COON CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT
Request for Board Action

MEETING DATE: March 27, 2017
AGENDA NUMBER: 6
ITEM: Technical Advisory Committee Report

AGENDA: Policy

ACTION REQUESTED
Receive report

BACKGROUND
On Tuesday March 14 the District’s Technical Advisory Committee met to review and discuss two items

1. Funding post construction O&M of Best Management Practices
2. Mass Wasting on the Mississippi River and Elsewhere

Funding Operations and Maintenance: The TAC discussed funding inspections, maintenance and repair at the development or subwatershed scale. This question exists for both projects being reviewed and projects that have been reviewed (and perhaps built-out and are on-line). 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
   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 is 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
     o 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.

**Mass Wasting on the Mississippi River and Elsewhere:** The TAC reviewed the presentation for the homeowners on the Mississippi River who are experiencing mass wasting/landslide conditions. The immediate response after the presentation was how extensive the conditions are that could experience landslides. Representative of the Cities of Coon Rapids and Fridley were particularly interested and encouraged the District to conduct a survey or inventory of potential conditions.

**ISSUES/CONCERNS**

**O&M Funding:** More discussion and more study was felt to be appropriate.

**Inventory of Potential landslides and Geologic Hazards within the Watershed District:** Like flooding, the potential for landslides is a kind of geological hazard that can have direct effect on not only public safety but on flooding and water quality by blocking the flow of streams and contributing a super load of suspended solids. Staff have initiated a GIS survey of areas within the watershed that have 20% or greater slopes, are at significant changes in soil texture, are at least 10 feet high in elevation and have ground water shallower than 10 feet from the surface.

**PRIOR DECISIONS**

**OPTIONS**

**RECOMMENDATION**

Receive report