

# MINNEHAHA CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT

## RULEMAKING TASK FORCE

### Summary of August 28, 2008 Meeting

**Task Force Members Present:** Jim Johnston, Steve Jenkins, Steve Mohn, Ethel Smith, Tony Goldenstein, David Newman, Tom Casey, Tom Bakritges, Duncan Steinman, Ginny Black, Tom Aasen.

**Citizen Present:** Jill Crofton.

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

**MCWD Staff Present:** James Wisker, Louis Smith.

#### Review of July 23, 2008 Meeting Summary

The Task Force reviewed the summary of the July 23, 2008 meeting. There being no comments, the Meeting Summary was approved as distributed.

#### Wetland Buffer Policy

Mr. Wisker reviewed the past discussion on wetland buffers, and reported that the Technical Advisory Committee had met and concluded that the proposed approach for wetland buffers (a multi-factored matrix that adjusts buffer width based on wetland function and value components) would be too cumbersome and complex. Task Force members discussed various considerations for buffer widths, including the ability of buffers to contribute to the restoration of degraded wetlands; buffer benefits; the need to establish wide buffers to protect all types of wetlands; and the relationship of wetland management classifications to appropriate buffer width.

Mr. Wisker noted the written comments from Mark Kjolhaug, and suggested that he would consult with the Board of Managers on buffer policy, and perhaps also explore Mr. Kjolhaug's suggestion of a 'hybrid' approach to setting buffers based on the wetland management classification, with adjustment factors to increase or decrease the width based on site conditions.

Mr. Wisker then directed a second balloting exercise for the Task Force members to express their preferences for minimum and maximum buffers, in light of all of the information presented and discussed to date. The results of this balloting were as follows:

16' –	1 minimum	
16.5' –	1 minimum	
20' -	3 minimums	
25' -	1 minimum	
30' -	2 minimums	
35' –	1 minimum	
40' –	1 minimum;	1 maximum
50' -	1 minimum;	5 maximums
60' –		1 maximum
70' -		1 maximum [range of 50' – 70' soil, slope etc.]
75' -		2 maximums
100' -		1 maximum
300' -		1 maximum

Mr. Wisker agreed that he would continue to refine the formula and matrix in light of these recommendations from the Task Force, and discussion and guidance from the Board of Managers.