



Title: Long Lake Creek Subwatershed Partnership Update

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Purpose:

To provide a brief update on the outcomes of the recent round of meetings with the Long Lake Creek Subwatershed partners and outline next steps.

Background:

The Cities of Long Lake, Medina, and Orono; Long Lake Waters Association (LLWA); and Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD or District) have agreed to partner to work towards a common goal of improving water quality within the Long Lake Creek Subwatershed. This effort will help the cities meet state load reduction requirements for the five impaired lakes in the system and ensure that area lakes are swimmable and fishable.

To support this effort, the District is leading a subwatershed assessment to provide a strong scientific understanding of the system, identify cost-effective projects and strategies, and develop a clear and actionable roadmap to implement them. This roadmap will include the data, methodology, and findings from the assessment; prioritized projects, costs, and benefits; and the recommended action steps, roles, timeline, and funding strategy for implementation.

At the [May 28, 2020 Board of Managers meeting](#), staff provided a status update on the subwatershed assessment as the project transitions from the technical analysis into development of the implementation roadmap. At that meeting, staff reviewed the following:

- Overview of the natural resource assessment findings
- Summary of the identified project opportunities/strategies, costs and benefits across the subwatershed
- Staff thoughts regarding roles, timeline, and funding strategy for implementation
- Next steps for engaging the partners and developing the implementation roadmap

Summary:

To ensure that the roadmap is a practical and useful document, the District seeks to understand the cities' priorities, capacity, constraints, and approach to implementation. Between July 7-15, 2020, MCWD hosted individual meetings with each of the partners in order to share MCWD's findings for project opportunities, benefits, and costs; and begin to understand how the partners are thinking about implementation (e.g. roles, funding, and timeline). City and District staff also discussed the approach and timeline for engaging city councils.

At the August 27, 2020 PPC Meeting, staff will provide a summary of the key takeaways from these partner meetings and how that feedback is informing the implementation roadmap and next steps.

Supporting documents: N/A