



**Title:** 2021 MCWD Budget and Levy – Public Comment Period

**Prepared by:** Name: James Wisker  
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**Purpose:**

At the November 19, 2020 Board Meeting, there will be a final opportunity for public comment on the District's 2020 budget and levy, as required under the Truth in Taxation law.

**Background:**

The Board of Managers conducted a series of budget discussions in 2020, moving from a strategic level into prioritization and detailed budget preparation. Pursuant to watershed law, a duly noticed public hearing for the budget and levy was held on August 27, 2020, and no comments were received. At the September 10, 2020 Board Meeting, the Board adopted the [2021 budget](#) and certified the 2021 tax levy. A summary of the budget and levy is available on the District's [website](#).

**Summary:**

The Truth in Taxation law (chapter 275) requires that local taxing authorities hold a public meeting in late November or early December to allow for comment on the budget and levy. The Board, on the basis of public comment or its own initiative, may adjust the budget and may decrease, but not increase, the levy. If it does not choose to do so, no action is needed.

As part of an ongoing dialog, on November 6, 2020, the City of Greenwood provided comment on MCWD's proposed 2021 budget.

**Supporting documents (list attachments):**

November 6, 2020 Letter from the City of Greenwood



November 6, 2020

Minnehaha Creek Watershed District  
Attn: James Wisker, District Administrator  
15320 Minnetonka Blvd  
Minnetonka, MN 55345

SENT VIA EMAIL  
jwisker@minnehahacreek.org

**Re: Comments Regarding MCWD 2021 Budget**

District Administrator Wisker:

This letter is in response to your 10.23.20 email response to Greenwood Councilmembers Fletcher and Roy's 10.16.20 email that included their recommendations for MCWD support of Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention efforts. Your email stated that the MCWD's "budgeting process for 2021 is complete" and implies that Fletcher and Roy's 10.16.20 email was too late – even though it was in response to Board Managers Sherry White and Jessica Loftus' request for Fletcher and Roy to provide specific suggestions / amounts for MCWD involvement in AIS. Your email further states that while the MCWD can take time in 2021 to evaluate "the suite of proposed activities you've proposed," it is likely that they fall outside of the MCWD's "strategic focus."

Regarding your comment that the MCWD "budgeting process for 2021 is complete"... The city of Greenwood first contacted the MCWD on 07.10.20 regarding MCWD support for AIS prevention initiatives in the 2021 budget. More importantly, at the 09.10.20 MCWD Board of Managers meeting, the Board approved the MCWD's 2021 preliminary budget and announced that a public meeting for further comment on the 2021 budget would be scheduled for 11.19.20. Therefore, we certainly expect the MCWD Board is open to making revisions to the 2021 budget, and we respectfully request that the MCWD staff and Board give thoughtful analysis and consideration to including some or all of the AIS prevention ideas that Fletcher and Roy recommended in the MCWD's 2021 budget.

Regarding your comment about the lack of fit with the MCWD's "strategic focus"... We respectfully request that the MCWD adjust its strategic focus dynamically in response to the issues that it is confronted with and public input. As stated in our 08.05.20 letter, the MCWD is the only party that is in a financial position to support an aggressive AIS prevention and remediation program. Your action is needed now.

We also request that you distribute this letter to the MCWD Board of Managers for their awareness.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Debra J. Kind". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Debra J. Kind  
Mayor, City of Greenwood  
on behalf of the Greenwood City Council

CC: LMCD Board, LMA Board