

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** MCWD Board of Managers  
**From:** Brett Eidem, Brandon Wisner  
**CC:** Telly Mamayek, James Wisker  
**Date:** November 11, 2014  
**Re:** Cost Share/ LID Workplans

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### **Purpose:**

To provide a status update on the 2015 Cost Share and LID program workplans. Staff will be presenting the workplans at the December 11<sup>th</sup> Board of Managers Workshop.

### **Background:**

In July 2014, a Joint Committee of the MCWD Board of Managers discussed the purpose and scope of both the Cost Share and the Low Impact Development Grant Program (LID- fund 3121) funds. It was recommended that the Cost Share Program be generally simplified into three broad categories of opportunity:

1. Homeowner BMPs
2. Non- Profit/Institutional Demonstration Projects
3. Public-Private Water Quality Improvements

Each category will have its own criteria for the evaluation of potential projects. These criteria will be developed by staff and brought back to the Board in December 2014. Each category will have a separate focus that aligns with the District's mission, which will allow for higher quality projects for each category. Projects within category 3 will be predominantly funded through the LID (fund 3121). However, within the Cost Share Grant Program (3130) a portion of flexible capital will be reserved to contribute towards high priority LID projects as opportunity dictates. These decisions will be made during the fiscal year by the Board of Managers based on opportunities, funding approved to date, and priorities. Should the Cost Share flexible capital not be needed to augment LID funding for Public-Private Water Quality Improvements, it will be available to augment category 1 and 2 projects within Cost Share.

Staff presented the future workplans at a planning and policy meeting on August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014. The primary purpose of the workplan presentation was to establish the levy and budget for the program for 2015, where there was no requested levy increase for either.

Since then, staff has had multiple meetings with other watershed districts, designers of many cost share projects, and other partners to discuss the future process and framework of the programs. Staff has met with Capitol Region, Ramsey-Washington Metro, and Rice Creek Watershed Districts to compare cost share program framework. Capitol Region has recently developed a cost share calculator, which staff uses to quantify funding for water quality benefits as well as outreach potential. There are other factors in their process that are different and would be difficult for MCWD to adopt, but it is the most innovative in terms of quantifying water quality and outreach into a preliminary review process. There were other differences with other watershed districts as far as what needs to be approved by the Board and what can be processed at a staff level.

Staff is working with a few consistent cost share project designers in an effort to know how to engage and educate homeowners throughout the design and approval process. This in particular is with the Master Water Steward Program that the District continues to partner on, in which staff spent a large amount of time this year addressing site assessments for stormwater management throughout the design process.

The evaluation criteria is being further developed for each of the three categories, and staff has been researching how to value education and outreach programming in the future evaluation of all Cost Share/LID projects.

**Next Steps/Board Meetings:**

Staff will be presenting the workplans at the December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Board of Managers Workshop. Staff will present the new evaluation criteria and focus for each of the three proposed categories of projects. Staff will also address any concerns on old programs and the future process of how potential projects will be reviewed.

If there are questions in advance of the meeting, please contact Brett Eidem at 952-641-4523, [beidem@minnehahacreek.org](mailto:beidem@minnehahacreek.org) or Brandon Wisner at 952-641-4505, [bwisner@minnehahacreek.org](mailto:bwisner@minnehahacreek.org)