

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** MCWD Board of Managers  
**From:** Becky Christopher  
**CC:** James Wisker  
**Date:** May 18, 2015  
**Re:** Comprehensive Plan Self Assessment

---

### **Purpose:**

At the May 21, 2015 Planning and Policy Committee Meeting, staff will facilitate a discussion with the Committee as part of the Self Assessment for the Comprehensive Plan update. All members of the Board are encouraged to attend and provide their input.

### **Background:**

As part of the process of developing the District's next generation Comprehensive Water Resources Management Plan, the District has contracted with Wenck Associates, Inc. to complete a Self Assessment. The purpose of the Self Assessment is to reflect on the District's performance and progress over the last plan cycle to inform the development of the next Plan, which is focused on improving the District's implementation model.

During the past eight years operating under the 2007 Plan, the District has continued to evolve and learn from its successes and challenges. In the last few years in particular, the District has undertaken a significant shift in its implementation approach as reflected in the Board's adoption of the Balanced Urban Ecology policy. This policy identifies the principles of partnership, focus, and innovation as central to this new approach. The Board has also integrated the merit of focus into the framework for the next generation plan under the "two-track" approach. Accordingly, staff is using the Self Assessment process not only to reflect on past performance, but also to evaluate strategies to engender future successes, such as engraining the District's entrepreneurial spirit and increasing program focus and alignment.

The Self-Assessment is being completed in three phases, beginning internally with the staff and Board of Managers. In the second phase, staff and Wenck will facilitate a discussion with the Technical Advisory Committee to obtain external feedback from those stakeholders who work most closely with the District. The results of the recent public opinion survey will also be taken into consideration. Finally, the findings of these internal and external discussions will be synthesized into a report along with recommended next steps.

### **May 21 Board Discussion:**

On April 24 and 27, Wenck and Planning staff met with each of the three program areas (Research and Monitoring, Education and Outreach, Planning and Permitting) in two-hour sessions that included both specific questions and open-ended discussion. These discussions were productive and revealed some overarching themes. At the May 21 Planning and Policy Committee meeting, staff will provide an overview of the conclusions from the staff meetings and facilitate a discussion with the Board of Managers to gain a policy perspective.

Please take some time in advance of the meeting to reflect on the District's accomplishments and challenges over the last plan cycle and the factors that have made the organization successful. Think about issues that have been addressed or remain, policies adopted, initiatives advanced, and projects completed that are now part of the District's unique model of successful watershed implementation. Come prepared to discuss changes that improved MCWD effectiveness that can be memorialized and augmented in the next generation plan. Reflect on the themes of the Balanced Urban Ecology policy (focus, innovation, partnerships) and identify opportunities to improve the integration of these principles into District processes, thereby enhancing the current trajectory of success.

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