

Notice of Intent to Amend Watershed Management Plan of the Coon Creek Watershed District

AGENCY

Coon Creek Watershed District

ACTION

Notice of Intent to Amend Watershed Management Plan

SUMMARY

The 2013-2023 Watershed Management Plan cites that the plan will be amended upon completion of the “Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy” and approval of the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL).

In addition, the current Watershed Management Plan recognizes that it will be necessary to amend the plan from time to time, in light of changing conditions and as new information becomes available.

The CCWD Board of Managers each year during its annual budget process will discuss and consider the need for any potential amendments to this plan. The need for plan amendments will be evaluated based on:

- annual and Watershed Management evaluations
- changed conditions
- changes in statute
- monitoring and inspection program information
- new information.

Issues or opportunities may arise when the public comments on the need for change and proposed plan amendment or revision are received.

Minnesota Statutes 103B and Minnesota Rule 8410 notes that the “Issue Identification and Assessment” process is intended to identify priority issues in consideration of:

1. Water management problems, including prevention of future water management problems
2. Funding levels
3. Regional, County, City, State and Federal water and related resource management priorities

Review Agencies

Review agencies are requested to note the following:

- Their management expectations for the Watershed Management Plan
- Their priority water management issues
- A summary of their relevant water management goals and water resource information
- Official Controls

- Water Management Programs

DATES:

This Notice initiates the public scoping process for Watershed Management Plan amendments with associated documents. Comments may be submitted in writing until **April 29, 2018**. The Board of Managers will review a report on the comments submitted at their **May 14, 2018** regularly scheduled Board meeting.

The dates and locations of any scoping meetings will be announced at least 14 days in advance of the meeting through local news media, newspapers public notice and the District web site at www.cooncreekwd.org. The District will provide additional opportunities for public participation as appropriate.

ADDRESSES

You may submit comments on issues and concerns related to amending the Watershed Management plan to using the following:

E-mail: info@cooncreekwd.org

Written: Watershed Management Plan
Coon Creek Watershed District
12301 Central Avenue NE, Suite 100
Blaine, MN 55434

The following is a list of District contacts and locations where supporting documents may be examined.

Web: [www.cooncreekwd.org/Programs/water quality](http://www.cooncreekwd.org/Programs/water%20quality)

Plan and Process: Tim Kelly: telephone: 763-755-0975; email: info@cooncreekwd.org

Water Quality: Justine Dauphinais; telephone: 763-755-0975; email: info@cooncreekwd.org

If your comments, issues or concerns are specific to an individual area, water resource type or ditch system, please specify that in your comments.

Documents pertinent to this proposal may be examined at the addresses listed below in **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.**

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Tim Kelly, District Administrator at (763) 755-0975, email info@cooncreekwd.org

For a list of District contacts please see the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section below or go to the District web site (www.cooncreekwd.org)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

On April 14, 2016 the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency approved a Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy for Coon Creek, Sand Creek, Pleasure Creek and Springbrook Creek. That three year grant funded Watershed Management water quality assessment reviewed the entire watershed identified the sources of the water quality elements leading to the Federal Water Quality 303d Impairments for the Aquatic Life and Aquatic Recreation. The Total Maximum Daily Loads for those impairments were approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on September 26, 2016. The TMDL is categorical meaning that Waste Load Allocations (WLAs) have been established for each impaired waterbody allowing for continued collaboration between cities and the District within a watershed. This approach is consistent with a key strategy outlined in the District's current watershed management plan. It also means that the watershed management plan needs to be updated.

The 2013-2023 Watershed Management Plan cites that the plan will be amended upon completion of the "Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy" (WRAPS) and approval of the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL).

The CCWD coordinated the WRAPS work group and Technical Advisory Committee to develop the WRAPS and continues to monitor and identify water management issues that warrant clarification and reconsideration. This coordination effort is continuing and will help to inform the CCWD and cities implementation of the TMDLs. The Notice and potential planning effort does not preclude the District or the cities from addressing issues and inconsistencies through other means, including policy, training, or maintenance of the conveyance system. Nor does it commit the District to amending, all, or none of the remainder of the Watershed Management plan.

You may submit comments in writing to the District at any of the regularly scheduled Board meetings, or you may submit them using the methods listed in the **ADDRESSES** section above. You should submit comments by the end of the 60-day scoping and review period (April 29, 2018) or within 14 days after the last public scoping meeting, whichever is later.

The District will utilize and coordinate the Issue and Concern scoping process to help fulfill the public participation process under MR 8410.0045.

The public is encouraged to help identify any issues, management questions, or concerns that should be addressed in the plan amendment(s). The District will work collaboratively with interested parties to identify the management decisions that are best suited to local, regional, state or national concerns.

Issues may also address potentially serious resource conditions that may require immediate attention because the condition presents a serious problem on the current or future provision of a beneficial use or because there is no known management strategy or technology for dealing with the condition or situation. Issues also describe areas in which we anticipate the need for expanded involvement in the future. The District will use an interdisciplinary approach to develop the plan amendment(s) in order to consider the variety of water and related resource issues and concerns identified.

The Districts hopes that the public will assist by adopting the following format for identifying their concerns.

Issue Statement Describes the nature and impacts of the issue being discussed. The purpose of the Issue Statement is to zero in on the impact and importance to the people and water resources within Coon Creek Watershed.

Goals and Objectives Suggests the direction or specific outcomes to address the issue as described.

Background Provides additional background on the issue that pertains to successfully addressing the issue.

Current Situation Provides a description of current physical, social financial or policy that directly or indirectly pertains to the issue.

Suggested Strategies and Actions List more specific actions that might be taken to address the issue and who should take those actions.

Evaluation and Requested Form of Comments, Issues and Concerns

The District will evaluate identified issues to be addressed in the plan and will place them into one of three categories:

1. Issues to be resolved in the plan amendment(s)
2. Issues to be resolved through policy or administrative action
3. Issues beyond the scope of the plan amendment or the authorization of the District.

The District will pay particular attention to water resource issues that are growing in importance by presenting risks to the public health, safety and welfare as a result of current economic and demographic trends and in response to more recent legislative actions and mandates.

AUTHORITY

Minnesota Statute 103B.201-.253

Minnesota Rule 8410.0045

Tim Kelly
District Administrator