

MEETING DATE: April 26, 2018

TITLE: Authorization to Submit Annual Report to the Board of Water and Soil Resources

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 18-041

PREPARED BY: Becky Christopher

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REVIEWED BY: Administrator Counsel Program Mgr. (Name): _____
 Board Committee Engineer Other

WORKSHOP ACTION:

<input type="checkbox"/> Advance to Board mtg. Consent Agenda.	<input type="checkbox"/> Advance to Board meeting for discussion prior to action.
<input type="checkbox"/> Refer to a future workshop (date): _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Refer to taskforce or committee (date): _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Return to staff for additional work.	<input type="checkbox"/> No further action requested.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): <u>Approval requested at April 26, 2018 Board Meeting</u>	

PURPOSE or ACTION REQUESTED:

Authorization to submit the 2017 Annual Report to the Board of Water and Soil Resources and Department of Natural Resources

SUMMARY:

The attached report has been prepared to satisfy the District's annual reporting requirement to the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) and Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Minnesota Statutes Chapter 103D.351 requires watershed districts to file an annual report with BWSR and the DNR, and for metro watershed districts, the report must meet the requirements described in Minnesota Rules 8410.0150. The annual activity report includes information on Board members and staff, the previous and current years' work plans, biannual progress toward goals, water quality trends, communication activities, solicitation of consultant services, local plan adoption and implementation, and permits and violations. The annual activity report is due to BWSR and the DNR within 120 days of the end of each calendar year.

The District is also required to submit a copy of its annual audit report to BWSR, the DNR, and the state auditor's office within 180 days of the end of the District's fiscal year. The District's 2017 audit will be included as an appendix to the annual activity report.



**Minnehaha Creek Watershed District
2017 Annual Report to the
Board of Water and Soil Resources and
Department of Natural Resources**



2017 Annual Report

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1.0 Introduction

This report has been prepared to satisfy the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District's (MCWD or District) annual reporting requirements set forth in Minnesota Statutes Chapter 103D.351, which requires watershed districts to file an annual report with the Board of Soil and Water Resources and the Department of Natural Resources. Metropolitan watershed districts are required to follow reporting requirements described in MR 8410.0150.

2.0 Annual Activity Report

The following information is provided to satisfy the requirements of MN Rules 8410.0150, Subpart 3.

2.A. Board Members

Below is a list of the District's current Board of Managers, designated officers, and the county that appointed each member.

Table 1. MCWD Board of Managers

Manager	County	Contact Information
Sherry Davis White, President	Hennepin	swhite@minnehahacreek.org
Brian Shekleton, Vice President	Hennepin	bshekleton@minnehahacreek.org
Richard Miller, Treasurer	Hennepin	rmiller@minnehahacreek.org
Kurt Rogness, Secretary	Hennepin	krogness@minnehahacreek.org
Bill Becker	Hennepin	bbecker@minnehahacreek.org
Jessica Loftus	Hennepin	jloftus@minnehahacreek.org
Bill Olson	Carver	bolson@minnehahacreek.org

2.B. Staff Contact Information

The District currently employs 25 staff. The names, job titles, and contact information are provided in Table 3. The District maintains an office for staff and meetings. The address is given below:

Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Office
15320 Minnetonka Blvd.
Minnetonka, MN 55345
Ph: 952-471-0590 Fax: 952-471-0682
Email: admin@minnehahacreek.org
www.minnehahacreek.org

Table 2. MCWD Staff Contacts

Name	Job Title	E-mail	Phone
James Wisker	District Administrator	jwisker@minnehahacreek.org	(952) 641-4509
Telly Mamayek	Communications and Education Director	tmamayek@minnehahacreek.org	(952) 641-4508
Darren Lochner	Education & Engagement Coordinator	dlochner@minnehahacreek.org	(952) 641-4524
Kim Labo	Education & Engagement Coordinator	klabo@minnehahacreek.org	(952) 641-4507
Sarah Bhimani	Communications Coordinator	sbhimani@minnehahacreek.org	(952) 641-4520
Cathy Reynolds	Operations Manager	creynolds@minnehahacreek.org	(952) 641-4503
Chris Lizee	Administrative Assistant	clizee@minnehahacreek.org	(952) 641-4500
Theresa Zerby	Accounting Clerk	tzerby@minnehahacreek.org	(952) 641-4519
Katherine Sylvia	Permitting Program Manager	ksylvia@minnehahacreek.org	(952) 473-2855
Elizabeth Showalter	Permitting Technician	eshowalter@minnehahacreek.org	(952) 641-4518
Heidi Quinn	Permitting Technician	hquinn@minnehahacreek.org	(952) 641-4504
Cole Thompson	Permitting Technician	cthompson@minnehahacreek.org	(952) 641-4521
Luke Menden	Permitting Assistant	lmenden@minnehahacreek.org	(952) 641-4532
Michael Hayman	Senior Project Planner	mhayman@minnehahacreek.org	(952) 471-8226
Becky Christopher	Senior Policy Planner	bchristopher@minnehahacreek.org	(952) 641-4512
Tiffany Schaufler	Senior Project Manager	tschaufler@minnehahacreek.org	(952) 641-4513
Renae Clark	Policy & Grants Coordinator	rclark@minnehahacreek.org	(952) 641-4510
Anna Brown	Planner - Project Manager	abrown@minnehahacreek.org	(952) 641-4522
Laura Domyancich	Planner - Project Manager	ldomyancich@minnehahacreek.org	(952) 641-4582

Janna Jonely	Project and Land Management Technician	jjonely@minnehahacreek.org	(952) 641-4523
Kelly Dooley	Water Quality Manager	kdooley@minnehahacreek.org	(952) 641-4515
Eric Fieldseth	Aquatic Ecologist	efieldseth@minnehahacreek.org	(952) 471-7873
Kailey Cermack	Research & Monitoring Coordinator	kcermack@minnehahacreek.org	(952) 641-4501
Jill Sweet	Research & Monitoring Technician	jbjorklund@minnehahacreek.org	(952) 471-8976
Chase Vanderbilt	Research & Monitoring Field Assistant	cvanderbilt@minnehahacreek.org	(952) 641-4532

2.C. Assessment of 2017 Work Plans

District staff prepared 24 individual work plans for 2017 as listed below. All activities were substantially completed as proposed with two notable exceptions. The Meadowbrook Golf Course project (fund 3150) was delayed due to changes in the plans of our project partner, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. The work is expected to proceed in 2018-19. Trail construction at the Six Mile Marsh Prairie (fund 3106) was postponed due to limited staff capacity and is expected to proceed in 2019.

Expenditures under each work plan are included in the audit report in Appendix 1. The District's 2017 Year in Review publication, highlighting major activities from each of the District's programs, is included as Appendix 2.

- Operations and Support Services:
 - Information Technology (1003)
 - Government Relations (1004)
- Planning and Permitting:
 - Permit Administration (2001)
 - Planning and Projects (2002)
 - Project Maintenance and Land Management (2003)
 - Land Conservation (2004)
 - Habitat Restoration Initiative (2006)
- Capital Projects:
 - Six Mile Marsh Prairie Restoration (3106)
 - Taft/Legion Improvements (3140)
 - Long Lake Creek Corridor (3142)
 - 325 Blake Rd Stormwater Management (3145)
 - 54th St. Stream Restoration (3147)
 - FEMA Flood Repairs (3148)
 - Highway 101 Causeway (3149)
 - Meadowbrook Golf Course (3150)
 - Minnehaha Preserve Enhancement (3151)
 - SW LRT Trail Connection (3152)

- Education and Communications:
 - Cynthia Krieg Education Grant (4001)
 - Education (4002)
 - Communications (4003)
 - Cost Share (4005)
- Research and Monitoring:
 - Research & Monitoring (5001)
 - E-Grade (5002)
 - Aquatic Invasive Species (5005)

2.D. 2018 Work Plans

District staff prepared 19 individual program and project work plans for 2018 which can be found on the District website, along with a summary of the District's 2018 budget, at: <http://www.minnehahacreek.org/about/district-finances/budget>.

2.E. Evaluation of Progress on Goals and Implementation Actions

In January 2018, the District adopted its new Watershed Management Plan. With the adoption of the new Plan, the District is in the process of evaluating and improving the way it measures and tracks progress toward its goals across its various programs and projects. Section 3.7 of the Plan describes the District's intended framework for setting goals and evaluating progress through a sequential process that begins with strategic goals and long-range targets and leads to subwatershed and then project-specific targets, performance measurement and evaluation.

The District plans to have this new framework in place later this year to inform the 2018 annual report. In addition to its own evaluation and reporting efforts, the District intends to serve in a coordinating role to track collective progress toward TMDL goals among MS4s within its boundaries.

2.F. Trends in Monitoring Data

The Research and Monitoring program evaluates trends for its long-term ("anchor") lake and stream monitoring stations throughout the District. The 30 lake and 13 stream stations were assessed for trends in water quality and stream yield from 2008-2017. All the stations had eight or more years of consecutive data. Trends were computed using the Mann-Kendall test on water clarity (SECC), algal abundance (CHLA) and total phosphorus (TP) in the epilimnion on lakes.

For streams, the Mann-Kendall test was used to compute stream yield trends. Flow-corrected concentrations were assessed for water quality trends. A locally weighted scatterplot smoothing (LOWESS) residual was calculated between the parameter of interest (TSS or TP concentrations) and flow. Then the water quality data was assessed by the Mann-Kendall test.

All statistical analyses were computed using R-studio statistical packages. An alpha of 0.05 was used to determine if the p-value was significant. Lakes with significant trends are displayed in Table 4, and the stream stations with significant trends are displayed in Table 5.

Five of the District’s eight anchor stations on Lake Minnetonka showed statistically significant improvements in clarity and chlorophyll-a concentrations from 2008-2017. In the Minnehaha Creek subwatershed, Twin lakes showed statistically significant improvements in clarity, where Cedar and Powderhorn lakes showed statistically significant degradation in clarity. Powderhorn Lake also showed significant degradation in chlorophyll-a concentrations.

Table 3. Significant trends for lakes within Minnehaha Creek Watershed District.

Trends: 2008-2017						
Subwatershed	Lake or Bay	Parameter	Slope	Tau	p-value	Trend Direction
Lake Minnetonka	Forest	SECC	0.043	0.511	0.049	Improving
		CHLA	-2.077	-0.511	0.049	Improving
	Lake Minnetonka: Crystal	SECC	0.155	0.511	0.049	Improving
	Lake Minnetonka: Grays	SECC	0.293	0.600	0.020	Improving
		CHLA	-0.380	-0.644	0.012	Improving
	Lake Minnetonka: Halsted	CHLA	-4.647	-0.733	0.004	Improving
Lake Minnetonka: Lower Lake South	CHLA	-0.388	-0.689	0.007	Improving	
Minnehaha Creek	Cedar	SECC	-0.087	-0.555	0.032	Degrading
	Hiawatha	TP	-3.389	-0.644	0.012	Improving
	Powderhorn	SECC	-0.107	-0.777	0.0002	Degrading
		CHLA	8.316	0.867	0.0007	Degrading
	Twin	SECC	0.030	0.511	0.049	Improving

Dutch Lake outlet is the only anchor stream station that did not have any statistically significant trends. Six of the thirteen stations showed statistically significant increases in stream yields. Data also show that 2011, 2014, and 2016 were some of the wettest years on record.

The majority of stream stations had statistically significant trends indicating improvements in water quality. Three anchor stream stations had statistically significant degrading water quality trends. Langdon Lake outlet and Minnehaha Creek: McGinty/I-494 Ramp stations had significant increases in TSS concentrations from 2008-2017, where Painter Creek: W. Branch Rd station had significant increases in TP concentrations.

Table 4. Significant trends for streams within Minnehaha Creek Watershed District.

Trends: 2008-2017						
Subwatershed	Stream Station	Parameter	Slope	Tau	p-value	Trend Direction
Langdon Lake	Langdon Lake Outlet	Yield	0.058	0.600	0.020	Increasing
		TSS	1.070	0.235	0.00008	Degrading
Minnehaha Creek	Minnehaha Creek: Grays Bay Tailwaters	TSS	-0.096	-0.215	0.0015	Improving
	Minnehaha Creek: McGinty/I-494 Ramp	TSS	0.090	0.108	0.037	Degrading
	Minnehaha Creek: W 34th St.	TP	-0.001	-0.104	0.007	Improving
		TSS	-0.189	-0.104	0.043	Improving
	Minnehaha Creek: Excelsior Blvd	Yield	0.053	0.6	0.02	Increasing
		TP	-0.003	-0.182	8.72E-06	Improving
	Minnehaha Creek: W 56th St.	TP	-0.002	-0.176	1.65E-05	Improving
		TSS	-0.231	-0.142	0.009	Improving
	Minnehaha Creek: 21st/Minnehaha Pkwy	Yield	0.049	0.511	0.049	Increasing
		TP	-0.003	-0.216	3.65E-08	Improving
		TSS	-0.307	-0.135	0.011	Improving
	Minnehaha Creek: Hiawatha Ave	Yield	0.71	0.556	0.032	Increasing
TP		-0.003	-0.202	1.55E-07	Improving	
Painter Creek	Painter Creek: W. Branch Rd	Yield	0.048	0.600	0.020	Increasing
		TP	0.010	0.118	0.003	Degrading
Six Mile Creek	Six Mile Creek: East Auburn Lake Inlet	Yield	0.053	0.644	0.012	Increasing
		TP	-0.003	-0.130	0.001	Improving
		TSS	-0.137	-0.126	0.020	Improving
	Six Mile Creek: Lundsten N Lake Outlet	TP	-0.004	-0.316	3.53E-14	Improving
	Six Mile Creek: Mud Lake Outlet	TP	-0.004	-0.137	0.0006	Improving
TSS		-1.603	-0.286	9.43E-08	Improving	

2.G. Annual Communications

MCWD developed a strategic plan for communications in 2013 which guides how the District delivers messages to key audiences. In 2017, MCWD issued a total of 28 news releases, 10 newspaper columns, and 45 e-newsletters on topics including capital projects, program activities, water quality data, events, and finances. The District distributed both a mid-year and annual report to cities, counties, state agencies, and other stakeholders. The annual report can be found in Appendix 2. Other past news releases and newsletters can be found at: <http://www.minnehahacreek.org/about/newsroom>. The MCWD website received approximately 215,000 views in 2017 and the District continued an active social media presence on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube.

Last year also marked MCWD's 50th anniversary, and the District hosted a series of events for community members and policymakers and created five videos and produced a brochure about the District's history.

2.H. Solicitation of Services

In 2016, in accordance with MN Statutes 103B.227, the District solicited proposals for legal, engineering, government relations, and information technology professional services. The process was repeated in March 2018 for these four services as well as accounting services.

2.I. Status of Local Plans

Three of twenty-nine communities in the watershed did not complete updates to their local water management plans in response to the District's 2007 watershed management plan update: Chanhassen, Watertown Township, and Laketown Township. These local water plans were requested repeatedly by the District. With revised local water plans now due for all communities by the end of 2018, the District is focusing its effort on ensuring that the current round of plans are completed in compliance with Minnesota Statutes 103B.235, Minnesota Rules 8410.0160, and the District's newly adopted 2017 Watershed Management Plan.

The primary requirement of local government units (LGUs) under the District's 2007 Plan was the assignment of load reduction targets. The Plan required that LGUs report annually to the District regarding progress toward these targets and other implementation activities in their local plans. Several LGUs met these targets, and others are still in progress. Since the adoption of the 2007 Plan, the MN Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) completed Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for the majority of nutrient-impaired lakes in the District. The load reduction requirements placed on LGUs under these TMDLs are generally higher than those required under the District's 2007 Plan. The District's 2017 Plan was updated to align with the TMDL targets and establish a framework for working cooperatively with communities to make progress toward these reductions.

2.J. Status of Locally Adopted Ordinances

The District's 2007 and 2017 Plans did not establish any requirements for local ordinances.

2.K. Permits, Variances, and Violations

In 2017, the MCWD reviewed and processed 641 permit applications. No permits were denied, and there were four variances or exceptions approved. A total of 249 inspections were completed in 2017. The majority of non-compliant sites were resolved through MCWD inspection reports to permittees and on-site meetings to discuss corrections and solutions to site-specific issues. MCWD issued one notice of probable violation in 2017. No formal enforcement action was issued by the MCWD Board of Managers.

3.0 Annual Audit Report

The full 2017 audit report is included as Appendix 1.

Appendix 1
MCWD 2017 Audit Report

Appendix 2
MCWD 2017 Year in Review
Brochure
