

# MINNEHAHA CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT

## RULEMAKING TASK FORCE

### Summary of March 27, 2008 Meeting

**Task Force Members Present:** William Bushnell, Ginny Black, Nate Duoss, Steve Mohn, Ethel Smith, Tom Cesare, Tom Casey, Tony Goldenstein, Donna Woodruff, Jacob Westman, and Duncan Steinman.

**MCWD Managers Present:** Jim Calkins, Jeff Casale.

**Citizens Present:** Jill Crafton, Mark Kjolhaug,

**MCWD Staff Present:** James Wisker, Natalie White, Gary Oberts, Louis Smith.

### Review of February 28, 2008 Meeting Summary

The Task Force reviewed the summary of the February 28, 2008 meeting and made the following changes:

1. Buffer Widths

“The Task Force ~~generally agreed that~~ discussed whether wetland buffer widths should be based on the management classification of the wetland, such that “Preserve” wetlands would receive the greatest buffer protection. . . . ~~Tom Casey~~ Several Task Force members also noted that some degraded wetlands may need greater protection . . . .

2. Buffer Vegetation

“The Task Force ~~generally agreed that~~ discussed whether vegetation surveys and buffer vegetation plans are desirable, but should be approached in a flexible fashion, . . . .

3. Vegetation Maintenance

“The Task Force generally supported the concept of post-construction monitoring and maintenance of buffer vegetation, again seeking flexibility in methods for protection and the use of some regulatory incentives.”

### Presentation of 2001 EOR/MCWD Buffer Study

Gary Oberts reviewed with the Task Force the 2001 buffer study, and Case Study #6: Assessing Vegetated Buffers Using Synthetic Residential Runoff by Westwood Professional Services and the Builders Association of the Twin Cities.

## **Discussion of Wetland Buffer Policy**

The Task Force generally agreed that there appear to be many factors influencing buffer effectiveness other than simply the width of the buffer. The factors discussed by the Task Force included: slope; soil type; nature of runoff to the wetland, in terms of channeled drainage or sheet flow; adjacent land use; volume of runoff; and plant types in the buffer. The Task Force also discussed the various purposes of buffers, including water quality and wildlife habitat.

Based on this discussion, Mr. Wisker stated that the MCWD staff and consultants would develop a proposed matrix for further consideration by the Task Force, the Technical Advisory Committee, and the Board of Managers that pursues a 'performance-based' approach and identifies a range of required buffer widths, or other required practices, based on weighted values of these various factors.