COON CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT
Request for Board Action

MEETING DATE: March 27, 2017
AGENDA NUMBER: 16
ITEM: Report on Funding BMP Operations and Maintenance

AGENDA: Discussion

ACTION REQUESTED
Discussion

BACKGROUND
On March 14 the Technical Advisory Committee discussed funding and ensuring appropriate O&M of BMPs. As discussed in the TAC report, the committee discussed funding inspections, maintenance and repair at the development or subwatershed scale.

Discussion focused on funding approaches the Cities or the Watershed District can implement to fund development, catchment, or subwatershed stormwater BMP inspection and maintenance. There are two options for initial discussion were:

a. Water Maintenance/Water Management Districts
b. Permit Fees

The TAC consensus was that additional taxes would not be approved politically by council or residents, though a subwatershed tax would be more viable in some cases.

There was concern of double-pay with stormwater utility fee, watershed district tax, and then adding a subwatershed tax.

Many HOAs are not aware of their stormwater responsibilities plus already pay Stormwater Utility Fees for which they do not receive service. With aging infrastructure, Cities have older HOAs with maintenance funding shortages for road improvements, let alone stormwater.

It was noted that the CCWD has been recommending to HOAs at city forums or HOA board meetings to set aside a stormwater maintenance fund if they have stormwater infrastructure to maintain.

Other ideas discussed; some would need to be checked with Finance Directors:

More viable

- Part of stormwater utility could go to CCWD to cover O&M
  - Would be easier for CCWD to shift funds where needed
  - Incentivize by requiring BMPs such as Turf-care and Snow/Ice Removal BMPS in order to get stormwater O & M service
A subwatershed tax could work in small developments with no HOA or for commercial properties.

- Discussion followed on a tiered rate subwatershed tax based on service level; administration might be more work than worth

**Less viable**

- One city checks housing stock every 3 years and cites them if not to standard; possible model for stormwater infrastructure.
- Could incentivize using stormwater utility fee credits but the fees are needed for basic stormwater infrastructure
- For large projects, possibly provide a loan with interest rate that could be reduced by use of best practices.

**ISSUES/CONCERNS**

**Short Term Need:** District policy is to secure assurance that the O&M for new infrastructure is fixed to a responsible party, and that the money to maintain storm water facilities is capable of being raised.

**Longer Term Need:** A funding mechanism that ensures:

1. Money is available for inspection and maintenance
2. Periodic and lower cost preventive maintenance occurs
3. Residents and elected officials are not surprised by large scale BMP failures

**PRIOR DECISIONS**

CCWD is currently recommending to HOAs to set aside a stormwater maintenance fund if they have stormwater infrastructure to maintain

**OPTIONS**

1. Target and Promote HOA Responsibilities for Storm Water facility maintenance
2. Contact HOA Management companies to explore whether lawn/plowing services might pick up inspection and routine maintenance if they were trained.
3. Explore if credits to storm water utility charges could be given for either the amount the landscaping service would charge or the amount the City or District would charge.
4. Conduct as assessment of who is doing what on an information and financial basis & talk to finance directors concerning viable options.
5. Pursue current District goal of facilitating development of subwatershed management plans to better meet flooding and water quality needs and establish subwatershed taxing districts as part of that process.

**RECOMMENDATION**

None