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<b>Title:</b>	Amendment to the 2021 Budget	
<b>Resolution number:</b>	20-101	
<b>Prepared by:</b>	Name: James Wisker Phone: 952.641.4509 Jwisker@minnehahacreek.org	
<b>Recommended action:</b>	Approve the recommended amendments to the 2021 Budget	
<b>Past Board action:</b>	August 27, 2020	Public Hearing for 2021 Budget
	September 10, 2020	Adoption of the 2021 Budget and Certification of Levy
	November 19, 2020	Truth in Taxation Comment Period

**Summary:**

Following a duly noticed public hearing, on September 10, 2020, the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD or District) Board of Managers approved a 2021 Budget of \$14,716,421 and certified a tax levy of \$9,675,993 – representing the fourth consecutive year with a 0% increase in the levy. Since the Board acted on the 2021 budget in September, annual debt service and personnel costs have been reduced \$305,321. In parallel, other strategic needs have emerged that can effectively leverage these savings in 2021, while ensuring the 2021 tax levy remains flat with a 0% increase. These strategic needs and the recommended budget amendments, are outlined below:

Capital Improvement Plan (CIP):

- Six Mile Marsh Prairie - \$172,851
  - In 2021 the District's CIP provides for the design, oversight and construction of a public access trail into the restored site off of the Dakota Regional Trail. Recently, based on its experience with Wassermann Park, the District's approach to site interpretation has evolved beyond simple signage to support a richer interactive experience of watershed places. To facilitate enhanced site planning and design, and the potential for more immersive site interpretation to complement the design and construction of public access in 2021, staff recommend the budget be amended by \$172,851 to a total of \$347,861,
- 325 Blake Road - \$60,570
  - The District has contracted with HDR to initiate the design of regional stormwater management and creek centric placemaking at 325 Blake Road, integrated with redevelopment of the site. This recently approved design scope will produce a range of potential build scenarios which may span from traditional management options to more integrated site dynamics that anchor place through a stormwater park. To help mitigate the design uncertainty staff recommend the multi-year capital budget for 325 Blake Road be amended by \$60,570 to a total of \$3,932,070.

Organizational Planning:

- Strategic Planning – \$51,500
  - Recently the Board has discussed its desire to engage in a series of phased strategic dialogues in 2021, documenting where the District has been and what it has learned, where it is now and what needs to be done, and to frame how MCWD will respond to emerging issues and opportunities. Staff recommend a budget of \$51,500 to provide consulting support for this work.

Facility Management:

- Facility Management Coordination - \$20,400
  - In December 2020 the Board determined to restructure its operations workgroup by not filling a vacant Operations Manager position. There would be benefit in consolidating facility management oversight through a single vendor that could oversee, advise and report on MCWD facility management in coordination with the reclassified Office Manager position. Staff recommend a 2021 budget of \$20,400 be developed for this purpose.

**Conclusion:**

Through bond refunds and personnel alignment 2021 budgeted expenditures will be reduced a total of \$305,321. Four areas of strategic need have been identified that could be served by relocating this saved revenue, without increasing the tax levy.

The attached resolution, for Board consideration, amends the 2021 budget by allocating the \$305,321 of revenue saved as follows:

1. Six Mile Marsh Prairie - \$172,851
2. 325 Blake Road - \$60,570
3. Strategic Planning - \$51,500
4. Facility Management - \$20,400



**RESOLUTION**

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**Resolution number:** 20-101

**Title:** Amendment to the 2021 Budget

WHEREAS, on September 10, 2020, the Board approved Resolution 20-070 and 20-071, adopting the 2021 Budget and Workplan, and certifying the 2021 tax levy.

WHEREAS, since that time MCWD partners, Hennepin County and the City of Richfield, issued refunding bonds for past capital projects resulting in a reduction in 2021 debt service.

WHEREAS, the MCWD Board of Managers has determined to restructure its operations workgroup, resulting in a reduction in the 2021 personnel budget.

WHEREAS, combined, debt service and personnel expenditures have been reduced \$305,321 in 2021.

WHEREAS, the Board of Managers has identified timely strategic needs that may be served in 2021 by reallocating this \$305,321 in revenue saved, without increasing the 2021 tax levy.

WHEREAS, these needs will support priority capital project objectives in Six Mile Creek – Halsted Bay and Minnehaha Creek, while also facilitating ongoing strategic planning and the District’s organizational health.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers hereby amends the 2021 budget by allocating \$305,321 of revenue, saved via bond refunds and the alignment of personnel, as follows:

- Six Mile Marsh Prairie - \$172,851;
- 325 Blake Road - \$60,570;
- Strategic Planning - \$51,500; and
- Facility Management - \$20,400.

Resolution Number 20-101 was moved by Manager \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by Manager \_\_\_\_\_. Motion to adopt the resolution \_\_\_ ayes, \_\_\_ nays, \_\_\_ abstentions. Date: 12/17/2020

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