

**COON CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT
Request for Board Action**

MEETING DATE: September 9, 2024
AGENDA NUMBER: 7
ITEM: Advisory Committees Report

AGENDA: Policy Discussion Information

ACTION REQUESTED

Receive Report

BACKGROUND

The Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) did met on August 14th. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met on August 8th.

- The next CAC meeting scheduled: September 11th at 4:30 pm hybrid with Zoom.
- The next TAC meeting scheduled: September 12th at 8:30 am hybrid with Zoom.

ISSUES/CONCERNS

Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC)

All members of the CAC were present at the meeting, along with CCWD staff Tim Kelly, Jessica Lindemyer, Erin Margl, and Erik Bye.

1. Open Forum

Gary Nereson asked that any future budget documents are provided to the CAC a week in advance of the meeting that it will be discussed.

Paddy Jones inquired about the status of the potential wetland bank behind his property. District Administrator, Tim Kelly, confirmed that preliminary work is still being completed to confirm the viability of a wetland bank in that area.

2. District Update

Engagement Coordinator, Jessica Lindemyer, gave a brief update on various District activities including the comprehensive plan and 2025 budget, as well as August precipitation data.

3. Comp Plan

Planning Coordinator, Erik Bye, provided a summary of the Comprehensive Plan process completed to date and the final steps to be completed before the plan is officially adopted.

4. Wetland Conservation Act Changes

Watershed Development Coordinator, Erin Margl, introduced the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) to the CAC. She discussed what WCA is and how Coon Creek Watershed District interacts with it, including the recent legislative changes.

5. Staff Spotlight: Administration

An overview of the District's administrative program was provided by Tim Kelly; including an introduction of the administrative staff and their individual roles at the District.

Separation from Anoka County

Tim Kelly confirmed that the separation from Anoka County is nearing completion. There are two main areas that need to be separated 1) Finance & Accounting and 2) Benefits. The financial separation from the County is complete. However, the benefits transition and separation are still underway.

Budget Process & Draft 2025 Budget

Tim Kelly reviewed the budget process, including the typical timeline for analysis, fine tuning, review, and adoption of the budget. He walked through some of the major changes in the budget and the proposed levy increase.

There was general discussion about the increase to program costs and how the separation from the County is impacting the District's budget.

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

The majority of the TAC was present at the meeting; absent were Board of Soil and Water Resources (BWSR) and Columbus.

1. Management Situation

Jon Janke provided the TAC with a brief update on recent weather and hydrology. The District is currently 5-10% above average for rainfall during the growing season. There has been more instances of minor maintenance work such as downed trees and debris than there has been instances of actual flooding. Soil moisture has been consistently wet throughout the season.

Tim Kelly informed the TAC that the Army Corps of Engineers, MnDNR, PCA, and BWSR have put together a regional wetland assessment tool. While this tool will not currently affect the group on a day-to-day basis, it is expected to be the tool that will be used to assess the affect on the quality of wetland impacts when it comes to water quality improvement projects.

The Metropolitan Council has put out their 2050 Regional Development Guide for public review. This includes a [Water Policy Plan](#). The review period is August 15 - October 2nd.

2. Concerns

Jon Janke gave a brief update on the Lower Coon Creek Corridor Restoration Project at Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park stating that the County is currently working on the bridge and culvert replacements. The CCWD creek restoration work will occur over the winter with the bidding process to occur in the next month or so.

The watershed has received quotes for geotechnical work in the Ditch 39 subwatershed. This work will assess the viability of three potential site for the implementation of a large regional stormwater filter. The contract will be awarded next week and more details should be available at the next TAC meeting in September.

Tim Kelly inquired about instances of downed trees throughout the watershed. Both Kameron Kytonen of Andover and Megan Hedstrom of Blaine reported an uptick in reports of downed trees recently.

Justine Dauphinais informed the TAC that the deadline for Clean Water Fund competitive grant applications is August 22nd. CCWD will be submitting a grant application for the Ditch 39 regional filters and is also assisting Spring Lake Park in submitting and application to purchase a street sweeper. Grant awards are announced in December.

3. Briefs

a. 2025 Budget

A copy of the CCWD 2025 draft budget will be sent out to the TAC after the meeting. TAC members should review the budget and provide any comments or concerns to Tim Kelly by August 20th.

b. 2025 Cost Share Project Summary

Erik Bye gave a presentation on the cost-shared projects scheduled for 2025. These projects include Bridgewater South IESF, MnDOT Pond Smart Outlet Retrofit, and Spring Brook Creek Nature Center Outlet Retrofit.

c. Comprehensive Plan

Tim Kelly summarized the timeline of events surrounding the development of the 2024-2033 Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. On August 12th the CCWD Board of Managers will approve the plan for the 90-day review by the Board of Water and Soil Resources. Once BWSR has approved the Plan, CCWD will formerly adopt it.

CCWD will be presenting to the regional committee on the Plan in early October and may ask a few of the TAC members to accompany.

4. Other Water Management Concerns

a. Floodplain Maps

Jason Law raised concerns regarding draft Atlas 14 floodplain maps and the DNR HUC 8 study. He was concerned that the draft Atlas 14 floodplain map didn't include 2022 LIDAR and any topography changes since the last LIDAR wouldn't be included in the DNR-approved FEMA maps. He was also concerned that LOMAs done for recent developments wouldn't be included in updated DNR FEMA maps and that the City would need to go through the Letter of Map Amendment (LOMA) process again once the updated FEMA maps came out. He was also concerned about developments completed after 2022 being included in updated FEMA maps because they wouldn't be included in 2022 LIDAR.

Eileen Weigel noted that the DNR will use the best available data to recreate the final FEMA maps. She also noted that cities should not need to go through the entire LOMA process again and that it should be more of a verification process for the LOMAs. DNR will work directly with the cities on this. Eileen also stated the DNR should have grading plans for LOMAs done since 2022 and that the updated FEMA maps should account for those.

Tim Kelly confirmed that he would work on getting a representative from the DNR to one of the next TAC meetings.

5. Announcements

a. HOA Stormwater Toolkit

Dawn Doering shared the HOA Stormwater Toolkit that was put together by Washington Conservation District. The purpose of this toolkit is to provide HOAs with educational information regarding their stormwater responsibilities. The Minnesota Stormwater Council was involved in the development of the toolkit.

b. Sweeping & Salting Showdown Equipment Showcase

Erik Bye notified the TAC that the Clean Sweep Education & Training Program is hosting an equipment showcase on August 28th. The event will be held at the Minnetonka Public Works Facility and feature a variety of presentations and equipment demonstrations.

RECOMMENDATION

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