



Title: 325 Blake Road Listening Session Findings and Developer Engagement Update

Prepared by: Name: Gabriel Sherman
Phone: 952.641.4510
gsherman@minnehahacreek.org

Purpose: At the May 13, 2021 Board of Managers meeting staff will present findings from the listening sessions held during February and March 2021 and will provide an update on the status of the developer engagement process.

Summary: Since January 2021, the 325 Blake Road Restoration and Redevelopment project has progressed through several major milestones along the parallel tracks of design and developer engagement. With respect to project design, staff and MCWD's design firm, HDR, conducted a series of listening sessions in February and March to kick off the design process. Sessions were held with the MCWD Board of Managers, MCWD Staff, Hopkins City Council, and City of Hopkins staff. A final session was held with the community, supplemented by an online survey. The findings from these sessions and survey will inform early design discussions with a selected developer and serve as the basis for future community engagement. The sessions have been documented in a report (attached) and the major conclusions will be presented by staff.

Along the developer engagement track, MCWD and the City of Hopkins initiated the process with a solicitation for letters of interest from a wide pool of developers in January 2021. A selected subset of those developers who submitted a letter of interest were subsequently invited to participate in roundtable meetings held by MCWD and the City. Those developers were invited to submit proposals in response to the Request for Proposals issued jointly by MCWD and the City. With proposals due May 5, 2021, staff will provide an update on the next steps in developer selection and the converging of the design and development tracks over the next two months.

Supporting documents (list attachments):

- 325 Blake Road Listening Sessions Report
- 325 Blake Road RFP Detailed Schedule
- 325 Blake Road Parallel Design and Development Engagement Process