



MEMORANDUM

To: MCWD Board of Managers
From: Becky Christopher
Date: October 9, 2017
Re: Public Hearing for the Draft Watershed Management Plan

Purpose:

At the October 12, 2017 Board Meeting, a public hearing will be held to invite further input on the draft Watershed Management Plan (Plan).

Background:

For the past two and a half years, the District has been working to develop its next generation Watershed Management Plan (Plan). This work has involved an extensive stakeholder process, including a series of meetings with technical, policy, and citizen advisory committees to discuss and vet the District's approach; subwatershed meetings to discuss local priorities and plans; and other targeted outreach efforts to local policymakers and technical staff.

The development of the Plan has also involved an extensive internal strategic planning process with staff and the Board to establish a clear and focused mission, vision, goals, and guiding principles; evaluate District programs; and establish clear and focused priorities for each program and the District as a whole.

The primary focus for the Plan update is on improving the District's implementation model following the direction established in the Board's *Balanced Urban Ecology* policy which aims to integrate the District's work with the built environment using the guiding principles of partnership, focus, and flexibility.

The draft Plan consists of three volumes. The first volume acts as an executive summary of the Plan, outlining the District's new mission and a high-level framework of how the District will achieve that mission. The second volume contains a synthesis of all pertinent data used in identifying specific resource issues and acts as the District library of all studies and data

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collected. The third volume expands on the District's implementation framework; defines issues, drivers, and management strategies for each of the District's 11 subwatersheds; and establishes priorities based on resource needs and opportunities created through integration with land use planning.

On July 7, 2017, the draft Plan was distributed for 60-day review and comment to the counties, cities, state review agencies, soil and water conservation districts, lake associations, and other stakeholders. The Plan was also made available on the District website at www.minnehahacreek.org/2017.

The District received a total of 34 comment letters. At the September 28, 2017 Board Meeting, the Board reviewed and authorized the distribution of responses to all comments received. The comments and responses have been distributed and posted on the District website, and revisions to the Plan have been made based on comments received.

Next Steps:

Following the public hearing, the Board of Managers will review the revised Plan and consider any further input received at the public hearing before considering submittal of the Plan for final 90-day review by the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources and other review agencies.

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

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