



**RFP Informational Meeting
Consulting Services for the 2027 Watershed Management Plan
October 13, 2025
Questions and Responses**

The Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (District) issued a request for proposals (RFP) for consultant support for the development of its 2027 Watershed Management Plan. An informational meeting was held on October 13, 2025 to provide additional context and answer questions. Below is a list of all the questions received and the District's responses.

Project Scope and Requirements

1. Is plan writing part of the scope?
 - a. No, it is not part of this scope. There may be a separate RFP in 2026 for support with plan writing and graphics.
2. What is the deliverable?
 - a. Overall, the consultant will provide technical, engagement, and communications support for its stakeholder engagement process to inform the development of the 2027 Watershed Management Plan. Project objectives and specific deliverables for each work area are outlined in the RFP.
3. Is StormWise experience required?
 - a. Past StormWise experience is preferred but not required. Proposals should demonstrate how the firm would address this need, such as by acquiring a license and training or subbing out those elements of the work.
4. Is consultant attendance at stakeholder meetings expected to be in person or will there be potential for virtual participation (e.g. for team members out of state)?
 - a. The District is currently planning for stakeholder meetings to be held in person but may consider remote options depending on the meeting format and logistics (e.g. facilitating breakout groups). In-person participation of the consultant is preferred, but hybrid participation for team members that are out of state could be considered.

We collaborate with public and private partners to protect and improve land and water for current and future generations.



Modeling

5. Will the model be made available for review during the proposal phase of this project?
 - a. No, the model is still in the final stages of development and is expected to be completed in December.
6. Is the model calibrated?
 - a. Calibration is not yet complete but will be done as part of the model build.
7. Is modeling of current flood extents being done as part of the model build?
 - a. The model build process will involve some modeling of historic flood events and current storm events for validation purposes, but it will not include the assessment or mapping of flood impacts that are part of the RFP.

Engagement

8. What have we learned from engagement and relationship building in the focal geographies of Minnehaha Creek and Six Mile Creek subwatersheds that can inform engagement with other communities? What relationships or insights do we want to carry forward into this engagement process?
 - a. The District has worked to develop strong relationships across all of its cities, with the Project Planning team focused on capital project planning in the focal geographies and the Policy Planning team focused on identifying and supporting project opportunities through the Land & Water Partnership program. In both cases, the District emphasizes understanding city goals, plans, and priorities and finding ways that water resource improvements can be integrated to achieve mutual goals. One example is the annual meetings that are currently being held with each city, both to introduce the 2027 Plan scope and process, and to learn about local plans and discuss partnership opportunities.
9. What has MCWD been hearing from cities during the annual meetings?
 - a. One of the main takeaways from the city meetings so far is that flooding is much less of a concern or priority in the upper watershed, with these cities experiencing primarily just “nuisance” flooding. The more significant flood impacts (e.g. residential structures at risk) appear to be confined to the lower watershed (i.e. Minnehaha Creek subwatershed). This feedback is informing design of the engagement process and the balance of time spent meeting as a full group vs. in subwatershed groups to ensure that discussions are focused on locally relevant issues and strategies while also building a shared watershed-wide understanding.

We collaborate with public and private partners to protect and improve land and water for current and future generations.



10. Will other community concerns besides flooding be part of the discussion and plan focus?
 - a. Yes, the engagement process will not focus solely on flood management, but will explore how flood management and water quality improvements can be integrated with local land use plans and priorities to achieve both regional water resource goals and local land use goals.
11. Are all of the communities on board for discussing the impacts of flooding and climate change?
 - a. Based on conversations to date with city staff, no concerns have been flagged regarding this topic. Many of the District's member cities have their own climate plans and frameworks focused on greenhouse gas mitigation and adaptation. Based on the District's role as a water resource agency, MCWD plans to focus on building resilience to flooding and extreme weather, but recognizes communities may be interested in other impacts of climate change. To ensure this focus resonates across communities, the District will rely on observed precipitation data and trends to build resilience to flooding that we have already experienced in recent history, as well as explore how this may change in the future.
12. Has MCWD engaged residents to learn about flood impacts that the cities might not be tracking?
 - a. MCWD has not yet begun any resident engagement for the Plan, and staff are currently in the process of scoping a resident engagement strategy. This is an area where MCWD plans to seek the advice of the consultant team and draw from other District advisors.

We collaborate with public and private partners to protect and improve land and water for current and future generations.