

COON CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT

Request for Board Action

MEETING DATE: March 9, 2026
AGENDA NUMBER: 7
ITEM: Advisory Committees Report

AGENDA: Policy Discussion Information

ACTION REQUESTED

Receive Report

BACKGROUND

The Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) met on February 11th. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met on February 12th.

- The next CAC meeting is scheduled: March 11th from 4:30 p.m. hybrid with Zoom.
- The next TAC meeting is scheduled: March 12th at 8:30 a.m. hybrid with Zoom.

ISSUES/CONCERNS

Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC)

A majority of the CAC was present at the meeting. Absent were Barbara Goodboe-Bisschoff and Dwight McCullough (Board Liaison).

1. Open Forum

Committee members introduced themselves and welcomed new member, John Lilly. John shared that he is a resident of Blaine, a former employee of the MN DNR, and is interested in learning more about what is happening locally.

2. District Update

Jessica Lindemyer gave a brief update on various District activities including recent weather conditions. There was a general discussion regarding frost depth and spring flood outlook.

Jessica provided an update on the position of Water Restoration and Protection Coordinator. The District received a lot of very strong applications and has begun interviews with the goal of having an individual onboarded within the next couple of months.

3. Springbrook Creek Subwatershed Spotlight

Jessica began the discussion by providing a brief refresher of what a subwatershed is and key terminology.

Jessica introduced the Springbrook Creek Subwatershed, stating that the subwatershed encompasses 4.2 square miles and has impairments for aquatic life and aquatic recreation. Similar to Pleasure Creek Subwatershed, which was spotlighted last month, many of the challenges the District faces with water management in this area stem from the fact that it was largely developed before modern-day stormwater rules were put in place.

Jessica walked the CAC through a virtual tour of the subwatershed, pointing out significant roadways, areas of interest, and notable landmarks in the area including Northtown Mall, Northtown Library, and Springbrook Nature Center. Projects in the area include Aurelia Park Pond completed in 2021 and the upcoming smart outlet modification at the outlet weir of Springbrook Nature Center. Activities in the area include pet waste stations, enhanced street sweeping, and a variety of community engagement activities.

There was general discussion about potential redevelopment plans for Northtown Library, pet waste station sponsorships, municipal street sweeping operations, and flood modeling.

Jessica walked the Committee through a draft design for an educational exhibit on the topic of stormwater vs. wastewater. The purpose of this exhibit is to serve as a visual education tool for events, classrooms, and public information meetings; helping people understand the difference between treated wastewater from their homes and untreated stormwater in the environment. The committee reviewed printed copies of the initial draft design. Feedback from the committee was very positive. Specific comments included:

- Color coordinating the wastewater and stormwater pipes with the wastewater and stormwater terminology
- Create more visual separation between the two pipes by showing the wastewater pipe ‘bouncing’ through the treatment plant to help convey that it is a multi-stage process

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

The majority of the TAC was present at the meeting. Absent were Anoka Conservation District, the City of Columbus, the Department of Transportation, and the Department of Health.

1. Announcements

Jon Janke introduced Josh Norman as the area’s new Board Conservationist. TAC members welcomed Josh and briefly introduced themselves.

Justine Dauphinais shared the details for the upcoming Minnesota Stormwater Pond Research and Practice Symposium. Scheduled for March 31st to April 1st, this first-of-its-kind symposium is intended to bring together urban stormwater pond practitioners, professionals, policy leaders, and researchers from public and private sectors. The event will provide an opportunity to examine the state of the use of stormwater ponds as a practice, discuss the science we know and the uncertainties we have, increase awareness of recent and current research efforts, and identify future research priorities and collaboration opportunities. .

2. Situation

Hydrology

Tyler Thompson provided the TAC with a brief update on recent weather and hydrology. Headwaters are currently frozen over, but staff are still observing open water and flow lower in the watershed. Based on current snowpack, the watershed is in good shape for spring, flood predictions are low.

Legislative Update

Jon Janke noted that the legislature convenes on Tuesday. This legislative session is anticipated to be highly volatile with lots of posturing due to the upcoming elections in the fall. The Minnesota Association of Watersheds will have their 'Day at the Capitol' on March 3rd. The League of Minnesota is scheduled to have their 'Day at the Capitol' on March 11th.

3. Concerns

MS4 Permit Reissuance

Jon Janke opened the floor to discussion regarding proposed feedback on the draft MS4 permit.

Rebecca Haug shared that Anoka County Highways will be providing feedback related to:

- Firefighting foams: Management and enforcement should be left to the fire departments, not the stormwater utility
- PFAS: Request for more clarifying language related to PFAS
- Definitions: Some of the definitions in the draft permit are in conflict with the definitions provided in the Construction Stormwater Permit.

Jim Kosluchar inquired about the section on legal easements and access agreements for stormwater BMPs and how that language may impact existing BMPs, especially those that were established many years ago.

Jim also noted concerns regarding the restrictions on purchasing products with PFAS, stating that it would be nearly impossible to administer given the wide range of products purchased across all departments and via subcontractors.

There was general discussion on the topic of water quality credit trading, how it might be used, and apprehension around the proposed timelines.

Justine Dauphinais shared that she has received confirmation from the MPCA that they will be posting all of the comments received during this initial comment period. District staff will review the posted comments and compare them to the revised permit language to determine what the MPCA addressed and what they did not.

4. Briefs

FEMA Engineering Methods Notification 620 Letter – Anoka County

Jon Janke summarized the FEMA notification letter received by municipalities in Anoka County. In a nutshell, this letter notifies city staff that FEMA will complete the HUC 8 process on a regional basis. Coon Creek Watershed District and Rice Creek Watershed District have completed the HUC 8 process for our respective areas, however the process still needs to be completed for the rest of the County. This letter serves as a notification that the process is happening and the methods they are using. No action is needed.

Dave Berkowitz stated that Andover plans to reach out to FEMA, asking to be included in the process. Dave Krugler also plans to reach out to FEMA.

The official publication date for these maps is anticipated for 2031.

Met Council Local Water Plan Update

Jon Janke shared that the Metropolitan Council has announced that they are initiating an update for all local water plans to be consistent with Met Council by December 31, 2028. CCWD recently completed an update of our Comprehensive Plan, which also requires local water plans to be updated. As such, we hope to align timelines with Met Council so that local water plans can incorporate changes from both organizations at one time, rather than going through two separate update processes.

Subwatershed Annual Check-Ins

Erik Bye, CCWD Planning Coordinator, will be reaching out shortly to schedule the 2026 subwatershed check-ins.

5. Other Water Management Concerns

None.

RECOMMENDATION

Receive the report.