

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** MCWD Board of Managers  
**From:** Becky Christopher  
**CC:** James Wisker  
**Date:** April 13, 2015  
**Re:** April 16 Planning and Policy Committee Meeting

---

### **Purpose:**

At the April 16, 2015 Planning and Policy Committee (PPC) meeting, staff will introduce a framework and facilitate discussion of the use of focal geographies in the next generation Comprehensive Plan.

Staff will also provide updates on various planning initiatives, including: Minnehaha Creek Greenway, Six Mile Marsh, and Painter Creek.

### **Background:**

The Balanced Urban Ecology Policy adopted by the Board in January 2014 recognizes the value of geographic focus in improving implementation success. In May 2014, the Board identified the Six Mile Creek Subwatershed as a priority focal geography in addition to its existing focus in the urban corridor of Minnehaha Creek.

The idea of geographic focus has been incorporated into the proposed two-track approach framework for the next generation Comprehensive Plan. This approach is a means of allocating the District's resources to their highest and best use by (1) allowing for sustained focus in areas of high need, and (2) using the District's various programs to remain responsive to needs and opportunities District-wide.

Staff has been considering the implications for how each of the District's programs operate under this new two-track approach. Staff will use the April 16 meeting to continue this discussion, this time with regard to focal geographies and how they will be reflected in the next generation Plan.

## **April 16 Discussion:**

The Committee's discussion of focal geographies will generally cover the following areas:

- Guiding principles for identifying focal geographies
- Track 1 (focal) vs. Track 2 (responsive) subwatersheds
- Content of subwatershed plans (level of specificity, public process, program alignment)
- Challenges of new approach

Committee Members are asked to prepare for this discussion by thinking of how the two-track approach differs from the 2007 Comprehensive Plan implementation framework, and identify areas of policy development (selection of focal geographies, specificity vs. direction within implementation plans, financing of implementation plans, program alignment, etc.).

In addition to the discussion of focal geographies, staff will provide updates on the following planning initiatives:

- Painter Creek Subwatershed Planning
- Six Mile Marsh Planning
- Minnehaha Creek Greenway

If there are questions in advance of the meeting, please contact Becky Christopher at 952-641-4512 or [bchristopher@minnehahacreek.org](mailto:bchristopher@minnehahacreek.org).