



## MEMORANDUM

**To:** MCWD Board of Managers  
**From:** Becky Christopher, MCWD Lead Planner  
**Date:** March 14, 2016  
**Re:** Comprehensive Plan Updates

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### **Purpose:**

At the March 17, 2016 Planning and Policy Committee Meeting, staff will update the Committee on the following elements of Comprehensive Plan development:

- Plan structure and content
- Draft two-track approach framework
- Potential changes to support partnership model

### **Overview:**

First, staff will provide an overview of the structure for the 2017 Comprehensive Plan (Attachment 1). The Plan will be comprised of three volumes. The first volume will be an executive summary of the Plan, outlining the motivations behind the District's new mission and a high-level framework of how the District will achieve that mission. The second volume will contain a synthesis of all pertinent data to be used in identifying specific issues that the District will address to achieve its mission. The third volume will define measurable goals for implementation and expound upon the District's implementation framework. This framework will outline, in each subwatershed, how the District will execute the two-track approach and pair project and program opportunities with optimal management strategies.

At the last round of meetings with the Policy, Technical, and Citizens Advisory Committees, staff and the Committees have discussed the two-track approach in more detail, including:

- Criteria for selecting focal geographies
- Process for planning in focal geographies
- Programs and services that support the responsive track

The Advisory Committees have expressed support for the two-track approach, and staff has begun drafting the narrative and graphics to explain this approach in the Plan. Staff will provide the PPC with an overview of a draft graphic describing the approach (Attachment 2).

Also at these meetings, staff has asked the Advisory Committees to consider what changes could be made by the District or its partners to support this more integrated, partnership-based implementation approach. Attached is a working list of ideas that staff has heard so far (Attachment 3). These ideas can be vetted through the upcoming program evaluation process.

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).

Attachments:

1. Plan volume graphic
2. Two-track approach graphic
3. Potential changes to support partnership model

# MCWD 4th Generation Plan

## Draft Structure

### Volume I: Executive Summary

A concise summary for policymakers, technicians, and the public that provides a high level overview of how the District intends to achieve its mission.

Theme: Integration of land-use and water planning

Why:

- Land-use drives water quality
- Historic disconnect and challenges
- Evolution of District policy (BUE)

How:

- Mission, vision, goals, guiding principles
- Organizational framework/program overviews
- Implementation framework:
  - + Partnership model
  - + Two-track approach
  - + Priorities and major actions
  - + Responsibilities of LGUs

### Volume II: Data & Inventory

A synthesis of all pertinent data that will be used to identify specific issues that need to be addressed in order to achieve MCWD's mission.

Data:

- Topography
- Soil
- Geology
- Precipitation
- Surface water resources
- Water quality and quantity and trends
- Groundwater resources
- Stormwater/drainage systems
- Regulated pollutant sources
- Habitat and rare/endangered species
- Recreation areas
- Existing and proposed land use
- Priority areas for wetland preservation/restoration

### Volume III: Implementation Framework

Expounds on the District's implementation framework and defines measurable goals and strategies for each subwatershed.

Implementation Framework:

- Partnership model
- Two-track approach
- Priorities and major actions
- Responsibilities of LGUs
- Procedures:
  - + Public process (CIP, cost share, etc.)
  - + Evaluation of local plans
  - + Plan amendments
  - + Evaluation and reporting

Subwatershed Plans:

- Water resources, issues, stressors, goals, and strategies
- Local goals, priorities, plans
- Partnership opportunities
- Funding sources and cap

DRAFT

**Two-Track Approach**  
 An implementation model intended to improve collaboration between the MCWD and other public and private partners to help meet each other's goals and maximize benefit to the community.

**Focus Track**

**Responsive Track**

WHAT?

A process of convening and co-planning with partners to address the most challenging water resource issues in the watershed while producing broader community benefits.

Through improved coordination of land-use and water planning, the District will use its various programs to remain responsive to needs and opportunities District-wide.

WHY?

To make significant, lasting improvement in areas of high need that could not be addressed without a sustained, concentrated effort.

To respond to needs and opportunities in real-time based on changes on the landscape.

WHERE?

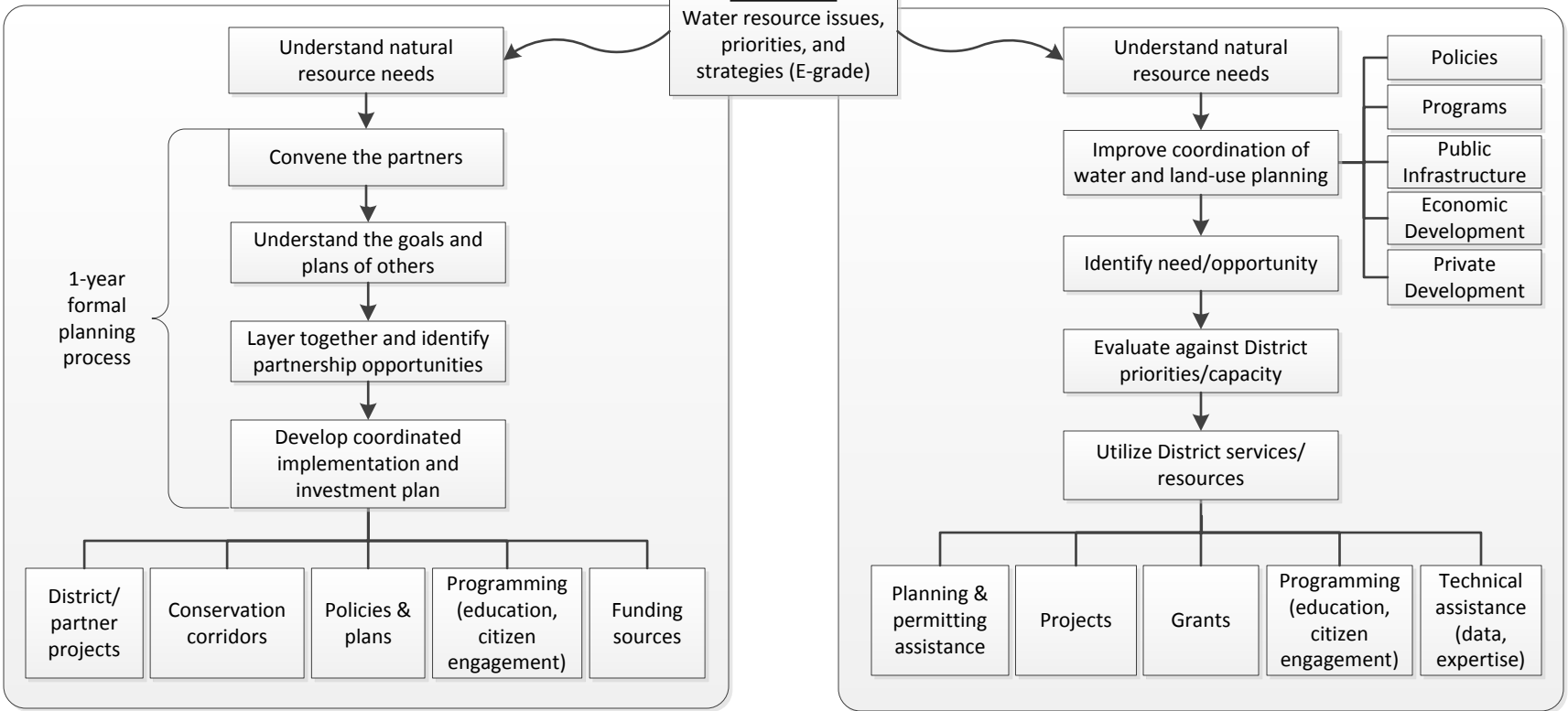
The District will select 1-2 focal geographies at a time to follow this approach.

District-wide

HOW?

- Criteria to be considered:
- Water resource issues/impairments
  - Public value of resources
  - Local partnerships and support
  - Known opportunities
  - System scale and complexity
  - Development/redevelopment pressure
  - Probability of success
  - Past investment by District or others

MCWD Plan  
 Water resource issues, priorities, and strategies (E-grade)



### Potential Changes to Support Partnership Model

As staff works with the advisory committees to develop the implementation framework for the Plan, staff has asked the committees to consider changes that could be made by the District or cities to policies/procedures/practices/programs to support partnership and integration. The following is a list of ideas heard to date:

- District:
  - Increased communication/relationship-building with cities:
    - Need to tailor approach by city – talk to staff to determine who, how, when
    - Annual presentations to councils/staff (approach, priorities, best practices)
    - Standing quarterly/biannual meetings with staff at certain cities
    - Improve use of annual report/meeting process
      - Involve other city departments
      - Request CIPs and development plans (not just water quality projects)
  - Fee-for-service arrangement to help cities meet MS4 requirements
  - Consider environmental PUD-type process
  - Consider District role in wetland banking
  - Provide more guidance/resources to citizen groups to make them more effective and target their efforts (Master Water Stewards, Lake Associations, “Friends of” groups, etc.)
  - Cost share:
    - 15% cost share for stormwater BMP maintenance to incentivize completion of deferred maintenance
    - Cost share funding to upgrade street sweeping and/or winter maintenance equipment
    - Funding to model need for infrastructure improvements for climate change adaptation
- Cities:
  - Invite District to participate in development of city comprehensive and local water plans
  - Contact District early in their land-use planning processes:
    - City infrastructure/CIPs
    - Economic development plans
  - Promote early District involvement in private development planning:
    - Incorporate District contact information into website, application checklists, etc.
    - Notify District of applications/meetings
- Both:
  - Map out development/permit review process and points for connection