

Minnehaha Creek Watershed District
POLICY & PLANNING COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
January 9, 2014

Committee members present: Sherry White, chair; Dick Miller, Brian Shekleton

Non-Committee members present: Jeff Casale, Jim Calkins

Others present: Mike Panzer, Louis Smith, Eric Evenson-Marden, James Wisker, Kelly Dooley, and Yvette Christianson

The Committee meeting began at approximately 7:00 p.m.

1. Agenda Approval

Chair White called the meeting to order. The agenda was approved as submitted.

2. MCWD Policy Framework - Guiding Principles

Louis Smith presented revisions to the November 7, 2013 draft policy framework entitled “A Framework for a Balanced Urban Ecology in the Minnehaha Creek Watershed.” Committee members discussed the purpose of the framework and made edits. The Committee unanimously recommended that the framework, as changed, and now renamed, “In Pursuit of a Balanced Urban Ecology in the Minnehaha Creek Watershed” be forwarded to the January 23, 2014 Board Meeting and requested Mr. Smith to prepare a resolution for its adoption.

3. SHARe Program

As a follow-up to November 7, 2013 Policy and Planning Committee meeting, Kelly Dooley and Yvette Christianson presented a draft budget for the Sub-watershed Health Assessment Report (SHARe) program. Ms. Dooley and Ms. Christianson explained that the majority of the expense associated with this project is to develop a scientifically defensible system of grading. They elaborated that SHARe program would be a significant effort that requires professional expertise, review of regional datasets, data collection, and “buy off” by other organizations and units of government. Once established, SHARe would be used as a management and evaluation tool used to identify target areas within the watershed that need improvement or to help maintain full-supporting water bodies. It would also serve as a tool to communicate the condition of the watershed, as well as individual water bodies to the general public. The committee discussed the rationale for regional/state funding versus district funding and unanimously forwarded the SHARe program to the Operations and Programs Committee for consideration of staffing and operational concerns.

4. Minnesota Statute, Chapter 103D Changes

Mr. Smith presented a memorandum which he prepared for the Red River Watershed Management Board and Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts outlining possible legislative changes to Minnesota Statute, Chapter 103D. Mr. Smith stated earlier in the day, both organizations indicated that they will not seek legislation at this time; rather, they would address as many of the issues as possible through policy guidance from the Board of Water and Soil Resources. The committee discussed possible direction but decided to make no recommendation.

5. 2014 Discussion Items and Schedule