner-led projects that provide significant, regional water resource benefit. Under the new LWP program, a partnership opportunity was identified through coordination with the City of Medina (City), and the City submitted a request for funding support for the Project.

The Project includes stabilizing three eroding ravines and constructing a stormwater pond in order to reduce total phosphorous loads by 36 pounds per year to Lake Katrina, a wetland that drains to impaired Jennings Bay of Lake Minnetonka. The project is estimated to cost \$629,000. The Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) has awarded \$243,200 in Watershed-Based Implementation Funding (WBIF), and the City has committed \$180,000 for the project. The City has requested \$200,000 in LWP funding to cover the remaining costs.

MCWD staff see value in this partnership and the proposed Project as it provides a significant amount of regional treatment in one of the District's focal geographies, and demonstrates the value of collaboration to develop the best design for a project site to achieve multiple goals. MCWD staff recommend providing funding support, and on January 23, 2025, the MCWD Board of Managers directed a Public Hearing to consider ordering the Project.

Summary:

Public Hearing

In accordance with Minnesota Statutes §103B.251, before entering into a commitment to incur project costs for capital project construction, the Board of Managers must hold a public hearing and order the project on the basis of a finding that the project will advance the District's water resource goals and should proceed. The public hearing for the Project has been duly noticed for February 13, 2025. Subject to the public hearing, staff will recommend that the Board formally order the project and, on doing so, authorize the Administrator to execute a funding agreement, and authorize an amendment to the 2025 budget in order to provide funding for the Project (packet item 11.1).

Additional Project information can be viewed on the MCWD website at:

[Morningside Stormwater Improvement Project - Minnehaha Creek Watershed District \(MCWD\)](#)

If there are questions in advance of the meeting, please contact: Rebecca Neal at 952-641-4507 or rneal@minnehahacreek.org.