COON CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT
Request for Board Action

MEETING DATE: February 12, 2018
AGENDA NUMBER: 36
ITEM: Annual Report: Coon Creek Watershed District at a Glance

AGENDA: Discussion

ACTIONS REQUESTED
Review and Comment on the First Chapter of the 2017 Annual Report

Reporting Requirements

The Coon Creek Watershed District (District) is required to annually report on a variety of activities. These requirements and the state and federal laws that mandate the reporting are:

1. The Minnesota Watershed Act (M.S. 103D.351)
2. The Metropolitan Water Management Act (M.S. 103B.231)
3. The Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act (M.S. 103A)
4. The National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program.

NOTE: A review and audit of the District’s finances is provided in the District’s Annual Financial Report and Audit of 2016 performed by the Minnesota State Auditor. The Audit of 2017 has been ordered by the Board of Managers on December 11, 2017
REPORT and REVIEW OBJECTIVES
Additionally, the objectives of this report and management review are to:

1. Monitor the implementation of the 2013 – 2023 Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan as a whole and of its component projects in relation to changes in the context, operating environment and circumstances of their implementation.

2. Provide a method of evaluating District management and operations.

3. Validate the goals, priorities and program focus areas in the Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan.

4. Evaluate the progress towards long term results and identify barriers to achieving those results.

5. Identify and adopt new ways to improve capabilities for accomplishing results and remove barriers.

6. Adjust management direction to reasonably assure achievement of the District’s mission and strategic goals.

7. Implement a rapid problem identification system as well as a system for internal communications to various stakeholders.

8. Facilitate evaluation procedures during and other activities through the definition of specific indicators.
COON CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT
AT A GLANCE

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.
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.
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. Protect Drinking Water Supplies
2. Prevent flooding and Drainage
   Improve water quality in impaired or impacted waters
   Maintain and enhance water quality in waters that are not impaired.
3. Groundwater Recharge
4. Storm Protection
5. Aquatic Life
   Recreation
6. Hunting & Fishing
7. Irrigation
8. Watering: Livestock & Wildlife
9. Aesthetics
10. Industrial Use and Cooling
How District Programs Accomplish the Mission

The District provides stewardship and management to more than 68,000 acres and 165,000 people through the following seven programs

**Administration:** Implements the District mission and the approved policies of the Board of Managers, administers the financial affairs of the Coon Creek Watershed District, and ensures the accountability of public funds and serves the District financial needs. Although these business processes are often out of view to the public, without them the District would be unable to deliver the beneficial uses that the citizens of the District expect. The Administration Program consists of six elements: the Board of Managers, Records, Contract and Personnel Administration, Training and Seminars, Financial Management and Risk Management.
Development Regulation: Evaluates permits and monitors plans and programs affecting the District mission and the water and related resources of the District in an orderly and informed fashion. The Development Regulation and Issue Management Program consist of five activities: Environmental Review, which includes comments on DNR and Corps of Engineers Permits; Issues and Complaints; Permit Inspection and Enforcement; Permit Review; Permit Issuances.

Engineering: Provides accurate and timely geographic information in graphic or digital form for use by water resource managers, planners, and the general public; to achieve uniform District-wide mapping formats and standards; and ensure that District wide engineering activities are performed at an acceptable level. Program consists of the following activities: flood prevention; public drainage and mapping; hydrologic investigations and modeling; and design and construction.

Operations and Maintenance: Planning, design, construction and maintenance of the District’s ditch system and water control structures and to preserve the location, character and extent of the District’s ditch and conveyance system. Program consists of the following activities: Annual Inspections, Issues & Complaints, Construction, Repair, Routine Maintenance, and Demonstration Projects.

Planning: Is the framework used to conform to laws and regulations governing the management of the Coon Creek Watershed. The planning process is focused on the concept of sustainability under planning regulations that require the District to perform assessments that include physical, social and management issues across the watershed’s entirety. This program coordinates the planning, prioritizing and financing of the District’s programs and activities and consists of the following activities: Annual Assessment, Reporting and Planning, Budgeting and Program Planning, Comprehensive Planning, Policy and Procedures.

Public and Governmental Relations: Ensures that the continued planning and management of the Watershed is responsive to the needs and concerns of an informed public and to coordinate policies and programs of the local, state and federal government agencies to achieve consistency with the plan. A program consisting of three activities has been developed to carry out the District's policies. The components are: Education, Information, and Involvement. In practice, overlap will occur among these three components; all information is educational in nature, and education requires involvement.

Inventory Assessment and Monitoring: Supports Watershed Management Plan revisions and amendments; budgets, priorities and implementation schedules. Watershed plan monitoring and evaluation is receiving greater emphasis, including through the Performance Review and Assistance Program (PRAP) process and the new planning rule (MR 8410). The research and data collection program purpose is to gather and analyze data that will result in increased efficiency and effectiveness of District programs. The research, monitoring and data collection program provides integrated resource information used in planning, evaluating and decision making within the District.
District planning, regulatory and project decision-making depends upon scientifically credible and accurate resource information. This data allows resource managers to make scientifically based management decisions, essential to effective resource management.

COMMENTS

RECOMMENDATION
Review and Comment