COON CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT
Request for Board Action

MEETING DATE: April 9, 2018
AGENDA NUMBER: 18
ITEM: Additional Waters List

AGENDA: Discussion

ACTION REQUESTED
Review requirements to address “Additional Waters” requirement and direct staff to draft a stand along policy and or chapter for review by the CAC and TAC.

BACKGROUND
The Buffer Law that was signed into law by Governor Dayton in June 2015, was amended on April 25, 2016, and further amended by legislation signed by Governor Dayton on May 30, 2017.

The amendments enacted in 2017 clarify the application of the buffer requirement to public waters, provides additional statutory authority for alternative practices, addresses concerns over the potential spread of invasive species, including palmer amaranth, through buffer establishment, establishes a Riparian Protection Aid Program to fund local government buffer law enforcement and implementation, and allows landowners to be granted a compliance waiver until July 1, 2018 when they have filed a compliance plan with the Soil and Water Conservation District.

A requirement of that law (M.S. 103F.48 Subd 4: Local water resources riparian protection) is that by July 1, 2017 Soil and Water Conservation Districts, in consultation with local water management authorities shall develop, adopt and submit to each local water management authority within its boundary, a summary of water courses for inclusion in the local water management authority’s plan.

ISSUES/CONCERNS
Requirements:
1. The District must incorporate an addendum to its Comprehensive Water Management Plan to include the Soil and Water Conservation District’s recommendations. The District must do this by July 1, 2018.

2. The incorporation of the summary does not require a plan amendment if a copy is distributed to all agencies, organizations and individuals required to receive a copy of plan changes.
3. The District must address implementation of the SWCDs recommendations with any revisions or amendments to the District’s Comprehensive Plan.

**Additional Waters:** ACD’s recommendations of water courses they believe could benefit from additional management consideration (buffers or other best management practices) was provided June 30, 2017 in the form of two criteria.

1. Hydrologically connected, open waterways and wetlands as part of a flowing drainage network and,
2. Wetlands of high or outstanding ecological value and/or supporting rare species

**Option:** If the District determines that management of these water resources is already adequately addressed, a brief narrative regarding this decision is required as part of the Comprehensive Plan

**PRIOR DECISIONS**

**6/26/17:** Board of Managers was unable to adopt a position because of split votes

**6/27/17:** The Anoka County Board assumes enforcement responsibility under the buffer law for state protected waters.

**OPTIONS**

1. Direct staff to draft a stand along policy and or chapter for review by the CAC and TAC.
2. Receive report and include addressing the “additional waters” requirement in the current Comprehensive Plan amendment.
3. Take no action

**RECOMMENDATION**

Direct staff to draft a stand along policy and or chapter for review by the CAC and TAC.