

For Immediate Release
January 24, 2008

For more information:
Kevin Bigalke, 952-835-3078

Nine Mile Creek Watershed District Draft Rules Available for Public Comment

Edina – The Nine Mile Creek Watershed District has made their proposed rules available for public comment. The Watershed District is accepting public comments on the proposed rules until Monday, February 25, 2008.

The Nine Mile Creek Watershed District started its rule-making process in April 2007. Over the course of the past 9 months, the District Board of Managers has met to develop its new rules. The Watershed District also hosted monthly Technical Advisory Committee meetings seeking input on the proposed rules. The Technical Advisory Committee included representatives each City in the Watershed District – Bloomington, Eden Prairie, Edina, Hopkins, Minnetonka, & Richfield; representatives from the Metropolitan Council, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the Board of Water and Soil Resources, Minnesota Department of Transportation, and Hennepin County.

“The District rules have been updated to better reflect the District’s knowledge, experience and water-resource protection goals as described in detail in the 2007 watershed management plan” stated District Administrator Kevin Bigalke. “We wanted to create rules that would help use accomplish the goals in our new plan, including improving water quality in the Creek and in the lakes in the District, but also assist the cities meet the various requirements of their stormwater permits with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.”

The proposed rules will address stormwater management, floodplain management, wetlands, erosion & sediment control, and procedural requirements. The District has had a permitting program since 1963, when it first adopted rules and regulations. Its current rules were adopted in 1973.

In addition to the public comment period, the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District Board of Managers will host a public hearing on the proposed rules on Wednesday, February 20, 2008 at 7:00 PM at the District office located at 7710 Computer Avenue, Suite 135, Edina, MN. Individuals or groups wishing to address the Board regarding the proposed rules are invited to attend.

The proposed rules along with the Statement of Need and Reasonableness (SONAR) are available for review on the District’s website: www.ninemilecreek.org, or by contacting the District office at (952) 835-2078 or by e-mail: kbigalke@ninemilecreek.org.

###