



Title:	Appointment of Technical and Policy Advisory Committees for the 2027 Watershed Management Plan	
Resolution number:	26-026	
Prepared by:	Name: Becky Christopher Phone: 952-641-4512 bchristopher@minnehahacreek.org	
Reviewed by:	N/A	
Recommended action:	Appointment of members to serve on the Technical Advisory Committee and Policy Advisory Committee for the 2027 Watershed Management Plan	
Schedule:	April 2026-December 2027: Advisory Committee Meetings	
Budget considerations:	N/A	
Past Board action:	Res # 24-069	Title: Authorization to Initiate Stakeholder Engagement for the 2027 Watershed Management Plan
	Res # 25-072	Title: Awarding Contract for Watershed Management Plan Support

Summary:

Under Minnesota Rules Chapter 8410, the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) is required to revise its Watershed Management Plan every ten years and must establish an advisory committee, committees, or other means of public and technical participation for the purpose of making recommendations on its Watershed Management Plan.

In [December 2024](#), the Board adopted the 2027 Plan Framework, which carries forward MCWD's Balanced Urban Ecology (BUE) vision and focus on integrated planning and partnership. The scope of work for the 2027 Plan is organized around four areas:

- *Subwatershed Planning*: developing tailored, actionable implementation plans for each subwatershed
- *Land and Water Partnership*: creating policy tools and best practices to support integrated planning
- *Flood Management Strategy*: assessing flood risk and mitigation strategies to establish a regional framework
- *Metrics of Success*: building an evaluation framework to measure and communicate progress

The 2027 Plan will be developed through a multi-year, collaborative process led by MCWD staff and supported by a consultant team that will provide additional capacity and expertise for both the technical and engagement work. For its advisory committees, MCWD will utilize its existing Citizen Advisory Committee and establish both a Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). The MCWD will convene the PAC, TAC, and subwatershed planning groups over the course of 2026-2027 to bring together regional and local perspectives across the watershed to inform plan development, improve integration, and strengthen relationships.

Interest in serving on the advisory committees was solicited through the kickoff mailing, the January kickoff event, and follow-up email requests. Below is a summary of the intended audience and expected time commitment for each committee:

Policy Advisory Committee:

- Council members, board members, and administrators from municipalities, counties, park and conservation districts, and plan review agencies
- 5-6 meetings total over next 2 years, scheduled around members' availability

Technical Advisory Committee:

- Planning, engineering, natural resources, public works, and community development staff from municipalities, counties, park and conservation districts, and plan review agencies
- 7-8 meetings total over next 2 years, scheduled around members' availability

There are 14 individuals who expressed interest in serving on the PAC and 27 for the TAC. Across the two groups, there is a strong mix of geographic representation, organization types, and roles. Staff is recommending appointment of all those who have expressed interest, as listed in the tables below.

For organizations that had more than one person interested, one has been designated as the primary representative with others proposed to serve as alternates. Alternates will receive all the committee materials and are welcome to attend the meetings and provide input. If other cities or organizations express interest in joining a committee at a later date, staff may request appointment of additional members at a subsequent Board meeting.

Policy Advisory Committee

Organization	Primary Representative	Alternate
City of Edina	James Hovland, Mayor	
City of Independence	Joe Baker, Mayor's delegate	
City of Minneapolis	Jamison Whiting, Council Member	
City of Minnetrista	Lisa Whalen, Mayor	Jasper Kruggel, Administrator
City of Mound	Jesse Dickson, City Manager	Laila Imihy, Deputy City Manager
City of Orono	Jacqueline Ricks, Council Member	Alisa Benson, Council Member
City of St. Louis Park	Sue Budd, Council Member	
Lake Minnetonka Conservation District	David Krueger, Executive Director	
Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board	Meg Forney, Commissioner	Michael Schroeder, Planning Assistant Superintendent; Jeremy Barrick, Assistant Superintendent

Technical Advisory Committee

Organization	Primary Representative	Alternate
City of Edina	Jessica Vanderwerff Wilson, Water Resources Manager	Ross Bintner, Engineering Services Manager
City of Medina	Dusty Finke, Planning Director	
City of Minneapolis	Elizabeth Stout, Water Resources Manager	
City of Minnetonka	Eric Eckman, Water Resources Program Manager	
City of Orono	Melanie Curtis, City Planner	Laura Oakden, Community Development Director
City of Plymouth	Ben Scharenbroich, Water Resources Supervisor	
City of Richfield	Mattias Oddsson, Water Resources Engineer	
City of St. Louis Park	Sarah Schweiger, Engineering Services Manager	Erick Francis, Water Resources Manager
Bolton and Menk, representing Greenwood, Maple Plain, Mound, St. Bonifacius, Shorewood, Woodland	Bob Bean, Water Resources Project Manager	
Carver County	Kristen Larson, Environmental Planner	
Hennepin County	Amy Riegel, Senior Water Resources Specialist	Kris Guentzel, Land & Water Supervisor
Lake Minnetonka Conservation District	Tom Tully, Code Enforcement Manager	
Metropolitan Council	Eric Wojchik, Senior Planner	
Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board	Rachael Crabb, Water Resources Supervisor	Madeline Hudek, Data Insights Analyst; Debra Pilger, Environmental Management Director
MN Board of Water & Soil Resources	Jen Dullum, Board Conservationist	
MN Department of Natural Resources	Ryan Toot, Area Hydrologist	
Three Rivers Park District	Jami Markle, Director of Natural Resources	Brian Vlach, Senior Manager of Water Resources



RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, the MCWD Board of Managers seeks to solicit valuable input from its communities and general public on the development of its 2027 Watershed Management Plan (Plan);

WHEREAS, Minnesota Rules Chapter 8410, requires that the District establish an advisory committee, committees, or other means of public and technical participation for the purpose of making recommendations on its Plan;

WHEREAS, on December 19, 2024, the MCWD Board of Managers authorized the initiation of a stakeholder engagement process for the development of the 2027 Plan;

WHEREAS, for its 2027 Plan, the District has determined that it will utilize its existing Citizen Advisory Committee and establish both a Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) made up of representatives from municipalities, counties, park and conservation districts, and plan review agencies across the District;

WHEREAS, interest in serving on the advisory committees was solicited through the kickoff mailing, kickoff event, and subsequent email requests;

WHEREAS, there are 14 individuals who expressed interest in serving on the PAC and 27 for the TAC; and

WHEREAS, for organizations that had more than one person interested, one has been designated as the primary representative with others proposed to serve as alternates;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the MCWD Board of Managers appoints the following individuals to serve on the Policy Advisory Committee and Technical Advisory Committee for the 2027 Watershed Management Plan.

Policy Advisory Committee

Organization	Primary Representative	Alternate
City of Edina	James Hovland	
City of Independence	Joe Baker	
City of Minneapolis	Jamison Whiting	
City of Minnetrista	Lisa Whalen	Jasper Kruggel
City of Mound	Jesse Dickson	Laila Imihy
City of Orono	Jacqueline Ricks	Alisa Benson
City of St. Louis Park	Sue Budd	
Lake Minnetonka Conservation District	David Krueger	
Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board	Meg Forney	Michael Schroeder; Jeremy Barrick

Technical Advisory Committee

Organization	Primary Representative	Alternate
City of Edina	Jessica Vanderwerff Wilson	Ross Bintner
City of Medina	Dusty Finke	
City of Minneapolis	Elizabeth Stout	
City of Minnetonka	Eric Eckman	
City of Orono	Melanie Curtis	Laura Oakden
City of Plymouth	Ben Scharenbroich	
City of Richfield	Mattias Oddsson	
City of St. Louis Park	Sarah Schweiger	Erick Francis
Bolton and Menk, representing Greenwood, Maple Plain, Mound, St. Bonifacius, Shorewood, Woodland	Bob Bean	
Carver County	Kristen Larson	
Hennepin County	Amy Riegel	Kris Guentzel
Lake Minnetonka Conservation District	Tom Tully	
Metropolitan Council	Eric Wojchik	
Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board	Rachael Crabb	Madeline Hudek; Debra Pilger
MN Board of Water & Soil Resources	Jen Dullum	
MN Department of Natural Resources	Ryan Toot	
Three Rivers Park District	Jami Markle	Brian Vlach

Resolution Number 26-026 was moved by Manager _____, seconded by Manager _____. Motion to adopt the resolution ___ ayes, ___ nays, ___ abstentions. Date: 2/26/2026

Secretary

Date: _____