



Request for City Council Committee Action From the Department of Public Works

Date: June 8, 2004
To: Honorable Sandra Colvin Roy, Chair Transportation & Public Works Committee
Referral to: None
Subject: **Minnehaha Creek Watershed District's Visioning Partnership Appointments**

Recommendation:

Approval of a resolution appointing the following to serve on the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District's Visioning Process:

City Elected Official (1): Council Member Scott Benson
Minneapolis Technical Staff (1): Patrick Wrase or his designee
Citizen Representatives (2):

- David Oltmans 5831 Clinton Avenue S (Ward 11)
- Jim Thill 2 3rd Avenue SE (Ward 12)

Previous Directives:

April 16, 2004: City Council passed resolution supporting the formation of a Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Visioning Partnership in order to create a common vision and coordinated recommendation for the Minnehaha Creek Corridor.

Prepared by: Patrick Wrase, P.E. , Engineer III, Engineering Services 673-3129

Approved by:

Klara A. Fabry, P.E., City Engineer, Director of Public Works

Presenters: Patrick Wrase

Financial Impact (Check those that apply)

No financial impact - or - Action is within current department budget.

(If checked, go directly to Background/Supporting Information)

Action requires an appropriation increase to the Capital Budget

Action requires an appropriation increase to the Operating Budget

Action provides increased revenue for appropriation increase

Action requires use of contingency or reserves

Other financial impact (Explain):

Request provided to the Budget Office when provided to the Committee Coordinator

Background/Supporting Information Attached:

Visioning Process:

The Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) is embarking upon a process for input on the development of the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District 509 Plan Revisions and the long term management plan of the Creek. On April 16, 2004 the Minneapolis City Council passed a resolution in support of the process.

Partners are expected to include Minnehaha Creek Watershed District cities, Hennepin County, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, and the MCWD.

Two citizen representatives are to be appointed by the City of Minneapolis to serve on the Citizen Advisory Committee. It is desirable that citizens live within the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District boundaries in the City. Eight residents completed the applications for appointment through the City Clerk's Office's process. In addition to the citizen representatives, an elected official, and a technical representative will also be a part of the process.

It is anticipated that there will be approximately 12 meetings - with up to two evening meetings each month starting in summer 2004. The meetings are likely to be held in various locations throughout the MCWD area.

Watershed Issues:

The MCWD area spans about 181 square miles starting at Lake Minnetonka and emptying into the Mississippi River in Minneapolis. Minneapolis is approximately 20 square miles of this area.

Serious issues include both the *quantity* and the *quality* of water entering the watershed. The natural characteristics of a watershed coupled with the land use define the amount and quality of water reaching downstream sources. *Quantity* is a concern during storm events when large amounts of stormwater enters the Creek through the more than 180 storm sewer outfalls - because this is in a mostly urbanized area that has lots of roads and pavement - water is forced into the Creek rather than soaked into the ground. This causes stream bank erosion, soils in the Creek and in some cases, localized flooding. *Quality* of the Creek's water is also a concern - chemicals, pollutants and sediment are affecting its ecosystem. Lake Hiawatha's water quality is very dependent on the water quality in the Creek.

Recommendations:

David Oltmans is a life long resident of the Diamond Lake area and past president of the Diamond Lake Neighborhood Association, past chair of the Diamond Lake Neighborhood Association Environment Committee, current member of Hale Page Diamond Lake Environment Committee and current member of the Blue Water Association.

Jim Thill is a PhD student and researcher at the University of Minnesota (studying winds and their influences on lakes). Last year he assisted with the MCWD's hydrologic model and walks the Creek on a regular basis.