



Title: Lake Nokomis Groundwater and Surface Water Evaluation Briefing

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Purpose:

At the May 13, 2021 Operations and Programs Committee (OPC) meeting, staff will brief the Board of Managers on the Lake Nokomis groundwater and surface water evaluation.

Background:

Since November 2017, the District has been participating in an evaluation to understand South Minneapolis resident concerns over high groundwater levels near Solomon Park and Lake Nokomis, and its impact on public and private infrastructure as well as residential structures. Because groundwater and surface water management in Minneapolis falls under several jurisdictions, an inter-agency team was formed to work in partnership to evaluate and understand what is happening. Agencies participating in this effort include the District, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), MN Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Hennepin County, the city of Minneapolis (City), and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB).

Over the past three years these agencies have collectively reviewed over 70 studies and resources, invested over \$140,000 to install six new groundwater wells, held over 20 inter-agency team meetings, participated in five meetings with policy makers and members of the public, and created a webpage to summarize the ongoing evaluation. To summarize the data collected, its analysis, findings, and recommendations, the agencies have collaborated to develop a white paper. As a convener that helped to bring the agencies together, the District has taken a lead role in synthesizing the work of the agencies into the white paper. To assist District staff with the white paper synthesis, on April 25, 2019 the Board of Managers approved a contract with Wenck (Stantec) to assist the District with drafting. The white paper synthesis is anticipated to be complete by the end of June 2021.

Summary:

At the May 13, 2021 OPC meeting, staff will provide the Board of Managers a refresher on why the District was brought into the Lake Nokomis evaluation, summarize the findings of the evaluation, outline the recommendations, next steps, and proposed roll-out plan to distribute the white paper, and summarize how the Lake Nokomis evaluation has helped to inform the District's Climate Action Framework.

Supporting documents:

A draft handout on the Lake Nokomis groundwater and surface water evaluation will be distributed to the Board prior to the OPC meeting.