



Title: Future PPC Discussions

Prepared by: James Wisker
952.641.4509
Jwisker@minnehahacreek.org

Purpose:

To begin discussing how to best focus and balance Policy and Planning Committee (PPC) discussions between ongoing planning and project work, and longer-range strategic conversations about the future.

Background:

For several years the PPC has been focused on strategic planning for the organization and how to achieve internal program alignment around a capital project focused workflow. Implementation of the strategic plan began in 2018 with human resources, and is shifting now to focus on change management initiatives to repurpose each program.

This important work, to tactically reengineer and synchronize the District's machine around capital project development, must happen while guiding near-term, high-impact capital project planning work like that in Six Mile Creek-Halsted Bay and Minnehaha Creek.

As organizational horsepower is dedicated to executing those plans for realignment and near-term capital projects, it is also important that MCWD continue its tradition of thinking about the future. The push and pull between near term execution and long range vision represent a natural point of tension in any successful organization, and therefore must be thoughtfully managed and balanced.

Execution on high impact work is critical to delivering on MCWD's brand promise of clean water, flood management and natural environment based place-making. Successfully completing this work builds MCWD's credibility and momentum to implement the next wave of work in the future. However, learning from past experiences, continuously improving, intentionally scanning the horizon, and spending time thinking strategically about the future, will also underpin MCWD's future success and ensure a level of preparedness for the future.

Discussion Focus:

PPC Chair, Manager Miller, has asked that the Board begin discussing how to structure forward facing policy conversations to ensure MCWD remains strategically aware and prepared for the future. Staff have begun thinking about how to structure a series of conversations with the Board to accomplish this objective. A high level framework for these conversations could include:

1. Where have we been and what have we learned – documenting insights and principles for MCWD's success
2. Where are we now – understanding the current junction point of MCWD and its strategic initiatives
3. What does this mean for the future – how do #1 and #2 inform how MCWD can best prepare for the future

These concepts will be introduced at the October 22 PPC for discussion by the Board. Questions to consider in advance of the meeting might include:

1. What are the objectives, or desired outcomes, from a series of future facing strategic conversations?
2. How should we think about balancing our time between executing existing priorities and visioning the future?
3. Is the overarching discussion guide, above, a useful framework to build out from?