

MEETING DATE: September 8, 2016

TITLE: Authorization to Request Extension for Comprehensive Plan Adoption

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 16-076

PREPARED BY: Becky Christopher

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REVIEWED BY: Administrator Counsel Program Mgr. (Name): _____
 Board Committee Engineer Other

WORKSHOP ACTION:

<input type="checkbox"/> Advance to Board mtg. Consent Agenda.	<input type="checkbox"/> Advance to Board meeting for discussion prior to action.
<input type="checkbox"/> Refer to a future workshop (date): _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Refer to taskforce or committee (date): _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Return to staff for additional work.	<input type="checkbox"/> No further action requested.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): <u>Approval at workshop</u>	

PURPOSE or ACTION REQUESTED:

Authorization to request an extension from the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) for adoption of the 2017 MCWD Comprehensive Plan

PROJECT TIMELINE:

- Plan drafting and strategic planning – present-December 2016
- Internal plan review and editing – January-March 2017
- 60-day public review and comment – April 28-June 27, 2017
- Comment review and responses – June 28-August 13, 2017
- 90-day state agency review – August 14-November 12, 2017
- BWSR Plan approval – October 25, 2017
- MCWD Plan adoption – November 9, 2017*
- *Requesting extension through November 30, 2017

PAST BOARD ACTION:

- July 31, 2014 Board Meeting– Resolution 14-059: Adoption of a framework for the 2017 Comprehensive Plan update
- October 8, 2015 Board Workshop – Resolution 15-085: Approval of process to evaluate and align District programs using strategic framework
- January 28, 2016 Board Meeting – Approval of revised Mission, Vision, Goals, and Guiding Principles
- February 18, 2016 Planning and Policy Committee – Discussed potential for Plan extension (no action)

SUMMARY:

The District's next generation Comprehensive Water Resources Management Plan (Plan) is due for adoption by June 27, 2017, ten years from the approval of the 2007 Plan. Under MN Statute 103B.3367, the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) may grant extensions with or without conditions of the revision date of a comprehensive watershed management plan.

The possibility of seeking an extension for the District's 2017 Plan was discussed at the February 18, 2016 Planning and Policy Committee (PPC) meeting. At that meeting, it was explained that staff intends for both the Strategic Plan and the Six Mile-Halsted Bay Subwatershed Plan to inform and be integrated into the Comprehensive Plan. Staff noted that, given the amount of work needed for each of these processes, it could be challenging to have everything completed and integrated into the Comprehensive Plan by the end of 2016, as would be required to meet the June 27, 2017 deadline given that the formal review and approval process takes approximately six months. The PPC was generally supportive of remaining flexible to ensure that all of the respective plans would be aligned and completed to a satisfactory level of quality.

In addition, the staff person leading the Plan update process will be out on maternity leave from approximately December 31-March 25, further supporting the need for an extension. Staff has discussed the possibility of an extension with BWSR staff and confirmed that it would not affect the District's grant eligibility for 2018.

Staff is requesting an extension through November 30, 2017, which is an approximately 5 month extension. The proposed schedule is as follows:

- Plan drafting and strategic planning – present-December 2016
- Internal plan review and editing – January-March 2017
- 60-day public review and comment – April 28-June 27, 2017
- Comment review and responses – June 28-August 13, 2017
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Staff is requesting authorization for the District Administrator to submit a letter to BWSR requesting the extension.

RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, the District's next generation Comprehensive Water Resources Management Plan (Plan) is due for adoption by June 27, 2017, ten years from the approval of the 2007 Plan; and

WHEREAS, under MN Statute 103B.3367, the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) may grant extensions with or without conditions of the revision date of a comprehensive watershed management plan; and

WHEREAS, staff recommends that the District request a Plan extension through November 30, 2017 to facilitate incorporation of the outcomes of the Strategic Plan process and Six Mile-Halsted Bay Subwatershed planning process and to accommodate staff maternity leave; and

WHEREAS, staff has discussed the possibility of an extension with BWSR staff and confirmed that it would not affect the District's grant eligibility for 2018;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers authorize the District Administrator to request an extension from the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) for adoption of the 2017 MCWD Comprehensive Plan.

Resolution Number 16-076 was moved by Manager _____, seconded by Manager _____.
Motion to adopt the resolution ___ ayes, ___ nays, ___ abstentions. Date: _____.

Secretary Date:_____