

MEMORANDUM

To: MCWD Board of Managers

From: Becky Christopher

Date: September 21, 2015

Re: Review of Information Submitted for Comprehensive Plan Update

Purpose:

At the September 24, 2015 Board meeting, staff will provide an overview of information that was submitted from local agencies and cities for consideration as part of the District's Comprehensive Plan update, as required per MN Rules Chapter 8410.

Background:

The MN Rules Chapter 8410 governing metropolitan water management were recently revised to include new process requirements for water management organizations undertaking a ten-year plan amendment. In an effort to ensure that organizations are coordinating with their stakeholders, the rules require that a request be sent early in the planning process for the following information:

- From Plan Review Agencies - management expectation for the agency's priority issues, summaries of relevant water management goals, and water resource information
- From Counties, Cities, Townships, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, MnDOT, and other known stakeholders - organization's local water-related issues, water management goals, official controls, and programs

While the District has a robust public process for its Plan update and will provide many additional opportunities for stakeholder input, this information request provides a preview of what the various agencies and cities will be looking for from the District's 2017 Plan. These goals and priorities will be taken into consideration as the District works to develop its Plan over the next 20 months.

The request was sent to all required parties and allowed 60 days for submittal of information. Staff received responses from fourteen cities and agencies, and a summary of the information is attached along with a copy of the submittals.

The rules require that the District hold a public meeting, presided over by the Board of Managers, to review and discuss the input received. A notice of the September 24, 2015 Board meeting was sent to the appropriate parties and posted on the District website. At the meeting, staff will provide an overview of the information received, and the Board will have the opportunity to discuss.

If there are questions in advance of the meeting, please contact Becky Christopher at 952-641-4512 or bchristopher@minnehahacreek.org.

Summary of Information Submitted for MCWD Comprehensive Plan Update

Below is a summary of the information submitted in response to the District's request. The submittals are also attached. Note that some of the submittals reference lengthy plans or other documents which are not included in this packet but can be found on the website at www.minnehahacreek.org/2017.

City of Edina:

- Referred to links to the City's Comprehensive Water Resources Management Plan, recent major amendment that added the Lakes and Ponds Policy, and Wellhead Protection Plan.
- City staff is considering policy options in a few related areas:
 - Education and engagement partnership agreements with local WDs to meet MS4 requirements.
 - Residential redevelopment and the increasing imperviousness of the landscape that result
 - Aging infrastructure and sanitary infiltration and inflow
 - Floodplain risk management

City of Excelsior:

- Sent the City's updated stormwater ordinance (available at www.minnehahacreek.org/2017).

City of Independence:

- Local Water-Related Issues:
 - Impairments of Painter Creek for *E. coli* and Jennings Bay for nutrients.
- Water Management Goals:
 - Goal 1: Preserve, maintain and improve aesthetic, physical, chemical and biological composition of surface waters and groundwater within the City.
 - Goal 2: Achieve an annual load reduction of 79 pounds of phosphorus in the Painter Creek Watershed.
- Official Controls:
 - Require infiltration of 1.0" on new impervious surface on appropriate sites
 - Sediment and erosion control ordinance
 - Stream and wetland buffer requirements dependent on quality
 - SWPPP requirements for development
 - Street sweeping
 - Annual SWPPP inspections on storm ponds and pollution control devices

- Programs:
 - Implement the Wetland Conservation Act
 - PUD allowances
 - Capital Improvement Program
 - Pursue grant opportunities when available

City of Medina:

- Local Water-Related Issues:
 - Nutrient impairments in several lakes;
 - High water conditions on Mooney and Wolsfeld lakes;
 - Possible erosion and instability in numerous channels.
- Water Management Goals:
 - Manage land disturbance and increased impervious surfaces to prevent flooding and adverse impacts to water resources.
 - Maintain existing runoff volumes so that runoff from development does not increase volume loading to wetlands, lakes and streams.
 - Control the rate of stormwater runoff from development to reduce downstream flooding and erosion and protect water resources.
 - Provide adequate storage and conveyance of runoff to protect the public safety and minimize property damage.
 - Reduce the nutrient and sediment loads over current conditions.
 - Prevent sediment from construction sites from entering the City's surface water resources.
 - Protect the City's wetlands, lakes, streams and groundwater to preserve the functions and values of these resources for future generations.
 - Protect and preserve wetlands to maintain or improve their function and value.
 - Manage lakes to improve water quality and protect resource values.
 - Improve water quality, provide wildlife habitat and protect the resource value of streams.
 - Address target pollutants identified in TMDL studies to improve the quality of impaired waters.
- Official Controls:
 - Manure ordinance in zoning code which provides BMPs for manure management and requires no net increase in runoff from the site and setback requirements
 - Require infiltration of 1.1" on new impervious surface on appropriate sites
 - Optional volume control with irrigation
 - Stream and wetland buffer requirements dependent on quality
 - SWPPP requirements for development

- Programs:
 - Stormwater Utility fee to fund projects related to water quality and quantity and active grant requests.
 - Stormwater Project Capital Improvement Program
 - Medina Stormwater Design Manual: new development requires rate and volume control as well as water quality standards (20% reduction from existing conditions)
 - Erosion and Sediment Control Program
 - Implement the Wetland Conservation Act

City of Minneapolis:

- Minneapolis would like to partner with MCWD and the other stakeholders on discussions of the following:
 - Flood control/Flood mitigation -- including the topics of public safety, implications for public and private property, implications for shoreline/bank destabilization, implications for water quality degradation, issues related to aging infrastructure, opportunities for upstream storage enhancements, cost-benefit analysis of viable alternatives, and minimizing recurrence to improve quality of life
 - Outfalls -- definition of roles and responsibilities, opportunities for outfall upgrades that benefit public safety, water quality, shoreline/bank stabilization, and cost-benefit of viable alternatives
 - Water quality -- especially on cost-benefit analysis of viable alternatives that address impaired waters, and on focusing projects/policies on actual benefit to the water body
 - Stream bank restoration projects – work with municipalities to review opportunities/issues related to structural integrity of bridges and other public infrastructure
 - TAC opportunity – discuss establishment of a permanent TAC consisting of representatives of the member municipalities, that would meet regularly to discuss selected MCWD initiatives and provide feedback/expertise/concerns from the municipal perspective
 - Modeling – continue sharing of data, models, floodplain modifications, capital project information and other relevant items that promote timely and accurate H&H and water quality models

City of Minnetonka:

- Sent City's 2010 Water Resources Management Plan (Goals and Policies), 2014 MS4 permit and TMDL compliance schedule, and 2010 Stormwater Management Design Guidelines and Standards document (available at www.minnehahacreek.org/2017)

City of Wayzata:

- City goals and priorities:
 - Continue to provide pertinent educational materials to the general public and contractors related to stormwater management.
 - Work with MCWD to create a “laundry list” of BMPs and their treatment value to assist developers/homeowners in site design.
 - Continue to look to retrofit stormwater management into its own Capital Improvement projects to meet City and District phosphorus removal goals.

City of Woodland:

- City priorities:
 - Protection of shoreline and maintaining high quality surface waters and groundwater
 - Coordination of AIS control
 - Stormwater management and pollution prevention
 - Wetland management and protection
 - Review and clarification of wetland rules for individual properties
 - Maintaining good communication between MCWD and City
 - Shavers Lake Restoration

Hennepin County, Environment and Energy Department:

- Sent County’s draft Natural Resources Strategic Plan (available at www.minnehahacreek.org/2017).

Metropolitan Council Environmental Services:

- Include policies related to the protection of area water resources with the end goal of water sustainability, consistent with the Council’s new policy plans.
- Include quantifiable and measurable goals and policies that address water quantity, water quality, recreation, fish and wildlife, enhancement of public participation, groundwater, wetlands, and erosion issues.
- Address the issues and problems in the watershed and include projects or actions and funding to address the issues and problems. At a minimum the watershed should address:
 - Any problems with lake and stream water quality and quantity including information on impaired waters in the watershed and the District’s role in addressing the impairments,
 - Flooding issues in the watershed,
 - Storm water rate control issues in the watershed,

- Impacts of water management on the recreation opportunities,
- Impact of soil erosion problems on water quantity and quality,
- The general impact of land use practices on water quantity and quality
- Policies and strategies related to monitoring of area water resources
- Policies and strategies related to use of best management practices
- Issues concerning the interaction of surface water and groundwater in the watershed
- A list of the requirements for local surface water management plans
- Erosion and sediment control standards and requirements
- Volume reduction goals at least as restrictive as requirements in the NPDES construction general permit, and,
- Capital improvement plan with itemized list of actions, estimated costs, and timeline.

Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board:

- Goals for the future of the MCWD system and our local issues are:
 - Recovery from 2014 flood
 - Repair previously completed reach projects
 - Repair new erosion
 - Identify and rectify incipient problem areas
 - Progress on Impairments and TMDL projects
 - Phosphorus
 - Bacteria
 - Chloride
 - Biota
 - Preserve base flow to protect stream biota
 - Plan for future floods - Preserve flood storage
 - Trash reduction
 - Preserve historic elements, while naturalizing creek
 - Retain AIS focus
- Policy-related goals for the next-generation plan are:
 - To more closely align the MPRB CIP plan with the MCWD CIP plan, in order to more effectively partner on projects that meet our common goals.
 - To have MPRB area masterplans recognized in future MCWD planning processes.
 - To balance recreational use and the historic landscape of the MPRB system with environmental issues and water quality improvements to the system.
 - To address illicit discharge to receiving waters that occur across jurisdictional boundaries.
 - That MCWD addresses mitigating flood issues that may be exacerbated by changing rainfall patterns.

- List of MPRB water-quality-related programs and activities that take place within MCWD boundaries:
 - Canines for Clean Water (address bacteria loading)
 - WQ education tabling at Neighborhood events (annual, number of sites varies)
 - Goose control (address bacteria loading)
 - Lake Monitoring Program (chemistry, aquatic plants, phytoplankton, zooplankton)
 - Beach Monitoring Program (11 MPRB beaches within MCWD boundaries)
 - Stormwater monitoring partnership with City of Minneapolis, two annually - monitored sites within MCWD
 - Xerxes Ave stream monitoring station (rating-curve creation, flow monitoring, flow-paced sampling)
 - Vegetation management (parkland, riparian, and shoreline)
 - Periodic training for MPRB staff (pesticide applicators license, chloride applicators certification, pertinent water quality training topics)
 - Aquatic Invasive Species early detection program, Boat inspection program, Education Program (in partnership with MCWD)
 - Groundwater level monitoring

MN Board of Water and Soil Resources:

- The Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) studies that have been completed should guide implementation planning.
- The Plan should include reference to the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area Chloride TMDL and incorporate elements of Chloride Management Plan.
- BWSR would like to see the Plan focus on addressing impaired waters in the upper watershed. Partnership with Hennepin County Dept. of Energy and Environment, Carver Soil & Water Conservation District, and University of Minnesota Extension is encouraged.
- The District should establish a policy on its approach to in-lake treatment systems.

MN Department of Agriculture:

- Referred to MDA website and handout “Drainage Recommendations for Local Water Management Plans” (noting that recommendations are intended more for outstate areas).
 - Consider developing a Comprehensive Drainage Management Plan
 - Create a permanent Drainage Advisory Committee
 - Develop a system-wide inventory of culverts and open tiles
 - Establish drainage co-efficients based on engineering data
 - Encourage development and implementation of Drainage Water Management Plans
 - Consider demonstration sites for drainage BMPs
 - Consider both short- and long-term storage

MN Department of Natural Resources:

- DNR priority issues:
 - Integrated water resource management - focus on achieving healthy watersheds through a “whole-system” approach that considers hydrology, biology, connectivity, geomorphology and water quality.
 - Groundwater sustainability - would like to see the District play a stronger role in promoting groundwater use conservation.
 - Aquatic invasive species - encourage the District to continue its leadership role in this area.
 - Governor’s buffer initiative - consider what role the District could play in implementation of the new “Governors Buffer Initiative”.
 - Stream and lake bank stabilization and restoration - encourages MCWD to consider stream dynamics when planning stream stabilization or restoration projects.
 - Consideration of plant communities, rare species, and special features - recommends using assessment data relating to special natural resource features when completing long-range watershed planning efforts.

City of Edina

Becky Christopher

From: Ross Bintner <RBintner@EdinaMN.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2015 8:47 AM
To: Becky Christopher
Cc: Robert Stewart; Chad Millner
Subject: RE: MCWD Comprehensive Plan Update

Becky,
Per your request for information highlighted below.

Water related goals, controls and programs are described in the City of Edina Comprehensive Water Resources Management Plan, and the recent major amendment that added the Lakes and Ponds Policy. Links to both documents are provided below:

http://edinamn.gov/?section=engineering_water_resource
http://edinamn.gov/index.php?section=lake_pond_management

Also of interest may be the City of Edina Wellhead Protection Plan.
http://www.ci.edina.mn.us/index.php?section=wellhead_protection

In addition to these policy documents City staff is considering policy options in a few related areas;

- Education and engagement partnership agreements with local WDs to meet MS4 requirements.
- Residential redevelopment and the increasing imperviousness of the landscape that result
- Aging infrastructure and sanitary infiltration and inflow
- Floodplain risk management

I hope that covers it. If you need more information feel free to email or call. I look forward to working with you on the plan update as part of the technical panel, and thanks for involving us!



Ross Bintner, PE, Environmental Engineer

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RBintner@EdinaMN.gov | www.EdinaMN.gov

...For Living, Learning, Raising Families & Doing Business

From: Becky Christopher [mailto:BChristopher@minnehahacreek.org]
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2015 3:24 PM
To: Becky Christopher
Cc: Katrina Nygaard
Subject: MCWD Comprehensive Plan Update

Dear Interested Parties,

Thank you to all who attended the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) Comprehensive Plan kickoff meetings! We had a great turnout across the three meetings and received a lot of valuable feedback. Below are two updates on the process.

Advisory Committees

At the kickoff meetings, we asked attendees to indicate their interest in serving on one of the advisory committees to provide their guidance and expertise as we develop the Plan. Attached is a summary of the feedback we received. We

City of Independence

The Minnehaha Creek Watershed District on their Comprehensive Plan Update and has requested the cities within its borders to provide the following: information on your organization's local water-related issues, water management goals, official controls, and programs.

The City of Independence has put together an overall view of their water resource management in the following letter for the areas that are covered by the MCWD's jurisdiction.

Local Water-Related Issues

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is required to publish a list of impaired waters; these are lakes and streams in the City of Independence that are not meeting federal water quality standards for this watershed.

Waterbody	Pollutant/Stressor	Affected Use	TMDL Status
Painter Creek	<i>E. coli</i>	Aquatic recreation	Completed TMDL and WLA/Implementation Plan Underway
Minnetonka-Jennings Bay	Nutrient/Eutrophication Biological Indicators	Aquatic recreation	Completed TMDL and WLA/Implementation Plan Underway

Within the city's Water Resource Management Plan, other water-related issues relating to water quantity are addressed but none occur within the MCWD area.

Water Management Goals

As described in the City of Independence's Water Resource Management Plan (WRMP), Section 4.2, Water Quality goals include:

Goal 1: Preserve, maintain and improve aesthetic, physical, chemical and biological composition of surface waters and groundwater within the City.

Goal 2: Achieve an annual load reduction of 79 pounds of phosphorus in the Painter Creek Watershed.

Official Controls

The City has approved many ordinances to reach the goals provided above.

Require infiltration of 1.0" on new impervious surface on appropriate sites

Sediment and erosion control ordinance

Stream and wetland buffer requirements dependent on quality

SWPPP requirements for development

Street sweeping

Annual SWPPP inspections on storm ponds and pollution control devices

Programs

The City has several programs to implement their water management goals.

- Implement the Wetland Conservation Act

- PUD allowances

- Capital Improvement Program

- Pursue grant opportunities when available

City of Medina

The Minnehaha Creek Watershed District on their Comprehensive Plan Update and has requested the cities within its borders to provide the following: information on your organization's local water-related issues, water management goals, official controls, and programs.

The City of Medina has put together an overall view of their water resource management in the following letter.

Local Water-Related Issues

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is required to publish a list of impaired waters; these are lakes and streams in the state that are not meeting federal water quality standards for this watershed

Waterbody	Pollutant/Stressor	Affected Use	TMDL Status
Katrina	Nutrient/Eutrophication Biological Indicators	Aquatic recreation	Completed TMDL and WLA/Implementation Plan Underway
Wolsfeld	Nutrient/Eutrophication Biological Indicators	Aquatic recreation	Completed TMDL and WLA/Implementation Plan Underway
Mooney	Nutrient/Eutrophication Biological Indicators	Aquatic recreation	Completed TMDL and WLA/Implementation Plan Underway
Long	Nutrient/Eutrophication Biological Indicators	Aquatic recreation	Completed TMDL and WLA/Implementation Plan Underway
Holy Name	Nutrient/Eutrophication Biological Indicators	Aquatic recreation	Completed TMDL and WLA/Implementation Plan Underway
School	Nutrient/Eutrophication Biological Indicators	Biological Indicators	Potentially added in future

In Table 5.2, other water-related issues relating to water quantity are addressed. This includes: high water conditions on Mooney Lake and Wolsfeld Lake and possible erosion and instability in numerous channels in the MCWD watershed-including Wolsfeld Lake.

Water Management Goals

As described in the City of Medina's Local Surface Water Management Plan (LSWMP), Table 5.1, Water Quality issues and potential corrective actions, the City recognizes it has degraded water quality. Here is a list of their goals from that plan:

Manage land disturbance and increased impervious surfaces to prevent flooding and adverse impacts to water resources.

Maintain existing runoff volumes so that runoff from development does not increase volume loading to wetlands, lakes and streams.

Control the rate of stormwater runoff from development to reduce downstream flooding and erosion and protect water resources.

Provide adequate storage and conveyance of runoff to protect the public safety and minimize property damage.

Reduce the nutrient and sediment loads over current conditions.

Prevent sediment from construction sites from entering the City's surface water resources.

Protect the City's wetlands, lakes, streams and groundwater to preserve the functions and values of these resources for future generations.

Protect and preserve wetlands to maintain or improve their function and value.

Manage lakes to improve water quality and protect resource values.

Improve water quality, provide wildlife habitat and protect the resource value of streams.

Address target pollutants identified in TMDL studies to improve the quality of impaired waters.

Official Controls

The City has approved many ordinances to reach the goals provided above.

Manure ordinance in zoning code which provides BMPs for manure management and requires no net increase in runoff from the site and setback requirements

Require infiltration of 1.1" on new impervious surface on appropriate sites

Optional volume control with irrigation

Stream and wetland buffer requirements dependent on quality

SWPPP requirements for development

Programs

The City has several programs to implement their goals provided.

Stormwater Utility fee to fund projects related to water quality and quantity and active grant requests.

Stormwater Project Capital Improvement Program

Medina Stormwater Design Manual: new development requires rate and volume control as well as water quality standards (20% reduction from existing conditions)

Erosion and Sediment Control Program

Implement the Wetland Conservation Act

Becky Christopher

From: Eberhart, Lois E. <Lois.Eberhart@minneapolismn.gov>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2015 7:13 PM
To: Becky Christopher
Cc: Rachael Crabb; Moriarity, Kelly M.; Hudalla, Paul; Cerney, Lisa K.
Subject: RE: MCWD Comprehensive Plan Update

Becky, thank you for the opportunity to comment, and to participate in the upcoming Comp Plan Update process. The following are in addition to comments from MPRB earlier today.

Minneapolis would like to partner with MCWD and the other stakeholders on discussions of the following:

Flood control/Flood mitigation -- including the topics of public safety, implications for public and private property, implications for shoreline/bank destabilization, implications for water quality degradation, issues related to aging infrastructure, opportunities for upstream storage enhancements, cost-benefit analysis of viable alternatives, and minimizing recurrence to improve quality of life

Outfalls -- definition of roles and responsibilities, opportunities for outfall upgrades that benefit public safety, water quality, shoreline/bank stabilization, and cost-benefit of viable alternatives

Water quality -- especially on cost-benefit analysis of viable alternatives that address impaired waters, and on focusing projects/policies on actual benefit to the water body

Stream bank restoration projects – work with municipalities to review opportunities/issues related to structural integrity of bridges and other public infrastructure

TAC opportunity – discuss establishment of a permanent TAC consisting of representatives of the member municipalities, that would meet regularly (bimonthly? Quarterly?) to discuss selected MCWD initiatives and provide feedback/expertise/concerns from the municipal perspective

Modeling – continue sharing of data, models, floodplain modifications, capital project information and other relevant items that promote timely and accurate H&H and water quality models

Lois Eberhart | Water Resources Regulatory Administrator | **City of Minneapolis Public Works – Surface Water & Sewers Division**
| Room 300 City of Lakes Building, 309 South Second Avenue, Minneapolis MN 55401
612-673-3260 | lois.eberhart@minneapolismn.gov

City of Wayzata

Becky Christopher

From: Mike Kelly <mike@wayzata.org>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2015 9:34 AM
To: Becky Christopher
Cc: Katrina Nygaard
Subject: RE: MCWD Comprehensive Plan Update

Becky,

In response to the MCWD request to provide local water management goals and priorities, the City of Wayzata's goals are to continue to provide pertinent educational materials to the general public and contractors related to stormwater management.

The City would also like to work with MCWD to create a "laundry list" of BMPs and their treatment value. This treatment value would be used to assist developers/homeowners in site design.

Wayzata will continue to look to retrofit stormwater management into its own Capital Improvement projects to meet City and District phosphorus removal goals.

Thanks.

Mike Kelly, P.E.
City Engineer/Assistant Director of Public Works
City of Wayzata
952-404-5316 (Office)
mike@wayzata.org

From: Becky Christopher [mailto:BChristopher@minnehahacreek.org]
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2015 4:33 PM
Cc: Katrina Nygaard
Subject: MCWD Comprehensive Plan Update

Dear Interested Parties,

I am writing with a reminder and an update related to the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Comprehensive Plan process.

Reminder - Information Request

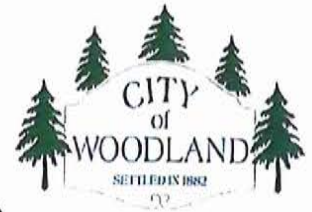
As required per the revised MN Rules Chapter [8410](#), the District has requested information related to local water management goals and priorities. This information will be used to guide our planning process and align efforts with local partners. As a reminder, this information is due on **June 22, 2015**.

- [Plan Review Agencies](#) - Please provide information on management expectation for your agency's priority issues, summaries of relevant water management goals, and water resource information.
- [Counties, Cities, Townships, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, MnDOT, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, Three Rivers Park District](#) - Please provide information on your organization's local water-related issues, water management goals, official controls, and programs.

Update - Advisory Committees

As part of the outreach and engagement effort for the Comprehensive Plan update, the District has solicited stakeholder participation on various advisory committees. Based on the feedback received, the District Board of Managers has appointed the following members to its Technical Advisory Committee and Policy Advisory Committee. I will be following up with committee members shortly to determine preferred meeting dates and times.

City of Woodland



To: Becky Christopher, Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD)

From: City Council, City of Woodland

Date: June 9, 2015

SUBJECT: Request for information for MCWD Comprehensive Plan Update

The following local water-related issues, water management goals, official controls and programs are of particular importance to the City of Woodland:

- Protection of shoreline and maintaining high quality of surface waters as well as ground water.
- Coordination of aquatic invasive species (AIS) control. The MCWD has the technical capability, staff, and budget to lead in managing AIS issues.
- Storm water management, including pollution prevention.
- Wetland management and protection of wetlands is vital for Woodland. The City assigns administrative responsibility to the MCWD for wetland management, thus relies on the MCWD to enforce conformance with MCWD Rule D and the WCA (Wetlands Conservation Act, 1991).
- Review and clarification of wetland rules for individual properties (versus large residential subdivisions). MCWD has the technical knowledge to assist the City of Woodland.
- Maintaining good communication between MCWD and the City of Woodland is very important to its residents.
- **SHAVERS LAKE RESTORATION**
 - 6+ feet of sediment mainly from roads is filling the Lake
 - Algae concerns
 - Aquatic invasive species concerns (2014 legislative session authorized residents to remove cattails).
 - A Shavers Lake restoration project could be a model to use for reference on similar projects in the future.
 - Create preventative measures to maintain the Lake once it is restored.

Metropolitan Council Environmental Services

June 23, 2015

Becky Christopher
Lead Planner and Project Manager
Minnehaha Creek Watershed District
15320 Minnetonka Blvd
Minnetonka, MN 55345

RE: Information request for watershed management plan update

I am providing information as requested for the preparation of the District's Watershed Management Plan Update.

The direction and policy that follows comes from the Council's *Thrive MSP 2040* Regional Development Framework and the *2040 Water Resources Management Policy Plan*, both of which can be found on the Council's web page (www.metrocouncil.org).

In particular, the *2040 Water Resources Policy Plan* (Policy Plan) includes policies and strategies to achieve the following goal:

To protect, conserve, and utilize the region's groundwater and surface water in ways that protect public health, support economical growth and development, maintain habitat and ecosystem health, and provide for recreational opportunities, which are essential to our region's quality of life.

The Policy Plan takes an integrated approach to water supply, water quality, and wastewater issues. This approach moves beyond managing wastewater and stormwater only to meet regulatory requirements by viewing wastewater and stormwater as resources, with the goal of protecting the quantity and quality of water our region's needs now and for future generations.

The Policy Plan includes policies and strategies to:

- Maximize regional benefits from regional investments in the areas of wastewater, water supply and surface water management and protection.
- Pursue reuse of wastewater and stormwater to offset demands on groundwater supplies.
- Promote greater collaboration, financial support, and technical support in working with partners to address wastewater, water quality, water quantity and water supply issues.
- Promote the concept of sustainable water resources through collaboration and cooperation, with the region taking steps to manage its water resources in a sustainable way with goals of:
 - ✓ Providing an adequate water supply for the region
 - ✓ Promoting and implementing best management practices aimed at protecting the quality and quantity of our resources
 - ✓ Providing efficient and cost effective wastewater services to the region
 - ✓ Efficiently addressing nonpoint and point sources pollution issues and solutions, and,
 - ✓ Assessment and monitoring of lakes, rivers, and streams to direct adequate management, protection, and restoration of the region's valued water resources.

The updated watershed management plan should include policies related to the protection of area water resources with these strategies in mind with the end goal of water sustainability.

In addition to being consistent with the Council's new policy plans, the plan also needs to include quantifiable and measurable goals and policies that address water quantity, water quality, recreation, fish and wildlife, enhancement of public participation, groundwater, wetlands, and erosion issues.

Council staff will be looking for the plan to address the issues and problems in the watershed and to include projects or actions and funding to address the issues and problems. At a minimum the watershed should address:

1. Any problems with lake and stream water quality and quantity including information on impaired waters in the watershed and the District's role in addressing the impairments,
2. Flooding issues in the watershed,
3. Storm water rate control issues in the watershed,
4. Impacts of water management on the recreation opportunities,
5. Impact of soil erosion problems on water quantity and quality,
6. The general impact of land use practices on water quantity and quality
7. Policies and strategies related to monitoring of area water resources
8. Policies and strategies related to use of best management practices
9. Issues concerning the interaction of surface water and groundwater in the watershed
10. A list of the requirements for local surface water management plans
11. Erosion and sediment control standards and requirements
12. Volume reduction goals at least as restrictive as requirements in the NPDES construction general permit, and,
13. Capital improvement plan with itemized list of actions, estimated costs, and timeline.

The Council also has monitoring data, flow, annual loads, and trend analyses for Minnehaha Creek, all of which are available as part of our report *Comprehensive Water Quality Assessment of Select Metropolitan Area Streams*, available at www.metrocouncil.org/streams/. Contact me to receive load spreadsheets and any other data and analyses in the report.

The Council also has monitoring data on the following lakes in the District: Auburn Lake, Bass Lake, Calhoun Lake, Cedar Lake, Christmas Lake, Cobblecrest Lake, Dutch Lake, Grass Lake, Harriet Lake, Harvey Lake, Lake of the Isles, Langdon Lake, Libbs Lake, Long Lake, Marsh Lake, Minnetonka Lake, Minnewashta Lake, Mooney Lake, Nokomis Lake, Pamela Pond, Parley Lake, Pierson Lake, Schutz Lake, Shavers Lake, Shavers Lake, South Oak Lake, St. Joe Lake, Steiger Lake, Tamarack Lake, Twin Lake, Virginia Lake, Wasserman Lake, Windsor Lake, and Wolsfeld Lake. Please contact Terrie O'Dea at Terrie.O'Dea@metc.state.mn.us to request lake data.

Also note that the following lakes within the District are on the Council's Priority Lakes List : Minnewashta Lake, Zumbra and Sunny Lakes, Parley Lake, Lake Auburn, Steiger Lake, Wassermann Lake, Piersons Lake, Lake Harriet, Lake Nokomis, Lake Calhoun, Cedar Lake, Lake of the Isles, Lake Minnetonka, Christmas Lake, Long Lake, and Dutch Lake.

The Council webpage also has 2010 land use information for all of the communities in the watershed.

Please feel free to me call at 651-602-1401 with questions about my comments or for any assistance during the plan preparation.

Sincerely,

Karen Jensen
Environmental Analyst
Metropolitan Council – Environmental Services
651-602-1401
karen.jensen@metc.state.mn.us

Minneapolis Park + Recreation Board

Becky Christopher

From: Crabb, Rachael C. <RCrabb@minneapolisparcs.org>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2015 3:46 PM
To: Becky Christopher
Cc: Pilger, Debra L.; Arvidson, Adam R.; Eberhart, Lois E.
Subject: MPRB response to information gathering for MCWD next generation watershed plan

Becky –

Thank you for giving MPRB the opportunity for input on goals for the next-generation MCWD plan.

MPRB staff has come up with a set of policy goals and a set of more concrete goals for the next generation comprehensive plan.

Our goals for the future of the MCWD system and our local issues are:

- Recovery from 2014 flood.
 - Repair previously completed reach projects
 - Repair new erosion
 - Identify and rectify incipient problem areas
- Progress on Impairments and TMDL projects
 - Phosphorus
 - Bacteria
 - Chloride
 - Biota
- Preserve base flow to protect stream biota
- Plan for future floods
 - Preserve flood storage.
- Trash Reduction
- Preserve historic elements, while naturalizing creek
- Retain AIS focus

Our policy-related goals for the next-generation plan are:

- To more closely align the MPRB CIP plan with the MCWD CIP plan, in order to more effectively partner on projects that meet our common goals.
- To have MPRB area masterplans recognized in future MCWD planning processes. For example, the Nokomis Hiawatha masterplan that was completed this year, a Calhoun-Harriet masterplan is in progress, and a Minnehaha Creek Corridor plan will be started soon. There will be more opportunities for partnership on water quality goals if these processes are integrated with MCWD's planning efforts.
- To balance recreational use and the historic landscape of the MPRB system with environmental issues and water quality improvements to the system.
- To address illicit discharge to receiving waters that occur across jurisdictional boundaries.
- That MCWD addresses mitigating flood issues that may be exacerbated by changing rainfall patterns.

List of MPRB water-quality-related programs and activities that take place within MCWD boundaries:

- Canines for Clean Water (address bacteria loading)
- WQ education tabling at Neighborhood events (annual, number of sites varies)
- Goose control (address bacteria loading)
- Lake Monitoring Program (Chemistry, aquatic plants, phytoplankton and zooplankton)
- Beach Monitoring Program (11 MPRB beaches within MCWD boundaries)
- Stormwater monitoring partnership with City of Minneapolis, two annually -monitored sites within MCWD
- Xerxes Ave stream monitoring station (rating-curve creation, flow monitoring, flow-paced sampling)
- Vegetation management (parkland, riparian, and shoreline)
- Periodic training for MPRB staff (pesticide applicators license, chloride applicators certification, pertinent water quality training topics)
- Aquatic Invasive Species early detection program, Boat inspection program, Education Program (in partnership with MCWD)
- Groundwater level monitoring

Please let me know if you need any further clarification or information. MPRB looks forward to participating in the MCWD next generation watershed plan.

Rachael Crabb
Water Resources Supervisor
Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board
612.313.7791



BWSR

June 22, 2015

Becky Christopher
Lead Planner & Project Manager
Minnehaha Creek Watershed District
15320 Minnetonka Blvd.
Minnetonka, MN 55345

RE: Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Comprehensive Plan Update

Dear Ms. Christopher:

This letter is in response to your email from April 22, 2015 soliciting input on the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District's (District) Fourth Generation Comprehensive Water Resources Management Plan.

Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) expectations for Plan Updates focuses on: 1. The Process – an opportunity to talk about the right things and affirm, align, or change direction based on the upfront input and issue identification that is brought forward; 2. Coordination – good planning feels collaborative from the beginning involving multiple LGUs, stakeholders and multiple levels of planning; 3. Plan Contents – revolving plans around priority issues, capturing clear 5-10 year intent, data analysis with trends, short/mid/long-term measurable goals based on science, priorities and frequently updated targeted implementation plans; and 4. Organization Capacity – increased self-evaluation, accountability and efficiency of implementation.

A few comments from my review of watershed information and activities as you embark on this planning effort include:

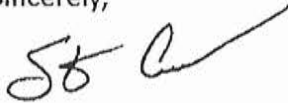
- The District has completed several TMDLs, including the Upper Minnehaha Creek Watershed TMDL, the Minnehaha Creek and Lake Hiawatha TMDL and Four Lakes TMDL. The watershed restoration strategies should guide many of the Capital Improvement Projects that the District undertakes.

- The District should include a reference to the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area Chloride TMDL and incorporate elements of the Chloride Management Plan.
- We would like to see a strong effort placed on impairments and loading that is taking place within the upper watershed. Exploring opportunities for new/increased partnerships with Hennepin County Department of Energy and Environment staff, the Carver Soil & Water Conservation District and University of Minnesota Extension is encouraged to address these areas.
- The District should establish policy on its approach to in-lake treatment systems before the draft plan is released to allow all regulatory agencies to provide comment.

I would like to recognize the exceptional work that the District has done. We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments and preliminary input. I look forward to continuing to work with you through the rest of the plan development process.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 651-296-2633, steve.christopher@state.mn.us.

Sincerely,



Steve Christopher
Board Conservationist

cc: Randy Anhorn, Hennepin County Department of Environment and Energy (via email)
Jeanne Daniels, MnDNR (via email)
Karen Voz, MDH (via email)
John Freitag, MDH (via email)
Rob Sip, MDA (via email)
Judy Sventek, Metropolitan Council (via email)
Juline Holleran, MPCA (via email)
Beth Neuendorf, MnDOT (via email)
Jim Haertel, BWSR (via email)

MDA

Becky Christopher

From: Sip, Rob (MDA) <rob.sip@state.mn.us>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2015 4:16 PM
To: Becky Christopher
Cc: Katrina Nygaard
Subject: RE: MCWD Comprehensive Plan Update
Attachments: MDA Drainage Recommendations for Local Water Mgmt Plans - June 2014.pdf

Becky,

FYI - the MDA developed the website below, which focuses more so on local water plans in outstate areas. You may find some relevant information within the website, which is specific to MDA priority concerns for water plans. Also, attached are MDA drainage recommendations, that may also have some relevance. Hopefully this is what you are looking for.

MDA Water Planning Website:

<http://www.mda.state.mn.us/en/protecting/waterprotection/waterplanning.aspx>

Below is some text illustrating MDA responsibilities:

"The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is statutorily responsible for the management of pesticides and fertilizer other than manure to protect water resources. The MDA implements a wide range of protection and regulatory activities to ensure that pesticides and fertilizer are stored, handled, applied and disposed of in a manner that will protect human health, water resources and the environment. The MDA works with the University of Minnesota to develop pesticide and fertilizer Best Management Practices (BMPs) to protect water resources, and with farmers, crop advisors, farm organizations, other agencies and many other groups to educate, promote, demonstrate and evaluate BMPs, to test and license applicators, and to enforce rules and statutes. The MDA has broad regulatory authority for pesticides and has authority to regulate the use of fertilizer to protect groundwater."

Please call with any questions that you may have.

Robert L. Sip
Environmental Policy Specialist
Pesticide and Fertilizer Management Division
Minnesota Department of Agriculture
3725 12Th Street North
St. Cloud, MN 56303

320-223-6531 (Office)
651-319-1832 (Cell)
651-201-6120 (Fax)

rob.sip@state.mn.us
www.mda.state.mn.us

From: Becky Christopher [BChristopher@minnehahacreek.org]
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2015 4:32 PM
Cc: Katrina Nygaard
Subject: MCWD Comprehensive Plan Update

DRAINAGE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LOCAL WATER MANAGEMENT PLANS

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) recommends the following drainage related items be considered or included as goals or objectives in local water management plans when applicable. The MDA realizes that not all of these recommendations may be included or adopted due to financial resources, staff capacity, and other factors at the local level.

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- **Comprehensive Drainage Management Plans** - The MDA recommends that your Local Governmental Unit (LGU) consider developing a comprehensive plan to guide efforts related to drainage system management. A comprehensive plan may include prioritization of Redetermination of Benefits and other ditch system maintenance, repair or improvement projects. An example of a recent plan is from Martin County, which released their plan in February 2014 and can be found at this weblink: <http://www.co.martin.mn.us/index.php/government/ditch-administration>
- **Drainage Advisory Committee** - The management of public drainage systems is complex and involves consideration of how public open ditches, tiles and culverts interact or are affected by private systems – both subsurface tile and open ditches with private culverts. Therefore, the MDA recommends that your LGU create a permanent Drainage Advisory Committee to inform important drainage issues before critical decisions are made by local policy-makers.
- **System-wide Culvert Inventory** - This will provide much needed information about the location, capacity and condition of culverts that are part of or adjacent to the public drainage system. Once conducted, your LGU may want to consider how culvert sizing can be utilized to address localized flooding conditions. The MDA refers you to one technical paper that was developed by the Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee of the Red River Watershed Management Board titled, "Culvert Sizing for Flood Damage Reduction" and the report can be found at the following website: <http://www.rwmb.org/files/FDRW/TP15.pdf>
- **Open Tile Inlet Inventory** - The MDA recommends developing an inventory (if one does not exist) of open tile inlets that are immediately adjacent to public ditches. An inventory will provide information about where inlets could be converted into blind inlets, rock inlets or some other type of inlet to reduce sediments and to slow the flow of water. The inventory could also provide information about where side inlet controls would be beneficial and where efforts could be targeted and prioritized. Your SWCD may already have knowledge of areas that are in need of open tile inlet conversion or side inlet controls.
- **Drainage Co-efficients (DC)** - The MDA recommends that DCs be based on engineering data and other relevant information to guide local DC policies and decisions. The MDA does not recommend specific DCs as conditions vary from one geographic region to another and there is no "one size fits all" approach to DCs. Crop tolerances for standing water should be considered and this is one area where a Drainage Advisory Committee could provide additional guidance and expertise.
- **Drainage Water Management (DWM) Plans** - The MDA recommends that LGUs encourage the development and implementation of DWM plans when new pattern tile systems are installed or when existing systems are repaired or upgraded. The MDA realizes that DWM plans may not fit the needs of every farmer or landowner, but efforts should be made to promote the management of drainage water.
- **Outreach Efforts** - Consider demonstration sites for bioreactors, saturated buffers or other drainage Best Management Practices (BMP) to illustrate operation, maintenance and performance issues to interested landowners and farmers. The MDA can assist with local efforts to demonstrate BMPs.
- **Water Storage** - The MDA recommends that water storage be further considered in local plans to include both short-term and long-term storage. The MDA realizes that storage projects are expensive and require time to process permits before construction can start. Storage may include but not be limited to wetland restoration or creation; large-scale or small-scale constructed impoundments; or water retention and detention.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, an alternative form of communication is available upon request.
TDD: 1-800-627-3529. MDA is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Minnesota Department of Agriculture, 625 Robert Street North, St. Paul, MN 55155-2538
www.mda.state.mn.us 800-967-AGRI (2474)

Contact Information:

Robert Sip
Environmental Policy Specialist
Pesticide and Fertilizer Mgmt. Div.
Minnesota Dept. of Agriculture
625 Robert Street North
St. Paul, MN 55155-2538

651-319-1832 (Cell Number)
rob.sip@state.mn.us
www.mda.state.mn.us

DNR

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Ecological and Water Resources Division
Central Region Headquarters
1200 Warner Road, Saint Paul MN 55106
Telephone: (651) 259-5845
Fax: (651) 772-7977



June 18, 2015

Becky Christopher
Lead Planner & Project Manager
Minnehaha Creek Watershed District
15320 Minnetonka Blvd., Minnetonka, MN 55345

RE: Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) Comprehensive Plan Update

Hello Becky:

In accordance with your email of 4/22/2015 and MN Rules Chapter 8410, I am writing to advise MCWD of the DNR's priority issues and expectations for the Comprehensive Plan (Plan) update, along with summaries of relevant water management goals, and water resource information.

DNR would first like to acknowledge and express our appreciation for the excellent water resource management work that MCWD has been doing for many years. Overall, MCWD's water management goals have been closely aligned with DNR's and we have worked in close partnership with the District on a number of fronts...notably our cooperative work on invasive species management and the streamlining of our overlapping public waters regulatory programs via the DNR General Permit issued to MCWD. We anticipate that these partnerships will continue and be enhanced with this Plan update and implementation over the next ten-year period. Following are DNR's priority issues with web links to background and additional information.

Integrated Water Resource Management

In general, DNR's water management goals and expectations focus on achieving healthy watersheds through a "whole-system" approach. Various ecological processes interact to provide services such as clean water, available groundwater, and diverse plant and animal communities. All components of the system should work together to provide a healthy watershed.

As MCWD begins the watershed management plan update process, it is important that water resource issues and goals be addressed not as independent prescriptions, but as integrated activities strategically applied toward the improvement of the entire watershed system. DNR's Watershed Health Assessment Framework uses a five component framework (hydrology, biology, connectivity, geomorphology, and water quality) to address the interdependent nature of ecological systems that operate within a watershed. Placing the goals and actions identified by the District into this framework can help to:

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- Evaluate District goals and actions in the context of the five aspects of watershed health
- Identify gaps between goals and actions
- Prioritize chosen actions effectively
- Examine the potential for unintended consequences

Please refer to the Watershed Health Assessment Framework webpage at <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/whaf/index.html> for additional information and data sets.

Groundwater Sustainability

With the State's growing awareness that ground water resources are not unlimited and could face depletion in some areas if current trends continue, we would like to see the District play a stronger role in promoting groundwater use conservation. For example, the District's rules/standards could be updated to require stormwater reuse for landscape irrigation systems in new developments and the use of drought-tolerant native plant materials for landscaping. The Commission's education and outreach program could also include groundwater conservation as a priority focus area. Please refer to the DNR Groundwater website at <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/gwmp/index.html> for additional information.

Aquatic Invasive Species

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) pose a significant threat to Minnesota's lakes and rivers and continue to be a high priority issue for DNR. MCWD has been a strong partner in detection and containment efforts and we encourage the District to continue its leadership role in this area.

For more information and ongoing coordination on the AIS Program, please contact Keegan Lund (keegan.lund@state.mn.us; 651-259-5828), DNR Invasive Species Specialist.

Governor's Buffer Initiative

Please consider what role the District could play in implementation of the new "Governors Buffer Initiative". While the District's current rules require buffers around wetlands as a condition of development or redevelopment activities, unlike the new legislation as well as the current State Shoreland Standards, they do not require buffers on streams and ditches for on-going agricultural operators. We believe that implementation of these buffers in the agricultural/rural areas of the watershed could have a significant positive impact on achievement of water quality goals, and we encourage the District to play a lead role through its regulatory, outreach and cost share programs. Background information on the Buffer Initiative can be found online at:

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/buffers/index.html>.

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Stream and Lake Bank Stabilization and Restoration

DNR's underlying philosophy regarding stream management is that streams are self-forming and self-maintaining systems. When they are artificially manipulated there can be negative impacts to channel stability. Alterations in pattern, dimension, or profile of a stream can lead to an increase in stream bank erosion, increased turbidity, embedded sediments, and a general reduction in biological productivity. DNR encourages MCWD to consider these stream dynamics when planning stream stabilization or restoration projects. Please refer to the following web pages for additional background and information:

http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/publications/waters/understanding_our_streams_and_rivers.pdf

http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/publications/waters/understanding_our_streams_and_rivers_resource_sheet_1.pdf

http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/publications/waters/toe_woodsod_mat_dec2010.pdf

http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/publications/waters/understanding_our_streams_and_rivers_resource_sheet_2.pdf

Consideration of Plant Communities, Rare Species, and Special Features

DNR recommends using assessment data relating to special natural resource features when completing long-range watershed planning efforts. These assessments provide important information on a landscape's integrity and its ability to provide benefits to ecosystems. The presence of rare species can be an indication of the health of a watershed, and plant and animal diversity helps landscapes to maintain important watershed functions. Information on the biology, distribution, ecology, habitat use, conservation, and management of rare species of interest is available in the DNR's Rare Species Guide, available at:

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/rsg/index.html>.

A number of DNR data layers have also been developed that are helpful in watershed planning. These are available from the Minnesota Geospatial Commons at: <https://gisdata.mn.gov/>. Some key data layers to consider include:

- DNR managed lands such as Scientific and Natural Areas, Wildlife Management Areas, and Aquatic Management Areas
- DNR native plant communities
- Trout waters
- Karst features
- Calcareous fens
- Sites of Biodiversity Significance
- Regionally Significant Ecological Areas

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We also want to call your attention to the recent Federal listing of the northern long-eared bat. The northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), found throughout Minnesota, is also state-listed as a species of special concern. During the winter this species hibernates in caves and mines, and during the active season (approximately April-October) it roosts underneath bark, in cavities, or in crevices of both live and dead trees. Activities that may impact this species include destruction/degradation of habitat (including tree removal), any disturbance to hibernacula, and wind farm operation.

Effective May 4, 2015, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listed the northern long-eared bat as threatened under the Endangered Species Act and implemented an interim 4(d) rule which prohibits take of this species without a permit unless the take is exempt under the interim 4(d) rule. If you believe that a project may adversely affect (“take”) the northern long-eared bat, you should determine whether the “take” is exempt under the interim 4(d) rule or whether you need a Federal permit. To make this determination, please refer to the USFWS Key to the Interim 4(d) Rule available at <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/mammals/nleb/Interim4dRuleKeyNLEB.html>.

In closing, I want to confirm that I will be participating on the Technical Advisory Committee for MCWD’s Plan update process as the DNR representative. If you have questions regarding the content of this letter or would like to discuss individual topics or recommendations further, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to working with the District on your next generation Plan and future projects.

Sincerely,

Kate Drewry
DNR North Metro Area Hydrologist

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