COON CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT
Request for Board Action

MEETING DATE: May 14, 2018
AGENDA NUMBER: 23
ITEM: Receipt, review, and discussion of Input & Comments on the Proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendment

AGENDA: Discussion

ACTION REQUESTED
Receive, review and discuss input & comments on the proposed comprehensive plan amendment.

BACKGROUND
At the February 26 meeting the Board gave public notice of its intent to amend its Comprehensive Plan. The public notice was to announce a scoping process required under the Metropolitan Surface Water Management Act (Minn. Stat. 103B.201-.253) (Act), amend its administrative Rules, Minn. Rules Chapter 8410. BWSR included in its adopted amendments specific guidance and requirements for amending Watershed Management Plans and for initial identification and assessment of water and related resource issues. In addition to a requirement to contact all review agencies and stakeholders, the rule requires the District to send a “Notification of Plan Initiation” and a request from the review agencies and stakeholders
1. Their expectations for the plan
2. The agency’s priority issues
3. Summaries of Relevant water management goals and water resource information

On February 28, 2018 the District published a ‘Notice of Intent to Amend Watershed Management Plan’. This Notice initiates the public scoping process for Watershed Management Plan amendments with associated documents. Comments were to be submitted in writing until April 29, 2018 with the Board of Managers reviewing a report on the comments submitted at their May 14, 2018 regularly scheduled Board meeting.

The District received 55 comments on 21 separate issues from 10 separate commenters. The general and specific issues addressed were as follows:

ISSUES/CONCERNS
1. AIS
   1. Include and update action plans to prevent spread of AIS through monitoring and public awareness
   2. Revise AIS Chapter to address updates and position District for AIS grants and program coordination
2. Alternatives to perpetual Ditch Maintenance

3. Recommend conservation drainage and natural channel design principals to meet TMDL and fisheries objectives

3. Bank Stabilization

4. Consider streambank erosion, increased turbidity, embedded sediments and general reduction in biological productivity when planning stream stabilization or restoration projects

4. CIP

5. Move objective 5 to 1

6. Acknowledge environmental and regulatory changes impacting the plan

7. List creek name with ditch number

8. Relate to Asset Management Plan

9. Pg. 283 Policy 6 Add criteria related to risks (eg. to other infrastructure) related to not doing project

10. Update CIP so that it addresses a reasonable amount of time (3-5 years) and can be updated annually to accommodate projects, changes in priorities and LWP Projects

5. District Boundary

11. Amend District boundary to address section 1 of Blaine

6. Evaluation

12. Review evaluation chapter and consider process for evaluating LWP implementation and actions if LWP is not implemented.

7. Fisheries

13. Continue to work on fisheries issues

8. Groundwater/Water Quality

14. Add "Impact to groundwater quality"

9. Groundwater Sustainability

15. Play a stronger role in promoting groundwater conservation

16. Consider updating standards to require storm water reuse for landscape irrigation and use of drought tolerant native plants

17. Consider including ground water conservation as a priority focus area in District's PGR program.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10. Implementation: Incentive Program</td>
<td>18. Consider incentive program and provide program details</td>
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<td>11. Implementation: Roles and goals</td>
<td>19. Define roles &amp; goals for inspection, operation and maintenance of water resource facilities. Include procedure to ensure everyone implements requirements</td>
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<td>12. Local Water Plan Approval</td>
<td>20. Revise plan approval process to be consistent with 2015 revisions to MR8410.0105 Subp 9</td>
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<td>13. Objectives</td>
<td>21. Amend plan to clarify requirements and review and approval process</td>
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<td>14. Plan Amendment Process</td>
<td>22. Include priorities and measurable outcomes</td>
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<td>23. Incorporate Asset Management Plan &amp; Changes</td>
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<td>24. Update amendment process with focus on Minor plan amendments to accommodate changes in CIP and LWP projects</td>
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<td>25. Make content and requirements more clear</td>
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<td>29. Revise plan amendment process to be consistent with 2015 revisions to MR8410.0140</td>
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<td>15. Rare Species &amp; Significant Natural Areas</td>
<td>30. Add table showing the presence and types of natural communities found in the WD</td>
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<td>31. Include the current MBS sites of Biodiversity significance layer</td>
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<td>32. Include information on Regionally Significant Ecological Areas in the WD plan &amp; potential habitat movement corridor information</td>
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33. Request or conduct an updated NHID database query and list the date of the new search in the plan. Searches are only good for 1 year.

34. Include specific goals and policies to address how notable land cover types and rare species will be protected.

35. Include recommendations for avoiding future development impacts on native wetland species and rare natural communities.

36. Require wildlife friendly erosion control be used on every project.

16. Riparian Lands

37. Preserve and restore forested riparian areas.

Riparian Lands/ Buffer Strips and Additional Waters

38. Amend plan to address riparian land management needs/ Buffer program and additional waters requirements by ACD and Buffer Law.

17. Rules

39. Item 3.2 (2) add groundwater (will not result in the degradation of waterways, floodplains, groundwater or wetlands.

40. Section 8.2 Incorporate changes related to 'Buffer Law'.

41. Section 13.0 pg 40: Tie in Asset Management Plan and require & opportunities it might represent.

42. Pg. 44 Include/address IDDE to ground water.

43. Amend rules to address changes in requirements addressing: Water Quality; Floodplain...

18. Self-Assessment

44. Include a complete self-assessment of success in implementing first 5 yrs of Comp plan.

19. Shoreline Development

45. Recommends the District require the use of native plants in future within CCWD.

20. Water Quality

46. Add contamination of Ground water.

47. Address improvement of water quality.

48. Include 'other' concerns such as salt/conductivity.

49. Add Groundwater to the resource list.

50. Pg. 54/55 Distinguish between SW & GW.
51. Revise water quality chapter to address WRAPS findings and TMDL requirements


52. Include Atlas 14

53. Consider addressing resiliency to adapt to Climate change issues


55. Consider using general watershed management strategies listed in letter

**PRIOR DECISIONS**

2/26/18: Staff presented background and the catalysts for amending the plan. The following are the needs driving the amendment of the plan:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Need</th>
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<td>Water Quality</td>
<td>The current plan notes the conduct of the WRAPS and the completion of the TMDLs for Coon, Sand, Springbrook and Pleasure Creeks. The plan anticipated that the WRAPS and TMDL would require an amendment to clarify the District’s approach, roles, goals and costs in addressing water quality management needs within the watershed. In addition, the adoption of the current NPDES permit and the pending update require the District to revisit issues and operations to address both efficiency and effectiveness.</td>
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<td>Capital Improvements</td>
<td>The current CIP is incomplete and out of date relative to future projects and activities that the District will need to address. The CIP needs to be updated to address projects that need to be done and may qualify for grants (A major criteria for grant funding is that the project is in the WMO’s CIP)</td>
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<td>Rules and Regulations</td>
<td>With an adoption of the TMDL and refinements in the District’s assessment of flooding, both the plan’s regulatory chapter and the District Rules need to be updated.</td>
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<td>Plan Approach</td>
<td>The 2013 Plan took a utilitarian approach to service and beneficial uses. If a more strictly statutorily literal approach to meeting the mandates and demands on the District is desired by the public and Board then the entire plan should be revisited.</td>
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<td>Funding Approach</td>
<td>Since the plan’s adoption in 2013 there have been informal discussions of moving toward a runoff fee-based method of funding District opportunities. To make this shift, the approach and the steps to get there need to be in the watershed management plan.</td>
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**OPTIONS**
Receive comments
Add to comments
Close comment period
Leave comment period open till May 30.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**
1. Direct staff to conduct an assessment of issues and identification of priority issues for the June 11 Board meeting.
2. Leave comment period open till May 30.