

## **Minnehaha Creek Improvement Project Minor Plan Amendment**

### **Description of Project**

The proposed project arises from work completed in conjunction with the Minnehaha Creek Stream Assessment (2004). The report evaluated channel stability and grade control, bank erosion and infrastructure damage, aquatic habitat value, riparian vegetation and floodplains, general stream characteristics (Rosgren, Pfankuch, Schumm protocol) and inventoried impounded areas and alterations to natural flow within Minnehaha Creek. The report identifies areas in virtually every stream reach where damaged infrastructure and/or streambank erosion is an immediate problem and will be exacerbated if left unattended. MCWD proposes a series of small to medium scale projects to address these issues which will include the following components:

- Coordination with staff from Cities along Minnehaha Creek (Minnetonka, Hopkins, Edina, St. Louis Park, and Minneapolis) to review data and identify issues of priority concern
- Utilization of the list of small-scale projects reviewed and prioritized by the cities and MCWD.
- Annual projects to be identified in each succeeding year until the sites on the list have been repaired.
- The total budget is estimated to be \$590,000.00 (see attached). Succeeding years budgets would not exceed that amount in any given year.
- Construction for this project to take place in 2006

The project will address small scale projects which pose an immediate threat to the health, stability and structural integrity of property, banks and infrastructure in and along the creek. This series of small projects would address priority concerns which should be performed regardless of any future activities or improvements constructed by MCWD or other entities. MCWD is currently conducting a more macroscopic, long-term planning effort which will address the broader issues of how the creek is managed and identify future projects within the greater subwatershed drainage area of Minnehaha Creek. Given the number of sites in need of repairs it is estimated that the MCWD would pursue one or more of those sites each year until the repairs are complete and the Minnehaha Creek streambank has been stabilized to prevent erosion and sediment transport. The methods employed will be an appropriate mix of bio-engineering and hard armoring to protect the integrity of the creek ecosystem and blend with the natural creek setting.

The project is proposed to be funded through a District-wide *ad valorem* levy by MCWD. Minnehaha Creek is viewed by MCWD as a regional resource, of which the benefits and recreational opportunity extends beyond the local property owners.

### **Need for the Project**

The 1997 MCWD Comprehensive Plan identifies issues related to erosion and stormwater infrastructure within Minnehaha Creek as a priority concern for MCWD. In its Capital Improvements Program, MCWD identified the Minnehaha Creek Channel

Modifications/Erosion Management Project as a project to create “structural solutions to excessive erosion problems.”

MCWD has proposed close coordination with District Cities and staff to ensure that mutual objectives are met with the series of projects. Projects would be coordinated to address issues of concern on public land and to public infrastructure.

**Evaluation of Alternatives**

MCWD has identified 60+ small scale projects (construction cost estimate attached) which could be completed in a relatively short time period with minimal cost per site. The proposed project list and alternatives was discussed with City staff (from Minnehaha Creek Cities) and revised as necessary to address mutually agreed goals for infrastructure and the creek. As a result of the Minor Plan Amendment approved in 2004, 12 locations on the creek were identified and those repairs were completed in 2005.

**Estimated Costs of Construction**

Reach 8 (see attached map) has been identified as a high priority for repairs. The contractor mobilization and construction would be let as a single construction bid.

See attachment.

|                                   |              |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Construction for 2006             | \$485,000.00 |
| Planning, Engineering, Management | \$ 60,000.00 |
| Contingency                       | \$ 45,000.00 |
| Total                             | \$590,000.00 |

**Schedule for Construction**

MCWD anticipates that design work would begin early in 2006 with the bid let for project construction in summer of 2006. Construction of the project would be subject to climatic conditions and creek flow, but completed by winter of 2006/07.

**Method of Financing**

The proposed project would be financed through an *ad valorem* levy on all property within the District. In addition, the District may utilize its funding and levy authorities specified at Minnesota Statutes §103B.241, 103B.251, in addition to other grants, loans and cost-sharing opportunities as they may become available. This revenue path and level of project cost will be required in the following years until the remaining repairs are complete.

**Attachment – Construction Cost Estimate**  
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