COON CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT
Request for Board Action

MEETING DATE: April 10, 2017
AGENDA NUMBER: 14
ITEM: Review District Mission, Roles and Goals

AGENDA: Discussion

ACTION REQUESTED
Motion reaffirming District Mission

BACKGROUND
All direction governing Coon Creek Watershed District programs and operations is set forth in or derived from State or Federal statutes.

While each budget year may appear to only deal with the task at hand, the Coon Creek Watershed District, in addition to adopting each year’s budget development guidelines, does keep in mind the District’s Mission, vision statement, 2013 – 2023 Comprehensive Plan and short and long term organizational goals that are meant to say who and what the Coon Creek Watershed District is.

District Mission
To manage ground water and the surface water drainage system to prevent property damage, maintain hydrologic balance and to protect water quality for the safety and enjoyment of citizens and the preservation and enhancement of wildlife habitat.

To carry out its mission, the District:
1. Advocates a conservation ethic in promoting the health, productivity, diversity, and beauty of water and related land resources.

2. Listens to citizens and responds to their diverse needs in making decisions.

3. Protects, restores, and manages the watershed’s water and related resources for sustainable multiple-use management of water resources.

4. Provides educational, technical and financial assistance to Cities, Anoka County and private landowners, encouraging them to practice good stewardship and quality land management in meeting their specific objectives and improve their water resources.

5. Help communities to wisely use the water and related resources to promote economic development and a quality environment.
6. Develops and provides scientific and technical knowledge and educational programs aimed at improving the capability to protect, restore, manage, and use water and related resources.

7. Conserves the ability of watersheds and riparian areas to absorb water, filter sediment, and sustain stream channel integrity.

8. Seeks to restore and maintain the long-term inherent productive capacity of the soil.

9. Seeks to sustain water quality and aquatic habitat in each aquatic ecosystem, unless excepted by law.

**District Roles**
The Coon Creek Watershed District serves the following specific and required statutory roles:

1. **Drainage Authority** over all public drainage ditches within the watershed under M.S. 103E

2. **Comprehensive Surface Water Management Organization (WMO)** for Coon Creek Watershed and select adjacent subwatersheds under the Metropolitan Water Management and Watershed Acts (M.S. 103B & MS 103D)

3. **Local Governmental Unit (LGU)** administering the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) except for the City of Spring Lake Park where the District provides assistance and oversight when and where needed.

4. **Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4)** permittee to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency under the Federal Clean Water Act NPDES program.

**District Goals**
The District has adopted five mission goals and eight issue goals. Pursuit of these goals is articulated in the District Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan.

**Mission Goals**
1. To prevent property damage from flooding, erosion or degraded water quality

2. To ensure balance between inflow, outflow and storage of water

3. To protect and enhance water quality
4. To provide for multiple beneficial uses including the safety and enjoyment by the watershed's residents

5. To preserve and enhance wildlife

**Issue Goals**
6. To minimize the harmful ecological, economic and human health impacts of aquatic invasive species (AIS).

7. To be proactive in aquatic invasive species management through education and projects that improves lake and stream water quality and/or reduces the risk of entry of invasive species.

8. To control the spread of AIS and minimize their impacts on native habitats and species.

9. To gather and disseminate weather data and climatic information, and provide meteorological expertise in support of Watershed water and related resource management decisions and weather related management activities.

10. To ensure validity, integrity, and utility of weather information provided for Watershed use.

11. To provide precipitation frequency estimates for the Coon Creek Watershed.

12. To manage surficial ground water resources for multiple-uses by balancing present and future resource use with domestic water supply needs.

13. To manage groundwater dependent ecosystems under the principles of multiple use and sustainability, while emphasizing protection and improvement of soil, water and vegetation, particularly because of effects upon aquatic and wildlife resources.

**Management Priorities**
1. Prevent flooding

2. Improve water quality in impaired or impacted waters

3. Maintain and enhance water quality in waters that are not impaired.
Services
The Coon Creek Watershed District seeks to assist people and local units of government in being or becoming good stewards of water and related land resources within the District.

Through District assistance and actions, people and communities are better able to conserve, maintain, and use water and related resources through effective management and stewardship that involves actions to:

1. **Maintain or Improve Conditions**: Maintain the condition of water and related resources through continued good management where adequate conservation is already in place.

2. **Prevent Damage**: Prevent damage or harm to water, land, or property where assessment of social, economic and environmental trends indicates potential for degradation of water or related resources.

3. **Enhance Use**: Enhance land for further use or productivity and environmental health.

4. **Restore Damage**: Restore water and related resources where damage to those resources has already occurred.

Guiding Principles
In addition, Watershed District employees shall seek to apply and exemplify the guiding principles set out in their professional conduct and in carrying out their assigned responsibilities by:

1. Using an ecological and hydrological approach to the multiple-use management of the Watershed.

2. Use the best scientific knowledge in making decisions and select the most appropriate technologies in the management of resources.

3. Being good neighbors who respect private property rights.

4. Striving for quality and excellence in everything we do and are sensitive to the effects of our decisions on people and resources.

5. Striving to meet the needs of our citizens in fair, friendly, and open ways.

6. Forming partnerships to achieve shared goals.

7. Promote grass-roots participation in our decisions and activities.

8. Valuing and trusting one another and sharing leadership.

9. Maintaining high professional and ethical standards.
10. Being responsible and accountable for what we do.

11. Recognizing and accepting that some conflict is natural and we strive to deal with it professionally.

12. Following laws, regulations, executive direction, and legislative intent and being involved in the drafting, amending and interpretation of those laws and regulations as appropriate for the people and resources of the Coon Creek Watershed.

**ISSUES/CONCERNS**

**Levels of Service:** Is a measure of the quality, quantity, functionality, and reliability of the service or performance of various storm water treatment practices. They address the characteristics or attributes of a service that describe its required level of performance. These characteristics typically describe how much, of what nature and how frequently about the service. Staff is beginning to work with service levels as a way to differentiate operations and maintenance needs within the District and thereby reduce overall costs.

**Technical Assistance:** The District has experienced a significant increase in requests for Technical Assistance. In fulfilling its mission, the Coon Creek Watershed District provides technical and limited financial assistance to land owners and water managers. The technical and financial assistance is delivered through staff efforts.

The objectives of providing technical assistance is

1. To provide soil and water expertise to help implement water and related resource management plans and achieve optimum resource outputs consistent with the improvement, protection, and maintenance of watershed condition.

2. To advance water resource management by ensuring that both the individual landowner's objectives and the public need for beneficial uses of water are met now and in the future.

3. To help attain the landowner's objectives, consistent with benefits that accrue to the general public from improved resource use and management.

4. To maintain or improve soil productivity and the quality, quantity, and timing of water yield on non-Federal forest lands.

**Water Resource Planning and Technical Consultation**

The Watershed District provides data, information or technical expertise that helps people and organizations collect and analyze information to identify water and related resource problems and opportunities, clarify their objectives and formulate and evaluate alternatives.
• **Water Resource Plans** reflect an individual or organization's decisions about the management or water and related resources for a specific area—which may be a farm, subdivision, lake, neighborhood, community or subwatershed.

• **Technical Consultations and Planning Assistance** provides professional advice that helps customers make decisions about water resource management.

**Management Practice Implementation**
The District helps individuals and communities install Best Management Practices and Stormwater Management Features and systems that meet established technical standards and specifications

• **Designs** allow for the application of engineering and management practices (practice survey, practice design, field layout of practices and so forth)

• **Follow-up** ensures the treatment is working properly and identifies if additional treatment is needed.

• **Checks and Reviews** are formal program status reviews of land and water resources where program contacts are in effect or subject to management compliance.

**Water and Related Resource Inventory and Assessment**
Coon Creek Watershed District assesses, acquires, develops, interprets, analyzes and delivers water and related resource data and information to enable knowledge-based water and related resource planning and decision making at all landscape scales.

• **Data Gathering Protocols** ensure that reliable water and related resource data are acquired and delivered

• **Databases and Delivery** include the maintenance and delivery or geospatial datasets and information

• **Assessments and Analyses** include modeling and interpretation of water and related resource data to better inform decision makers and facilitate policy development

**Water and Related Resource Technology Transfer**
Coon Creek Watershed District develops, documents and distributes a wide array of technology pertaining to resource assessment, water and related resource planning, and best management practice installation and evaluation

• **Technology Tools** include engineering and other standards, specifications, guides and references and modeling systems. CCWD has automated some of this technology to facilitate sound water and related resource decisions by the public.

• **Training and Certification** include technical training to external parties and individuals.

• **Plant Materials** and related technologies provide for better land treatment.
PRIOR DECISIONS
7/23/90 Board adopted District Mission

OPTIONS
1. Reaffirm District Mission
2. Begin process to draft new Mission Statement
3. Forego a Mission Statement and use only Statutory Goals, Intent and Direction

RECOMMENDATION
The Board should reaffirm the District’s mission