REQUEST
Consider a request from the City of Coon Rapids for an amendment to the District boundary to include the remaining portion of Coon Rapids in the Coon Creek Watershed District.

BACKGROUND
On May 2, 2013 the District received a letter from the City of Coon Rapids requesting that the Watershed District consider a revision of its boundary in the northwest corner of Coon Rapids to include an additional 290 acres into its jurisdictional boundary. The letter is attached.

On March 14, 2005 the Board of Managers reviewed and discussed the different methods of pursuing a boundary change and directed staff to pursue the method outlined in Minnesota Statutes 103B.215.

The Board of Managers may petition the Board of Water and Soil Resources for an order changing the boundaries of a watershed district wholly within the metropolitan area, by adding new territory to the district or by transferring territory that is within the district to the jurisdiction of another watershed management organization.

The petition must include the following:

Petition Requirement

1. A description, with particularity, of the change in boundary requested, the territory affected, and the reasons for the change

2. An explanation that the change is consistent with the purposes and requirements of sections 103B.205 to 103B.255

3. Identify property subject to section 103B.225

4. A written “statement of concurrence” from the governing body of each statutory or home rule charter city and town and each watershed management organization having jurisdiction over the territory proposed to be added or transferred
ISSUES/CONCERNS

Request: The City of Coon Rapids requesting that the Watershed District consider a revision of its boundary in the northwest corner of Coon Rapids.

Area: The request involves 290.3 acres of land in northwest Coon Rapids.

Reason for the Change: The merits of the boundary change are the following:

1. It would allow for a more efficient use of resources, and
2. It minimizes the costs of public capital expenditures.
3. It simplifies the planning and reporting requirements thereby reducing costs
4. It creates a more uniform set of policies and control leading to more consistency throughout the city.
5. It would consolidate the official controls with regard to protection of groundwater, and its beneficial use.

Location:
**Record of Action:**

February, 2013  Coon Rapids staff requests thoughts on amending the rest of Coon Rapids into Coon Creek Watershed District.

March, 2013  Both City and District staff approach BWSR about possibility of amendment that is not ‘hydrologically’ based. Both staff understand that amendments that are not hydrologically based have been done before, but depend on specific circumstances and significance.

April, 2013  Coon Rapids staff take proposal to City Council. Council directs staff to make formal request to Watershed District.

**Description of the Requested Change in the Boundary:** A general description of the:

Soils
Land use

Coon Rapids Amendment Area
Land Use

- Industrial and Utility
- Major Highway
- Park, Recreational, or Preserve
- Railway
- Retail and Other Commercial
- Single Family Attached
- Single Family Detached
- Undeveloped

Sources:
- Anoka County GIS
- CCWD GIS
- MetroGIS
- ESRI et al

Boundary Addition
Current Boundary
Hydrology

Consistency with the purposes and requirements of M.S. 103B.205 to .255: Review is needed of

Consistency with the purpose and intent of the Metropolitan Water Management Act: The purposes of the water management programs required by sections 103B.205 to 103B.255 are to:

1) Protect, preserve, and use natural surface and groundwater storage and retention systems: It appears that there is wetland and potentially stormwater ponding partially within this area.

   a. The wetland would be managed under the Wetland Conservation Act so is not drainage area dependent.

   b. The ponding appears to be sized, the outlet is within the City of Anoka. Maintenance and monitoring of pond performance under the 2015 NPDES permit would need to be clarified. In any case this would be an issue between the cities of Anoka and Coon Rapids
2) **Minimize public capital expenditures needed to correct flooding and water quality problems:** There are no capital expenditures by either the City or the WMO scheduled for this area.
   a. Flooding and water quality issues were addressed at the time of development and hence the existing pond and modifications

3) **Identify and plan for means to effectively protect and improve surface and groundwater quality:** The site contains ponding and what may be a stormwater wetland, both are recognized and accepted best management practices for protecting surface and groundwater

4) **Establish more uniform local policies and official controls for surface and groundwater management:** It is this goal that the City of Coon Rapids has indicated it wishes to more fully accomplish through consolidation of these lands into the CCWD

5) **Prevent erosion of soil into surface water systems:** This goal is not drainage area dependent and could be accomplished by the city and or WMO regardless of which administrative unit this area is assigned

6) **Promote groundwater recharge:** Assuming that the existing ponding area is infiltrating then this objective is already being addressed to some degree. Further “promotion” could be accomplished upon redevelopment through the District’s infiltration requirements. The Lower Rum River WMO does not currently have an infiltration objective such as infiltrating the first inch of any storm. They do however, have infiltration standards

7) **Protect and enhance fish and wildlife habitat and water recreational facilities:** There are no significant Fish or wildlife resources in this area

8) **Secure the other benefits associated with the proper management of surface and groundwater:** n/a

**Effect on public ditches:** There are no public ditches on the property

**Effect on Comprehensive Plan:** The Comprehensive Plan, like the boundary, would need to be amended. However, no significant or major amendment is seen to any of the implementation programs (Rules, CIP etc)

**Review of potential assumption of capital improvements or other financial obligations:** There are no capital improvements or financial obligations for this area.
**Statement of Concurrence:** The amendment process requires a ‘statement of concurrence’ from the affected cities and WMO that the revised boundary and the resources affected are accurate.

**OPTIONS**
1. Direct staff to complete Boundary Petition for Board Action and Request for Statement of Concurrence
2. Direct staff to notify the City of Coon Rapids that the District will not be revising its boundary at this time.
3. Lay over the this matter to the Tuesday May 28 Board meeting for further consideration (citing the outstanding issues or questions for consideration)

**RECOMMENDATION**
Direct staff to complete Boundary Petition for Board Action and Request for Statement of Concurrence from the City of Coon Rapids and Lower Rum Water management Organization
Tim Kelly
District Administrator
Coon Creek Watershed District

May 2, 2013

Subject: Revised Watershed Boundary

Mr. Kelly,

The City of Coon Rapids respectfully requests consideration of the Coon Creek Watershed District (CCWD) to revise its boundaries to include additional area into its jurisdictional boundaries. The area in question is approximately 230 (0.36 square miles) acres located in the northwest portion of Coon Rapids (see attached map), and is currently being served by the Lower Rum River Water Management Organization (LRRWMO).

While this area is not within the hydrologic boundaries of the CCWD, this boundary shift appears to make sense to all the affected entities for the following reasons:

- It would allow for a more efficient use of resources, and minimize the costs of public capital expenditures.
- All water management activities for the City of Coon Rapids would be contained within a single watershed (CCWD); simplifying the planning and reporting requirements, and creating a more uniform set of policies and control.
- It would consolidate the official controls with regard to protection of groundwater, and its beneficial use.

The City of Coon Rapids would greatly appreciate you discussing this matter with the Board of Managers at their next available meeting to determine whether they would be supportive of this request. Please feel free to contact me if I can provide additional clarification or you have any questions related to this matter. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tim Himmer
Public Works Director

Cc: Todd Haas, Chair of the LRRWMO Board