COON CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT

# BOARD MEETING AGENDA

**Board Room**
**Coon Creek Watershed District Offices**
**Monday, March 27, 2023**
**5:30 p.m.**

**Board of Managers:**
Matthew Herbst, President; Patrick Parker, Secretary; Mary Campbell, Treasurer; Dwight McCullough, Member at Large; Jim Hafner

**Note:** Individuals with items on the agenda or who wish to speak to the Board are encouraged to be in attendance when the meeting is called to order.

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Approval of the Agenda** *(Additions/Corrections/Deletions)*
3. **Announcements**
4. **Open Mic**

*Anyone wishing to address the Board of Managers on an item not on the agenda or on the consent agenda may come forward at this time. Comments are limited to three minutes.*

**CONSENT ITEMS**
*The consent agenda is considered as one item of business. It consists of routine administrative items or items not requiring discussion. Items can be removed from the consent agenda at the request of a Board member, staff member or a member of the audience.*

5. **Approval of Minutes of March 13, 2023**
6. **Approve Bills for Payment**

**POLICY ITEMS**
7. **Water Education Grant 23-02 Translating Groundwater Contamination Video**

**PERMIT ITEMS**
8. **2023 NW Area Street Reconstruction Permit Review**
9. **Aquatore Park Bandshell Permit Review**

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**
10. **2023-2024 Assessment**

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**
11. **County Transition (At Board Meeting)**

**ADJOURN**

# COON CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT
# BOARD OF MANAGERS' MEETING

The Board of Managers of the Coon Creek Watershed District held their regular meeting on, Monday, March 13, 2023, at the Coon Creek Watershed District Office.

## 1. Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM.

Board Members Present: Mary Campbell, Jim Hafner, Matthew Herbst, Dwight McCullough, and Patrick Parker
Staff Present: Corinne Elfelt, Jenny Gooden, Tim Kelly, and Michelle Ulrich
Staff Present via Zoom: Justine Dauphinais, Dawn Doering, Erin Edison, Jon Janke, and Abby Shea

## 2. Approval of the Agenda
Board Member Campbell made a motion to move Items 12 and 13 to the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Board Member McCullough. Motion carried with five yeas (Board Members Mary Campbell, Jim Hafner, Matthew Herbst, Dwight McCullough, and Patrick Parker) and no nays.

Board Member Campbell made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Seconded by Board Member Hafner. Motion carried with five yeas (Board Members Mary Campbell, Jim Hafner, Matthew Herbst, Dwight McCullough, and Patrick Parker) and no nays.

**3. Announcements –** None.

## 4. Discussion from the Floor
No one was present to address the Board.

## CONSENT ITEMS

## 5. Approval of Minutes of February 27, 2023

**6. Approve Bills to be Paid:** Claims totaling $136,131.32 on the following disbursement list will be issued and released upon Board approval:

| March 13, 2023 | |
|---|---|
| **To** | **Amount** |
| A1 Carpet & Floor | 1,056.25 |
| Anoka Conservation District | 43,048.00 |
| City of Andover | 5,138.69 |
| Connexus Energy | 234.70 |
| Loffler | 120.28 |
| Metro Inet | 4,498.00 |
| Michelle Ulrich PA | 5,100.50 |
| Poop 911 | 914.25 |
| Respec | 9,426.25 |
| Stantec | 57,559.81 |
| US Bank | 7,281.91 |
| Well Groomed Lawns | 1,714.50 |
| Xcel Energy | 38.18 |
| | |
| | **136,131.32** |

The following Permit Items were moved to the Consent Agenda by motion:

**12. Coon Rapids Walser Hyundai Parking Lot Expansion:** The project purpose is construction of a new parking lot, storm sewer and underground stormwater treatment system on the North side of Gateway Drive NW West of 2075 Gateway Drive Walser Building, 2075 Gateway Drive NW, Coon Rapids, MN.

Staff recommendation was to Approve with 3 Conditions and 3 Stipulations as follows:

**Conditions to be Met Before Permit Issuance:**

Procedural Requirements (Rule 2.7)

1. Submittal of a performance escrow in the amount of $2,770.00.

Stormwater Management (Rule 3)

2. Provide proof of recording of a fully executed Operations and Maintenance Agreement for the perpetual inspection and maintenance of all proposed stormwater management practices after review and approval by the District.

Soils and Erosion Control (Rule 4)

3. Provide proof that an application has been submitted to the MPCA for an NPDES Construction Stormwater Permit.

**Stipulations:** The permit will be issued with the following stipulations as conditions of the permit. By accepting the permit, the applicant agrees to these stipulations:

1. Submittal of as-builts for the stormwater management practices and associated structures listed in Tables 2 and 3, including volume, critical elevations, and proof of installation for hydrodynamic separators.

2. Notify the District when construction of Underground Filtration System 4P is beginning. District staff or a District engineer must be on site to witness construction of the underground system.

3. If dewatering is required, provide DNR dewatering permit prior to construction. If a DNR permit is not required, provide well-field location, rates, discharge location, schedule, and quantities prior to construction.

**13. Jam Hops Addition Permit Review:** The purpose of the project is a building addition, sidewalk and parking addition at 1460 133rd Lane NE, Ham Lake, MN 55304.

Staff Recommendation was to Approve with 3 Conditions and zero Stipulations as follows:

**Conditions to be Met Before Permit Issuance:**

Procedural Requirements (Rule 2.7)

1. Submittal of a performance escrow in the amount of $2,775.00.

Soils and Erosion Control (Rule 4)

2. Provide a note on the erosion and sediment control plan that disturbed soils and stockpiles will be temporarily or permanently stabilized within 24 hours after construction activity in that area has temporarily or permanently ceased.

Soils and Erosion Control (Rule 4)

3. Provide proof that an application has been submitted to the MPCA for an NPDES Construction Stormwater Permit.

**Stipulations:** None.

Motion made by Board Member McCullough to approve the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Board Member Parker. Motion carried with five yeas (Board Members Mary Campbell, Jim Hafner, Matthew Herbst, Dwight McCullough, and Patrick Parker) and no nays.

**POLICY ITEM**

**9. Election of Board Vice President**

Administrator Kelly reported that the Board must elect an officer to fill the position of Vice President. He stated that Board Member McCullough filled in as Secretary until January 23, 2023, until Board Member Parker returned. He stated that since that time, a new Board Member, Jim Hafner, has been added to the Board.

The consensus of the board was to leave the existing officers in their existing places and to place Board Member Hafner in the Vice President position.

Motion made by Board Member McCullough to keep Board Member Herbst as President, add Board Member Hafner as Vice President, and to keep Board Member Parker as Secretary and Board Member Campbell as Treasurer. Seconded by Board Member Campbell. Motion carried with five yeas (Board Members Mary Campbell, Jim Hafner, Matthew Herbst, Dwight McCullough, and Patrick Parker) and no nays.

**10. 2024 Budget Development Calendar**

Administrator Kelly presented budget process and calendar for the development of the 2024 Budget. He reported that the budget must be adopted by September 15, 2023, a hearing must be held prior to the adoption of the budget, and it must address the mandated and essential activities of the District.

Mr. Kelly reported that in the past, the Board Tour had taken place between the two Board Meetings in June. He reported that the tour allows the Board Members to see opportunities taking place in the field and to see the progress on ongoing projects. He stated that the tour is beneficial as it provides development of a budget that addresses the mandated and essential activities of the District.

President Herbst inquired if the date could be changed for the tour and if there is a possibility of holding the scheduled Board meeting earlier in the day to then accommodate the tour after the meeting. He suggested June 12, 2023, as the date to hold the District tour.

Administrator Kelly reported that he would like to review the change in date and time, as well, obtain the cost for the bus and possibly a simple lunch or snack option.

Motion made by Board Member Campbell to adopt the 2024 budget calendar with staff pursuing more details of the Board tour. Seconded by Board Member Hafner. Motion carried with five yeas (Board Members Mary Campbell, Jim Hafner, Matthew Herbst, Dwight McCullough, and Patrick Parker) and no nays.

**11. 2023 Q1 Water Quality Cost Share Awards**

Administrator Kelly reported that cost-share funds ensure progress towards achieving required TMDL categorical pollutant reductions and addressing identified stressor to aquatic life by administrating cost share program for water quality improvement and protection projects.

Justine Dauphinais, Water Quality Coordinator, provided a summary of the funds distributed in the past and reported that there is $80,000 available in 2023 for applicants to apply for. Ms. Dauphinais reported that three applications were received for Quarter 1. She reported that the City of Fridley applied for two grants. The first application was for the Apex Pond Enhancement in the amount of $50,000. The second application from the City of Fridley was for a Street Sweepings Screener in the amount of $50,000. She reported that Anoka County applied for culvert replacement design in Coon Creek in the amount of $12,500.

Ms. Dauphinais reported that the District Engineer and staff determined eligibility and scored all the proposals. It was recommended that the Apex Pond Enhancement project

be awarded $50,000 and the Street Sweepings Screener be awarded $29,794. She stated that the Culvert Replacement would not be awarded and the District staff intends to work with Anoka County Parks staff to evaluate alternative funding sources such as federal 319 grant funding for the implementation of the culvert enhancement project.

Board Member Hafner inquired if the projects are awarded early in the year because of construction. Mr. Kelly stated that it has been throughout the year previously.

Mr. Kelly reported that the District is very involved in the culvert design and alternatives and that staff has spent a lot of time working with the County on this project.

President Herbst stated that he believes the culvert project deserves a portion of the award to keep the project moving. He suggested lowering the distributed amount of the other two projects to promote the culvert project.

Board Member Campbell reminded the Board that District staff has already spent a great amount of time and there is a federal money available to assist with the project. Board Member Hafner agreed.

President Herbst inquired if the Apex project would still happen should they not receive the full amount of $50,000. Ms. Dauphinais stated that she is unsure if it would happen or not. She stated that the $50,000 will help with the project however, there is still a shortage that the City will need to make up for.

Ms. Dauphinais stated that the culvert replacement project would still occur and is certain that there is enough in the 319-grant funding to assist with the project.

Motion made by Board Member Campbell to award cost-share funds to identified projects in accordance with Staff recommendations. Motion seconded by Board Member McCullough. Motion carried with five yeas (Board Members Mary Campbell, Jim Hafner, Matthew Herbst, Dwight McCullough, and Patrick Parker) and no nays.

**PERMIT ITEMS -**These items were moved to the Consent Agenda.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**14. Draft 2022 Annual Report**

Administrator Kelly presented the draft 2022 Annual Report. He stated that the Annual report is filed each year with the State Board of Water and Soil Resources and the Department of Natural Resources. He stated that the report summarizes the financial and program activities associated with pursuing the goals and objectives adopted in the 2013 to 2023 Comprehensive Plan. He reported that the Annual report is due to BWSR by April 30, 2023. He stated that the Board will have until the April 24, 2023 Board meeting to review the report and could approve it at that time.

Motion made by President Herbst to receive the Draft 2022 Annual Report. Seconded by Board Member McCullough. Motion carried with five yeas (Board Members Mary

Campbell, Jim Hafner, Matthew Herbst, Dwight McCullough, and Patrick Parker) and no nays.

**15. Update on Services Request for Proposal (RFP)**

Administrator Kelly reported that the Request for Proposal (RFP) has been sent to 16 firms. He reported that two firms have responded that they will not be providing a proposal. He stated that the firms have three weeks to submit the proposals and the proposals will be presented to the Board at the Board meeting in May 2023.

Mr. Kelly reported that the County consultant for health care benefits is reaching out to Blue Cross Blue Shield to see if the District can remain under the umbrella of the County for benefits. He stated that the consultant will have some answers in three weeks. He stated that he feels the timeline is being revised for the transition from the County. He stated that the healthcare benefits may not change until the end of 2024. He stated that accounting services could happen sooner.

Board Member McCullough inquired if District employees have a 401 or retirement savings option. Mr. Kelly stated that employees belong to PERA.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS –** None.

**ADJOURN**

Board Member Herbst made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Board Member Campbell.

Motion carried with five yeas (Board Members Mary Campbell, Jim Hafner, Matthew Herbst, Dwight McCullough, and Patrick Parker) and no nays.

The Board Meeting adjourned at 6:12 PM.

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President, Matthew Herbst

# COON CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT
## Request for Board Action

**MEETING DATE**: March 27, 2023
**AGENDA NUMBER:** 6
**ITEM**: Bills to Be Paid

**FISCAL IMPACT:** Budgeted
**POLICY IMPACT:** Policy

## REQUEST
Approve bills

## BACKGROUND
Claims totaling $145,118.47 on the following disbursement list will be issued and released upon Board approval.

| **March 27, 2023** | |
|---|---|
| **To** | **Amount** |
| Anoka County | 124,775.30 |
| Centerpoint Energy | 440.67 |
| Board of Water & Soil Resources | 565.00 |
| YTS Companies | 19,337.50 |
| | |
| | **145,118.47** |

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| VENDOR | vendor # | | | invoice date | invoice # | description | DistAmt | | | | | | | unit rate | Servi | address | | | |
| CENTERPOINT ENERGY | 56202 | CCWD | CC | 3/20/2023 | 10982621-0323 | ACCT 10982621-4 CCWD | 440.67 | 8699560112 | 62225 | | | | 1 | 440.67 | | R0 | GEN | CHK | 2023 |
| BOARD OF WATER SOIL RESOURCES | 130302 | CCWD | CC | 03/21/2023 | EDISON&BYE TRNG | EEDISON WCA EBYE WETLAND TRNG & EXAM | 565.00 | 8699560212 | 61355 | | | | 1 | 565.00 | | R0 | GEN | CHK | 2023 |
| YTS COMPANIES LLC | 24140 | CCWD | CC | 01/25/2023 | 29476 | 22 D R&M PAN 22-007 D54 FORESTRY | 19,337.50 | 8699560412 | 61251 | | | | 1 | 19,337.50 | | R0 | GEN | CHK | 2023 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | 20,343.17 | | | | | | | 20,343.17 | | | | | |
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| delete before upload | PeId | Div | CheckID | RefDt | Ref | Desc | DistAmt | GlKey | GlObj | JlGr | JlKey | JlObj | Units | UnitPrice | Recv | Addr Cd | DutyCd | Payment | Fiscal Year |
| VENDOR | vendor # | | | invoice date | invoice # | description | DistAmt | | | | | | | unit rate | Servi | address | | | |
| ANOKA COUNTY MN | 29757 | CCWD | CC | 03/23/2023 | CCWD-0223 | SALARY/BENEFITS EXP-FEB 2023 | 93,852.96 | 8699560112 | 60110 | | | | 1 | 93,852.96 | | RH | HOLD | CHK | 2023 |
| ANOKA COUNTY MN | 29757 | CCWD | CC | 03/23/2023 | CCWD-0223 | SALARY/BENEFITS EXP-FEB 2023 | 152.00 | 8699560112 | 60260 | | | | 1 | 152.00 | | RH | HOLD | CHK | 2023 |
| ANOKA COUNTY MN | 29757 | CCWD | CC | 03/23/2023 | CCWD-0223 | SALARY/BENEFITS EXP-FEB 2023 | 6,871.38 | 8699560112 | 60716 | | | | 1 | 6,871.38 | | RH | HOLD | CHK | 2023 |
| ANOKA COUNTY MN | 29757 | CCWD | CC | 03/23/2023 | CCWD-0223 | SALARY/BENEFITS EXP-FEB 2023 | 7,039.00 | 8699560112 | 60717 | | | | 1 | 7,039.00 | | RH | HOLD | CHK | 2023 |
| ANOKA COUNTY MN | 29757 | CCWD | CC | 03/23/2023 | CCWD-0223 | SALARY/BENEFITS EXP-FEB 2023 | 14,396.00 | 8699560112 | 60714 | | | | 1 | 14,396.00 | | RH | HOLD | CHK | 2023 |
| ANOKA COUNTY MN | 29757 | CCWD | CC | 03/23/2023 | CCWD-0223 | SALARY/BENEFITS EXP-FEB 2023 | 1,256.89 | 8699560112 | 60713 | | | | 1 | 1,256.89 | | RH | HOLD | CHK | 2023 |
| ANOKA COUNTY MN | 29757 | CCWD | CC | 03/23/2023 | CCWD-0223 | SALARY/BENEFITS EXP-FEB 2023 | 37.08 | 8699560112 | 60715 | | | | 1 | 37.08 | | RH | HOLD | CHK | 2023 |
| ANOKA COUNTY MN | 29757 | CCWD | CC | 03/23/2023 | CCWD-0223 | SALARY/BENEFITS EXP-FEB 2023 | 663.52 | 8699560112 | 60720 | | | | 1 | 663.52 | | RH | HOLD | CHK | 2023 |
| ANOKA COUNTY MN | 29757 | CCWD | CC | 03/23/2023 | CCWD-0223 | SALARY/BENEFITS EXP-FEB 2023 | 89.80 | 8699560112 | 60721 | | | | 1 | 89.80 | | RH | HOLD | CHK | 2023 |
| ANOKA COUNTY MN | 29757 | CCWD | CC | 03/23/2023 | CCWD-0223 | SALARY/BENEFITS EXP-FEB 2023 | 416.67 | 8699560112 | 63052 | | | | 1 | 416.67 | | RH | HOLD | CHK | 2023 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | 124,775.30 | | | | | | | 124,775.30 | | | | | |

**COON CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT**
**Request for Board Action**

| | |
|---|---|
| **MEETING DATE**: | March 27, 2023 |
| **AGENDA NUMBER:** | 7 |
| **ITEM**: | Water Education Grant 23-02 Translating Groundwater Contamination video into 3 languages |

| | |
|---|---|
| **POLICY IMPACT:** | Policy |
| **FISCAL IMPACT:** | Budgeted |

**REQUEST**
Review Water Education grant application 23-02 and award grant of $850 for professional translation of the "Our Groundwater Connection: Contamination" into having Spanish, Hmong, Somali subtitle options.

**BACKGROUND**
In September 2023, the Board budgeted $3700 for water education grants. The Board originally approved the Activity Description for Water Education grants December 2007.

On March 21, 2023, Ethan Cypull, GreenCorps member at Anoka Conservation District, applied for a $850 Water Education grant to cover the cost of translating a video in the "Our Connection" series of informational videos produced originally by the Anoka County Water Resources Outreach Collaborative to explain complex subjects and what can be done. The Coon Creek Watershed District has supported the production of these videos.

The "Our Groundwater Connection: Contamination" video was chosen for translation because of its popularity in number of views and use by news media, most recently for explaining the East Palestine, OH, train derailment.

Spanish, Hmong, and Somali languages were chosen due to data from the 2020 US census. According to the Anoka County data (table S1601):

- 42.7% of people in the Spanish speaker category speak English less than "very well."
- 42.4% of people in the Asian and Pacific Island Language speaker category speak English less than "very well."
- 33.8% of people in the "Other Languages" speaker category speak English less than "very well."

**ISSUES/CONCERNS:**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Available Funds** | $2700 | |
| **Request** | $ 850 | Balance = $1850 |

**COON CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT**
**Request for Board Action**

| | |
|---|---|
| **MEETING DATE**: | March 27, 2023 |
| **AGENDA NUMBER:** | 8 |
| **ITEM**: | 2023 NW AREA STREET RECONSTRUCTION |
| **AGENDA:** | Permit |

**BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION**
The purpose of this agenda item is for the Board to review, discuss, and consider approving Permit Application Number P-23-035 2023 NW AREA STREET RECONSTRUCTION.

**RECOMMENDATION**
To approve Permit Application Number P-23-035 with 4 conditions and 0 stipulations, as stated in the Application Review Report dated 3/27/2023.

**ATTACHED**
Application Review Report for Permit Application Number P-23-035

COON CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT

Applicant/Landowner:
City of Blaine
Attn: Dan Schluender
10801 Town Square Drive NE
Blaine, MN 55449
dschluender@blainemn.gov
763-256-0430

Contact:
SEH
Attn: Dustin Cesafsky
3535 Vadnais Center Dr.
St. Paul, MN 55110
Dcesafsky@sehinc.com
763-785-6158

Project Name: 2023 NW AREA STREET RECONSTRUCTION

Project PAN: P-23-035

Project Purpose: reconstruction of existing roadways, storm sewer, curb and gutter along various streets within the City of Blaine

Project Location: 127th Avenue, 127th Lane, 129th Avenue, Polk Street, Taylor Street, and 131st Avenue., Polk Street, City of Blaine

Site Size: size of parcel - 11.5 acres; size of disturbed area - 5.04 acres; size of existing impervious - 8.48; size of proposed impervious 8.81

Applicable District Rule(s): Rule 2.7, Rule 4, Rule 6, Rule 7

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Recommendation: Approve with 4 Conditions and 0 Stipulations

**Conditions to be Met Before Permit Issuance:**

Procedural Requirements (rule 2.7)

1. Submittal of a performance escrow in the amount of $4,520.00.

Soils and Erosion Control (Rule 4)

2. Provide a note on the erosion and sediment control plan that disturbed soils and stockpiles will be temporarily or permanently stabilized within 24 hours after construction activity in that area has temporarily or permanently ceased.
3. Provide proof of NPDES permit application.

Floodplain (Rule 6)

4. Provide a floodplain figure that illustrates the extent of floodplain impact and cross sections to verify the floodplain fill quantity.

**Stipulations:** None

**Exhibits:**

| Exhibit Type | Exhibit Author | Signature Date | Received Date |
|---|---|---|---|
| Stormwater Management Report | SEH | 03/13/2023 | 03/13/2023 |
| Construction Plans | SEH | 03/06/2023 | 03/13/2023 |

**Findings:**

**Description:** The project proposes reconstruction of existing roadways including grading, new

aggregate base, bituminous resurfacing with curb & gutter and storm sewer work. The project proposes 5.04 acres of land disturbance, 0.33 acres of new impervious, and 0 acres of fully reconstructed impervious surface. The site generally drains south to County Ditch 60 and on to Cook Creek.

**Fees and Escrows (Rule 2.7):** The applicant is a government agency and is therefore exempt from an application fee or a review and inspection fee deposit. The applicant will be required to submit a performance escrow in the amount of $4,520.00. This corresponds to a base escrow of $2,000, plus an additional $500 per acre of disturbance (5.04 acres of disturbance proposed).

**Stormwater Management (Rule 3.0):**
The proposed project does not create a cumulative total of 10,000 sf or more of new or fully reconstructed impervious surface, or 5,000 sf or more of new or fully reconstructed impervious surface for non-residential or multifamily residential within one mile of and draining to an impaired water. The proposed project is not a public linear project where the sum of the new and fully reconstructed impervious surface is equal to one or more acres. Stormwater Management standards do not apply.

**Soils and Erosion Control (Rule 4.0)**
Rule 4.0 applies to the proposed project because it includes land disturbing activities of 1 acre or more.

The proposed project drains to Ditch 60. The soils affected by the project include Rifle, Zimmerman, Markey, Lino, Seelyeville, and Isanti. and have a soil erodibility factor of 0.15 or greater. Disturbed areas are not proposed to be stabilized within 24 days, as required. The proposed erosion and sediment control plan includes silt fence, inlet protection, sediment control log, and street sweeping. The erosion control plan does not meet District requirements. The plan does not meet requirements because disturbed soils and soil stockpiles are not proposed to be stabilized within 24 hours after construction activity in that area has temporarily or permanently ceased.

**Wetlands (Rule 5.0)**
The proposed project does not include activities which result in the filling, draining, excavating, or otherwise altering the hydrology of a wetland. Rule 5.0 does not apply.

**Floodplain (Rule 6.0)**

Rule 6.0 applies to the proposed project because it includes land disturbing activities within or adjacent to the boundary of the 100-year flood elevation as mapped and modeled by the District.

The regulatory floodplain elevation ranges from 897.3 to 899.0 ft MSL. The application proposes the placement of 629 cubic yards of fill within the floodplain. An analysis of this area was completed for potential adverse impacts from floodplain fill. It was determined no adverse impacts are expected. Compensatory storage is not required.

**Drainage, Bridges, Culverts, and Utility Crossings (Rule 7.0)**
Rule 7.0 applies to the proposed project because it includes land disturbing activities which construct, improve, repair, or alter the hydraulic characteristics of a bridge profile control or culvert structure on a creek, public ditch, or major watercourse.

The regulated waterway is County Ditch 60. The banks of the waterway have been proposed to be stabilized with permanent vegetation. The proposed culvert replacement includes utilizing a double row of silt fence, sediment control log and rip rap to minimize erosion. The culvert replacement provides equivalent hydraulic capacity to existing conditions by in kind replacement.

**Buffers (Rule 8.0)**
The proposed project does not include a land disturbing activity on land adjacent or directly contributing to a Public Water, Additional Waters, High or Outstanding Ecological Value Waters, a Public Ditch, or Impaired Waters/waters exceeding state water quality standards. Rule 8.0 does not

apply.

**Variances (Rule 10.2)**
The proposed project is not requesting a variance from the District's rules, regulations, and policies. Rule 10.2 does not apply.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Eligibility** | Government agencies within CCWD | Yes, soil & water conservation district |
| **Eligible Expenses** | The project is eligible. | Translation of materials to reach wider audiences found within CCWD. |
| **Evaluation Criteria** | Priority will be given to proposals which:<br>1. Information to the public and decision-makers regarding water resources .<br>2. Opportunities for the public to participate or volunteer in water quality activities.<br>3. Educational opportunities for K-12 children concerning water quality. | 1.Yes; to community at large about groundwater contamination<br>2. Passively through knowledge of contamination prevention for groundwater<br>3. Potential use for ESL students and their families. |

**RECOMMENDATION**

Approve Water Education grant application 23-02 for $850 translation of the "Our Groundwater Connection: Contamination" translation with Spanish, Hmong, Somali subtitle options.

**COON CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT**
**Request for Board Action**

**MEETING DATE**: March 27, 2023
**AGENDA NUMBER:** 9
**ITEM**: Aquatore Park Bandshell

**AGENDA:** Permit

## BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

The purpose of this agenda item is for the Board to review, discuss, and consider approving Permit Application Number P-23-031 Aquatore Park Bandshell.

## RECOMMENDATION

To approve Permit Application Number P-23-031 with 6 conditions and 2 stipulations, as stated in the Application Review Report dated 3/22/2023.

## ATTACHED

Application Review Report for Permit Application Number P-23-031

COON CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT

# PERMIT APPLICATION REVIEW REPORT
# DATE: 3/22/2023


Applicant/Landowner:
City of Blaine
Attn: Jerome Krieger
10801 Town Square Drive Northeast
Blaine, MN 55449
jkrieger@blainemn.gov
7632866603

Contact:
ISG
Attn: Leanna Markovics
7900 International Drive Suite 550
Minneapolis, MN 55425
leanna.markovics@isginc.com
9524260699


Project Name: Aquatore Park Bandshell

Project PAN: P-23-031

Project Purpose: Construction of a new band shell at Aquatore Park with associated stormwater treatment system

Project Location: Aquatore Park - 9191 Lincoln St NE, Blaine

Site Size: size of parcel - 35.56 acres; size of disturbed area - 1.49 acres; size of existing impervious - 0.275; size of proposed impervious 0.67

Applicable District Rule(s): Rule 4, Rule 3, Rule 2.7

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Recommendation: Approve with 6 Conditions and 2 Stipulations

**Conditions to be Met Before Permit Issuance:**

Procedural Requirements (Rule 2.7)

1. Submittal of a performance escrow in the amount $2,745.00.

Stormwater Management (Rule 3)

2. Update existing drainage map to show correct label for subcatchment 2.
3. Update HWL of the filtration basin on the grading plan to be consistent with HydroCAD results.

Soils and Erosion Control (Rule 4)

4. A double row of perimeter control is required around work within 50 feet of a wetland.
5. Provide a note on the erosion and sediment control plan that soil stockpiles will be temporarily or permanently stabilized within 7 days of inactivity.
6. Provide proof of NPDES permit application.

**Stipulations:** The permit will be issued with the following stipulations as conditions of the permit. By accepting the permit, the applicant agrees to these stipulations:

1. Submittal of as-builts for the stormwater management practices and associated structures listed in Tables 2 and 3, including volume, critical elevations and proof of installation for hydrodynamic separators.
2. Completion of a post construction infiltration test on the Filtration Basin by filling the basin to a minimum depth of 6 inches with water and monitoring the time necessary to drain, or multiple double ring infiltration tests to ASTM standards. The Coon Creek Watershed District shall be notified prior to the test to witness the results.

**Exhibits:**

| Exhibit Type | Exhibit Author | Signature Date | Received Date |
|---|---|---|---|
| Construction Plans | ISG | 03/13/2023 | 03/10/2023 |
| Stormwater Management Report | ISG | 03/10/2013 | 03/10/2023 |
| Project Narrative | ISG | 02/15/2023 | 02/15/2023 |

**Findings:**

**Description:** The project proposes to construct a new band shell at Aquatore Park with associated stormwater treatment features. The project will disturb 1.49 acres and create 0.39 acres of new impervious surface. The site discharges to the wetland north of the project location and ultimately drains to Springbrook Creek.

**Fees and Escrows (Rule 2.7):** The applicant is a government agency and is therefore exempt from an application fee or a review and inspection fee deposit. The applicant will be required to submit a performance escrow in the amount of $2,745.00. This corresponds to a base escrow of $2,000, plus an additional $500 per acre of disturbance (1.49 acres of disturbance proposed).

**Stormwater Management (Rule 3.0):**

Rule 3.0 applies to the proposed project because it includes land disturbing activities creating a cumulative total of 10000 sf or more of new or fully reconstructed impervious surface.

The Hydrologic Soil Group (HSG) of soils on site are HSG B. The proposed project incorporates soil amendments in accordance with District guidelines.

Rate Control: Peak stormwater flow rate at each point of site discharge does not increase from the pre-development condition for the 24-hour precipitation event with a return frequency of 2-, 10-, 100- years as shown in Table 1. The proposed 100-year peak flow rate does not exceed the existing 25-year peak flow rate as shown in Table 1. The rate control standard is met.

| **Point of Discharge** | **2-year (cfs)** | | **10-year (cfs)** | | **100-year (cfs)** | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **Existing** | **Proposed** | **Existing** | **Proposed** | **Existing** | **Proposed** |
| Wetland | 11.21 | 10.78 | 54.65 | 23.77 | 55.41 | 54.65 |
| West to Lincoln St. | 0.48 | 0.48 | 1 | 0.86 | 2.23 | 1.69 |

**Table 1.**

Volume Control: The proposed project is new development; therefore, the volume reduction requirement is equal to 1.1 inches over the area of all impervious surface. The amount of proposed impervious required to be treated is 22927 $ft^2$.

The applicant is proposing the Stormwater Management Practices (SMPs) described below:

| **Drainage Area** | **Impervious required to be treated ($ft^2$)** | **Proposed SMP** | **TP Removal Factor** | **Required treatment volume ($ft^3$)** | **Water Quality Volume Provided ($ft^3$)** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 22927 | Biofiltration basin | 0.65 | 3215 | 3566 |

**Table 2.**

The following pretreatment has been provided:

| **Pretreatment Device/Method** | **Percent TSS Removal** |
|---|---|
| Rain guardians (2) | 80 |

**Table 3.**

Pretreatment is required to be designed such that the device/method provides removal of 80% TSS entering an infiltration or filtration Stormwater Management Practice. The proposed project meets pretreatment requirements as shown in Table 3.

The volume reduction requirements are not met as shown in Table 2. Infiltration may not be used as a volume control practice because the practice(s) would need to be placed in areas in an Emergency Response Area (ERA) within a Drinking Water Supply Management Area (DWSMA). Because the volume reduction standard cannot be met due to these site constraints, the project proposes the use of a biofiltration basin. The volume control standard has been met to the maximum extent practicable.

Water Quality: The water quality volume for reconstructed impervious surface is provided to the extent feasible.

Stormwater treatment on site must remove at least 80% of the average annual post development TSS per discharge location. The following TSS removal has been provided:

| **Discharge Point** | **TSS Removal Provided** |
|---|---|
| Wetland | 82 |

**Table 4.**

The TSS removal standard is met at each discharge point as shown in Table 4.

Discharges to Wetlands: Stormwater from the proposed project is being discharged into the following wetlands. The table below shows the change from existing to proposed conditions for each.

| **Wetland ID** | **Wetland** |
|---|---|
| **Wetland Type** | Fresh wet meadow |
| **Bounce 2-yr (ft)** | -0.01 |
| **Bounce 10-yr (ft)** | -0.02 |
| **Discharge Rate (cfs)** | -0.02 to -0.03 |
| **Inundation on 2-yr (hrs)** | -0.10 |
| **Inundation on 10-yr (hrs)** | 0.00 |
| **Run out Control (ft)** | 0.00 |

**Table 5.**

The proposed project meets bounce, discharge rate, inundation, and runout control requirements for all wetlands receiving discharge from the site as shown in Table 5.

Low Floor Freeboard: The proposed project is new development including buildings and habitable structures. Therefore, SMPs must be designed such that the lowest basement floor elevations are at least 2 feet above the 100-yr high water level and 1 foot above the emergency overflow. The lowest basement floor elevation proposed is 919 MSL. The applicable 100-year high water level is at 906.9 MSL. The freeboard requirement is met.

Maintenance:
Easements: A maintenance easement is not required.

Maintenance Agreements: All proposed stormwater management practices will be maintained as part of standard municipal public work activities. Therefore, no maintenance agreement will be required.

**Soils and Erosion Control (Rule 4.0)**
Rule 4.0 applies to the proposed project because it includes land disturbing activities of 1 acre or more.

The proposed project drains to Springbrook Creek. The soils affected by the project include Zimmerman. Disturbed areas are proposed to be stabilized within 7 days, as required. The proposed erosion and sediment control plan includes inlet protection, rock construction entrance, street

sweeping, perimeter control, concrete washout area, and erosion control blanket. The erosion control plan does not meet requirements because a double row of perimeter control is not provided within 50 feet of a wetland and soil stockpiles are not proposed to be stabilized within 7 days of inactivity.

**Wetlands (Rule 5.0)**
The proposed project does not include activities which result in the filling, draining, excavating, or otherwise altering the hydrology of a wetland. Rule 5.0 does not apply.

**Floodplain (Rule 6.0)**
The proposed project does not include land disturbing activities within the floodplain as mapped and modeled by the District. Rule 6.0 does not apply.

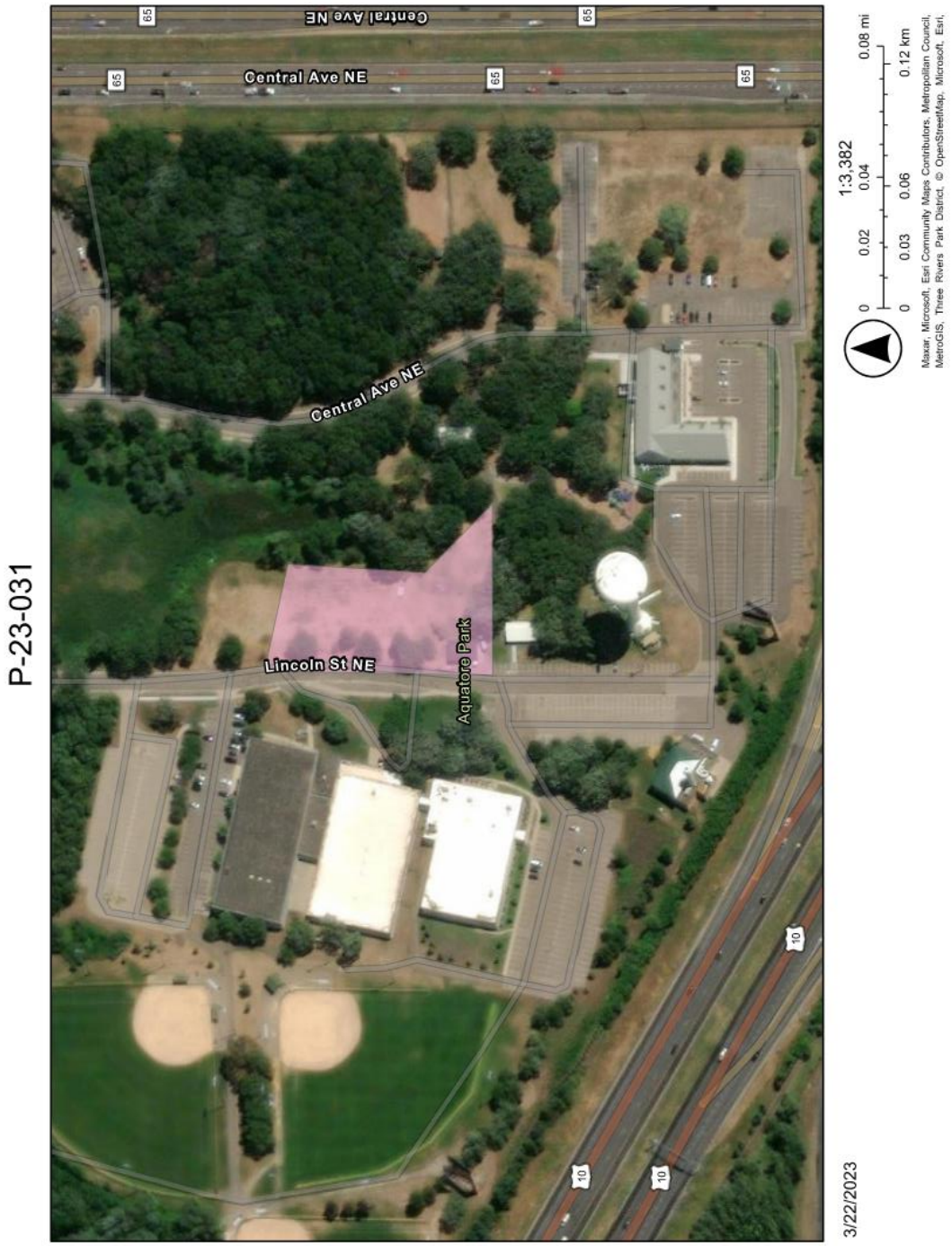
**Drainage, Bridges, Culverts, and Utility Crossings (Rule 7.0)**
The proposed project does not include land disturbing activities which construct, improve, repair, or alter the hydraulic characteristics of a bridge profile control or culvert structure on a creek, public ditch, or major watercourse. The proposed project does not include land disturbing activities which involve a pipeline or utility crossing of a creek, public ditch, or major watercourse.

The proposed project does not include land disturbing activities which construct, improve, repair or alter the hydraulic characteristics of a conveyance system that extends across two or more parcels of record not under common ownership and has a drainage area of 200 acres or greater. Rule 7.0 does not apply.

The proposed project does not include the repair or replacement of an element of a conveyance system owned by a government entity and the hydraulic capacity of the system will not change. Rule 7.0 does not apply.

**Buffers (Rule 8.0)**
The proposed project does not include a land disturbing activity on land adjacent or directly contributing to a Public Water, Additional Waters, High or Outstanding Ecological Value Waters, a Public Ditch, or Impaired Waters/waters exceeding state water quality standards. Rule 8.0 does not apply.

**Variances (Rule 10.2)**
The proposed project is not requesting a variance from the District's rules, regulations, and policies. Rule 10.2 does not apply.


P-23-031
Central Ave NE
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Aquatore Park
65
10
1:3,382
0 0.02 0.04 0.08 mi
0 0.03 0.06 0.12 km
Maxar, Microsoft, Esri Community Maps Contributors, Metropolitan Council, MetroGIS, Three Rivers Park District, © OpenStreetMap, Microsoft, Esri,
3/22/2023

**COON CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT**
**Request for Board Action**

**MEETING DATE**: March 27, 2023
**AGENDA NUMBER:** 10
**ITEM**: 2023-24 Annual Assessment

**AGENDA:** Discussion

**ACTION REQUESTED**
Review and discuss report

**PURPOSE & SCOPE OF ITEM**
The Annual Assessment monuments the current condition and trend of management efforts made the previous year and initiates the annual planning, programming, budgeting and execution cycle. It is designed to provide insight and guidance on enduring and emerging planning and operations issues to inform program and budget development.

The purpose is discussion for developing guidance for

- Program planning
- Developing 2024 budget

**BACKGROUND**
At the March 13 meeting the Board reviewed the District's annual report on the past year (really ten years) and adopted a budget calendar that provides for the orderly development of program plans and an operating budget for 2024.

The 2024 budget will be the first budget implementing the 2024 to 2034 Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. The budget and annual plan are to be consistent with and designed to execute and address the problems, issues and concerns and the goals and objectives identified within the plan.

**ISSUES/CONCERNS**

1. **Current Operating Environment:** The current mix of physical, social and managerial conditions and circumstances are most influenced by
    a. The general poor biogeochemical condition of the resource and compromised capacity of the watershed
    b. The deadline for addressing the water quality impairments and the cost of doing so.
    c. The current political and fiscal environment of a general unwillingness to pay for issues that are long range and relatively intangible, regardless of their effect on the public health and safety.
    d.
2. **Critical and Emerging Issues**:
    a. Planning Issue: Rate at which impairment is being addressed

b. Management Issue: Separation of services from Anoka County

# 2023 - 2024 Situational Assessment

## Introduction

The 2024 budget will be the first year implementing the 2024 to 2034 comprehensive plan. This report is also the first introduction to a formalized planning, programming, budgeting and implementation or execution system that evolves and formalizes the existing system and ensures operations consistent with the Comprehensive Plan,

## Purpose

The purpose of this report is:

1. To describe the current and expected conditions of the operating environment that impacts District operations and fulfillment of our responsibilities.
2. To Identify and appraise existing and emerging critical problems, issues & concerns for 2024 Budget that either presents a risk to the public health and safety or the District's ability to efficiently and effectively address those priorities.
3. To identify the disposition, capability, and capacity of other MS4s and organizations that may be involved.
4. Identify the disposition and capability of other non-governmental or intergovernmental organizations that have a significant interest.
5. Describe the critical aspects of the public interest that impact water management operations.
6. List the assumptions being considered for development of the 2024 annual budget and plan

# Current Operating Environment

The District's operational environment is a composite of the conditions, circumstances, and influences that affect its capacity and capability to pursue its responsibilities and have influence on the decisions of the Board of Managers.

## Economic Environment

- Increased demand on land and water resources is playing a significant role creating rapidly increasing economic scarcity and magnifying the conflicts relating to competing demands at the local and state levels.
    - Property values within the district have increased an average of 7% annually over the past 5 years and have risen 84% in the past 10 years.
    - The District tax rate has shown a zero % increase over the past 5 years and has decreased 8% over the past 10 years.
- Waiting for certainty is not a viable option. Choosing the best direction and actions for the future will require strong practical vision, leadership and consensus

- Expect owners, planners, and regulators to start asking about the resilience of water resource assets in the broadest sense. Those without resilience plans should expect a grilling.
    - In 2022 The FEMA restructured its program that addressed floodplain insurance to address resiliency. The new program orientation covers more and more types of natural catastrophes but requires steps on the part of local government to ensure resiliency for coverage

## Physical Environment

- The District contains 11 waters that are impaired:
    - 7 streams
    - 3 lakes
    - Mississippi river
- Impairments are driven by 7 stressors creating approximately 30 dynamic occurrences or situations.
- Overall, the District is in poor condition exhibiting low geomorphic, hydrologic, and biotic integrity relative to its natural condition. However, it is in fair condition for an urban system exhibiting expected physical, hydrologic, and biotic integrity relative to a modified urban system that has "worked" for more than 100 years.
- The majority of the system requires constant maintenance and repair to prevent or discourage flooding and/or damage to the channel itself.
- The physical, chemical, and biological conditions of the system individually and in combination do not meet federal and state water quality standards over the majority of the watershed system.

## Political Environment

- Diverse actors in the water management arena who have divergent interests and goals are increasingly competing to promote and shape water management norms on a range of issues, creating greater challenges for local water management organizations.
    - HF2354 (Pursell) Drainage registry information portal established, and money appropriated.
    - HF1680 (Hansen) Sustainable diversion limits on groundwater appropriations provided.
    - HF2304 (Curran) Issuance authorized and modification of water use permits prohibited, White Bear Lake Area Water Use Work Group established, comprehensive plan required, and money appropriated.
    - HF1900 (Hollins) Renewal of environment and natural resources trust fund provided, and constitutional amendment proposed.
    - HF2778 (Hansen) Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources membership and terms modified.
- Some local government organizations are retreating from their longstanding role as norms leaders and protectors, as populist influence grows.

    - Withdrawal from all regulation
    - Unwillingness to pay for most if not all services, particularly long range, less tangible benefits.
- At the same time, increasingly prescriptive policies led by BWSR, MDNR and MPCA are reinterpreting local water management autonomy norms, offering alternatives to what they view as non-environmental centric norms, such as drainage, floodplain management and storm water management in urbanizing areas. advocating norms and standards to promote, in their view more comprehensive or holistic goals.

## Information Environment

- The pace of technological change is accelerating almost exponentially.
- During the next two decades, technological innovations—including automation, online collaboration tools, artificial intelligence, and additive manufacturing—will reshape some fundamental aspects of how and where people work.

## Infrastructure Environment

- Expect to see planning, programming, and budgeting approaches that enable a much more agile and adaptive planning, development and delivery.
    - The District is piloting an "evolved" planning, programming budgeting, and execution system.
    - Anoka County is adopting a new budgeting system.
- Expect a focus on "enhancing" asset utilization and optimizing performance as a way to better "sweat" existing assets.
    - An increasing number of District and city projects over the past 3 years have involved "enhancement" or "retrofitting" existing storm water treatment facilities to increase either the efficiency, effectiveness or capacity of the facility or practice.
    - The industry will need to address the way that evolving technology makes some legacy assets obsolete.
- Expect to see new infrastructure financial vehicles that provide sustainable inflation protected long-term annuity returns, particularly if treasury rates remain low.
- Expect owners, planners, and regulators to start asking about the resilience of water resource assets in the broadest sense. Those without resilience plans should expect a grilling.
    - In 2022 The FEMA restructured its program that addressed floodplain insurance to address resiliency. The new program orientation covers more and more types of natural catastrophes but requires steps on the part of local government to ensure resiliency for coverage

## Physical Environment

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- Some watershed and local water management organizations are retreating from their longstanding role as norms leaders and protectors, as populist influence grows.
- At the same time, increasingly prescriptive policies led by BWSR, MDNR and MPCA are reinterpreting local water management autonomy norms, offering alternatives to what they view as non-environmental centric norms, such as drainage, floodplain management and storm water management in urbanizing areas. advocating norms and standards to promote, in their view more comprehensive or holistic goals.

## Social Environment

- The District will add approximately 1,930 people each year and reach an estimated population I 2033 of 200 - 218 thousand.  The demand for and value of water and related resources is highly predictable.
- Over the next two decades, people are likely to demand more from their political and government leaders, potentially prompting those leaders to be more responsive and possibly accountable but also risking societal divisions, broader enforcement, and less coherent policies.
- During the past decade, public activism—direct public action intended to impart social or political change—has been on the rise, including high-profile protests and demonstrations.

- The combined increases in prosperity, education, urbanization, and access to communication technologies are equipping people to express their interests and needs and seek more government action.
- As public activism continues to expand and potentially becomes more sophisticated, governments of all types will seek avenues to respond—either by attempting to appease public demands or by actively cutting off or eliminating avenues for activism.
- Over time, this dynamic will offer the prospect for more accountable leadership and improved democratic health, but in the near term, it could increase factionalism and reduce policy coherence and effective strategic planning.

## Water Management Environment

- During the next two decades, water conflicts most likely will be driven by the same factors that have historically prompted problems, issues and concerns—ranging from resource protection, economic or regulatory disparities, and ideological differences to the pursuit of power and influence.
- The ways in which water management is conducted will change as new technologies, applications, and doctrines emerge and as additional actors gain access to these capabilities.
- The combination of improved sensors, automation, and artificial intelligence (AI) and other advanced technologies will produce more accurate, better connected, faster, longer range, and more effective practices and treatment devices, primarily available to the most advanced organizations but some within reach of smaller city and non-governmental actors.
- The proliferation and diffusion of these systems over time will make more assets vulnerable, heighten the risk of problems due to equipment failure, and make water management more complex and involved, though not necessarily more effective.

# Critical and Emerging Issues for 2024

## Issues Surfaced During the Planning Process

Four high priority issues were identified during the Management Plan Scoping and Prioritization process:

1. Water quality
2. Population growth and audience evolution
3. Wetland loss
4. Ground Water x Surface Water Interactions

## Water Quality: Pace of Work and Time Remaining to address TMDL Load Reductions

**Situation**

The District contains 11 streams that do not meet state or Federal water quality standards for select beneficial uses of water and are therefore classified as impaired. These impairments are to be addressed by limiting stressors to a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) by 2045. The process of pursuing these TMDLs is a process called load reduction. Load reductions must be achieved for

1. Total Suspended Solids
2. Total Phosphorus
3. Poor habitat
4. Altered hydrology.
5. Chloride
6. Dissolved Oxygen
7. E coli

The District is currently engaged in conducting studies to target the source of some stressors, conducting projects to resolve or neutralize the source or cause of others, regulating land use changes to prevent or mitigate stressors and conducting education and outreach to the public, engineers and developers to further prevent and provide alternatives.

Achieving the TMDL by addressing some of the more pervasive and influential stressors, such as altered hydrology and E coli, will require construction, modification, restoration, and enhancement of new and existing infrastructure, (eg. ponds and filters) and restoration of natural infrastructure (eg. streams, ditches and ditch banks).

**Issue: The Water Quality bill has come due**

The current pace of investment, ($1-2 million per year) is not sufficient to achieve the end state of meeting state and federal standards by 2045. In addition, economic and

investment best practices indicates that to be successful in a dynamic and fluid situation, you should have 80% of the infrastructure in place in the first 20% of the time. This means 80% of the total cost (Estimated at $100 million) should be made in the first 20% of the time between now and 2045 (2028). This computes to an additional investment of $20 million a year for the next 4-5 years. The District's share is estimated at $6 million per year for the next four years and $1.5 million per year for the following 16 years. These figures are in 2023 dollars and assume no significant increase in fuel, labor, or material costs.

## Population Change and the Development of a New Audience

**Situation**

The District is required, under both state and Federal law, to conduct activities to inform, educate, involve, and engage the public to ensure awareness, reflect their concerns and recruit them over the long term to assist in preventing and/or exacerbating the water resource problems of the District, particularly water quality.

The 2020 census became available in 2021 and related data and studies in 2022. The data indicates that Coon Creek WD has both grown in population and indicates a shift in the tastes and preferences of the public that we serve. Every two to three years the District conducts a paired comparison survey of priorities and preferred beneficial uses of water. Those results are presented to the Board of Managers and are reflected in planning and policy priorities. However, the intent of the Federal and state requirements are to influence behavior through education of consequences and alternatives. The priorities and attitudes available through the census and the biannual survey are poor precursors to actual behaviors and why trying to "enlighten" and/or make an audience "love us" ("us" may be substituted by any environment concern, water quality, the conservation movement, Coon Creek WD, EPA DNR, BWSR, , etc.) using mass advertising techniques is destined to fail.

**Issue: We Need to Consider a Different Approach to Understanding our Publics**

Understanding our audiences is not a "nice to have" but an imperative pre-requisite for success. Increased population and diversity of perspective and opinion requires staff to know how and why citizens and the public do certain things to be effective.

The resources and guidance available from the state and EPA largely rely on generic communication models applicable to all groups and cultures. The District's Public Affairs staff have done an excellent job at modifying, customizing, and improvising available resources to keep costs down and meet our statutory requirements. However, effective communication efforts must be tailored to the local dynamics and with respect to the behaviors one is seeking to change.

With the new census and the new Comprehensive Plan, the District needs to conduct a Target Audience Analysis (TAA) of the District's population. A TAA aims to address our understanding of our citizens by constructing a robust profile of the audiences and how they can be appropriately influenced through bottom-up messaging constructed from a process of measurement and research, and subsequently derived from reliable knowledge of the audience.

This is a significant change from the way PR and marketing surveys are usually conducted. The traditional approach is based on sending pre-determined messages in volume to mass audiences in the hope that they will resonate with some portions of that audience. This, of course, fits with the traditional way that the environmental and natural resource agencies conduct their business, where themes and messaging are crafted centrally and distributed downwards to local agencies.

Experience from over 30 years tells us, that the training, resources and messaging packages from Washington DC (EPA) and St Paul (BWSR, MPCA & DNR) are often a diluted and distant memory by the time they reach local agencies, and they may actually have no relevance at ground level. Working out who to influence, why, how, when, and whether it is possible, constitutes an increase in effectiveness and a potential decrease or more efficient cost.

## Wetlands: Continued Apparent Loss and State Unresponsiveness

**Situation**:

The acres of jurisdictional wetland appear to be decreasing. The District, as the Local Governmental Unit administering the Wetland Conservation Act is responsible for their preservation.

What we know is that approximately 90% of the wetlands within the watershed are hydrologically classified as seasonally flooded or seasonally saturated. The implication is that these resources typically only meet the "hydrology criteria" (One of three criteria required for protection) in spring and are often dry the remainder of the year.

The District wetlands provide an important cost reduction benefit through storage and treatment of water in the soils and then in the basin itself. Sometimes they perform this function more efficiently and effectively than constructed infrastructure, other times they do not. In both cases, they perform this and other landscape functions people find beneficial

**Issues**:

1. We appear to be losing wetlands, the issue is why: There are several hypotheses, but no systematic investigations that looks at water source, residence time and water loss.

2. We are spending time defending some of our programs and actions, the issues are staff time, time away from problem solving and being put on the defense:

## Ground water - Surface water Interactions

**Situation**

Groundwater is prevalent in the District and Anoka Sand Plain. It breaches the surface in the upper part of the watershed and is the principal source of drinking water for public and private water supplies. The origin of that water come from two different sources:

1. Bed rock aquifers: The St. Peter, The Mt Simon – these sources are confined by their size, type of rock, and their water bearing capacity. For the most part, this water is thousands of years old.

2. The surficial aquifer: Water contained in 300 feet of mixed sand, silt and gravel on top of the bed rock and below our feet. These sources are unconfined, and water moves easily both vertically and horizontally at rates of feet per day. This water's origin is primarily rainfall and migration from up gradient (Columbus and Washington County). This water is typically days to months old.

Under normal circumstances the surficial aquifer will fluctuate 3 to ten feet in a year and recover over winter and spring returning to an elevation where it has left chemical signatures in the soil in the form of staining. The depth of fluctuations vary across the watershed but trend downward the closer to the Mississippi River. Fluctuations are driven by evapotranspiration of plants, water appropriations from dewatering or domestic use and drainage of soils. Discounting the effect of the drought and the hydrologic impact of the changes in precipitation and storm type, recovery of water levels is slowing and not achieving full recovery over an increasingly large area of the watershed. This trend, if true, has extreme significance for drinking water availability and surface waters such as lakes, wetlands and water quality treatment ponds

**Issue**

1. The trend needs to be verified, its driving forces quantified, its timing and sequencing identified and the needs and feasibilities to mitigate the impacts identified and organized.

# Management Issues and Functions

The District's capacity and capability to:

- Engage in meaningful water management activities,
- Fulfill its legislative mandates and
- Respond to and meet both the public's demand for health and safety and its needed and desired use the water resource for sustained economic benefit.

in 2024 and on to 2034 is critical for long range and annual planning and budgeting.

To inform the Board of Managers and enable them to effectively govern requires an assessment of the capacity and capability, (or readiness) of the District to operate and accomplish its mission essential tasks. While readiness lacks a statutory definition, management literature defines it as "the ability to conduct work, accomplish assigned tasks while preparing for future challenges (Betts, 1995, Powell, 2012).

The degree to which the District can meet various demands and satisfy its legislative requirements is determined by three criteria that together define capability:

1. **Joint Capability Areas**: Assessment of nine groups of field activities or systems, that comprise and describe those tasks that are essential for accomplishing the legislative goals.

2. **Planning**: Assessment of District's ability to produce/provide long and short-term plans and an assessment of the mission critical tasks

3. **Readiness Deficiencies**: An assessment of shortfalls of resources to meet the requirements of reporting programs assigned goals and responsibilities.

## Joint Capability Areas

Joint Capability Areas are the strategic administrative and program management functions that serve as the major inputs or drivers of District activities. Their analysis can provide a side-by-side comparison of program contributions to joint water management and a tool that will assist decision-makers in deciding whether to move resources between program budgets.

**Situational Awareness:** Is the ability to understand the dispositions, tendencies, and intentions, as well as characteristics and conditions of the operational environment that bear on District and water management decision making by leveraging all sources of physical, social and political economic information. The goal and intent is to provide managers at all levels the knowledge needed about the physical, social and managerial circumstances affecting a project, program or problem, issue or concern.

**Finding**: Program staff do not, as of yet sufficiently understand the District's and their program's operating environment and management situation based on a general inability to articulate those forces and trends influencing and defining the context and need for the District's and their programs organization and mode of operation.

**Sustainment**: Is the ability to supply, support, and sustain staff, and programs and provide the District with the agility and freedom to effectively respond and address problems, issues and concerns at or near their period of emergence.

**Finding**: The District's ability to provide adequate support to retain District staff has been compromised by Anoka County's recent and unexpected decision to separate and no longer provide the Administrative services of accounting, health insurance, human resources, and payroll to the District.

**Finding**: The degree to which the District uses its tax capacity is insufficient to pay for the capital work needed, on the District's part, to retrofit and rehabilitate the system to address water quality impairments. However, taxation and cost reduction are significant political issues and keeping taxes down are political priorities for the Board's appointing authority.

**Conclusion**:
The District has three principal issues or shortfalls that have significant impact on the District's capacity or capability to execute mandated tasks and duties:

1. **Situational Awareness**: The degree of adequate situational awareness and adaptive management orientation by all program coordinators
2. **Sustainment**: The District's ability to provide adequate support in the form health insurance to retain District staff.
3. **Sustainment**: Adequacy of funding to address water quality capital investment needs

## Assessment of District Planning

Assesses the capability or probability of achieving annual and comprehensive objectives. This assessment reflects the District's ability:

- To develop relevant and timely comprehensive and annual operating plans/budgets
- Assess the District's Mission Essential Tasks (METs)

The assessment and analysis are composed of:
**Staff allocation and readiness**: Looks at the reason each program was established and the requirements and objectives it is required to meet within the context of the sufficiency

of staffing, equipment, equipment condition and training to accomplish or address the priorities and objectives in the annual and comprehensive plans.

**Finding**: The analysis showed that achieving objectives may be questionable in some circumstances due to

1. Equipment readiness: Due primarily to depreciation more than performance
2. Training Deficiencies: In select mission essential tasks – especially situational awareness

**Analysis of the Mission Essential Tasks of the District**: District operations are built around a core of four kinetic principles (Leadership, positioning, projects and protection) which are augmented, supplemented and/or supported by four more (intelligence, information, sustainment and public engagement) relies on mission essential tasks METs) to organize the individual duties and steps of a project. METs are the physical means that the District and Program Coordinators use to perform tasks and accomplish objectives. They are made up of the specified and implied tasks that the District must perform to accomplish its mission, goals and objectives. Their purpose is to provide a structure to identify training requirements and qualifications, establish program or work group purpose and drive progress towards accomplishing goals and objectives.

**Findings**: The District struggles at the program level to achieve the objective of gathering social, political, and economic information for decision making which hinders our ability to anticipate, position the program or District and efficiently and effectively accomplish objectives

**Conclusion**:
The District ability to achieve Comprehensive and Annual planned goals and objectives is likely. There is currently an adequate supply of critical requirements, legislative depth and financial capacity.

# Deficiencies in Capacity and Capability

This analysis assesses the District's ability to successfully execute the comprehensive and annual plans by:

- Identifying the ability of different programs and authorities to intervein in a timely manner.
- Analyzing the use of different programs, the variance and impact of providing the critical requirements of funding, material/authority, and qualified staff, and the effect of any deficiencies on the risk to achieving management objectives.

The following are deficiencies and short comings which are significant and are not currently being addressed

Title of Readiness deficiency
Main Points: current requirement not being met & source document
Narrative: Action taken to date
Impact:  quantified shortfall &/or operational impact and/or MET impacted
Recommendation:
Comments

## Administrative Support and Service Separation from Anoka County

**Issue**: Sustainment – Attracting and Retaining Qualified Staff

**Major Points:**

- Anoka County wishes to end its administrative support of the District.
- Notice of that decision was informally provided in February, 2022 with an initial expectation that all services would end by end of April
- The April and December deadlines were impractical due to:
    - Funds available to replace services.
    - Time and logistics to find replacement services.
    - Time to collect and have available funding to pay for those services.
    - Cost of replacement of same health coverage
- Services include accounting, health insurance, human resources, and payroll.
- Health care is a critical benefit that has allowed us to attract and retain staff talent of a caliber to address the water resource problems in the District.
- Funding availability and cash flow indicate that a more realistic start data may be June, 2024 for accounting and payroll services and December, 2024, at the earliest, for health insurance

**Situation**

In February, 2023 Anoka County notified the District that it intended to end its 30 year arrangement with the District to provide the services of:

- Accounting & Audit Support
- Banking and access to the MAGIC Fund
- Health Insurance
- Payroll
- At present, Anoka County would like to transfer accounting and payroll services by December 31, 2023, and Health Insurance by end of 2024.
- Given the timing of the property tax levy and the first tax settlement (June 2024), preliminary cash flow projections indicate that the most likely date for a smooth transition would be late June early July 2023.

**Impact**

1. Replacing the quality of Health Insurance is a primary strategic factor in attracting and retaining qualified and talented staff. The cost of doing that is, at present, unknown.
2. Replacing the professional services of accounting HR and payroll is in process and should be known before budget review.

**Recommendation**:

Stay the course.

1. RFPs are due in early April.
2. Interviews are scheduled for mid-April.
3. Selection was originally discussed for early May.
4. Begin transition of accounting and payroll in June.

However, regardless of the costs of bringing on additional professional services and the fact that these expenses will be unbudgeted, indicates that the RFPs will serve the greatest benefit for

1. Assessing price/cost of these services
2. Determining a good/best fit
3. Assessing flexibility/feasibility/suitability of firms to delay or defer payment until June 2024

## Water Quality: Pace of Work and Time Remaining to address TMDL Load Reductions

**Issue**: Facilities and Installations: Water quality fails to meet minimum standards for health, safety welfare and enjoyment

**Major Points:**

- The District contains 11 streams that do not meet state or federal water quality standards.
- Reducing the pollutant loadings to acceptable levels is to be achieved by 2045.
- The "impairments" also serve as indicators that the water resource is at significant risk being unable to provide the beneficial uses on which we depend.
- The current pace and volume of money being invested is insufficient to either accomplish the task by 2045 or show a good faith effort

**Situation**

The District contains 11 streams that do not meet state or Federal water quality standards for select beneficial uses of water and are therefore classified as impaired. These impairments are to be addressed by limiting stressors to a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) by 2045. The process of pursuing these TMDLs is a process called load reduction. Load reductions must be achieved for

1. Total Suspended Solids
2. Total Phosphorus
3. Poor habitat
4. Altered hydrology.
5. Chloride
6. Dissolved Oxygen
7. E coli

The District is currently engaged in conducting studies to target the source of some stressors, conducting projects to resolve or neutralize the source or cause of others, regulating land use changes to prevent or mitigate stressors and conducting education and outreach to the public, engineers and developers to further prevent and provide alternatives.

Achieving the TMDL by addressing some of the more pervasive and influential stressors, such as altered hydrology and E coli, will require construction, modification, restoration, and enhancement of new and existing infrastructure, (eg. ponds and filters) and restoration of natural infrastructure (eg. streams, ditches and ditch banks).

The current pace of investment, ($1-2 million per year) is not sufficient to achieve the end state of meeting state and federal standards by 2045.

**Impact**:
Economic and financial best practices indicate that investing in infrastructure/Equipment under a deadline should be guided by Pareto's Law where 80% of the infrastructure/equipment should be in place in the first 20% of the timeline. This means 80% of the total cost (Estimated at $100 million) should be made in the first 20% of the time between now and 2045 (2028). This computes to an additional investment of $20 million a year for the next 4-5 years. The District's share is estimated at slightly less than $ million per year for the next four years and $1.5 million per year for the following 16 years.

**Recommendation**:

1. Develop more accurate 10 and 20 year forecasts of costs
2. More accurately allocate costs between the District and other MS4s for consideration in District CIP and annual budgets for 2024 and 2025.

Comments

# Collaborators

Viewed from a “contributing waters” perspective, there are other units of government who would have a legal and financial interest in addressing the water management concerns raised in the comprehensive watershed management plan.

The list below includes MS4s operating under the same 2045 deadline to resolve the impairments within the district.

| **Municipal Separate Storm sewer System MS4** | **Sq Mi** | **Pct** |
|---|---|---|
| Anoka Co. Hwy | 2.93 | 2.8% |
| Andover | 12.2 | 11.7% |
| Blaine | 18.07 | 17.4% |
| Columbus | | 0.0% |
| CCWD | 24.37 | 23.4% |
| Coon Rapids | 19.33 | 18.6% |
| Fridley | 2.12 | 2.0% |
| Ham Lake | 23.75 | 22.8% |
| Spring Lake Park | 1.29 | 1.2% |
| **TOTAL** | 104.06 | |

# Interagency, Intergovernmental and Nongovernmental Organizations

The subwatershed planning efforts are designed specifically to act as platforms for identifying problems, costing out solutions and allocating those costs on a “contributing water” approach. At this point in time, only two of the 7 subwatersheds containing impaired waters have plans developed.

Pleasure Creek Subwatershed 2022
Springbrook Creek Subwatershed 2021

The District has budgeted for 3 subwatershed plans to be developed in 2023
Ditch 37
Ditch 39
Ditch 60

While none of these subwatersheds directly contain impaired waters, monitoring has shown that they are significant contributors and leverage points for addressing the impairments on Sand creek and Coon Creek

## Taxpayer Considerations

The additional financial impact on taxes paid to the District would range from $10.00 to $32.00 per year.  However, the real impact should be prorated by contributing share and factored into the total tax burden carried by the range of property values and incomes.

## Assumptions

3. Cost estimates are in 2023 dollars and does not consider inflation or increases in fuel, labor, or material costs.
4. Cost forecast for TMDL assumes current cost per amount treated (eg. Dollars per pound removed)
5. The estimate for addressing the TMDL is a general allocation by MS4 and is not broken down by specific impaired water.
6. These figures are in 2023 dollars and assume no significant