

**Meeting:** Operations and Programs Committee

Meeting date: 3/9/2023 Agenda Item #: 4.1 Item Type: Discussion

Title: Strategic Action Plan Discussion #2 - Capital Projects

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#### **Purpose:**

To engage in discussions to support a 2023 Board Retreat, bringing focus to MCWD's five-year strategic priorities.

#### **Background:**

At the midpoint in its 10-year watershed plan cycle, and five years since its last strategic plan, the MCWD Board of Managers has spent time analyzing its past and current situation, all to support preparations for the future. Recently the Board agreed to undertake a series of discussions, leading to a 2023 Board Retreat, that will culminate in the development of a new five-year strategic action plan to guide the organization leading into development of the 2027 Watershed Management Plan.

During its first discussion, the Board spent time with staff brainstorming and sorting five-year priorities. A summary of discussion notes is included in Attachment A. Below is a synthesis of the six categories of priorities from this discussion:

1. Build High-Impact Capital Projects

Deliver quality projects that measurably improve the watershed, community, and create place.

#### 2. Deliver Meaningful Climate Action Policy

Move from the Climate Action Framework to a 2027 Watershed Plan with full community support.

#### 3. Strengthen Partnerships

Increase the level of explicit support for MCWD's priorities at local, regional, and state levels.

## 4. Leverage MCWD's Brand Equity

Maximize the perceived value of working with MCWD, to generate new opportunities.

#### 5. Enhance Data-Driven Decision Making

Create tools to understand the watershed, inform decisions, shape communications, and build trust.

#### 6. Invest in People and Reinforce Culture

Grow capabilities, methodically expand the team, and fortify culture to achieve excellence.

### **Process:**

In each of these focus areas MCWD has existing action plans (e.g. 5-Year CIP, Climate Action Framework, Outreach Plan). In upcoming meetings, these existing plans will be reflected out, and discussion will drill down into unanswered questions and ideas. This process will synthesize existing plans and discussions in a five-year strategic action plan.

January 2023 PPC – Kickoff Brainstorming of Five-Year Priorities

March 2023 OPC – Capital Projects
April 2023 PPC – Climate Action

May 2023 PPC
Partnerships and Brand Equity

June 2023 PPC
People and Culture

July 2023 Retreat – Data-Driven Decisions and Strategic Priorities Synthesis

#### March 9, 2023 OPC - Capital Projects:

As the Board engages in discussions around the priority area of capital projects it is building from the clarity developed in 2022, provided through the Multi-Year Capital Improvement Plan.

This process engaged the Board in driving decisions about how to advance projects in queue, through planned decision gates, based on project benefit, cost, and risk profiles. The Multi-Year CIP includes projects, identified in the following areas, in various stages of data diagnostic, planning, feasibility, design and construction:

- Minnehaha Creek
- Six Mile Creek Halsted Bay
- Long Lake Creek Tanager Bay
- Painter Creek Jennings Bay

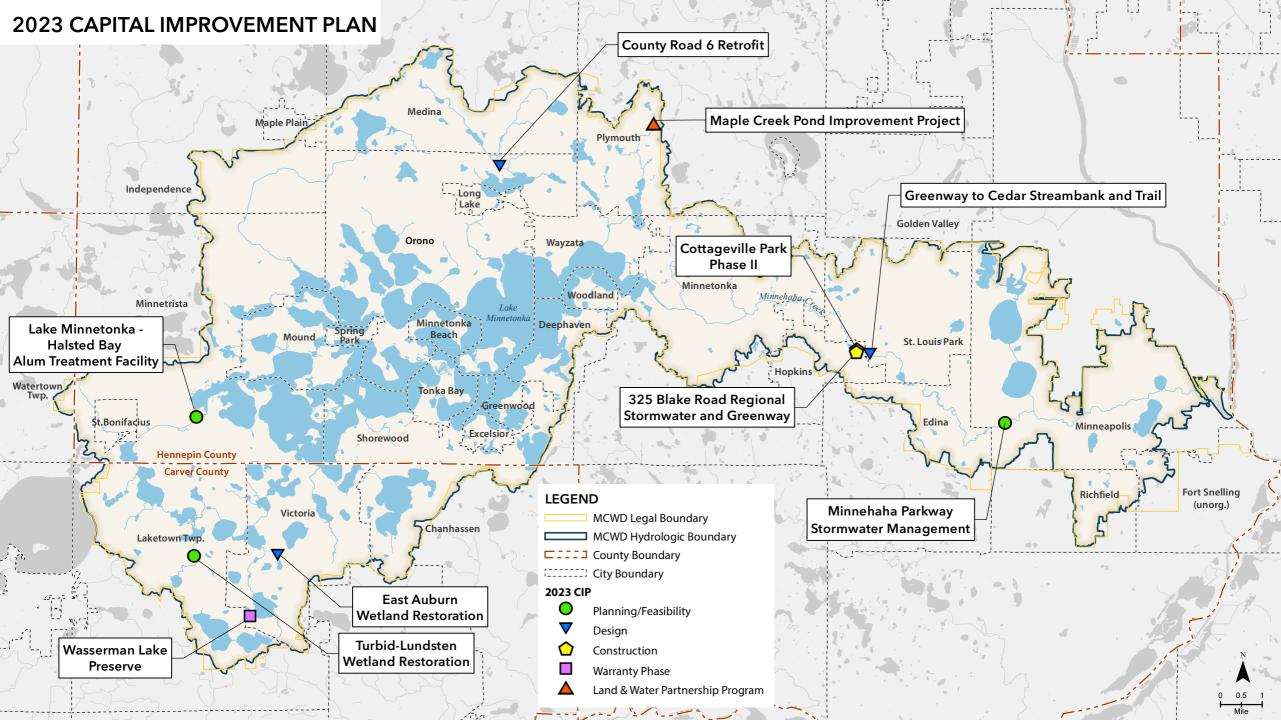
As with any capital plan, certainty diminishes in out years. Therefore the March 9, 2023 OPC Meeting will offer an opportunity to:

- 1. Reinforce near-term capital project priorities
- 2. Build clarity around specific measurable outcomes for the next five years
- 3. Discuss the Board's vision for priorities and scale of implementation across subwatersheds

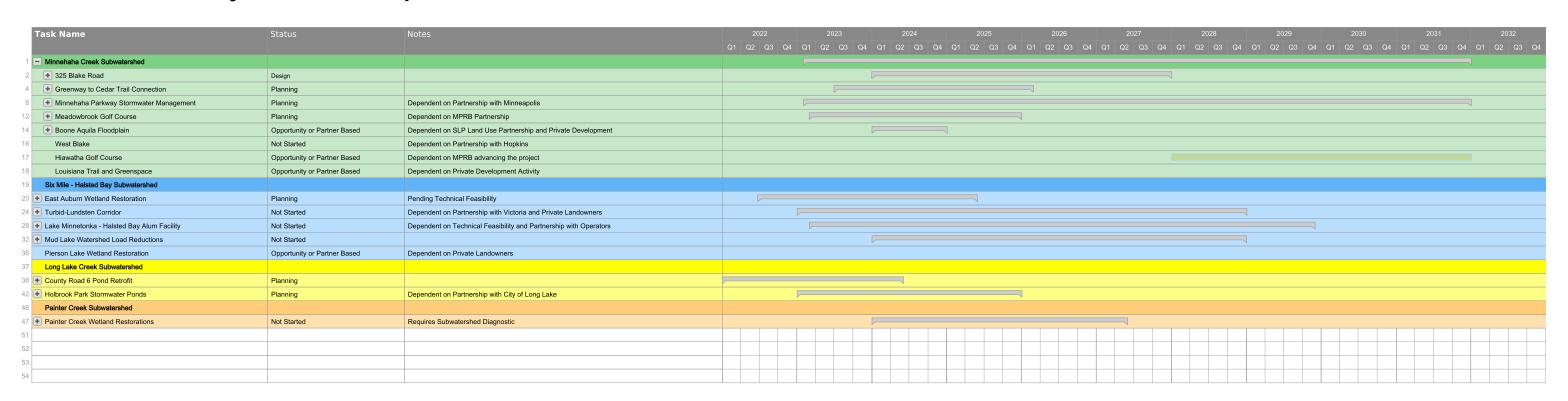
To support the PPC discussion, the <u>Multi-Year CIP is linked here</u>. A 2023 capital project map is included as Attachment A. A high-level snapshot of projects and implementation timelines is included as Attachment B.

Please consider the following questions ahead of the meeting:

- 1. What grounding questions do you have regarding the projects across subwatersheds in the 5-Year CIP?
- 2. What are the key outcomes MCWD is working to achieve across the subwatersheds?
  - a. Think about outcomes through the lens of MCWD's four goals:
    - i. Water Quality, Water Quantity, Ecological Integrity, Thriving Communities.
  - b. Think about outcomes in terms of SMART goals
    - i. Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Timebound
- 3. What is achievable across Minnehaha Creek, Six Mile, Long Lake and Painter in the next five years?



# MCWD 5-Year Project Plan - Simple Dashboard



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