COON CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT
Request for Board Action

MEETING DATE: December 10, 2012
AGENDA NUMBER: 11
ITEM: Approve DRAFT Comprehensive Plan for Public Review

POLICY IMPACT: Policy
FISCAL IMPACT: Budgeted

REQUEST
Approve the DRAFT Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan for review and comment

BACKGROUND
On November 13, 2012 the Board reviewed and discussed comments on the Rough Draft Comprehensive Plan and directed staff to make the changes discussed and prepare the plan for release as a DRAFT at the December 10 meeting.

The Executive Summary of the plan is provided (8 pages). A plan summary is also provided (25 pages).

ISSUES/CONCERNS
Implementation Specifics: The rough draft plan identified specific actions (identified by program) and repeats those actions in the implementation section, providing a time and estimated cost for implementation. The Board authorized staff to explore clarifying the goals to the objective level and identify the means, related activity, timeframes and milestones for achieving the objective or leave as is: Implementation timing and effort are handled through program/strategy/cost center descriptions.

Staff attempted to clarify, however the additional documentation added considerable volume to the plan.

Principles and Standards: The principles and standards have been added

Mining: A mining study has been added as part of the issue on declining ground water

Weather Stations: There was interest by the TAC in the identified need and value of establishing weather stations capable of assisting in identifying micro storms and variation within the watershed as early as possible. One member expressed interest in cost-sharing with the District.

Water Conservation, Water Rates & Use of Grey Water: Several reviewers felt that a more full review and discussion of both of these items was warranted.
The rough draft plan discusses the basics of conservation and conservation pricing. Water rates/water supply is controlled by the cities, the plan proposes that the District conduct a study and act as a forum and catalyst for the cities to address water conservation through this method.

The Board voted to leave as is and focus on conservation pricing and encouraging water re-use. In reviewing the issue, staff evaluated the substantive actions called for and integrated them into the strategy for protecting ground water. Staff believes this is a better fit.

**Soil Quality**: While soil quality is an issue within the District, it is not of the degree that AIS, Climate change and ground water declines are. Staff would recommend removing the topic from the plan but leaving the actions. The actions are currently also reflected in the water quality and preventing property damage sections.

**Next Steps**:
1. Approve DRAFT plan for public review. Staff will contact BWSR and arrange distribution.
2. Plan Review Process: Determined by M.S. 103B.231 Subd. 7. The steps and timing would be as follows. The timeline assumes a December 10 date for release of the DRAFT for public review. The official release date and beginning of the official public review and comment, however, is determined by BWSR

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**OPTIONS**
The Board could table approval of the DRAFT for further discussion

**RECOMMENDATION**
Approve the DRAFT Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan for review and comment