

COON CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT
Request for Board Action

MEETING DATE: September 14, 2026
AGENDA NUMBER: 7
ITEM: Advisory Committees Report

AGENDA: Policy Discussion Information

ACTION REQUESTED

Receive Report

BACKGROUND

The Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) met on Wednesday, August 12th. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met on Thursday, August 13th.

- The next CAC meeting is scheduled: September 9th at 4:30 p.m. hybrid with Zoom.
- The next TAC meeting is scheduled: September 10th at 8:30 a.m. hybrid with Zoom.

ISSUES/CONCERNS

Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC)

The majority of the CAC was present at the meeting. Absent were Gary Nereson and CAC Liaison, Dwight McCullough.

1. Open Forum

No comments.

2. District Update

Jessica Lindemyer gave a brief update on various District activities including recent weather conditions and water levels across the District. According to the latest US Drought Monitor release, all of Anoka County is experiencing Moderate Drought.

The District has received applications from two individuals interested in serving on the CAC. These applications are scheduled for consideration at the August 24th Board Meeting.

The Anoka County Board of Commissioners acted on Monday night to fill the current vacancy on the CCWD Board of Managers. CAC member Nathan Schneider was appointed to the position. The CAC congratulated Nathan on his appointment.

Jessica passed out information on an upcoming volunteer opportunity with Northtown Library. The Library will be hosting 'We Are Water', a traveling exhibit focused on Minnesota's water resources. The grand opening for this exhibit is scheduled for Saturday, October 10th.

3. 2027 Draft Budget

Jon Janke provided a presentation on the 2027 draft budget.

The District develops and adopts an annual budget for activities identified in the Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. The budgeting process begins in April and must be adopted by September 15th of each year. For the 2027 budget process, the board reviewed major preliminary budget categories individually before assembling the full draft budget in early July.

The draft budget was scheduled to be released for advisory committee review on July 27th. However, the July 27th board meeting was cancelled due to lack of quorum. This resulted in the budget release being delayed until the August 10th meeting.

The draft budget is shared with the District's Citizen Advisory Committee and Technical Advisory Committee. Any feedback received from the advisory committees will be compiled and shared with the Board for their consideration at the August 24th Board meeting.

Jon shared that the current draft budget for 2027 sits at \$9.9M, which includes a levy of \$6.8M. This is a 1.587% decrease from 2026. Jon explained that the major factors impacting the 2027 budget include changes in project timing and readiness, updated grant and funding assumptions, and one-time facility and equipment costs.

Jon highlighted several of the large projects and activities accounted for in the 2027 budget, including building and facility improvements, Happy Acres Park stormwater improvements, Pleasure Creek pond outlet modification, lifecycle and replacement cost study, Coon Creek Restoration Implementation Analysis, and H&H model upgrade evaluation.

Jon concluded his presentation by explaining the next steps in the budget process, including board review and consideration of committee comments and the ordering of the public hearing. The public hearing and budget adoption is expected to be scheduled for September 14th. Final adoption of the property tax levy will occur in December.

Joe MacPherson inquired about the \$1M reduction in the implementation budget for the D39 Subwatershed. Jon explained that the (\$1,016,400) denoted in the 'change' column is not a reduction, but rather an offset in revenue associated with the Bridgewater project that was completed in 2025.

Joe also inquired about the 'Office Furniture & Fixtures' line. Jon explained that the line item is associated with furnishing the proposed remodel of the basement and replacing the remaining office furniture that was repurposed from the old bank when the District first moved into this office space in 2018.

Barbara Goodboe-Bisschoff asked if the budget provided to the CAC was the full extent of the budget or if a more detailed version had been provided to the Board. Jon confirmed that the budget provided to the advisory committee is the same version of the budget that is reviewed by the Board.

Barbara inquired about the salaries and benefits section of the budget, particularly as it relates to the increases exhibited since 2024. Jon highlighted the administrative separation from the County as one of the main factors for the recent changes. The administrative separation, which was initiated by Anoka County in 2023, has resulted in the District

paying much higher rates for benefit packages as a small group employer. Jon also spoke to high staff retention and longevity of service as a factor in salaries. The District is currently averaging a retention rate of 5.5 years with the recent retirement of Tim Kelly who served the District for over 30 years and Dawn Doering who served the District for 18 years. Jon highlighted the operational benefits of retaining highly qualified staff and the institutional knowledge and technical expertise that come with it.

Barbara also inquired about the funds budgeted for the office remodel. Jon explained that the funds would be used to remodel the District's basement from an unfinished space with limited usability into a usable space for additional offices, workspaces, and breakroom. Discussion was had regarding the costs of commercial remodeling versus residential remodeling and the increased costs of construction materials over the last several years.

Barbara asked if the District has considered bringing in a strategist to review staffing details and determine where reductions could be made. Jon noted that the 2027 budget currently has funds budgeted for a salary survey. This effort would involve hiring a professional consultant to review the District's position descriptions as they relate to the efforts outlined in the Comprehensive Management Plan, as well as compensation and benefits as they compare to other watershed districts and similar organizations.

Committee members were encouraged to submit any comments they may have on the 2027 draft budget by Wednesday, August 19th. Comments received by this date will be included in the meeting packet for the August 24th Board meeting. Comments received after the 19th will be verbally communicated to the Board at the meeting on the 24th.

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

The majority of the TAC were present at the meeting. Absent were City of Columbus and the Department of Health.

1. Announcements

Water Quality Cost Share Program

Justine Dauphinais reminded the Committee that the next deadline for Water Quality Cost Share applications is Friday, September 11th.

Other

Jon Janke introduced David Petry as the District's Water Restoration and Protection Coordinator. David briefly introduced himself, sharing that his background is in stream ecology, construction management, and project management.

Rebecca Haug introduced ACHD's Sea Grant Fellow, Jared Langer. Jared will be focusing on ditches outside of the watershed, monarch habitat monitoring, and assisting with ACHD's MS4 requirements.

Dave Berkowitz shared that Jason Baumunk has taken over the role as Fire Chief for the City of Andover, leaving his position as Parks and Streets Operations Manager vacant.

Ryan Toot announced that the DNR has hired Bella Radler as a Hydrologist within the Ecological and Water Resources Division. She will be working within the South District of Region 3 and will be reviewing Water Supply Plans.

Erik Bye shared that the Minnesota Department of Health has released the draft 2026 Source

Water Assessment Report for Minneapolis Public Works Water Treatment & Distribution Services.

2. Management Situation

Hydrology

Tyler Thompson provided a brief hydrology update. Conditions are dry with growing season precipitation levels 50% below average for this time of year.

Other

Jon Janke inquired if anyone had heard an update on the release of the new MS4 Permit. Rebecca Haug shared that the last she heard, it was still slated for release late this summer or fall.

3. Concerns

Plumbing Board Stormwater Reuse Update

Jon Janke provided an update on the Plumbing Board's consideration of adopting Chapter 15 of the National Plumbing Code as it relates to stormwater reuse. Implementation of the Chapter 15 language pertaining to stormwater reuse has the potential to restrict future water quality projects and retroactively affect existing stormwater reuse projects. Several entities and organizations across the state submitted comments to the Plumbing Board and spoke against the adoption at a meeting on June 23rd. Since that time, the Plumbing Board has decided to move forward with portions of the Chapter 15 language, but excluded the section related to stormwater reuse. The Plumbing Board has asked the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) to look into stormwater reuse through the stormwater manual, looking for additional resources and information. For the moment, no decision has been made on reuse, but the uncertainty remains. This uncertainty makes planning for reuse projects more difficult and has made grant funding for such projects uncertain.

Rebecca Haug shared that the task force that originally assessed stormwater reuse as an option is being reconvened. Interested individuals should reach out to the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH). Minnesota Cities Stormwater Coalition (MSCS) is very involved and will be part of future stormwater reuse discussions along with the City of Woodbury and City of Waconia.

Justine Dauphinais shared that she received an email from the MPCA stating that they are forming a stormwater task force to update the technical guidance on stormwater reuse in the stormwater manual.

4. Briefs

CCWD 2027 Budget

Jon Janke gave a presentation on the District's current draft budget for 2027. Jon shared that the total budget sits at \$9.9M, which includes a levy of \$6.8M. This is a 1.6% decrease from 2026. The major factors impacting the 2027 budget include changes in project timing and readiness, updated grant and funding assumptions, and one-time facility and equipment costs.

Jon provided information on a few highlights from the budget, including the water quality

cost-share program, Happy Acres Park stormwater improvements, Pleasure Creek pond outlet modifications, lifecycle and replacement cost study, Coon Creek restoration implementation analysis, and H&H model upgrade evaluation.

The 2027 budget remains preliminary. TAC members are encouraged to submit any comments they may have by Wednesday, August 19th. The Board is scheduled to consider ordering the public hearing on August 24th.

Ryan Toot expressed interest in learning more about the Pleasure Creek Outlet Modification. David Petry indicated that he would reach out to schedule a meeting.

Chloride Reduction Initiatives

Justine Dauphinais provided an overview of the purpose of the Water Quality Cost Share Program, highlighting the recent addition of the 'Smart Salting' category. Projects and practices that reduce chloride pollution to District receiving waters, including groundwater, are eligible for the Smart Salting category. Proposals must result in benefits above-and-beyond any requirements and existing/baseline winter maintenance practices. Record-keeping improvements increasing eligible pollutant reduction credits and/or facilitation program evaluation and improvement planning are also eligible.

Justine shared information on low salt design practices, referencing Bolton & Menk's recent presentation at the Anoka County MS4 partner meeting. Various examples of low salt design pilot projects were shared, including Richfield's custom low salt design fact sheets for developers and Hopkins' sustainable building policy integration.

David Petry shared that Ramsey County is working to draft low salt design ordinances that can be adopted by their cities.

Rebecca Haug shared that the September Anoka County MS4 partner meeting will include a presentation from the City of Bloomington. Anoka County Highways intends to submit a cost share grant application for the development of a GIS model of salt demand and will be inviting all cities to participate, especially city planners.

FEMA Review Council Report Update & HUC 8 Update

Erik Bye provided a summary of the recently released FEMA Review Council Report. Highlights of this report include a continued push to reduce administrative overhead to streamline function, a push to move more responsibility to the state and local levels, an increase to the threshold for disaster public assistance, and incentivizing mitigation and preparedness measures. Erik shared that recently proposed bills have included many of these recommendations.

Erik shared that the DNR has been providing periodic updates on the HU8 mapping process. The CCWD portion of Anoka County is scheduled for its Flood Risk Review meeting in late 2026. This meeting will be preceded by the meeting regarding RCWD's portion of Anoka County. The meeting date for the northern portion of Anoka County is yet to be determined but will likely occur in 2027.

WBIF Recap and FY27 Kickoff

Justine Dauphinais provided an overview of the Watershed Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) process and a recap of previously funded activities before moving into the kickoff process for FY27.

The kickoff process for FY27 includes the selection of a facilitator, voting representatives, and agreement on the decision-making criteria that will be used.

- Justine Dauphinais was selected as the facilitator.
- Jon Janke (CCWD), Chris Lord (ACD), Rachel Workin (Fridley), and Kameron Kytonen (Andover) were selected as the voting representatives.
- Tiered majority vote was selected for the decision-making process. This is the same process the group has used in past years to make WBIF decisions.

Next steps in the WBIF process include the submission of proposals and scheduling of the official Convene Meeting.

Atlas 15 Update

In April 2015 we received word that the precipitation data from the Feds would be distributed. For Minnesota, they plan to release Atlas 15 by September 2026. Upon release, there will be an opportunity for review and comment. Depending on what the data looks like, Atlas 15 may impact local management and modeling strategies.

5. Other Water Management Concerns

None.

RECOMMENDATION

Receive the report.