

**MEMORANDUM****To:** MCWD Board of Managers**From:** Tiffany Schaufler**Date:** February 20, 2018**Re:** City of Minneapolis Southwest Harriet Flooding Feasibility Study**Purpose:**

At the February 22, 2018 Policy & Planning Committee (PPC) meeting staff will facilitate a discussion with the committee regarding the City of Minneapolis Southwest Harriet Flooding Feasibility Study.

Background:Memorandum of Understanding

At the February 23, 2017 Board of Managers meeting, the Board approved Resolution 17-017 which authorized the District to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the City of Minneapolis (City) and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) and issue a request for qualifications (RFQ) for the integrated planning of the Minnehaha Creek Subwatershed in Minneapolis. Through this MOU the three agencies have agreed to mutually support an effort to create a multi-jurisdictional concept plan and capital improvement plan to improve the natural and built environments within the Minnehaha Creek subwatershed in the City of Minneapolis. Additionally, the MOU recognizes that the natural resource goals of these agencies would be best achieved through integrated land and water resource planning. The MOU outlines how the three agencies will work together to identify multi-jurisdictional initiatives to achieve complex goals such as:

- Reduce flooding
- Achieving regional pollutant load reductions identified in TMDLs
- Reducing runoff volume and peak flows to Minnehaha Creek
- Eliminating combined sewer overflows
- Enhancing the ecology and recreation opportunity of the creek corridor

The MOU identifies opportunities for partnership which includes the District's FEMA repairs to Minnehaha Creek, the Hiawatha Golf Course assessment, and addressing City localized flooding near 50th and Chowen (Flood Area 29/30).

Southwest Harriet Feasibility Study

Recently the City engaged the District and MPRB on a local flooding area along the southwest side of Lake Harriet (Flood Area 29/30), which the City identified as a priority in the MOU. The City has

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selected a consultant team and held a project kick off meeting on November 27, 2017 for the “Southwest Harriet Feasibility Study” (Flood Area 29/30). The goal of the City’s Southwest Harriet project is to prepare a feasibility study and a master plan for the Southwest Harriet study area (see area map in Attachment A) to investigate strategies to reduce flooding in the grid while attempting to also improve water quality. At the kickoff meeting the role of each MOU partner agency was discussed to be:

- City of Minneapolis: Leading and funding the study, ultimate decision maker for the project alternatives, focus on identifying constructible and feasible projects
- MCWD: Provide technical input to aid in the decision of selecting project alternatives, provide project guidance to City’s consultant to supplement the District’s efforts to achieve water quality goals
- MPRB: Provide input to aid in the decision of selecting project alternatives, guide City’s consultant on strategies to supplement programmed neighborhood park improvements

The City has coordinated with the District and MPRB to develop a list of interagency goals for the Southwest Harriet Feasibility Study which will be used to help guide the optimal design solution to mitigate flooding in this area. Working from this list of goals the three agencies have worked together to develop the following evaluation criteria which will be used to evaluate proposed solutions:

- Basis of Design - details the essential design features and criteria (flood reduction and surface water quality) that will drive the design methods and measures of success
- Solution Strategies – list of possible green and gray infrastructure strategies
- Alternative Analysis & Evaluation Criteria – how to evaluate feasible alternatives and select a preferred alternate

Most recently the City, District, and MPRB met on February 14, 2018 to review the alternatives developed thus far and how they relate back to the evaluation criteria.

Next Steps:





At the February 22, 2018 PPC meeting, staff will facilitate a discussion to inform the PPC on the progress of the City’s Southwest Harriet study and begin discussing under what conditions the District may consider participating financially in a solution strategy that could achieve water resource benefits/ ecological benefits.

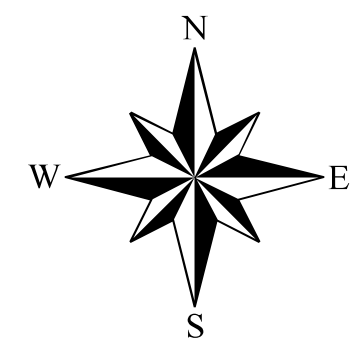
If there are questions in advance of the meeting, please contact Tiffany Schaufler at tschaufler@minnehahacreek.org or at 952-641-4513.

Attachment A: Southwest Harriet Study Area

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SW Harriet Study Area

-  Pump Stations
-  Model Boundary
-  Sewershed
-  Existing Pipe



0 0.05 0.1 0.2 Miles
1 inch = 350 feet

Data Source:
Coordinate System: NAD 1983 HARN Adj MN Hennepin Feet
Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic
Datum: NAD 1983 HARN Adj MN Hennepin
Units: Foot US

