



Title: Approving Programmatic Maintenance Agreement with the City of Plymouth

Resolution number: 21-078

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Summary:

The Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD or District) requires applicants to record maintenance declarations for projects that require long-term maintenance and monitoring of permanent features or Best Management Practices (BMPs) to ensure continued compliance with MCWD rule standards. In lieu of a recorded declaration, a public permittee may fulfill this requirement by executing a programmatic maintenance agreement with the District. Where the public entity requires District permits from time to time, it is efficient for the entity and the District to enter into a programmatic maintenance agreement that establishes standard maintenance terms. The agreement then is simply referenced in and incorporated into subsequent permits, rather than executing agreements on a project by project basis. The District has outstanding programmatic maintenance agreements with several cities and road authorities.

The City of Plymouth frequently plans and constructs projects that are regulated by MCWD rules, and that therefore require long-term maintenance aligning with MCWD standards. The City also is subject to maintenance and reporting requirements under the City's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. The proposed programmatic maintenance agreement with the City of Plymouth intends to memorialize compliance of and maintenance requirements per the MCWD Stormwater Management and Wetland Protection rules.

Supporting documents (list attachments):

Programmatic Maintenance Agreement – City of Plymouth

PROGRAMMATIC MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT
Stormwater Management Facilities, and Wetland Buffers
Between the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District
and the City of Plymouth

This programmatic maintenance agreement is made by and between the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, a watershed district with purposes and powers set forth at Minnesota Statutes chapters 103B and 103D (MCWD), and the City of Plymouth (CITY) a Minnesota municipal corporation and political subdivision of the State of Minnesota.

Recitals and Statement of Purpose

WHEREAS pursuant to Minnesota Statutes § 103D.345, the MCWD has adopted and implements the Stormwater Management Rule, and Wetland Protection Rule;

WHEREAS under the Stormwater Management Rule, certain land development activity triggers the requirement that the landowner record a declaration establishing the landowner's perpetual obligation to inspect and maintain stormwater-management facilities;

WHEREAS under the Wetland Protection Rule, certain land development activity triggers the requirement that the landowner record a declaration establishing the landowner's perpetual obligation to protect undisturbed buffer adjacent to wetland;

WHEREAS in each case, a public landowner, as an alternative to a recorded instrument, may meet the maintenance requirement by documenting its obligations in an unrecorded written agreement with the MCWD;

WHEREAS CITY from time to time is subject to stormwater management and wetland buffer maintenance requirements pursuant to the terms of an MCWD permit; and

WHEREAS the parties concur that it is clearer and procedurally more efficient for the MCWD and CITY to agree at this time on standard requirements for stormwater management and wetland buffer protection so that this agreement may be incorporated into future permits as applicable.

THEREFORE MCWD and CITY agree as follows:

1. **WETLAND BUFFER AREAS.** CITY, at its cost, will maintain buffer areas in accordance with the following:
 - a. Buffer vegetation will not be cultivated, cropped, pastured, mowed, fertilized, subject to the placement of mulch or yard waste, or otherwise disturbed, except for periodic cutting or burning that promotes the health of the buffer, actions to address disease or invasive species, mowing for purposes of public safety, temporary disturbance for placement or repair of buried utilities. Pesticides and herbicides may be used in accordance with Minnesota Department of Agriculture rules and guidelines. No new structure or hard surface will be placed within a buffer, except that construction of a trail or path of no more than 4 feet in width to provide riparian access through the buffer is acceptable. No fill, debris or other material will be excavated from or placed within a buffer.

- b. Permanent wetland buffer monuments or markers will be maintained in the locations shown on the approved site plan. Monument or marker language will indicate the purpose of the buffer, restrictions and the name and phone number of the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District.
2. **STORMWATER FACILITIES.** CITY, at its cost, will maintain stormwater facilities in accordance with the following:
 - a. **Stormwater retention and treatment basin(s).** Stormwater retention and treatment basin(s) must be inspected at least once a year to determine if the basin's retention and treatment characteristics are adequate and continue to perform per design. Culverts and outfall structures must be inspected at least annually and kept clear of any obstructions or sediment accumulation. Sediment accumulation must be measured by a method accurate to within one vertical foot. A storage treatment basin will be considered inadequate if sediment has decreased the wet storage volume by 50 percent of its original design volume. Based on this inspection, if the stormwater basin(s) is identified for sediment cleanout, the basin(s) will be restored to its original design contours and vegetation in disturbed areas restored within one year of the inspection date.
 - b. **Raingardens, infiltration basins and filtration basins.** Raingardens, infiltration basins and filtration basins will be inspected annually to ensure continued live storage capacity at or above the design volume. Invasive vegetation, excess sediment and debris will be removed as needed and healthy plant growth will be maintained to ensure that the facilities continue to perform per design.
 - c. **Iron-enhanced sand filters.** Iron-enhanced sand media must be inspected every three years to determine if the iron's binding capacity has been reached. The phosphorus binding capacity of the iron-sand bed is exhausted and must be replaced to the original specifications when the total-phosphorus-to-total-iron ratio exceeds 5 milligrams of phosphorus per 1 gram of elemental iron or when the total phosphorus at the outlet of the iron-sand filter consistently exceeds 60 to 70 micrograms per liter.
 - d. **Vegetated swales.** Vegetated swales may be mowed for public safety, but otherwise must remain free from vegetative disturbance, fertilizer application, yard or other waste disposal, the placement of structures unless approved within the permit, or any other alteration that impedes function.
 - e. **Pervious pavement and permeable pavers.** Pervious pavement or pavers will be inspected at least one per year after a major storm event and otherwise annually to ensure continuing performance per design. Surface openings will be vacuumed at least annually at the end of winter in dry weather to remove dry, encrusted sediment as necessary. Broken units that impair the structural integrity of the surface will be replaced. If water stands for an extended period of time, the base materials will be removed and replaced.
 - f. **Underground storage facilities.** Underground storage facilities will be inspected at least annually to ensure continuing performance per design. Capacity will be considered inadequate if sediment has decreased the storage volume by 50 percent of the original design volume. Accumulated debris and sediment will be removed, and inlet and outlet structures will be kept clear of any flow impediments.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this agreement.

MINNEHAHA CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT

By _____
President, Board of Managers

Date:

APPROVED AS TO FORM and EXECUTION

By _____
Its Attorney

Date:

CITY OF PLYMOUTH

By:  _____
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Date: 10/21/2021

By:  _____
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