

Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Comprehensive Plan Policy Advisory Committee

PAC Meeting #4
February 23, 2016 10:00 am-12:00 pm

Minnetonka Community Center – 14600 Minnetonka Blvd, Minnetonka
Shady Oak Room

Agenda

- 10:00-10:05 **Welcome**
Call to order and overview of agenda
- 10:05-10:10 **Recap of December PAC Meeting**
- 10:10-10:25 **Vision, Mission, Guiding Principles, Goals**
Review of the District's recently adopted vision, mission, guiding principles, and goals (attached)
- 10:25-11:45 **Partnership Framework**
Continued discussion of the two-track approach and efforts to improve integration of water and land-use planning, including:
- Criteria for selecting focal geographies (attached)
 - Focus track – draft process for planning in the Six Mile Creek Subwatershed
 - Responsive track – discussion of strategies to improve coordination and identify partnership opportunities
- 11:45-12:00 **Updates and Next Steps**
- Preview of a brochure that is being developed as an update to stakeholders
 - Preview of an information request that will be distributed to cities to inform the District's Plan
 - Schedule next meeting
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Attached pre-read material:

- Questions for Committee consideration
- MCWD vision, mission, guiding principles, goals
- Draft criteria for selecting focal geographies

Questions for Committee consideration:

- How can we improve integration of land-use and water planning? What changes can be made to City or District policies, practices, or procedures?
- How can we improve coordination to better track local plans and opportunities? Who do we need to reach, and how can we do so most effectively?
- What services/support would you like to see the District provide? Here are a few suggestions we've heard so far:
 - Offer pay-in-lieu for permit requirements where more cost-effective regional opportunities can provide greater natural resource and community benefits
 - Fee-for-service arrangement to help cities meet MS4 requirements
 - 15% cost share for stormwater BMP maintenance to incentivize completion of deferred maintenance
 - Cost share funding to upgrade street sweeping and/or winter maintenance equipment



MINNEHAHA CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT

QUALITY OF WATER, QUALITY OF LIFE

Vision

A landscape of vibrant communities where the natural and built environments in balance create value and enjoyment.

Mission

We collaborate with public and private partners to protect and improve land and water for current and future generations.

Guiding Principles

Partnership – We seek to understand the goals of others so that we can meaningfully integrate our work to add broader value to the community.

Innovation – We are flexible and creative in our approach and strive for continuous improvement.

Excellence – We commit to work that achieves outstanding results and honors our partners.

Sound Science – We are a trusted source of scientific data and analyses that provide the foundation for wise decisions.

Service – We are responsive and accountable to our communities and careful stewards of public funds.

Goals

Water Quality – To preserve and improve the quality of surface and ground waters.

Water Quantity – To manage the volume and flow of stormwater runoff to minimize the impacts of land use change on surface and ground waters.

Ecological Integrity – To restore, maintain, and improve the health of ecological systems.

Thriving Communities – To promote and enhance the value of water resources in creating successful, sustainable communities.

DRAFT Focal Geography Criteria

The District has identified the following as factors that will be taken into consideration when selecting focal geographies:

- Water resource issues and impairments
- Public value of resources
- Local partnerships and support
- Known opportunities (landowner relationships, partner projects, funding sources)
- System scale and complexity (multiple jurisdictions, waterbodies, and stressors)
- Development/redevelopment pressure
- Probability of success (available data, land rights, restorability of waterbody)
- Past investment by District or others

In 2014, the Board identified the Six Mile Creek Subwatershed (a 27 square mile area in the southwestern portion of the District) as a priority focal geography for the following reasons:

- The subwatershed includes 16 lakes and over 6,000 acres of wetland, with 58 % of the subwatershed classified as open water or wetland and 6 of the lakes classified as impaired;
- The receiving water, Halsted Bay, also is impaired and, under the Upper Minnehaha Creek Watershed TMDL, requires the largest load reduction of any other waterbody in the District to meet state standards;
- The area is subject to growth and development activity that may adversely affect natural corridors and water quality and which will benefit from careful integration of land-use management and water resource protection, as well as District program activity and investments;
- The District has completed a comprehensive study to diagnose the water quality stressors within the subwatershed and identify actions to improve the water quality of the system;
- Implementation strategies and priorities will be developed that are unique to the needs of individual drainage areas within the Six Mile Creek subwatershed; and
- The Cities of Victoria, Minnetrista and St. Bonifacius; Laketown Township; the Three Rivers Park District; Carver and Hennepin County; lake associations and others, have expressed support for a cooperative effort toward fulfilling water quality, flood management, land-use and related public goals and offer the opportunity for collaboration.