



**MINNEHAHA CREEK**  
**WATERSHED DISTRICT**  
QUALITY OF WATER, QUALITY OF LIFE

**Meeting:** Board of Managers

**Meeting date:** 11/20/2025

**Agenda Item #:** 7.1

**Action type:** Consent

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**Title:** Authorization to Apply for MPCA Stormwater, Wastewater, and Community Resilience Planning Grant and BWSR Water Quality and Storage Grant

**Resolution number:** 25-067

**Prepared by:** Name: Kate Moran  
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**Recommend action:** Authorize staff to apply for MPCA and BWSR Grants

**Past Board action:** Resolution #22-084 Adoption of MCWD's Climate Action Framework  
Resolution #24-012 Awarding Contract for 2D Watershed Model for Climate Planning  
Resolution #24-069 Authorization to Initiate Stakeholder Engagement for the 2027 Plan  
Resolution #25-052 Authorization to Release Request for Proposals for Watershed Management Plan Support

**Summary:**

The Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) recognizes that changing precipitation patterns are already affecting Minnesota's water resources and that these impacts will intensify in coming decades. To advance MCWD's Balanced Urban Ecology (BUE) vision, MCWD is proactively developing strategies to increase watershed resilience.

Climate Action Framework and 2027 Watershed Management Plan

In December 2022, the Board adopted MCWD's [Climate Action Framework](#) (CAF), which outlines the District's approach for preparing the watershed for a changing climate and guiding priorities leading into the 2027 Watershed Management Plan (Plan). The CAF is built on three pillars: (1) understand and predict climate vulnerabilities through improved data and modeling; (2) convene and plan with partners to develop a coordinated, regional flood management strategy; and (3) implement, measure, and adapt high-impact projects and policies that deliver regional benefit.

At the [December 19, 2024](#) Board meeting, the Board adopted the 2027 Plan Framework and engagement approach. A major focus of the Plan, as well as a key action under the CAF's Convene and Plan pillar, is development of a watershed-wide flood management strategy. Using the 2D model, MCWD and its partners will explore climate scenarios, assess flood vulnerabilities, and identify potential storage needs and opportunities based on watershed hydrology, land use, and partner priorities.

MPCA Stormwater, Wastewater, and Community Resilience Planning Grant

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) offers a [Stormwater, Wastewater, and Community Resilience Planning Grant](#) to help communities assess climate vulnerabilities and plan for adaptation. Eligible activities include assessing stormwater resilience, reducing localized flood risk, and conducting engagement to support community adaptation, all of which directly align with MCWD's flood risk assessment and Plan engagement process. If awarded, funds would be available through June 30, 2027.

BWSR Water Quality and Storage Grant

The Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) has a [Water Quality and Storage Grant](#) program that provides financial assistance to model, design, and construct projects and practices that will control water volume and rates to protect infrastructure, improve water quality, and mitigate climate change impacts. This program purpose aligns well with the MCWD's effort and could be used to support identification of potential storage locations and conceptual design of

projects to understand the potential flood mitigation and water quality benefits. If awarded, MCWD would have until the end of 2028 to use these funds.

Request for Authorization to Apply to Grants

Staff seeks authorization from the Board to apply for the following grants:

- MPCA Stormwater, Wastewater, and Community Resilience Planning Grant (due by December 11, 2025)
- BWSR Water Quality and Storage Grant (due December 23, 2025)

These grants would support MCWD's efforts to assess current and future flood vulnerabilities, evaluate storage opportunities, and engage partners in developing a regional flood risk management strategy. Upon Board approval, staff will prepare the applications and request letters of support from key partners.



## RESOLUTION

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**Resolution number:** 25-067

**Title:** Authorization to Apply for MPCA Stormwater, Wastewater, and Community Resilience Planning Grant and BWSR Water Quality and Storage Grant

- WHEREAS, the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District ("MCWD or District") is already experiencing the impacts of climate change, including localized and regional flooding, and recognizes the need for a comprehensive strategy to improve watershed resilience;
- WHEREAS, in December 2022, the Board adopted a Climate Action Framework (CAF) that provides a roadmap for enhancing the District's understanding of climate vulnerabilities, engaging partners, and developing a coordinated flood management strategy to be memorialized in the 2027 Watershed Management Plan ("Plan");
- WHEREAS, to support this strategy, the District is developing a watershed-wide 2D model to understand vulnerabilities, forecast scenarios, evaluate management strategies, and support decisions surrounding adaption options;
- WHEREAS, in December 2025, the Board adopted the 2027 Plan Framework and authorized staff to initiate the stakeholder engagement process, which will focus on developing an integrated, regional flood risk management strategy;
- WHEREAS, this engagement process will include identifying priority areas where storage is needed as well as areas of opportunity based on how water moves through the system, current and future land use, and partner input;
- WHEREAS, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency ("MPCA") administers a Stormwater, Wastewater, and Community Resilience Planning Grant to help communities assess vulnerabilities and plan for climate adaption, including stormwater resilience, flood risk reduction, and community engagement;
- WHEREAS, the Board of Water and Soil Resources ("BWSR") offers a Water Quality and Storage Grant program that provides financial assistance to model, design, and/or construct projects that control water volume and rates, protect infrastructure, improve water quality, and mitigate climate impacts;
- WHEREAS, these grants align with the District's efforts and could support the work to assess flood vulnerabilities, community engagement with partners, identify storage and water quality opportunities, and develop conceptual designs of potential projects;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers authorizes the District Administrator to prepare and submit grant applications to the MPCA Stormwater, Wastewater, and Community Resilience Planning Grant program and BWSR Water Quality and Storage Grant program.

Resolution Number 25-067 was moved by Manager \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by Manager \_\_\_\_\_.  
Motion to adopt the resolution \_\_\_ ayes, \_\_\_ nays, \_\_\_ abstentions. Date: 11/20/2025

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Secretary Date: \_\_\_\_\_