



MEMORANDUM

To: MCWD Board of Managers
From: Becky Christopher
Date: October 10, 2016
Re: Update on TCMA Chloride TMDL and Implementation Efforts

Purpose:

To provide an update on the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area (TCMA) Chloride Project and implementation efforts.

Background:

For the past several years, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has been working to develop a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for chloride-impaired waterbodies within the 7-county metropolitan area as well as a metro-wide chloride management plan. District staff have participated on various advisory committees throughout this process.

The Chloride Management Plan was approved in February of this year, and the TMDL was approved in June. Both documents can be found on the MPCA website at: <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/road-salt-and-water-quality>. The TMDL includes the following MCWD waterbodies: Brownie Lake, Diamond Lake, Peavey Lake, Powderhorn Lake, Minnehaha Creek, and an unnamed ditch in Minnetonka.

The Chloride Management Plan aims to improve the quality of waterbodies that are already impaired as well as protect those that are not impaired. It uses a performance-based, adaptive approach that focuses primarily on optimizing winter road maintenance practices to minimize salt use while still providing safe conditions for the public. The primary role identified for watershed districts in the management plan is to increase awareness of the problem and encourage reduced salt use.

Implementation Efforts

The District's Education and Communications staff continue to disseminate educational information related to chloride use through press releases, newsletters, events, social media, and other channels. The District also continues to offer winter maintenance trainings in partnership with the MPCA, Fortin Consulting, and other watershed district and city partners. The Winter Parking Lot and Sidewalk Maintenance Workshop offers information about best practices for managing snow and ice on parking lots and sidewalks. The workshops are intended for contractors, staff, and volunteers who maintain parking lots and sidewalks, property managers, and snowplow drivers. In addition, MCWD has hosted

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Winter Roads Maintenance Workshops which focus on best practices for managing snow and ice on roadways. These workshops are intended for city, county, and state winter maintenance professionals.

Staff also recently participated on an advisory committee led by the Freshwater Society to develop a model snow and ice management policy for road authorities and private commercial snow removal contractors. The project grew out of the February 2016 Road Salt Symposium where Louis Smith presented on liability issues in the area of snow and ice removal. There was strong interest from conference participants in developing a model policy to help road authorities manage liability issues. Smith Partners was brought on to draft the policy which was completed in August. Members of the work group are currently working to obtain endorsements from various organizations, after which the model policy will be disseminated for use statewide.

If there are questions regarding this update or you would like more information, please contact Becky Christopher at 952-641-4512 | bchristopher@minnehahacreek.org or Darren Lochner at 952-641-4524 | dlochner@minnehahacreek.org.

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