

COON CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT

Request for Board Action

MEETING DATE: July 14, 2025
AGENDA NUMBER: 7
ITEM: Advisory Committees Report

AGENDA: Policy Discussion Information

ACTION REQUESTED

Receive Report

BACKGROUND

The Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) did not meet in the month of June in favor of attending the District Tour on June 16th. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met on June 12th.

- The next CAC meeting is scheduled: July 9th at 5:30 pm
Joint meeting with Rice Creek Watershed District
Laddie Lake Park, Blaine
- The next TAC meeting is scheduled: July 10th at 8:30 am hybrid with Zoom.

ISSUES/CONCERNS

Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC)

The Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) did not meet in the month of June in favor of attending the District Tour on June 16th.

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

The majority of the TAC was present at the meeting. Absent were the Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR), City of Columbus, City of Spring Lake Park, and the Department of Transportation.

1. Situation

Hydrology

Jon Janke provided the TAC with a brief update on recent weather and hydrology indicating that water levels across the District are normal. District staff will continue to keep an eye on water levels and weather conditions as additional rain is in the forecast.

Legislative Update

Tim Kelly shared that the Clean Water Council budget recommendations were made and that the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) had to make adjustments to their grant programs.

On the federal level, there has been a lot of discussion regarding the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), particularly as it relates to flood hazard mitigation.

Water Quality Cost-Share RFP

Justine Dauphinais announced that the application period for the second round of funding is now open.

District Tour

Tim Kelly informed the TAC that the CCWD District Tour is scheduled for Monday, June 16th at 2:30 p.m.

DNR Area Hydrologist

Tim Kelly noted that the DNR's Area Hydrologist position for the region is still vacant.

Updates to MPCA 401 Certification Antidegradation Assessment

Tim Kelly noted the updates to the MPCA 401 certification which primarily concern access for the permit processing particularly as it relates to antidegradation assessments.

2. Concerns

None.

3. Briefs

USGS Groundwater Chloride Modeling Presentation

Several staff from the United States Geological Survey (USGS) presented on the preliminary findings from their Groundwater Chloride Modeling effort. These preliminary findings include:

- Permitted high-capacity well pumping consumes approx. 40% of groundwater originating within the study area
- Groundwater flow to the creeks, and partitioning of flow to high-capacity wells is probably controlled by fine-grained layers within the Quaternary deposits
- >90% of groundwater discharging to Coon Creek is sourced exclusively from Quaternary deposits, Springbrook and Pleasure Creeks uncertain but likely similar
- Groundwater discharge to the creeks comes from a depth of less than 40 meters; with median depths of around 10-20 meters.
- The median age of groundwater discharge to Coon Creek and its tributaries is probably less than 20 years; possibly less than 10 years
 - In general, groundwater age decreases with stream order (with headwaters having the youngest water; Abrams and others, 2013)
- Median ages of groundwater discharge to Pleasure and Springbrook creeks are

likely younger than Coon Creek

- More work is needed to build confidence in model predictions of flow paths
- Simulation of mass transport is needed to predict chloride concentrations and connect loading to concentrations near the creeks

Annual Cost Share Budgeting

Erik Bye provided an overview of the 2026 proposed cost-share budgets that support the implementation of seven (7) joint projects across five (5) subwatersheds.

Project Name	Subwatershed
Quinn/Swallow St. Flooding Technical Assistance	Ditch 37
Stormwater Reuse Retrofit Analysis	Ditch 37
Crescent Pond Outlet Retrofit	Ditch 60
Happy Acres Park Multipurpose Ditch	Ditch 60
Little League Park Pond	Ditch 39
Swan Park BMP	Pleasure Creek
Springbrook Nature Center Outlet Retrofit	Springbrook Creek

4. Other Water Management Concerns

MnTOPO Update

Skipped for time.

Ditch 37 Subwatershed Plan Update

Skipped for time.

5. Announcements

None.

RECOMMENDATION

Receive the report.