



**Minnehaha Creek Watershed District  
2017 Annual Report to the  
Board of Water and Soil Resources and  
Department of Natural Resources**



## 2017 Annual Report

1.0	Introduction .....	3
2.0	Annual Activity Report .....	3
	2.A. Board Members.....	3
	2.B. Staff Contact Information.....	3
	2.C. Assessment of 2016 Work Plans.....	5
	2.D. 2017 Work Plans .....	6
	2.E. Evaluation of Progress on Goals and Implementation Actions .....	6
	2.F. Trends in Monitoring Data.....	6
	2.G. Annual Communications .....	8
	2.H. Solicitation of Services .....	9
	2.I. Status of Local Plans .....	9
	2.J. Status of Locally Adopted Ordinances.....	9
	2.K. Permits, Variances, and Violations .....	9
3.0	Annual Audit Report .....	9

### Tables

Table 1	MCWD Board of Managers
Table 2	MCWD Staff Contacts
Table 3	Significant trends for lakes within MCWD
Table 4	Significant trends for streams within MCWD

### Appendices

Appendix 1	MCWD 2017 Audit Report
Appendix 2	MCWD 2017 Year in Review Brochure

## 1.0 Introduction

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This report has been prepared to satisfy the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District's (MCWD or District) annual reporting requirements set forth in Minnesota Statutes Chapter 103D.351, which requires watershed districts to file an annual report with the Board of Soil and Water Resources and the Department of Natural Resources. Metropolitan watershed districts are required to follow reporting requirements described in MR 8410.0150.

## 2.0 Annual Activity Report

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The following information is provided to satisfy the requirements of MN Rules 8410.0150, Subpart 3.

### 2.A. Board Members

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Below is a list of the District's current Board of Managers, designated officers, and the county that appointed each member.

*Table 1. MCWD Board of Managers*

<b>Manager</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Contact Information</b>
Sherry Davis White, President	Hennepin	<a href="mailto:swhite@minnehahacreek.org">swhite@minnehahacreek.org</a>
Brian Shekleton, Vice President	Hennepin	<a href="mailto:bshekleton@minnehahacreek.org">bshekleton@minnehahacreek.org</a>
Richard Miller, Treasurer	Hennepin	<a href="mailto:rmiller@minnehahacreek.org">rmiller@minnehahacreek.org</a>
Kurt Rogness, Secretary	Hennepin	<a href="mailto:krogness@minnehahacreek.org">krogness@minnehahacreek.org</a>
Bill Becker	Hennepin	<a href="mailto:bbecker@minnehahacreek.org">bbecker@minnehahacreek.org</a>
Jessica Loftus	Hennepin	<a href="mailto:jloftus@minnehahacreek.org">jloftus@minnehahacreek.org</a>
Bill Olson	Carver	<a href="mailto:bolson@minnehahacreek.org">bolson@minnehahacreek.org</a>

### 2.B. Staff Contact Information

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The District currently employs 25 staff. The names, job titles, and contact information are provided in Table 3. The District maintains an office for staff and meetings. The address is given below:

Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Office  
15320 Minnetonka Blvd.  
Minnetonka, MN 55345  
Ph: 952-471-0590 Fax: 952-471-0682  
Email: [admin@minnehahacreek.org](mailto:admin@minnehahacreek.org)  
[www.minnehahacreek.org](http://www.minnehahacreek.org)

Table 2. MCWD Staff Contacts

<b>Name</b>	<b>Job Title</b>	<b>E-mail</b>	<b>Phone</b>
James Wisker	District Administrator	<a href="mailto:jwisker@minnehahacreek.org">jwisker@minnehahacreek.org</a>	(952) 641-4509
Telly Mamayek	Communications and Education Director	<a href="mailto:tmamayek@minnehahacreek.org">tmamayek@minnehahacreek.org</a>	(952) 641-4508
Darren Lochner	Education & Engagement Coordinator	<a href="mailto:dlochner@minnehahacreek.org">dlochner@minnehahacreek.org</a>	(952) 641-4524
Kim Labo	Education & Engagement Coordinator	<a href="mailto:klabo@minnehahacreek.org">klabo@minnehahacreek.org</a>	(952) 641-4507
Sarah Bhimani	Communications Coordinator	<a href="mailto:sbhimani@minnehahacreek.org">sbhimani@minnehahacreek.org</a>	(952) 641-4520
Cathy Reynolds	Operations Manager	<a href="mailto:creynolds@minnehahacreek.org">creynolds@minnehahacreek.org</a>	(952) 641-4503
Chris Lizee	Administrative Assistant	<a href="mailto:clizee@minnehahacreek.org">clizee@minnehahacreek.org</a>	(952) 641-4500
Theresa Zerby	Accounting Clerk	<a href="mailto:tzerby@minnehahacreek.org">tzerby@minnehahacreek.org</a>	(952) 641-4519
Katherine Sylvia	Permitting Program Manager	<a href="mailto:ksylvia@minnehahacreek.org">ksylvia@minnehahacreek.org</a>	(952) 473-2855
Elizabeth Showalter	Permitting Technician	<a href="mailto:eshowalter@minnehahacreek.org">eshowalter@minnehahacreek.org</a>	(952) 641-4518
Heidi Quinn	Permitting Technician	<a href="mailto:hquinn@minnehahacreek.org">hquinn@minnehahacreek.org</a>	(952) 641-4504
Cole Thompson	Permitting Technician	<a href="mailto:cthompson@minnehahacreek.org">cthompson@minnehahacreek.org</a>	(952) 641-4521
Luke Menden	Permitting Assistant	<a href="mailto:lmenden@minnehahacreek.org">lmenden@minnehahacreek.org</a>	(952) 641-4532
Michael Hayman	Senior Project Planner	<a href="mailto:mhayman@minnehahacreek.org">mhayman@minnehahacreek.org</a>	(952) 471-8226
Becky Christopher	Senior Policy Planner	<a href="mailto:bchristopher@minnehahacreek.org">bchristopher@minnehahacreek.org</a>	(952) 641-4512
Tiffany Schaufler	Senior Project Manager	<a href="mailto:tschaufler@minnehahacreek.org">tschaufler@minnehahacreek.org</a>	(952) 641-4513
Renae Clark	Policy & Grants Coordinator	<a href="mailto:rclark@minnehahacreek.org">rclark@minnehahacreek.org</a>	(952) 641-4510
Anna Brown	Planner - Project Manager	<a href="mailto:abrown@minnehahacreek.org">abrown@minnehahacreek.org</a>	(952) 641-4522
Laura Domyancich	Planner - Project Manager	<a href="mailto:ldomyancich@minnehahacreek.org">ldomyancich@minnehahacreek.org</a>	(952) 641-4582

Janna Jonely	Project and Land Management Technician	<a href="mailto:jjonely@minnehahacreek.org">jjonely@minnehahacreek.org</a>	(952) 641-4523
Kelly Dooley	Water Quality Manager	<a href="mailto:kdooley@minnehahacreek.org">kdooley@minnehahacreek.org</a>	(952) 641-4515
Eric Fieldseth	Aquatic Ecologist	<a href="mailto:efieldseth@minnehahacreek.org">efieldseth@minnehahacreek.org</a>	(952) 471-7873
Kailey Cermack	Research & Monitoring Coordinator	<a href="mailto:kcermack@minnehahacreek.org">kcermack@minnehahacreek.org</a>	(952) 641-4501
Jill Sweet	Research & Monitoring Technician	<a href="mailto:jbjorklund@minnehahacreek.org">jbjorklund@minnehahacreek.org</a>	(952) 471-8976
Chase Vanderbilt	Research & Monitoring Field Assistant	<a href="mailto:cvanderbilt@minnehahacreek.org">cvanderbilt@minnehahacreek.org</a>	(952) 641-4532

## 2.C. Assessment of 2017 Work Plans

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District staff prepared 24 individual work plans for 2017 as listed below. All activities were substantially completed as proposed with two notable exceptions. The Meadowbrook Golf Course project (fund 3150) was delayed due to changes in the plans of our project partner, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. The work is expected to proceed in 2018-19. Trail construction at the Six Mile Marsh Prairie (fund 3106) was postponed due to limited staff capacity and is expected to proceed in 2019.

Expenditures under each work plan are included in the audit report in Appendix 1. The District's 2017 Year in Review publication, highlighting major activities from each of the District's programs, is included as Appendix 2.

- Operations and Support Services:
  - Information Technology (1003)
  - Government Relations (1004)
- Planning and Permitting:
  - Permit Administration (2001)
  - Planning and Projects (2002)
  - Project Maintenance and Land Management (2003)
  - Land Conservation (2004)
  - Habitat Restoration Initiative (2006)
- Capital Projects:
  - Six Mile Marsh Prairie Restoration (3106)
  - Taft/Legion Improvements (3140)
  - Long Lake Creek Corridor (3142)
  - 325 Blake Rd Stormwater Management (3145)
  - 54th St. Stream Restoration (3147)
  - FEMA Flood Repairs (3148)
  - Highway 101 Causeway (3149)
  - Meadowbrook Golf Course (3150)
  - Minnehaha Preserve Enhancement (3151)
  - SW LRT Trail Connection (3152)

- Education and Communications:
  - Cynthia Krieg Education Grant (4001)
  - Education (4002)
  - Communications (4003)
  - Cost Share (4005)
- Research and Monitoring:
  - Research & Monitoring (5001)
  - E-Grade (5002)
  - Aquatic Invasive Species (5005)

## 2.D. 2018 Work Plans

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District staff prepared 19 individual program and project work plans for 2018 which can be found on the District website, along with a summary of the District's 2018 budget, at: <http://www.minnehahacreek.org/about/district-finances/budget>.

## 2.E. Evaluation of Progress on Goals and Implementation Actions

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In January 2018, the District adopted its new Watershed Management Plan. With the adoption of the new Plan, the District is in the process of evaluating and improving the way it measures and tracks progress toward its goals across its various programs and projects. Section 3.7 of the Plan describes the District's intended framework for setting goals and evaluating progress through a sequential process that begins with strategic goals and long-range targets and leads to subwatershed and then project-specific targets, performance measurement and evaluation.

The District plans to have this new framework in place later this year to inform the 2018 annual report. In addition to its own evaluation and reporting efforts, the District intends to serve in a coordinating role to track collective progress toward TMDL goals among MS4s within its boundaries.

## 2.F. Trends in Monitoring Data

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The Research and Monitoring program evaluates trends for its long-term ("anchor") lake and stream monitoring stations throughout the District. The 30 lake and 13 stream stations were assessed for trends in water quality and stream yield from 2008-2017. All the stations had eight or more years of consecutive data. Trends were computed using the Mann-Kendall test on water clarity (SECC), algal abundance (CHLA) and total phosphorus (TP) in the epilimnion on lakes.

For streams, the Mann-Kendall test was used to compute stream yield trends. Flow-corrected concentrations were assessed for water quality trends. A locally weighted scatterplot smoothing (LOWESS) residual was calculated between the parameter of interest (TSS or TP concentrations) and flow. Then the water quality data was assessed by the Mann-Kendall test.

All statistical analyses were computed using R-studio statistical packages. An alpha of 0.05 was used to determine if the p-value was significant. Lakes with significant trends are displayed in Table 4, and the stream stations with significant trends are displayed in Table 5.



Five of the District's eight anchor stations on Lake Minnetonka showed statistically significant improvements in clarity and chlorophyll-a concentrations from 2008-2017. In the Minnehaha Creek subwatershed, Twin lakes showed statistically significant improvements in clarity, where Cedar and Powderhorn lakes showed statistically significant degradation in clarity. Powderhorn Lake also showed significant degradation in chlorophyll-a concentrations.

*Table 3. Significant trends for lakes within Minnehaha Creek Watershed District.*

Trends: 2008-2017						
Subwatershed	Lake or Bay	Parameter	Slope	Tau	p-value	Trend Direction
Lake Minnetonka	Forest	SECC	0.043	0.511	0.049	Improving
		CHLA	-2.077	-0.511	0.049	Improving
	Lake Minnetonka: Crystal	SECC	0.155	0.511	0.049	Improving
	Lake Minnetonka: Grays	SECC	0.293	0.600	0.020	Improving
		CHLA	-0.380	-0.644	0.012	Improving
	Lake Minnetonka: Halsted	CHLA	-4.647	-0.733	0.004	Improving
Lake Minnetonka: Lower Lake South	CHLA	-0.388	-0.689	0.007	Improving	
Minnehaha Creek	Cedar	SECC	-0.087	-0.555	0.032	Degrading
	Hiawatha	TP	-3.389	-0.644	0.012	Improving
	Powderhorn	SECC	-0.107	-0.777	0.0002	Degrading
		CHLA	8.316	0.867	0.0007	Degrading
	Twin	SECC	0.030	0.511	0.049	Improving

Dutch Lake outlet is the only anchor stream station that did not have any statistically significant trends. Six of the thirteen stations showed statistically significant increases in stream yields. Data also show that 2011, 2014, and 2016 were some of the wettest years on record.

The majority of stream stations had statistically significant trends indicating improvements in water quality. Three anchor stream stations had statistically significant degrading water quality trends. Langdon Lake outlet and Minnehaha Creek: McGinty/I-494 Ramp stations had significant increases in TSS concentrations from 2008-2017, where Painter Creek: W. Branch Rd station had significant increases in TP concentrations.

Table 4. Significant trends for streams within Minnehaha Creek Watershed District.

Trends: 2008-2017						
Subwatershed	Stream Station	Parameter	Slope	Tau	p-value	Trend Direction
Langdon Lake	Langdon Lake Outlet	Yield	0.058	0.600	0.020	Increasing
		TSS	1.070	0.235	0.00008	Degrading
Minnehaha Creek	Minnehaha Creek: Grays Bay Tailwaters	TSS	-0.096	-0.215	0.0015	Improving
	Minnehaha Creek: McGinty/I-494 Ramp	TSS	0.090	0.108	0.037	Degrading
	Minnehaha Creek: W 34th St.	TP	-0.001	-0.104	0.007	Improving
		TSS	-0.189	-0.104	0.043	Improving
	Minnehaha Creek: Excelsior Blvd	Yield	0.053	0.6	0.02	Increasing
		TP	-0.003	-0.182	8.72E-06	Improving
	Minnehaha Creek: W 56th St.	TP	-0.002	-0.176	1.65E-05	Improving
		TSS	-0.231	-0.142	0.009	Improving
	Minnehaha Creek: 21st/Minnehaha Pkwy	Yield	0.049	0.511	0.049	Increasing
		TP	-0.003	-0.216	3.65E-08	Improving
		TSS	-0.307	-0.135	0.011	Improving
	Minnehaha Creek: Hiawatha Ave	Yield	0.71	0.556	0.032	Increasing
		TP	-0.003	-0.202	1.55E-07	Improving
Painter Creek	Painter Creek: W. Branch Rd	Yield	0.048	0.600	0.020	Increasing
		TP	0.010	0.118	0.003	Degrading
Six Mile Creek	Six Mile Creek: East Auburn Lake Inlet	Yield	0.053	0.644	0.012	Increasing
		TP	-0.003	-0.130	0.001	Improving
		TSS	-0.137	-0.126	0.020	Improving
	Six Mile Creek: Lundsten N Lake Outlet	TP	-0.004	-0.316	3.53E-14	Improving
	Six Mile Creek: Mud Lake Outlet	TP	-0.004	-0.137	0.0006	Improving
TSS		-1.603	-0.286	9.43E-08	Improving	

## 2.G. Annual Communications

MCWD developed a strategic plan for communications in 2013 which guides how the District delivers messages to key audiences. In 2017, MCWD issued a total of 28 news releases, 10 newspaper columns, and 45 e-newsletters on topics including capital projects, program activities, water quality data, events, and finances. The District distributed both a mid-year and annual report to cities, counties, state agencies, and other stakeholders. The annual report can be found in Appendix 2. Other past news releases and newsletters can be found at: <http://www.minnehahacreek.org/about/newsroom>. The MCWD website received approximately 215,000 views in 2017 and the District continued an active social media presence on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube.



Last year also marked MCWD's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and the District hosted a series of events for community members and policymakers and created five videos and produced a brochure about the District's history.

## 2.H. Solicitation of Services

In 2016, in accordance with MN Statutes 103B.227, the District solicited proposals for legal, engineering, government relations, and information technology professional services. The process was repeated in March 2018 for these four services as well as accounting services.

## 2.I. Status of Local Plans

Three of twenty-nine communities in the watershed did not complete updates to their local water management plans in response to the District's 2007 watershed management plan update: Chanhassen, Watertown Township, and Laketown Township. These local water plans were requested repeatedly by the District. With revised local water plans now due for all communities by the end of 2018, the District is focusing its effort on ensuring that the current round of plans are completed in compliance with Minnesota Statutes 103B.235, Minnesota Rules 8410.0160, and the District's newly adopted 2017 Watershed Management Plan.

The primary requirement of local government units (LGUs) under the District's 2007 Plan was the assignment of load reduction targets. The Plan required that LGUs report annually to the District regarding progress toward these targets and other implementation activities in their local plans. Several LGUs met these targets, and others are still in progress. Since the adoption of the 2007 Plan, the MN Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) completed Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for the majority of nutrient-impaired lakes in the District. The load reduction requirements placed on LGUs under these TMDLs are generally higher than those required under the District's 2007 Plan. The District's 2017 Plan was updated to align with the TMDL targets and establish a framework for working cooperatively with communities to make progress toward these reductions.

## 2.J. Status of Locally Adopted Ordinances

The District's 2007 and 2017 Plans did not establish any requirements for local ordinances.

## 2.K. Permits, Variances, and Violations

In 2017, the MCWD reviewed and processed 641 permit applications. No permits were denied, and there were four variances or exceptions approved. A total of 249 inspections were completed in 2017. The majority of non-compliant sites were resolved through MCWD inspection reports to permittees and on-site meetings to discuss corrections and solutions to site-specific issues. MCWD issued one notice of probable violation in 2017. No formal enforcement action was issued by the MCWD Board of Managers.

## 3.0 Annual Audit Report

The full 2017 audit report is included as Appendix 1.