

6.0 Implementation Program

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6.6.3.3 Special Cost-Share Projects

As discussed in the introduction to this subsection of the Plan, through implementation of its cost-share and capital improvement programs, the District has determined that the water resource protection and improvement needs identified in this Plan can often be addressed most effectively by integrating watershed objectives into other infrastructure, development, and redevelopment activities planned by public and private land owners. To facilitate its productive and efficient engagement with city land-use planners and other potential partners to pursue project opportunities in keeping with elements in the CIP in Table 6-2, the District has developed specific guidelines, development steps and a management structure for special cost-share projects. In this development phase, the District seeks to scale its involvement, with possible District contributions including:

- Assessment of options for or feasibility of options to address a water resources management issue
- Partnering to assess options for or feasibility of options to address a water resources management issue
- Making District staff and/or engineer available to assist with a scope of work
- Contribution of funding to completion of a scope of work
- Providing access to NMCWD data
- Support for incorporation of best-management practices or other water-resource protection or flood-mitigation measure into partners' projects.

The District generally will undertake this approach for projects that are selected by the Board of Managers based on the prioritization criteria outlined in Subsection 6.6.2 and that will require:

- Dedication of District plan-implementation, Stormwater Facilities Fund¹ or Capital Project Reserve funds;
- Dedication of the unique experience, design capacity and extensive knowledge of watershed hydrology offered by the District staff and engineer; and/or
- Collaborative development and implementation with watershed cities and private developers, as well as regional and state agencies.

Once a particular project has been selected and the District's engagement has been scaled in accordance with the criteria, projects involving contributions of District funds for capital improvements will be the subject of a hearing conducted in accordance with Minnesota Statutes section 103B.251 prior to ordering

¹ The Stormwater Facilities Fund was created by resolution in 2008 to accept funds from permit applicants who qualified to make fee-in-lieu payments for shortfalls from meeting stormwater-retention requirements. SFF funds must be used for design, construction and maintenance of runoff-retention facilities in the Nine Mile Creek watershed.

by Board of Managers if the project is to be constructed by the District or for any project to which the District will dedicate \$50,000 or more.

The District anticipates that special cost share projects will require the annual dedication of at least \$25,000 in District funds, as well as BMP design and education and outreach expertise, all of which will support the integration of innovative water-resource improvement and protection systems and practices into public, private and public-private land-redevelopment projects undertaken for broader public purposes. After ordering by the Board of Managers when applicable, special cost-share projects will be conducted in accordance with a cooperative agreement among the partners, outlining the roles and responsibilities of each as relates to the District-funded work. Long-term maintenance of structural BMPs will be provided for in the cooperative agreement, and for work on privately owned property a maintenance declaration will be recorded on the title.

The District will budget funding as well as staff and engineering time annually for special cost-share projects. Projects that require resources that exceed the available funding in a given budget cycle will be multiyear endeavors, for which specific budget and resource allocations will be made after initial development under the baseline annual program. This structure reflects the fact that projects requiring greater resources will also have longer planning timelines, allowing the District to budget accordingly.