



Title: Annual Coordination Meeting Updates

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Purpose:

At the December 1, 2025, Operations and Programs Committee (OPC) meeting, staff will brief the Board of Managers on Annual Coordination Meetings conducted with public partners this year, including key feedback informing the 2027 Watershed Management Plan engagement process, as well as potential LWP project opportunities.

Background:

Since what happens on the land is the primary driver of the health of our natural resources, MCWD's Balanced Urban Ecology Policy (BUE Policy) recognizes that the District can deliver the most value to its communities by working in partnership with those who change the landscape. The LWP program is designed to identify opportunities for integrating land use and water planning and to develop collaborative projects that provide greater water resources and community benefit. The goals of this program are to:

- Increase early coordination and integration of land use and water planning;
- Leverage opportunities created through land use change to improve water resources; and
- Provide service and value to communities across the watershed.

Annual Coordination Meetings support the LWP program's goals, by creating space for MCWD and our public partners to build understanding of respective planning processes; exchange updates on current priorities, upcoming capital projects, and anticipated (re)development; strengthen relationships; and identify opportunities to improve coordination. In addition, MCWD has used annual meetings this year to test early messaging of the 2027 Watershed Management Plan and gather input to inform the Plan's focus and upcoming engagement process.

At the [September 11, 2025 OPC](#) meeting, staff provided a midpoint update on key takeaways learned from the Annual Coordination Meetings that had been conducted at that time. Having since completed the full cycle of Annual Meetings for this year, staff will provide a full synthesis of public partner feedback, priorities, and how these perspectives are informing the 2027 Plan's upcoming engagement process.

Summary:

Since July, MCWD has conducted meetings with the majority of the District's 29 communities, Hennepin and Carver counties, as well as the Minnesota Department of Transportation and Three Rivers Park District. These conversations reaffirmed strong support for an integrated planning approach while highlighting several insights for the 2027 Plan update, including the need to broaden the focus beyond flood adaptation, account for differences across communities, and reinforce MCWD's collaborative, partnership-based approach.

In addition, partners expressed support for MCWD involvement at both project and policy-level planning through the LWP Program. Cities shared many potential LWP opportunities that align partner and MCWD goals. In the lower watershed, these opportunities include park improvements, regional stormwater facilities tied to upcoming roadwork, and coordination on large redevelopment sites. Around Lake Minnetonka, city-wide assessments for prioritizing water resource opportunities as well as collaborative planning for redevelopment in more built out cities were highlighted as

potential areas of partnership. In the western watershed, cities expressed interest in collaborating on long-range planning, coordination on large private tracts being positioned for development, as well as wetland restoration.

The 2025 Annual Coordination Meetings provided a diverse snapshot of partnership opportunities that District staff and partners are well-positioned to collaboratively develop in the coming months. In addition, partner perspectives on water resource challenges and coordination improvements are shaping the next wave of LWP program improvements as part of the 2027 Plan update. As outlined at the November 20, 2025 PPC meeting, staff are developing a suite of resources to promote integrated land use and water resource planning, including coordination best practices, land use policy tools, and an interactive map for sharing data and identifying opportunities.