

Technical Memorandum

To: Steve Christopher, Board Conservationist
Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources

From: Della Schall Young, CPESC, PMP

Date: June 30, 2018

Re: Lower Minnesota River 2018 Watershed Management Plan Amendment: 60-day Draft Plan Comment/Response Log

The Lower Minnesota River Watershed District's (District) 2018 Watershed Management Plan (Plan) 60-day Draft Comment/ Response Log (60-day Draft Log) is enclosed. The 60-day Draft Log is a compilation of the comments the District received since the close of the official comment period in September 2017. To recap, this Plan amendment was designed in response to requests from the District's technical advisory committee (TAC) to align the District Plan with municipalities within the District and adjacent watershed management organizations that are updating their water governance documents. This amendment focuses on the standards in Section 3, which were compiled and put in Appendix K as well as the Implementation Program in Section 4.

The District designed and facilitated a robust stakeholder engagement process to solicit and incorporate comments from the TAC, state agencies, and residents. The effort was more than required by Minnesota Statute to ensure the District met the engagement requirement to restart the 10-year management-planning timeframe.

Stakeholder Input and Engagement Process

Refer to the July 2017 petition from the District for the stakeholder input and engagement process facilitated before the 60-day Draft Amended Plan release for comment. Following the close of the comment period in September 2017, the District addressed the comments received, posted responses on the website, and hosted the statutorily required public hearing in October 25, 2017. At the end of the public hearing portion of the Board meeting, the managers decided to continue the public hearing and to conduct additional outreach efforts targeted toward resolving outstanding issues and concerns. Below is a summary of the outreach efforts:

Public Informational Meetings

- February 13, 2018, from 4:30–7:00 p.m. Bloomington Informational Meeting: Bloomington Public Works Department, 1700 W. 98th St., Minneapolis, MN 55431
- February 15, 2018, from 5:00–7:00 p.m. Eden Prairie and Chanhassen Informational Meeting: Eden Prairie City Center, 8080 Mitchell Rd., Eden Prairie, MN

- February 22, 2018, from 3:30–5:30 p.m. Burnsville Informational Meeting: Burnsville City Hall, 100 Civic Center Pkwy., Burnsville, MN
- April 3, 2018 from 5:30–7:00 p.m. Savage Information Meeting: Savage City Hall, Council Chambers, 6000 McColl Dr., Savage, MN

Prior to each of the informational meetings, District staff posted information on the website, and in partnership with associated municipalities, they mailed notices to over one thousand residents within the District.

Meetings with State Agencies and Municipalities

Following the public hearing, District staff made modifications to the bluff and steep slopes protection standard and released draft language in January of 2018. District staff then hosted a TAC meeting and met with municipalities (Burnsville, Bloomington, and Savage) to solicit additional input on the proposed standards and to identify projects they could co-sponsor. The District also met with the Board of Water and Soil Resources, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and the City of Carver’s city council.

The input from the District’s outreach efforts, captured on the attached 60-day draft log, shaped the revisions presented in the enclosed 90-day draft of the Plan. If you have questions, please contact me at (763) 545-4659 or naiadconsulting@gmail.com, or Della Schall Young at (651) 249-6974 or della@youngecg.com. Thank you for your time.

Enclosure: 60-day Draft LMRWD Plan Amendment and Comment/Response Log

cc: Linda Loomis, LMRWD Administrator
Yvonne Shirk, LMRWD Manager
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