



Title: Strategic Action Plan Discussion #2 - Capital Projects

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Purpose:

To engage in discussions to support a 2023 Board Retreat, bringing focus to MCWD's five-year strategic priorities.

Background:

At the midpoint in its 10-year watershed plan cycle, and five years since its last strategic plan, the MCWD Board of Managers has spent time analyzing its past and current situation, all to support preparations for the future. Recently the Board agreed to undertake a series of discussions, leading to a 2023 Board Retreat, that will culminate in the development of a new five-year strategic action plan to guide the organization leading into development of the 2027 Watershed Management Plan.

During its first discussion, the Board spent time with staff brainstorming and sorting five-year priorities. A summary of discussion notes is included in Attachment A. Below is a synthesis of the six categories of priorities from this discussion:

1. Build High-Impact Capital Projects

Deliver quality projects that measurably improve the watershed, community, and create place.

2. Deliver Meaningful Climate Action Policy

Move from the Climate Action Framework to a 2027 Watershed Plan with full community support.

3. Strengthen Partnerships

Increase the level of explicit support for MCWD's priorities at local, regional, and state levels.

4. Leverage MCWD's Brand Equity

Maximize the perceived value of working with MCWD, to generate new opportunities.

5. Enhance Data-Driven Decision Making

Create tools to understand the watershed, inform decisions, shape communications, and build trust.

6. Invest in People and Reinforce Culture

Grow capabilities, methodically expand the team, and fortify culture to achieve excellence.

Process:

In each of these focus areas MCWD has existing action plans (e.g. 5-Year CIP, Climate Action Framework, Outreach Plan). In upcoming meetings, these existing plans will be reflected out, and discussion will drill down into unanswered questions and ideas. This process will synthesize existing plans and discussions in a five-year strategic action plan.

- [January 2023 PPC](#) – [Kickoff Brainstorming of Five-Year Priorities](#)
- March 2023 OPC – Capital Projects
- April 2023 PPC – Climate Action
- May 2023 PPC – Partnerships and Brand Equity
- June 2023 PPC – People and Culture
- July 2023 Retreat – Data-Driven Decisions and Strategic Priorities Synthesis

March 9, 2023 OPC – Capital Projects:

As the Board engages in discussions around the priority area of capital projects it is building from the clarity developed in 2022, provided through the Multi-Year Capital Improvement Plan.

This process engaged the Board in driving decisions about how to advance projects in queue, through planned decision gates, based on project benefit, cost, and risk profiles. The Multi-Year CIP includes projects, identified in the following areas, in various stages of data diagnostic, planning, feasibility, design and construction:

- Minnehaha Creek
- Six Mile Creek – Halsted Bay
- Long Lake Creek – Tanager Bay
- Painter Creek – Jennings Bay

As with any capital plan, certainty diminishes in out years. Therefore the March 9, 2023 OPC Meeting will offer an opportunity to:

1. Reinforce near-term capital project priorities
2. Build clarity around specific measurable outcomes for the next five years
3. Discuss the Board’s vision for priorities and scale of implementation across subwatersheds

To support the PPC discussion, the [Multi-Year CIP is linked here](#). A 2023 capital project map is included as Attachment A. A high-level snapshot of projects and implementation timelines is included as Attachment B.

Please consider the following questions ahead of the meeting:

1. What grounding questions do you have regarding the projects across subwatersheds in the 5-Year CIP?
2. What are the key outcomes MCWD is working to achieve across the subwatersheds?
 - a. Think about outcomes through the lens of MCWD’s four goals:
 - i. Water Quality, Water Quantity, Ecological Integrity, Thriving Communities.
 - b. Think about outcomes in terms of SMART goals
 - i. Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Timebound
3. What is achievable across Minnehaha Creek, Six Mile, Long Lake and Painter in the next five years?

MCWD 5-Year Project Plan - Simple Dashboard

Task Name	Status	Notes	2022				2023				2024				2025				2026				2027				2028				2029				2030				2031				2032			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4				
Minnehaha Creek Subwatershed			[Timeline bar spanning 2022 Q1 to 2032 Q4]																																											
325 Blake Road	Design		[Timeline bar from 2023 Q1 to 2027 Q4]																																											
Greenway to Cedar Trail Connection	Planning		[Timeline bar from 2023 Q2 to 2026 Q4]																																											
Minnehaha Parkway Stormwater Management	Planning	Dependent on Partnership with Minneapolis	[Timeline bar from 2023 Q1 to 2031 Q4]																																											
Meadowbrook Golf Course	Planning	Dependent on MPRB Partnership	[Timeline bar from 2023 Q1 to 2025 Q4]																																											
Boone Aquila Floodplain	Opportunity or Partner Based	Dependent on SLP Land Use Partnership and Private Development	[Timeline bar from 2023 Q3 to 2024 Q4]																																											
West Blake	Not Started	Dependent on Partnership with Hopkins	[Timeline bar from 2028 Q1 to 2032 Q4]																																											
Hiawatha Golf Course	Opportunity or Partner Based	Dependent on MPRB advancing the project	[Timeline bar from 2028 Q1 to 2032 Q4]																																											
Louisiana Trail and Greenspace	Opportunity or Partner Based	Dependent on Private Development Activity	[Timeline bar from 2028 Q1 to 2032 Q4]																																											
Six Mile - Halsted Bay Subwatershed			[Timeline bar spanning 2022 Q1 to 2032 Q4]																																											
East Auburn Wetland Restoration	Planning	Pending Technical Feasibility	[Timeline bar from 2022 Q3 to 2025 Q4]																																											
Turbid-Lundsten Corridor	Not Started	Dependent on Partnership with Victoria and Private Landowners	[Timeline bar from 2023 Q1 to 2029 Q4]																																											
Lake Minnetonka - Halsted Bay Alum Facility	Not Started	Dependent on Technical Feasibility and Partnership with Operators	[Timeline bar from 2023 Q2 to 2030 Q4]																																											
Mud Lake Watershed Load Reductions	Not Started		[Timeline bar from 2023 Q3 to 2028 Q4]																																											
Pierson Lake Wetland Restoration	Opportunity or Partner Based	Dependent on Private Landowners	[Timeline bar from 2023 Q4 to 2027 Q4]																																											
Long Lake Creek Subwatershed			[Timeline bar spanning 2022 Q1 to 2032 Q4]																																											
County Road 6 Pond Retrofit	Planning		[Timeline bar from 2022 Q1 to 2024 Q4]																																											
Holbrook Park Stormwater Ponds	Planning	Dependent on Partnership with City of Long Lake	[Timeline bar from 2023 Q1 to 2026 Q4]																																											
Painter Creek Subwatershed			[Timeline bar spanning 2022 Q1 to 2032 Q4]																																											
Painter Creek Wetland Restorations	Not Started	Requires Subwatershed Diagnostic	[Timeline bar from 2023 Q1 to 2027 Q4]																																											
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