

Nine Mile Creek Watershed District *draft* 2017-2027 Water Management Plan 60-Day Review Comments and Responses

#	Section	Comment Synopsis	From	Response
1	General	Typographical and grammatical errors were highlighted by all reviewers.	All reviewer	Thank you. Typographical, grammar and cross-reference errors will be corrected for the final proposed draft of the plan.
2	General	I have reviewed your draft Watershed Management Plan and have no comments due to having participated on the TAC, during which I provided input/comments which you have fully addressed and/or incorporated. I very much appreciate how the TAC process was conducted and believe the plan is of very high quality and provides a solid path moving forward.	MPCA	Thank you for your comment.
3	General	I am pleased to see that DNR's priority issues have all received attention in the Draft Plan. In addition to a strong ongoing commitment to floodplain management and protection/restoration of water quality, the Plan specifically includes goals, objectives, policies and actions addressing ground water sustainability, stream stabilization and restoration, aquatic invasive species, and protection and restoration of natural areas, native plant communities and rare species. We look forward to a continuation of the strong working partnership the District and the DNR have developed over the years.	MDNR	Thank you for your comment.
4	General	We found the plan provides a thorough background of District history, land and water resources and clearly stated goals supported by Use Attainability Analyses.	BWSR	Thank you for your comment.
5	General	I would like to recognize the excellent work the District has done. We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments. I look forward to continuing to work with the District through the rest of the plan development process.	BWSR	Thank you for your comment.
6	General	Consistent with the Council's policy, staff commends the NMCWD for preparation of a plan that includes a clear inventory of land and water resources, the inclusion of local and regional partners in the discussion of priority issues and opportunities, and a clear statement of goals and policies. Council staff were encouraged to see NMCWD refine and further the understanding of the storage and movement of water in the district with the use of the Atlas-14 hydraulic modelling. This provides powerful information that will be a great assistance in the identification of flood susceptible areas.	Met Council	Thank you for your comment.
7	General	Council staff fully support the expanded leadership role in groundwater and wetland management assumed in this plan update. As the plan states, this more integrated approach of groundwater/surface water management will	Met Council	Thank you for your comment.

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		have a positive impact on water conservation and reuse.		
8	General	Staff agree with the addition of ecological indicators with the Use Attainability Analysis to assess the water quality within the district. This holistic approach is more informative than only focusing solely on the chemical or physical properties of the water.	Met Council	Thank you for your comment.
9	General	<p>Thank you for the invitation to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meetings and the opportunity to comment on the draft plan. I want to commend NMCWD Staff and the Board of Managers on the comprehensive outreach to both the public as well as the TAC. It was immediately apparent that those comments, concerns and suggestions were incorporated throughout the plan.</p> <p>We greatly appreciate the approach to outreach that the District has implemented during the plan writing process.</p>	Eden Prairie	Thank you for your comment.
10	General	<p>Let me begin first by stating that I am pleased to see that the watershed plan recognizes the importance that the citizens have assigned to the summer algae problem in Normandale Lake. The attention given to this issue by the watershed residents dwarfed that given to all other potential problems in the district's survey results and during last year's kickoff meeting. It appears that the district has acknowledged that by placing it high on the priority list and allotting \$500,000 per year for 2018 and 2019.</p> <p>That said, I feel the need to comment on the draft ten-year plan. Namely, based on results from the previous 2005 [Normandale] UAA study, I fear that \$1,000,000 could be allocated for a plan that would ultimately have little measurable impact on the amount of filamentous algae that grows each summer in Normandale Lake.</p>	Citizen	<p>While the CIP acknowledges the 2005 UAA for Normandale Lake, the District is also currently undertaking a water quality and nuisance biota evaluation on the lake. The analysis includes use and evaluation of existing water quality and biota data, development of an in-lake water quality model to evaluate the cause of water quality and nuisance biota issues, and use of the model to identify potential solutions.</p> <p>The District's general strategy is to implement improvements in the upstream portions of the watershed first and move toward the downstream portions. This strategy allows for the implementation of projects with the most benefits and impacts throughout the watershed. Upstream water quality improvements result in reduced pollutant loads to downstream water resources. For example, any water quality load reduction project upstream of Normandale Lake (in either the north branch or south branch subwatersheds of Nine Mile Creek) will result in the load reduction to Normandale Lake itself.</p> <p>It is important to note that this general strategy is not intended to limit the District's ability to implement projects in other portions of the watershed where there is strong local support, availability of grant dollars, interested partners, and/or the ability to incorporate water resource management facilities or techniques into a project being pursued by another public</p>

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				entity.
11	General	The BSC commends District staff, the Board of Managers, the Technical Advisory Committee, the Citizens Advisory Committee, plan writers, reviewers, the public and others that have played a role in the drafting of the plan. The plan is comprehensive, clear, well written and organized, and encompasses and addresses many issues relating to our shared water resources and our environment. The BSC looks forward to working with you on many of these issues. The BSC is also excited to work with you on promoting the Adopt-a-Storm-Drain program.	Bloomington Sustainability Commission	Thank you for your comment.
12	General	<p>In many areas, terrestrial invasive plant management is something that is sorely lacking. When there isn't an organization that is taking the lead on these issues, it is one idea that a watershed district take on this role- or at least play a big part in it. The BSC hopes this is something the District will consider in future planning.</p> <p>The BSC commends the District for their recent efforts at Discovery Point in regards to ecological restoration. This is a great way to "lead by example" and "practice what we preach."</p> <p>Additionally, thank you for considering these types of projects in the District's cost share program.</p> <p>These ecological restoration opportunities also align with the District's general purpose to "Protect and enhance fish and wildlife habitat and water recreational facilities" and other initiatives to promote accessibility, recreation, and aesthetics.</p>	Bloomington Sustainability Commission	<p>While NMCWD will take this suggestion under consideration, current efforts center around implementing terrestrial plant management as part of our own projects (e.g., the Nine Mile Creek restoration/stabilization projects in Hopkins and Edina, the Anderson Lakes project, native landscaping at Discovery Point and ongoing shoreline vegetation management around Bush Lake).</p> <p>In addition, the District provides financial assistance through the cost-share grant program to landowners interested in invasive plant management on their own properties.</p>
13	General	The BSC recommends that the NMCWD place greater emphasis on vegetation maintenance when implementing or providing funds for projects. As one of the District's general purposes is to "Protect and enhance fish and wildlife habitat and water recreational facilities", it is important that native vegetation is maintained and enhanced so that native plants become established and that these areas are not overrun by invasive plants. It is important that there is proper oversight in this process.	Bloomington Sustainability Commission	<p>As mentioned above, The District has incorporated the control of invasives and native plantings in its past and current projects including the Nine Mile Creek restoration/stabilization projects in Hopkins and Edina, the Anderson Lakes project, and native landscaping at Discovery Point. In addition the District has managed the shoreline vegetation (eliminating invasives) as part of its past and current projects including around Bush Lake in collaboration with the City of Bloomington since the early-2000s.</p> <p>In addition, the District provides financial assistance through the cost-share grant program to landowners interested in invasive plant management on their own properties.</p>

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14	General	Bush Lake – Recommend a vegetation inventory prior to herbicide use.	Bloomington Sustainability Commission	NMCWD will take the suggestion under consideration.
15	Glossary	Numerous suggested changes to parts of glossary pages xi-xvi.	Citizen	Thank you. Typographical, grammar and cross-reference errors will be corrected for the final proposed draft of the plan.
16	Page XVII	Remove Jim Gates from the TAC list	Bloomington	Removed from the list.
17	1.0	Figure 1-1 ‘District Location and Municipal Boundaries’ identifies Mirror Lake as a deep lake. Please verify the depth of the lake to determine if it is indeed a deep or shallow lake.	Edina	The MPCA classifies Mirror Lake as a shallow water lake. The figure will be revised to reflect the proper classification.
18	1.0	Page 1-3 and figure 1-2. The project names in the text and on the figure, do not always match.	Citizen	Thank you. Figure 1-2 and Section 1 text will be reviewed and edited for consistency.
19	1.2.2	The discussion around the three sections of past successes (flood control, rules, and project) is somewhat confusing, it would be better served if they each were underlined headers.	Citizen	The District will consider revisions to the section to improve clarity.
20	1.3.2	<i>Issue Identification and Actions (Stormwater Management): Working with cities and other public or private partners to evaluate opportunities for and implement stormwater reuse projects (Objective 1, Policy 7, Actions A and B):</i> The city has a vested interest in exploring this goal, but has had issues with developing robust maintenance plans for these types of facilities. We'd be looking to the district for assistance in developing maintenance standards for these practices.	Minnetonka	Maintenance of specific best management practices and the particular complexities of stormwater reuse systems will be considered in revising the NMCWD rules.
21	1.3.2	<i>Issue Identification and Actions (Surface Water Management): Conducting periodic inventories and assessments of aquatic invasive species in District waterbodies and working with agencies and local stakeholders to manage invasive species (Objective 2, Policy 4, Actions A, B, and C):</i> Are there district funds dedicated to an action/implementation plan if AIS are found in a particular lake?	Minnetonka	The District does not currently have an action/implementation plan or budget for rapid response for AIS. Hennepin County does budget some of the state AIS funding it receives for rapid response.
22	1.3.2	<i>Issue Identification and Actions (Surface Water Management): Conducting additional or updating prior Use Attainability Analyses for District lakes and working with agencies and stakeholders to establish subwatershed-based implementation programs (Objective 3, Policy 1, Actions A, B, and</i>	Minnetonka	Thank you for your comment.

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		<p>C):</p> <p>This will be key in addressing not only water quality issues, but with the implementation of infrastructure to update trunk drainage systems for conformance with atlas 14 rainfall events:</p>		
23	1.3.2	<p><i>Issue Identification and Actions (Groundwater Management): Requiring cities to adopt and implement groundwater conservation policies and encouraging cities to develop groundwater sustainability goals (Objective 2, Policy 4, Actions A and C):</i></p> <p>Some hesitation in addressing this issue - while groundwater protection is important, the city would want to make sure that the plan is developed with hard evidence, rather than implementation of general best management practices.</p>	Minnetonka	<p>Informed by the District's assessment of the most critical water-resources issues and stakeholder input gathered during the plan-development process, the NMCWD board of managers has determined that sufficient understanding of and protections for groundwater are not in place. The board has directed that the District should 1. learn more about groundwater-surface water interactions, and 2. engage the watershed cities on shared opportunities to protect and improve groundwater, with a focus on shallow aquifers that have the greatest potential to impact surface waters. Part of the District's implementation of the second objective will be to take the simple step of ensuring that watershed cities have adopted and implemented groundwater-conservation policies. As explicitly stated in the plan, the District does not seek to direct content of such policies or even exercise any approval authority. Instead, the District expects to find that cities in the watershed already have groundwater-conservation policies and wants to better understand what steps the District can take to contribute to groundwater protection and improvement.</p> <p>Subsections 4.8 and 5.5 and section 6 of the plan have been revised to more clearly articulate this approach.</p>
24	1.3.2	<p><i>Issue Identification and Actions (Land Use Management): Participating in local and regional land use planning efforts to identify opportunities to achieve District goals, objectives and policies and provide information and analysis regarding opportunities for improved water resources management and protection (Objective 1, Policy 1, Actions A and B):</i></p> <p>Just a suggestion, but the district may want to consider making a specific section that addresses development associated with the SWLRT project, since that will be a huge driver of land-use change throughout many cities.</p>	Minnetonka	<p>Thank you for the comment. The District's 10-year Water Management Plan sets the vision, guidelines and proposed tasks for managing the water resources within the boundaries of NMCWD. Our regulatory controls and permitting program will address redevelopment that happens along the corridor.</p>
25	1.3.2	<p><i>Issue Identification and Actions (Flood Management): Assisting cities in addressing Atlas 14 precipitation frequency estimates (Objective 2, Policy 2, Actions A, B, C, and D):</i></p> <p>Does the assistance include financial incentives or contributions from the</p>	Minnetonka	<p>Regional flooding issues are a high priority of the District. The District does provide some technical and/or financial assistance on regional flooding issues.</p>

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		District?		
26	1.3.2	<i>Issue Identification and Actions (Flood Management): Working with cities to incorporate flood risk information into local land use controls:</i> Developing outreach plans will be immensely useful throughout the process. The city is extremely supportive of any programs that could be developed to assist with distributing information.	Minnetonka	Thank you for your comment.
27	1.3.2	<i>Ecological Restoration- Land Management-Buffer Page 1-8 and elsewhere in plan, Open Spaces and Recreational Uses (Table 5-3) and Wetland Management (Table 5-4):</i> Could the District consider implementing “restoration and protection opportunities to address high quality natural areas, sensitive habitats, and sensitive, rare or endangered animal or plant species” in Open Spaces and Recreational areas? So not just wetlands, but in Parks and Open Spaces that border water resources? Upland areas that discharge to waterbodies are an important component to consider when working to improve water quality.	Bloomington Sustainability Commission	As mentioned above in comments 12 and 13, The District has incorporated the control of invasives and native plantings in its past and current projects including the Nine Mile Creek restoration/stabilization projects in Hopkins and Edina, the Anderson Lakes project, and native landscaping at Discovery Point. In addition the District has managed the shoreline vegetation (eliminating invasives) as part of its past and current projects including around Bush Lake in collaboration with the City of Bloomington since the early-2000s. In addition, the District provides financial assistance through the cost-share grant program to landowners interested in invasive plant management on their own properties.
28	1.4	<i>NMCWD Plan Implementation: Early in the process of implementing this Plan, the District will engage planning and community development staffs and boards in the watershed cities to plant seeds for the development of such collaborative approaches. Cities and others also may approach the District with ideas. The nature and extent of the District’s involvement in any particular project will depend on several factors, and may evolve over time:</i> This is a solid concept, and I assume this will be tailored based on any particular cities’ desired level of involvement. If you had a cheat sheet similar to the one that has been developed for District permitting, that was tailored towards planning/redevelopment opportunities, it was provide cities with more guidance on when to involve the District, without going back to the drawing board on how a particular city's development review process.	Minnetonka	While participating early on in the planning and community development process is a goal of the District, we have really only just begun to form these relationships. The District will be in contact with city staff to solicit input on how you see this process best working.
29	1.4	<i>NMCWD Plan Implementation: Contribute to a Total Maximum Daily Load or Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy study or implementation of a TMDL- or WRAPS-derived project in the watershed:</i> Would lake's whose residents have organized into formal associations	Minnetonka	While the proposed may be of a lesser priority for the District to take the lead on resulting projects, the District would surely partner on opportunities (technically and/or financially) through its cost-share grant program as well as partnering to

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		presenting projects from a third-party authored lake management plan be considered if there is no TMDL, or would this fall under the 3rd priority?		leverage outside resources (e.g., as has been previously discussed on the Lake Minnetonka ROW raingardens as part of the “ <i>City of Minnetonka Water Quality Monitoring and Subwatershed Assessment Report 2015</i> ”.
30	1.4	Redevelopment focus (pg. 1-10) "prioritize integration of water resource management improvements into redevelopment projects": To achieve this, you'll likely need to reduce thresholds for when Stormwater rules would kick in on redevelopment projects and clarify definitions to make sure that "fully reconstruction" is included as "new" impervious definition.	Bloomington Sustainability Commission	As mentioned on page 6-4 of the Plan, the District (with input from its Technical Advisory Committee) is re-analyzing and revising, where necessary, the relevant District rules provisions to more effectively address the goals articulated in the plan. The established threshold for applicability of the District's stormwater management criteria to redevelopment projects provides that any impervious surface that is disturbed and replaced as part of redevelopment is subject to stormwater-treatment requirements, and a project that disturbs or increases imperviousness of a property by more than 50 percent must provide treatment for runoff from the entire site. The District stormwater-management framework represents a careful balancing of regulatory burdens and water resource protection benefits, and the effectiveness of that balancing will be re-analyzed and, as necessary, revised in the ongoing rule-revision process.
31	2.0	Figure 2-4; confirm the public water inventory wetland status for Point of France Pond and Swimming Pool Pond. Figure 2-7; confirm the lake/pond status for Lake Cornelia (North and South), Lake Edina, and Centennial Lakes.	Edina	The Hennepin County Natural Resources Interactive Map shows the ponds as DNR wetland and public waters. Similarly, the County interactive map coincides with that shown on Figure 2-7.
32	2.0	Figure 2-14 ‘Recreation Areas’ on page 2-35. Consider adding Fishing in the Neighborhood (FiN) lakes (North Cornelia and Centennial Lakes) to the map. Although Centennial Lakes doesn't have a formalized fishing pier, it has many fishing access sites and is a host site for regular fishing events.	Edina	Figure 2-14 will be revised to make the suggested additions.
33	2.3.1	Page 2-8; The District should make the UAA reports (not just the summary) available on the website	Bloomington	The District will work on uploading the UAAs to its website.
34	2.3.1	Page 2-8 suggested edit: The most recent water quality data available for District lakes are available from the District website at: 9-Mile Creek Watershed District Water Quality Data Ref. 44]. <i>This is a broken link.</i>	Bloomington Sustainability Commission	Thank you for the comment. The broken link will be fixed.
35	2.3.3	<i>Hydrologic System Characteristics (Identified Flooding Issues)-The District has not identified any known flood-prone areas outside of the established flood profile. As part of their local water management planning, cities are required to assess and report local flood-prone areas.</i>	Minnetonka	

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		<i>The Hopkins Culvert Improvements Basic Water Management Project rectified a widely known local flooding problem (see Section 1.2.2):</i> The city will provide information on more localized flood issues within the district.		
36	2.3.1	Including “splash zones” in areas along the creek might make it more appealing in those areas. A splash zone might have a picnic table or a bench and access to a small short section of the creek for wading. Little kids love moving water and the more access the more incentive to keep the creek for human use. If the District had the goal of one “splash zone” in each city through which Nine Mile Creek flows, it would have a dramatic effect on the water quality of the creek.	Citizen	Interesting idea, however, the watershed does not own land along the creek. While some of the land along the creek is privately owned, much of it is city-owned. If such a long-term goal were to be implemented, it would need to be in partnership with the cities and could be done outside the realm of this 10-year plan.
37	2.3.1	While the paragraph under the Public Waters heading is interesting, it doesn’t express the impact to NMCWD. A summary statement or two by the District would help the reader and reinforce the critical premise in Section 1-4.	Citizen	A summary statement will be added to Section 1-4.
38	2.3.5	Page 2-13; Surface water appropriations; the same thresholds apply to groundwater appropriations; suggest including groundwater appropriations too.	Bloomington	Groundwater appropriations will be added.
39	2.4	Section 2.3, Table 2-4 lists Impaired Waters. Note that data suggests Lake Cornelia (South) will likely be added to the 2018 Impaired Waters List.	Edina	Thank you for your comment.
40	2.5.1	<i>Hydrologic Soil Group and Infiltration: Overall, infiltration rates within the district are moderately low, owing to the prevalence of type C and D soils:</i> Based on this information, it seems reasonable to include filtration as a viable volume reduction option due to limited infiltration rates.	Minnetonka	As mentioned on page 6-4 of the Plan, the District (with input from its Technical Advisory Committee) is re-analyzing and revising, where necessary, the relevant District rules provisions to more effectively address the goals articulated in the plan. The ongoing rulemaking will include a re-assessment of site constraints (e.g., soil contamination) that make infiltration unfeasible.
41	2.10	Table 2-1 is a helpful visual. Refining this in plainer language and incorporating it into your education programs (if you haven't already) would be helpful for many residents/commercial businesses.	Minnetonka	Thank you for your comment.
42	2.10	Figure 2-1 and Precipitation/temperature text portions: Would it be possible to include data from 2011-2016, in the graphs and corresponding text? We are starting to see “new norms” and great fluctuations in weather in this time period.	Bloomington Sustainability Commission	Figure 2-1 summarizes 30-year average climate information, also known as climate “normals”. Climate “normals” are typically updated every decade, but are not designed to be metrics of climate change. Section 2.1.2 addresses climate

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				trends in Minnesota In addition, a reference to the MDNR climate website will be added to the plan to assist readers in locating information regarding climate changes in Minnesota.
43	2.10	Figure 2-3 Drainage divides: The map indicates that the outlet from Bush Lake to Southeast Anderson Lake is a gravity outlet, whereas it is a pumped outlet, as identified in the text of the plan.	Bloomington Sustainability Commission	Thank you for the comment. Figure 2-3 will be corrected to reflect that the outlet from Bush Lake is a pumped outlet.
44	2.10	Figure 2-16; Potential Pollutant Sources: Considering the item in the Legend shown as “Stormwater Permit” clarify whether this means construction stormwater, industrial stormwater, or both.	Bloomington	We will clarify that it is both.
45	2.10	Figure 2-16 Potential pollutant sources: If this data/map was pulled from MPCA’s What’s in my Neighborhood (WIMN) prior to 2017, suggest updating as the WIMN was recently updated.	Bloomington Sustainability Commission	We verified that we used the most recent information available.
46	3.1	Reporting and Evaluation: The District should include the procedure of how it will conduct its evaluation of progress on goals and the implementation actions in accordance with MN Rule 8410.0150 Subp. 3. E.	BWSR	The District has identified specific actions toward achieving its goals and objectives in Tables 5-1 through 5-10 of Section 5. These actions serve as the basis for the District’s implementation program. At a minimum of every 2 years, the District will evaluate its progress on each of the actions identified in Section 5 and its capital improvement program to determine if amendments to the implementation program are necessary. Section 3.1 will be revised to document this process.
47	3.1	Clarify the expectations related to the review of the City’s implementation of its local water management plan “at least every 2 years” addressed in the “Reporting and Evaluation” paragraph.	Eden Prairie	Under state rules (Minn. R. 8410.0105 and 8410.0150), NMCWD is required to evaluate its own performance at least every two years. The progress of cities’ water-resource protection and improvement efforts must be addressed in the evaluation as well. Rather than prescribing a framework or set of criteria for such evaluations, NMCWD anticipates taking an adaptive, collaborative approach that flows from cities’ decisions on how to craft their local water management plans informed by NMCWD’s final plan. NMCWD staff will meet with representatives of each city in the watershed every two years to review progress toward shared water-resources goals, update status of joint projects, and confer on new opportunities. The meeting will serve as the basis for NMCWD’s report as pertains to the city. If the city has assumed sole regulatory authority for one or more NMCWD

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				<p>rule areas, both the meeting and the review and reporting process will be more extensive and detailed. (See subsection 6.2.1.)</p> <p>As explained in subsection 1.4 and section 7, the plan represents a comprehensive water resources protection framework that recognizes other entities' contributions, but otherwise is almost entirely self-implementing, with only limited implementation measures required of watershed cities that do not elect to exercise sole regulatory authority in area watershed rule subject areas. At the same time, the plan provides for and NMCWD welcomes opportunities to partner with watershed cities to collect and analyze data, assess problems and implement water resource protections and improvement. In other words, NMCWD is capable and prepared to take on water resource protection problems that are uniquely within its powers and purposes, but its capacity for success will be greatly enhanced through work with public (and private) partners.</p>
48	3.1	Remove and rethink the strategy in statement in 3.1 Maintenance of District facilities: "The District is in the process of transferring maintenance responsibilities for District-implemented projects to the cities in which the projects are located." The operation and maintenance part of the lifecycle is critically important to the overall function and performance of vast physical infrastructure that accomplish drainage, flood protection, and clean water service that meet the goals of the District. It is valuable that the Watershed District bears the burden of maintenance, even in a token way such that it can conceptualize the processes that are required for the upkeep of physical capital assets in order for them to continue performing their designed service level. Additionally, participating in the maintenance helps to incorporate this understanding into the permitting and design that causes the creation of these assets, and inevitably sets out that future burden. Please further describe the District interest in this activity in 4.12.1.	Edina	<p>NMCWD will continue to collaborate with watershed cities on cost-effective stormwater facility-management strategies on a case-by-case basis. Involved parties will memorialize the agreed-upon approach in the cooperative agreements developed for each project, which will identify and allocate costs of maintenance. As a baseline matter NMCWD is responsible for projects it constructs. But often cities assume responsibility for routine maintenance in a cooperative agreement between NMCWD and the city for a project, given that cities often have resources necessary for such maintenance (e.g., heavy equipment, trucks, crews) and own the property on which improvements are constructed. The cooperative agreement for a project will customarily outline a cost-sharing structure – especially for major maintenance and repairs.</p> <p>Sections 3.1 and 4.12.1 of the plan have been revised to clarify NMCWD's intent with regard to maintenance of NMCWD-constructed and other stormwater facilities and water resources improvements.</p>
49	3.1	<i>3.1 District Roles and Responsibilities (Assistance to Local Units of</i>	Minnetonka	Regional flooding issues are a high priority of the District.

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		<p><i>Governments): The NMCWD expects cities to address water resource management issues that are more local in nature. However, the District may provide assistance in solving local issues when requested by the cities. The District will work closely with the cities to continue to provide support in the areas of water quality, natural resources, and wetlands management:</i></p> <p>Does this include flood control? Many of the issues associated with upsizing infrastructure to accommodate Atlas 14 rainfall distributions are regional, and will cost individual municipalities millions of dollars to update. District assistance should be allocated to this issue.</p>		The District does provide some technical and/or financial assistance on regional flooding issues.
50	3.1	Page 3-2; Maintenance of District Facilities: In addition to the discussion of transferring maintenance responsibilities and Public Ditch Authority to cities; the District must also include how the District will fund the associated costs to cities.	Bloomington	<p>Section 3.1 of the plan has been revised to clarify the District's intent with regard to the role of and authority over public ditches in the watershed and maintenance of District-constructed and other stormwater facilities and water resources improvements. As noted in the draft plan, the District would like to <u>abandon</u> the public ditches in the watershed so they can continue to be managed as the urban water resources. This may not be reasonably feasible, though. More realistic, likely, is continued collaboration with watershed cities and Hennepin County to ensure that water resources projects are pursued mindful of the legal ditch status of some stretches of Nine Mile Creek and Cardinal Creek.</p> <p>NMCWD will continue to collaborate with watershed cities on cost-effective stormwater facility-management strategies on a case-by-case basis. Involved parties will memorialize the agreed-upon approach in the cooperative agreements developed for each project, which will identify and allocate costs of maintenance.</p>
51	3.1	Does the District monitor chloride levels in lakes, ponds, wetlands, or anywhere else other than Nine Mile Creek? If not, would this be possible in the future? If we are going to make strides in reducing chloride levels, it is important to collect baseline data to start from.	Bloomington Sustainability Commission	Yes, the District does monitor chlorides in lakes and streams.
52	3.2	Page 3-4; Section 3.2 City Responsibilities: Last sentence in first paragraph indicates local water management responsibilities/local water plan are described in section 1.0. Local water plan information is in section 7.0.	Bloomington	Thank you for your comment. Section 3.2 will be corrected.
53	3.4	Under the "Other Agency Responsibilities" Section 3.4 please consider adding the roles and responsibilities of Minnesota Department of	MDA	The proposed narrative will be added to section 3.4.

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		<p>Agriculture. Feel free to use the narrative shown in italics below.</p> <p><i>The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is the lead agency for all aspects of pesticide and fertilizer environmental and regulatory functions as directed in the Groundwater Protection Act (Minnesota Statute 103H). These include but are not limited to the following:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Serve as lead agency for groundwater contamination from pesticide and fertilizer nonpoint source pollution.</i> <i>Conduct monitoring and assessment of agricultural chemicals (pesticides and nitrates) in ground and surface waters.</i> <i>Oversee agricultural chemical remediation sites and incident response.</i> <i>Regulate use, storage, handling and disposal of pesticides and fertilizer.</i> <p><i>The MDA is statutorily responsible for the management of pesticides and fertilizer other than manure to protect water resources. The MDA implements a wide range of protection and regulatory activities to ensure that pesticides and fertilizer are stored, handled, applied and disposed of in a manner that will protect human health, water resources and the environment. The MDA works with the University of Minnesota to develop pesticide and fertilizer Best Management Practices (BMPs) to protect water resources, and with farmers, crop advisors, farm organizations, other agencies and many other groups to educate, promote, demonstrate and evaluate BMPs, to test and license applicators, and to enforce rules and statutes. The MDA has broad regulatory authority for pesticides and has authority to regulate the use of fertilizer to protect groundwater.</i></p>		
54	3.4.1	Page 3-6; Section 3.4.1 Minnesota Department of Natural Resources; Dam Safety: The plan should address the District's dams, provide guidance on dam safety, and provide information on how the District complies with the DNR Dam Safety Program; even if that simply means stating that the dam size makes a particular dam exempt from DNR rules.	Bloomington	While the District designed and constructed the Marsh Lake Dam and Normandale Lake Dam, ownership of both was transferred to the City of Bloomington on project completion. NMCWD will share the agency's comments with the city.
55	4.2	Include more about the quantity aspect of stormwater management. Describe the service that drainage and conveyance infrastructure provides for draining the land and providing local flood protection. Describe the dual nature and relation to clean water infrastructure components, both in the landscape and in the local conveyance and drainage network.	Edina	The text will be revised as suggested.
56	4.2.1	Page 4-3; Section 4.2.1 Stormwater Management; Background: Nitrogen is emerging as another contaminate of concern and should be addressed in more detail with the plan.	Bloomington	The text will be revised as suggested.

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#	Section	Comment Synopsis	From	Response
57	4.3.1	Page 4-5; Section 4.3.1 Lake Management; Water Levels: Consider discussion on how fluctuation water levels can be beneficial for lake and wetland management.	Bloomington	The text will be revised as suggested.
58	4.3.1	Page 4-6; Section 4.3.1 Lake Management; Water Levels: Under Table 4-1 in the footnotes the “c” in city is not capitalized. There are other places in the document where the “c” is capitalized. Suggest picking a style and being consistent.	Bloomington	Thank you. Typographical, grammar and cross-reference errors will be corrected for the final proposed draft of the plan.
59	4.4.3	It is becoming more common to see chloride impairments throughout the metropolitan area, especially in highly urbanized watersheds like NMCWD. The TMDL study and implementation plan has provide NMCWD with a good approach to reduce the amount of chlorides entering your surface waters. However, the Council cautions NMCWD to not rely too heavily on volume reduction BMPS to alleviate this impairment. They would reduce the chloride pollutant load to surface waters, but the chlorides will infiltrate into the groundwater, causing a pollution problem within the aquifer. The Council strongly supports the use of voluntary reductions, education, training, and the implementation of SWPPPs to reduce chloride loading.	Met Council	Thank you for your comment.
60	4.4.3	Page 4-16; Section 4.4.3 Chlorides: Add the date when the Chloride TMDL was approved. Add baseline year or equivalent. Include link to TMDL in reference material in Section 9.0.	Bloomington	The text will be revised as suggested.
61	4.4.3	The BLC encourages the NMCWD to continue expansion of chloride reduction practices (and regulation) throughout the District.	Bush Lake IWL	Thank you for your comment.
62	4.4.4	Page 4-18; Section 4.4.4 Biological Impairment – Fish: Use of the term diel indicates a 24-hour period; however most readers would be more familiar with the term diurnal fluctuation, which may better characterize high DO readings during the day and low DO readings during the night.	Bloomington	The text will be revised as suggested.
63	4.7	<p>Suggested additions to – AIS section</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Curly leaf pondweed</u>- Although not tracked/required/recorded with the DNR, would the District consider listing major waterbodies known to be have populations of curly leaf pondweed? This would be important to record/track over time in order to track new populations and consider management options. • <u>Carp</u>- Consider expanding a description of water quality impacts caused by carp- their influence on the biotic community and fish 	Bloomington Sustainability Commission	<p>While we agree, the District feels that the best place for the expansion on these topics would be through the District’s education program and on the newly developed AIS page on our website.</p> <p>The District does conduct macrophyte surveys as part of our lake monitoring program where we identify the presence and density of AIS (e.g., curly leaf pondweed and Eurasian Watermilfoil).</p>

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		<p>populations- (Example: “They hunt down aquatic invertebrates, seeds, and other plant parts. This activity, along with carps’ excretion of nutrients, can have negative impacts on lake water quality and aquatic plant communities. Carp densities over 90 pounds per acre typically result in negative impacts to lake systems.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Zebra mussels</u>- Consider expanding the impacts of zebra mussels on water quality- by changing the biotic community. 		
64	4.7	The BSC requests that the District considers including cattail- broadleaf, narrowleaf, and hybrid- when doing plant surveys on area waterbodies, and consider the implications of the spread of invasive cattail on water quality, flood mitigation, and wildlife habitat. Like “buckthorn with wet feet,” invasive cattails are slowly (unnoticed) creeping into and expanding on lakeshores, wetland, ponds, and stormwater features, often displacing broadleaf cattail and native emergent plants. As with any invasive species, Early Detection and Rapid Response could be a critical tool in preventing the establishment of non-native cattail. The proliferation of invasive cattail is working hand in hand with other priorities of the District, such as excess nutrients and sediment transport.	Bloomington Sustainability Commission	The District will take this suggestion under consideration.
65	4.8.1	Page 4-25; Section 4.8.1 Groundwater Management; Priority Issues/Opportunities: District could consider reviewing appropriation permits in areas of concern. There has been some concern raised that DNR are not always able to take temporary pumping into consideration when reviewing temporary appropriation applications. The cumulative effect of multiple temporary pumping operations in the same vicinity may have potential to cause adverse flow conditions in the creek or other sensitive areas	Bloomington	As mentioned on page 6-4 of the Plan, the District (with input from its Technical Advisory Committee) is re-analyzing and revising, where necessary, the relevant District rules provisions to more effectively address the goals articulated in the plan.
66	4.10.1	Add “...improve drainage and manage local flood risk, while increasing stormwater filtration and promoting groundwater recharge.” to first bullet.	Edina	<p>The first bullet in section 4.10.1 was revised to read</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborating with local cities in the planning/redevelopment process to identify and implement water resource improvements, including opportunities to improve drainage and manage local flood risk, while increasing stormwater filtration and promoting groundwater recharge.
67	4.12.1	As mentioned above in our comments to 3.1, describe the District interest in this activity in 4.12.1 (Maintenance of stormwater systems and	Edina	Section 4.12 of the plan has been revised to clarify NMCWD’s intent with regard to maintenance of NMCWD-

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#	Section	Comment Synopsis	From	Response
		projects).		constructed and other stormwater facilities and water resources improvements. For more, please see response to comment 47.
68	4.12.2	Page 4-28; Section 4.12.2 Management of County Ditches (Public Ditches): Add “(Public Ditches)” to the subheading of this section	Bloomington	The suggested change was made.
69	4.12.4	<i>4.12.4 - Organizational Capacity – “However, there is concern that staff capacity limitations may hinder the District’s ability to efficiently and effectively implement this Plan.”:</i> Are there specific parts of the plan that the District is concerned they will not be able to implement?	Minnetonka	NMCWD has not identified a specific area or project that may not be implemented. Rather, NMCWD is recognizing both that its plan is very ambitious and that it may need to creatively obtain, organize or contract for resources to accomplish its goals.
70	4.12.7	Consider transitioning one of two education roles into permitting and project management role. Identify opportunity to administratively approve some minor permits.	Edina	As part of our review of our organizational capacity we will look at ways to reallocate workloads amongst current staff as well seeking other alternatives to meet our mission. As part of that we have recently expanded to types of permits where approval authority has been delegated to the administrator.
71	5.0	Many of the goal statements include quantifiable measures, however, the degree of improvement is unclear. A quantified resource change should be considered and could be included in the evaluation of the District’s performance of plan implementation.	BWSR	Specific quantifiable measures (associated with UAAs, TMDLs, and WRAPS) such as lake management goals have been included in the plan where NMCWD has them. Elsewhere, the plan references the goal of achieving or exceeding state water quality and biological standards. In addition, the District is looking to start tracking load reductions achieved as part of its permit program, with annual reductions reported in the District’s annual report. A plan-implementation activity that will significantly contribute to this reporting is the targeted watershed monitoring work described in table 5-2 (objective 1, policy 3). The results of the targeted monitoring work will allow NMCWD to refine and focus its projects and collaborative efforts with watershed cities in the middle and latter years of implementation of this plan.
72	5.0	Table 5-4: The Eden Prairie City Council has prioritized customer service when it comes to permitting and land use. As it relates to Policy 1, the City of Eden Prairie has interest in administering the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) for the portion of NMCWD within Eden Prairie. The City of Eden Prairie already administers WCA for the remainder of the City outside of the NMCWD and is set up with experienced staff to take on the additional	Eden Prairie	Thank you for your comment.

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		area. The watershed district could remain an integral part of the WCA process by remaining on the TEP and receiving all notices of application.		
73	5.0	Table 5-5: As discussed in Chapter 3, there are many agencies that currently regulate groundwater conservation and protection. As it relates to policy 4, action A, consider changing the word “Require” to “Work with”. The City is currently developing an update to its 10-year Water Emergency and Conservation Plan required by the DNR and Met Council. The plan addresses future needs and issues as well as lays out framework for sustainability and conservation. Consider providing support and comments for that work rather than requiring an additional level of authority.	Eden Prairie	<p>Informed by the District’s assessment of the most critical water-resources issues and stakeholder input gathered during the plan-development process, the NMCWD board of managers has determined that sufficient understanding of and protections for groundwater are not in place. The board has directed that the District should 1. learn more about groundwater-surface water interactions, and 2. engage the watershed cities on shared opportunities to protect and improve groundwater, with a focus on shallow aquifers that have the greatest potential to impact surface waters. Part of the District’s implementation of the second objective will be to take the simple step of ensuring that watershed cities have adopted and implemented groundwater-conservation policies. As explicitly stated in the plan, the District does not seek to direct content of such policies or even exercise any approval authority. Instead, the District expects to find that cities in the watershed already have groundwater-conservation policies and wants to better understand what steps the District can take to contribute to groundwater protection and improvement.</p> <p>Subsections 4.8 and 5.5 and section 6 of the plan have been revised to more clearly articulate this approach which relies on existing authority and collaboration, with a commitment to support cities’ groundwater-conservation efforts.</p>
74	5.0	Page 5-1 typo “Error! Reference source not found”	Numerous	Thank you for the comment. Spelling, typographical, cross-reference and functionality changes will be made in revising the plan for final review.
75	5.1 Stormwater	<p><i>Objective 1 - Policy 1: Ensure stormwater runoff from new development and redevelopment sites is regulated to maintain or reduce runoff rates and volumes, and reduce pollutant loadings to receiving waters.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Action A: Implement stormwater volume, quality and rate control criteria in District rules.</i> <p>When will this occur, and what will this look like?</p>	Minnetonka	As mentioned on page 6-4 of the Plan, the District (with input from its Technical Advisory Committee) is re-analyzing and revising, where necessary, the relevant District rules provisions to more effectively address the goals articulated in the plan.
76	5.1 Stormwater	<i>Objective 1 - Policy 3: Manage stormwater collaboratively with other local</i>	Minnetonka	This was discussed and it was decided to leave as is.

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		<i>governments.</i> Combine with cell below.		
77	5.1 Stormwater	<i>Objective 1- Policy 4: Ensure stormwater management systems are maintained.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Action B: Develop a stormwater management facility maintenance system to document maintenance agreements and track compliance.</i> <p>This would be extremely helpful; this would also allow the District to identify subwatersheds that do not have significant treatment associated with new or redevelopment.</p>	Minnetonka	While used to track for stormwater management systems required for a District permit, it could be something that the cities could use for their own needs as well.
78	5.1 Stormwater	<i>Objective 1 - Policy 7: Promote stormwater capture and reuse to reduce runoff volume and conserve groundwater.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Action Item B: Work with cities and other public or private partners to implement stormwater reuse projects.</i> <p>The city fully supports this initiative, but would look to the watershed district to develop a robust operations and maintenance plan for these systems, as this is outside city staff's area of expertise.</p>	Minnetonka	Comment is noted. The District has heard this through the TAC process.
79	5.1 Stormwater	Page 5-2; Section 5.1 Stormwater Management: Table 5-1, Objective 1; Policy 2; This would require the District to be involved in redevelopment activity during the initial planning phase which is much earlier in the process than the District is currently involved. It is not clear how the District would be involved or how much the District would want to be involved.	Bloomington	While participating early on in the planning and community development process is a goal of the District, we have really only just begun to form these relationships. We will be in contact to solicit input on how you see this process best working.
80	5.1 Stormwater	Page 5-3; Section 5.1 Stormwater Management: Table 5-1, Objective 1; Policy 4; Municipal storm sewer systems are regulated by the MPCA. It is assumed the District is looking to ensure maintenance of the private systems installed per District rule requirements. Please provide more guidance in the policy on the type of stormwater management systems the District is looking to ensure are maintained.	Bloomington	The plan has been revised to clarify NMCWD's intent with regard to maintenance of stormwater facilities. (See new action statement C, please.) Effective maintenance of cities' MS4 systems is of great interest to NMCWD and NMCWD will provide assistance as useful and feasible, but NMCWD will not oversee or audit cities' MS4 compliance.
81	5.1 Stormwater	Page 5-3; Section 5.1 Stormwater Management: Table 5-1, Objective 1; Policy 5; The intent of the District is somewhat unclear. Is this action item proposing to work with local governments to develop regional stormwater management compliance where opportunities exist?	Bloomington	Yes, if it meets common goals, that is our intent.
82	5.1 Stormwater	Page 5-3; Section 5.1 Stormwater Management: Table 5-1, Objective 1;	Bloomington	Agreed. An example of this would be our working with the

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		Policy 9; An emphasis should be placed on Policy 2 in Section 5.5 to research infiltration impacts on groundwater prior to promoting groundwater recharge in areas with high recharge potential. The benefits of infiltration are clearly beneficial in shallow aquifers, however the unknowns surrounding potential pollution and contamination is concerning.		City of Bloomington and the MPCA to determine what should be required from permit applicants within the Lyndale superfund site to determine if infiltration is allowable.
83	5.1 Stormwater	Page 5-4; Section 5.1 Stormwater Management: Table 5-1, Objective 2; Policy 2; Earlier in the Plan the District indicates its desire to transfer authority of public ditches to local municipalities. Is the District looking to abandon public ditches, transfer authority of public ditches, or both?	Bloomington	Please see response to comment 50.
84	5.2 Surface Water	Consider goals, objectives, policies, and actions that incentivize creative thinking to document pollutant removal activities and expand scalable treatment capacity. For example, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Clean Water Bounty-Wanted Sequestered and Removed” grant to MS4 Cities where the Watershed District pays \$15/yr per lb-Phosphorus and per Ton-sediment for documented removal through an MS4 program, and \$3000 per lb-Phosphorus and per Ton-sediment onetime for all new documented removal. Include minimal reporting standards for maintenance of existing BMPs. • “Tame the flow, recharge the aquifer” for volume control, paid per ac-ft of storage created. • “Source Control” to pay per Ton salt reduction from prior year. Money is already a common form of communicating priority. It would be great to focus on something that happened, is replicable/scalable, and matters.	Edina	Thank you for the comment and suggestions.
85	5.2 Surface Water	Should many of the action items have a proposed time interval?	Citizen	Table 5-2 will be revised to include time intervals to action items, where appropriate.
86	5.2 Surface Water	<i>Objective 1 - Policy 1: Monitor District lakes to assess achievement of water quality goals, detect changes, and evaluate impacts of lake and watershed management activities.</i> Coordinate with cities to avoid duplication of efforts.	Minnetonka	While we currently try to coordinate monitoring activities with our member cities, there is always opportunities to better coordinate.
87	5.2 Surface Water	<i>Objective 3 - Policy 1: Establish implementation programs on a subwatershed basis. Action Item A: Conduct additional Use Attainability Analyses (UAAs) for District lakes, as needed, in partnership with cities when appropriate.</i> <u>And</u> <i>Policy 1: Establish implementation programs on a subwatershed basis. Action Item B: Update prior lake Use Attainability Analyses (UAAs), as</i>	Minnetonka	Thank you for your comment.

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		<i>needed, to verify or revise lake management recommendations, in partnership with cities when appropriate.</i> These two actions will greatly assist in making management decisions moving forward.		
88	5.2 Surface Water	Page 5-6; Section 5.2 Surface Water Management: Table 5-2, Objective 2; Policy 2; Municipal storm sewer systems are regulated by the MPCA. Please clarify the District will not dictate maintenance requirements to the municipal storm sewer system.	Bloomington	The plan has been revised to clarify NMCWD's intent with regard to maintenance of stormwater facilities. (See new action statement C, please.) Effective maintenance of cities' MS4 systems is of great interest to NMCWD and NMCWD will provide assistance as useful and feasible, but NMCWD will not oversee or audit cities' MS4 compliance.
89	5.2 Surface Water	Page 5-7; Section 5.2 Surface Water Management: Table 5-2, Objective 3; Policy 1; As a result of UAA's consider re-classifying some of the District's designated uses on shallow lakes or reclassify some shallow lakes as open water wetlands, as appropriate.	Bloomington	We will determine the need to re-classify the waterbodies following the completion of the UAAs and then work with the proper agencies.
90	5.2 Surface Water	Page 5-8; Section 5.2 Surface Water Management: Table 5-2, Objective 4; Policy 1; The District needs an action item for working with private snow removal companies/salt applicators to reduce salt use.	Bloomington	Objective 4, Policy 1, Action B will be revised to read "Work with local governments winter salt applicators to reduce salt usage on roadways and other hard surfaces."
91	5.2 Surface Water	The BLC encourages the NMCWD to take the lead on recurring aquatic vegetation assessments, fisheries surveys, AIS assessments/prevention efforts/requirements, etc. within waterbodies within the District (especially high priority waterbodies) and in developing and implementing aquatic management plans to protect and promote diverse and healthy native aquatic ecosystems.	Bush Lake IWL	The District does conduct in-lake aquatic vegetation surveys on its lakes, and has enrolled Bryant and Bush lakes in the County's early AIS detection training program. The District currently does fish surveys on the creek, but does not conduct fisheries surveys for lakes. The District will seek to expand coordination with MDNR regarding future lake fish surveys.
92	5.2 Surface Water	The BLC encourage the NMCWD to take the lead on management of terrestrial plant buffers around waterbodies within the District, including assessments and implementation of new/renovated buffering that can provide multiple benefits.	Bush Lake IWL	The District continues to partner with the City of Bloomington to contract the vegetative management of the shoreline along Bush Lake.
93	5.4 Wetlands	Page 5-12; Section 5.4 Wetland Management: Table 5-4, Objective 1; Policy 1; Suggest modification of action item B or the addition of a new action item that includes participation on the TEP for Bloomington and Minnetonka.	Bloomington	Good point. This was discussed and it was decided to leave as is.
94	5.4 Wetlands	Page 5-12; Section 5.4 Wetland Management: Table 5-4, Objective 1; Policy 2; Many parcels that may be subject to a buffer ordinance may	Bloomington	Thank you for your comment.

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		become infeasible to redevelop. The existing NMCWD buffer rule is effective as is the City's authority as LGU in implementing WCA and wetland protections. An incentive program to improve or promote buffers on private property is preferred over ordinances.		
95	5.4 Wetlands	Page 5-12; Section 5.4 Wetland Management: Table 5-4, Objective 1; Policy 4; Wetland replacements within the NMCWD or even Hennepin County is almost unheard of. Only for an exceptional project is wetland replacement within a subwatershed even feasible. BWSR looks to soon run out of credits within BSA 9 for the Local Road Replacement Program, if that occurs local road agencies may have problems meeting the District's replacement rules	Bloomington	Retention of wetlands in the watershed and within subwatersheds to the greatest extent possible is an important District goal. Managers and staff understand well the pragmatic challenges to implementation of the goal, and these realities will be taken into consideration in re-analyzing and revising, where necessary, the relevant District rules provisions.
96	5.4 Wetlands	Page 5-12; Section 5.4 Wetland Management: Table 5-4, Objective 1; Policy 5; Existing sequencing requirements under WCA and the District's rules already requires avoidance as a primary objective, requiring that an "applicant has exhausted all possibilities to avoid and minimize wetland impacts". Impacts to already degraded wetlands should not be treated the same as impacts to high quality wetlands.	Bloomington	Some present District and Wetland Conservation Act provisions will suffice to implement goals and policies in the plans, and practical realities will be taken into consideration in re-analyzing and revising, where necessary, the relevant District rules provisions to more effectively address the goals articulated in the plan.
97	5.4 Wetlands	Page 5-13; Section 5.4 Wetland Management: Table 5-4, Objective 1; Policy 6; Having recent experience with an existing road, the question would be asked, to what level is an alternative? Would the District require purchase of ROW, houses, relocation of existing infrastructure and/or road relocation as alternatives? The existing water quality rule can be challenging, as it is.	Bloomington	As mentioned on page 6-4 of the Plan, the District has begun the process of re-analyzing and revising, where necessary, the relevant District rules provisions to more effectively address the goals articulated in the plan. As it consistently has in the past, the District will weigh the benefits and protections to be achieved by its regulatory program against the practical, logistical and economic burdens on property owners of achieving them.
98	5.4 Wetlands	Page 5-13; Section 5.4 Wetland Management: Table 5-4, Objective 2; Policy 1; Consider adding Action G. Partner with DNR and local agencies on an education program to protect rare, endangered and threatened plants and animals, may be part of Action D.	Bloomington	NMCWD's approach to invasive species management and control will be a collaborative one. As cited, efforts to implement action D in table 5-4, objective 2, policy 1 will contribute in a focused way with specific projects. But more broadly NMCWD will partner with public and private groups to develop, implement and host education programs that more generally contribute to protection efforts. (See table 5-9, goal 1, objective 1, policy 1, action F).
99	5.5 Groundwater	<i>Objective 2 - Policy 4: Promote groundwater conservation and sustainable groundwater use.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Action Item A: Require cities to adopt and implement groundwater conservation policies.</i> 	Minnetonka	Informed by the District's assessment of the most critical water-resources issues and stakeholder input gathered during the plan-development process, the NMCWD board of managers has determined that sufficient understanding of and

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		How will this be introduced and enforced? What data will this be based on? Will these be rules that the city will need to incorporate into private development review as well?		<p>protections for groundwater are not in place. The board has directed that the District should 1. learn more about groundwater-surface water interactions, and 2. engage the watershed cities on shared opportunities to protect and improve groundwater, with a focus on shallow aquifers that have the greatest potential to impact surface waters. Part of the District's implementation of the second objective will be to take the simple step of ensuring that watershed cities have adopted and implemented groundwater-conservation policies. As explicitly stated in the plan, the District does not seek to direct content of such policies or even exercise any approval authority. Instead, the District expects to find that cities in the watershed already have groundwater-conservation policies and wants to better understand what steps the District can take to contribute to groundwater protection and improvement.</p> <p>Subsections 4.8 and 5.5 and section 6 of the plan have been revised to more clearly articulate this approach, which involves no new exercise of authority but rather simply articulation in the NMCWD plan. Each watershed city will determine what data it relies on to develop its policy, though certainly NMCWD will make any data it has available and will otherwise assist as requested. Whether a city implements its policy through ordinance or not will be determined by the city.</p>
100	5.5 Groundwater	Page 5-15; Section 5.5 Groundwater Management: Table 5-5, Objective 2; Policy 1; It is unclear what the intention of groundwater planning efforts would entail. Public drinking water systems – many of which utilize groundwater – are under local jurisdiction. Met Council, MDH, and DNR already provide communities with the tools and guidance to develop individual water systems to meet specific community needs. Any regional planning efforts must recognize this and clearly identify goals and outcomes associated with additional planning on a regional scale.	Bloomington	Section 6 has been revised to better clarify intention to partner in regional groundwater planning. As noted in several comments groundwater management is a focus area with significant complexities that implicates several state and local entities' jurisdictions and interests. By law, counties are charged with taking the lead in developing groundwater-management plans, but in Hennepin County a collaborative approach is needed. NMCWD wishes to contribute both to the effort to develop a comprehensive, county-wide plan for protection and improvement of groundwater and with specific projects and programs that focus on groundwater issues such as better understanding surface resource-groundwater connections and groundwater-dependent natural resources (i.e., shallow groundwater issues). Given the lack of data on groundwater and the complex connectivity of underground water resources, NMCWD's recognizes the important of coordinating efforts in this arena.

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101	5.5 Groundwater	Page 5-15; Section 5.5 Groundwater Management: Table 5-5, Objective 2; Policy 2B; Volume control has become a typical requirement in stormwater management regulations. Site constraints and limited technology has resulted in a default to infiltration practices. While this can clearly be beneficial in terms of recharging shallow aquifers, unknowns surrounding potential pollution and contamination are concerning. Existing BMPs don't seem to include adequate safeguards to ensure protection of groundwater resources affected by stormwater infiltration practices. In addition to implementing the District's volume control rule, it is suggested that additional work be done to address protecting groundwater resources subject to stormwater infiltration practices.	Bloomington	Section 6.3.2 will be revised to further emphasize the District's efforts to better understand local groundwater resources and their connection with lake, wetland, and stream hydrology within the watershed.
102	5.5 Groundwater	Page 5-15; Section 5.5 Groundwater Management: Table 5-5, Objective 2; Policy 2C; Conduct review of the District stormwater rules to ensure rules are adequately protective of groundwater resources: The Utilities Division supports this Policy specifically as it relates to the comments above.	Bloomington	As mentioned on page 6-4 of the Plan, the District (with input from its Technical Advisory Committee) is re-analyzing and revising, where necessary, the relevant District rules provisions to more effectively address the goals articulated in the plan.
103	5.5 Groundwater	Page 5-15; Section 5.5 Groundwater Management: Table 5-5, Objective 2; Policy 4A; Require cities to adopt and implement groundwater conservation policies: Please define the District's regulatory role in this area. As stated above, many public water suppliers utilize groundwater to provide safe drinking water. Many conservation initiatives are already in place and agencies such as the Met Council and DNR provide entities with guidance and requirements in this area. How would the District's requirements take this into account without creating conflict or duplication?	Bloomington	<p>Informed by the District's assessment of the most critical water-resources issues and stakeholder input gathered during the plan-development process, the NMCWD board of managers has determined that sufficient understanding of and protections for groundwater are not in place. The board has directed that the District should 1. learn more about groundwater-surface water interactions, and 2. engage the watershed cities on shared opportunities to protect and improve groundwater, with a focus on shallow aquifers that have the greatest potential to impact surface waters. Part of the District's implementation of the second objective will be to take the simple step of ensuring that watershed cities have adopted and implemented groundwater-conservation policies. As explicitly stated in the plan, the District does not seek to direct content of such policies or even exercise any approval authority. Instead, the District expects to find that cities in the watershed already have groundwater-conservation policies and wants to better understand what steps the District can take to contribute to groundwater protection and improvement.</p> <p>Subsections 4.8 and 5.5 and section 6 of the plan have been revised to more clearly articulate this approach. An existing city groundwater conservation policy need not necessarily be revised or altered to comport with the NMCWD plan. The requirement involves no new exercise of authority but</p>

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				rather simply articulation in the NMCWD plan.
104	5.5 Groundwater	Page 5-15; Section 5.5 Groundwater Management: Table 5-5, Objective 2; Policy 4A; How would this policy pertain to private use of groundwater? For example, high capacity industrial wells? These wells are permitted by the State and often cities have little to no influence on the installation or operation of them. This can certainly have an impact on groundwater resources and is currently outside the control of cities. Any additional regulation aimed at groundwater conservation must address all users.	Bloomington	<p>Informed by the District's assessment of the most critical water-resources issues and stakeholder input gathered during the plan-development process, the NMCWD board of managers has determined that sufficient understanding of and protections for groundwater are not in place. The board has directed that the District should 1. learn more about groundwater-surface water interactions, and 2. engage the watershed cities on shared opportunities to protect and improve groundwater, with a focus on shallow aquifers that have the greatest potential to impact surface waters. Part of the District's implementation of the second objective will be to take the simple step of ensuring that watershed cities have adopted and implemented groundwater-conservation policies. As explicitly stated in the plan, the District does not seek to direct content of such policies or even exercise any approval authority. Instead, the District expects to find that cities in the watershed already have groundwater-conservation policies and wants to better understand what steps the District can take to contribute to groundwater protection and improvement.</p> <p>Subsections 4.8 and 5.5 and section 6 of the plan have been revised to more clearly articulate this approach. The specifics of each watershed city's policy and implementation thereof will be determined by the city.</p>
105	5.5 Groundwater	The BLC requests that the NMCWD expand efforts in Groundwater Management to require District cities to set measurable groundwater usage reduction goals and to monitor and achieve progress to meet goals.	Bush Lake IWL	<p>Informed by the District's assessment of the most critical water-resources issues and stakeholder input gathered during the plan-development process, the NMCWD board of managers has determined that sufficient understanding of and protections for groundwater are not in place. The plan requires cities to adopt and implement groundwater-conservation policies and creates a framework for NMCWD to inform and support cities groundwater-conservation efforts. But NMCWD has not found that it is necessary or that it would be effective for it to develop and impose conservation criteria.</p>
106	5.6 Land Use	Page 5-17; Section 5.6 Land Use Management: Table 5-6, Objective 1; Policy 1; Please clarify Action A. How will the District participate in local and regional land use planning efforts?	Bloomington	<p>While participating early on in the planning and community development process is a goal of the District, we have really only just begun to form these relationships. We will be in contact with cities to solicit input on how you see this process best working. A few examples of this would be:</p>

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our working with the City of Bloomington and the MPCA to determine what should be required from permit applicants within the Lyndale superfund site to determine if infiltration is allowable. • The analysis of regional flooding issues and solution identification for the Pentagon Park/Border Basin area (working with various city departments and local businesses • Work with the City of Minnetonka on the vision for the future development of the Home School site .
107	5.8 Climate	<p>This is a huge goal given the uncertainties of climate forecasting.</p> <p>Maybe think about changing the overall goal to read “Assess and itemize adverse impacts of climate change on the District and its water resources.</p> <p>And change action item 1 to “Produce a report that assess risks and itemizes impact areas that might result from climate change within NMCWD.</p>	Citizen	Thank you for your comment. Section 5.8 was reviewed and slight modifications were made to Table 5-8.
108	5.9 Education	<p><i>Objective 1 - Policy 2: Prioritize and tailor education and outreach programming to target audiences. Action Item E: Develop a communication strategy for reaching targeted audiences.</i></p> <p>This will be especially useful as the city focuses on engaging lake groups as they become incorporated.</p>	Minnetonka	Agreed. Thank you for your comment.
109	6.0	The Plan includes a robust Implementation Plan with substantial funding allocated for studies, projects and programs addressing these priority DNR issues.	MDNR	Thank you for your comment.
110	6.0	Misnumbering of Tables and sections in Section 6	Citizen	The misnumbering within Section 6 will be corrected. The numbering of the tables has remained unchanged to reflect the order in which the tables are referenced within the Section 6 text.
111	6.0	Table 6-2 District Capital Improvement Projects: The District should consider budgeting for a future Lower Valley Project. Given climate change and flashy flows it should be anticipated a project will be required to protect past investments to the area.	Bloomington	We will take this under consideration. Section 8.3, page 8-2, goes over the plan amendment process where future projects not included in this plan can be added at a later date.
112	6.0	It is not clear how an amount of \$500,000 per year for each of the first two years [for Normandale Lake] was determined before a clear solution to the problem was ever recognized. \$500,000 looks somewhat arbitrary since	Citizen	As discussed above in comment 10, while the CIP acknowledges the 2005 UAA for Normandale Lake, the District is also currently undertaking a water quality and

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		<p>similar amounts were allocated later in the decade to other problems which didn't receive nearly as much attention in resident surveys. <u>What if this amount is not enough to make a dent in Normandale Lake's problem?</u> The study currently being conducted by Barr Engineering may well support predictions made in the previous 2005 [Normandale Lake] UAA study which indicated that an alum treatment plant located upstream of the lake was the only real option to control lake water quality as measured by total P. The price of that option in 2005 - in combination with others - was over \$2 million plus there was a yearly maintenance fee involved.</p> <p>The plan has chosen in Table 6-2 is to "Implement recommendations of Normandale Lake UAA (2005) and/or subsequent studies (see S-6 from Table 6-2), which may include in-lake alum treatment, aquatic plant management, and/or construction of two stormwater treatment ponds within the North Fork and South Fork watersheds." The watershed plan has dropped, without any apparent analysis, the best (and perhaps only?) technique identified for controlling P in the district's 2005 UAA. This was an in-stream P control system located just upstream from the lake. That was the only method identified in the UAA that had a significant impact on the P level of water entering the lake. A full watershed plan should still consider all potential methods to control the problem. <u>Considering the outrage expressed by citizens about this lake's condition compared to all other issues in the watershed, what is the justification for dropping the treatment plant from this decade's plan?</u></p>		<p>nuisance biota evaluation on the lake. The analysis includes use and evaluation of existing water quality and biota data, development of an in-lake water quality model to evaluate the cause of water quality and nuisance biota issues, and use of the model to identify potential solutions.</p> <p>The District's general strategy is to implement improvements in the upstream portions of the watershed first and move toward the downstream portions. This strategy allows for the implementation of projects with the most benefits and impacts throughout the watershed. Upstream water quality improvements result in reduced pollutant loads to downstream water resources. For example, any water quality load reduction project upstream of Normandale Lake (in either the north branch or south branch subwatersheds of Nine Mile Creek) will result in the load reduction to Normandale Lake itself.</p> <p>It is important to note that this general strategy is not intended to limit the District's ability to implement projects in other portions of the watershed where there is strong local support, availability of grant dollars, interested partners, and/or the ability to incorporate water resource management facilities or techniques into a project being pursued by another public entity.</p>
113	6.0	<p><u>How will any improvements to Normandale Lake's algae issue be tracked following implementation of any plan?</u> The quantitative methods used to evaluate Normandale Lake's problems fail to evaluate filamentous algae - which is the main issue in Normandale Lake. Filamentous algae is pushed aside when measuring water clarity because the water clarity for most of the lake would be 0.0 cm in the summer if you did not push the floating algae aside or look for an open hole in the mat. Also, if most of the chlorophyll-A is present in the floating algae, then reaching under the mat to collect a water sample for chlorophyll does not provide a sample that fully captures the filamentous algae problem in this lake. This is a problem not just for Normandale Lake, but for all lakes in the United States with filamentous algae.</p>	Citizen	<p>Section 4.3 will be revised to include discussion on the problems and the challenges associated with filamentous algae.</p> <p>The District intends to gain a clearer sense for the impacts of filamentous algae through completion of the District's water quality and nuisance biota evaluation for Normandale Lake. The study, currently underway, will help determine the causes of water quality and nuisance biota issues and evaluate potential solutions.</p> <p>.</p>
114	6.0	<p>Table 6-2: Lower Penn Lake: Why no measures proposed other than "future" stormwater ponds for future I-35W expansion? Would the District consider in-lake treatment</p>	Bloomington Sustainability Commission	<p>We have identified updating the Penn Lake UAA in Table 6-1.</p>

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		(aluminum sulfate) for internal P loading reduction? Have lake sediments been sampled/analyzed for P-release? District priority is to meet MPCA standards for all lakes, but Lower Penn Lake does not seem to be included in any future plans.		It is generally the District's management approach to address external loading sources prior to undertaking in-lake management techniques (i.e., in-lake alum treatments).
115	6.2	Current watershed district rules require the first inch of stormwater volume to be retained on site. Page 6-4, mentions adding an exemption for sites with contaminated soils. MNDOT has limited ROW. Tight soils, high groundwater elevations are additional conditions we have found that make infiltration basins infeasible. We ask that any exemptions for volume reduction requirements recognize additional limitations as well as contaminated soils.	MNDOT	As mentioned on page 6-4 of the Plan, the District (with input from its Technical Advisory Committee) is re-analyzing and revising, where necessary, the relevant District rules provisions to effectively address the goals articulated in the plan. The District is considering revisions to the stormwater management framework to more effectively account for site constraints and conditions (e.g., soil contamination) that make infiltration infeasible.
116	6.2	<i>The standards and criteria in the District rules that have been most critical in the rules' contribution to the implementation of the District plan are:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stormwater Management <p>Due to the frequency at which projects encounter poor soils (at least within Minnetonka), we highly recommend that you include filtration as a viable option for meeting volume retention.</p>	Minnetonka	As mentioned on page 6-4 of the Plan, the District (with input from its Technical Advisory Committee) is re-analyzing and revising, where necessary, the relevant District rules provisions to effectively address the goals articulated in the plan. The District is considering revisions to the stormwater management framework to more effectively account for site constraints and conditions (e.g., soil contamination) that make infiltration infeasible.
117	6.2	In addition to adding volume reduction exemptions for sites with contaminated soils, consider addressing all of the Prohibitions and Restrictions listed in the MS4 permit for infiltration. This would prohibit sites that undertake vehicle fueling practices, industrial stormwater, as well restrict sites with primarily HSG D soils or within a particularly vulnerable area of Drinking Water Supply Management Areas.	Eden Prairie	As mentioned on page 6-4 of the Plan, the District (with input from its Technical Advisory Committee) is re-analyzing and revising, where necessary, the relevant District rules provisions to effectively address the goals articulated in the plan. The District is considering revisions to the stormwater management framework to more effectively account for site constraints and conditions (e.g., soil contamination) that make infiltration infeasible.
118	6.2	Rulemaking; For stormwater management rule revision considerations list, include aggregate impervious increases due to redevelopment and improvements of single dwelling units.	Edina	As mentioned on page 6-4 of the Plan, the District (with input from its Technical Advisory Committee) is re-analyzing and revising, where necessary, the relevant District rules provisions to effectively address the goals articulated in the plan.
119	6.2	The BLC requests that the NMCWD lower the threshold for when stormwater management (volume reduction) rules would apply (e.g. 10,000 square feet of new/fully-reconstructed impervious surface).	Bush Lake IWL	As mentioned on page 6-4 of the Plan, the District (with input from its Technical Advisory Committee) is re-analyzing and revising, where necessary, the relevant District rules provisions to effectively address the goals articulated in the plan.
120	6.2	Include "Soil Management Strategy" requirement for disturbed soils that are proposed to be vegetated to ensure decompaction and appropriate soil organic content - preventing "green concrete"/impervious lawn &	Bloomington Sustainability Commission	As mentioned on page 6-4 of the Plan, the District (with input from its Technical Advisory Committee) is re-analyzing and revising, where necessary, the relevant District rules

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		landscape (Please see City of Eagan example).		provisions to effectively address the goals articulated in the plan. Soil management strategies will be considered in the revision process.
121	6.2.1/4	Add and describe the result of the permit program is creating privately owned physical infrastructure (BMPs) that need ongoing inspection and maintenance and consider how this is currently managed in district programs. Consider cost and burden of maintenance to private property owners. Consider providing standard designs to reduce engineering costs for small projects. Consider cost of capital to builders and developers.	Edina	<p>As mentioned on page 6-4 of the Plan, the District (with input from its Technical Advisory Committee) is re-analyzing and revising, where necessary, the relevant District rules provisions to effectively address the goals articulated in the plan.</p> <p>NMCWD, in revising its rules, will retain a focus on balancing the burden placed on property owners (private <i>and</i> public) with the water resources protection and improvement benefits obtained from a regulatory requirement and associated maintenance tasks. The rule revision is expected to include an expansion of the regional stormwater-management compliance option to give NMCWD, watershed cities and individual property and project owners more options to effectively strike that balance.</p>
122	6.2.6	Consider changing the sentence “The District will consider” to the “The District shall consider”. The City strongly agrees that better water resource protection can be achieved when sites with genuine practical difficulties are approached with innovation rather than a strict compliance with District rules. The City uses a similar process with its Planned Unit Development (PUD) approach to appropriate land use applications to obtain a higher quality development through innovation and flexibility.	Eden Prairie	As mentioned on page 6-4 of the Plan, the District (with input from its Technical Advisory Committee) is re-analyzing and revising, where necessary, the relevant District rules provisions to effectively address the goals articulated in the plan.

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123	6.2.7	<p>Enforcement - The BSC requests that the District provide greater oversight of District permitted sites/construction projects. The plan mentions that these sites are inspected regularly and a reported on monthly. But given our increasing intense rain events, projects that border water resources should be inspected more often if possible. The BSC hopes that the District's current/proposed enforcement process is effective/timely in gaining compliance at a given site, as it only takes one intense rain event to cause significant impacts to water resources.</p> <p>Additionally, the District can play a critical role in ensuring that permanent stormwater management BMPs (volume reduction, infiltration, etc.) are being installed correctly and that they function as designed once complete. So that a given project doesn't not cause long term impacts on water quality. It is important that the District have clearly defined roles with the local cities so it is understood where these responsibilities lay, there is not a duplication of efforts, and there is not confusion/contradictions for the permittees.</p>	Bloomington Sustainability Commission	<p>As was mentioned in the Plan, the District is continually reviewing its organizational capacity and determining how best to ensure that it is operating with sufficient on-the-ground information.</p> <p>Prior to closing out a NMCWD-issued permit and releasing the permit financial assurance, the District requires documentation that the facilities were constructed to specs that were approved (through as-built drawings) and documentation of performance monitoring where it is shown through 2 nearly 1 inch rain events, that the facilities drawn down within 48 hours. NMCWD retains a legally enforceable right to require maintenance of permitting projects, and enforcement mechanisms to ensure that work requiring a permit has a permit.</p> <p>NMCWD will continue to collaborate with watershed cities on cost-effective stormwater facility-management enforcement.</p> <p>The plan has been revised to clarify NMCWD's intent with regard to maintenance of NMCWD-constructed and other stormwater facilities and water resources improvements.</p>
124	6.3	As NMCWD continues to inventory and assess wetlands and rare and high quality plant communities, staff encourage NMCWD to work with cities to see if any of this work has been done at the local level.	Met Council	Good suggestion, we do not want to duplicate efforts. The District will be in contact with the cities to see if any work has been done on the local level.
125	6.3	Citizen monitoring programs are effective and efficient ways to gather surface water information. The Council commends the NMCWD for previous participation in our Citizen Assisted Monitoring Program for lakes, and would encourage continued participation to increase NMCWD lake coverage. Additionally, the University of Minnesota Extension has created a training program to education citizens about AIS plant identification and reporting practices (www.maisrc.umn.edu/ais-detector). This may assist NMCWD with the identified AIS priority issues and opportunities.	Met Council	The District has enrolled Bryant and Bush lakes in the County's AIS Early Detector Training Program.

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126	6.3.1	It may provide additional incentive if regular reporting of data to the public were available on the NMCWD website.	Citizen	The District will summarize its annual water quality monitoring data in its Annual Report and post it on its website.
127	6.3.2	Page 6-10; Section 6.3.2 Resource Assessment and Management: The last sentence in this section references Section 0 which does not exist	Bloomington	We updated to include the cored reference (Section 6.6)
128	6.3.2.1	Staff were impressed by the illustration in the Lake Management section (Figure 6- 1). This shows a thorough application of the holistic approach in lake monitoring. The Plan would be strengthened if a similar, well-defined framework was included in the stream and wetland section as well.	Met Council	Thank you. While we do use a similar holistic approach to our stream management the components are very similar, we do not actively manage our wetlands.
129	6.3.2.1	Page 6-12; Section 6.3.2.1 Implementation Program/Lake Management: Figure 6-1 is fuzzy and difficult to read. Maybe black lettering would help?	Bloomington	Figure 6-1 will be revised to improve its clarity.
130	6.3.2.1	Page 6-12; Section 6.3.2.1 Implementation Program/Lake Management: As a result of UAA's consider re-classifying some of the District's designated uses on shallow lakes or reclassify some shallow lakes as open water wetlands, as deemed appropriate.	Bloomington	We will look into reclassifying upon completion of the UAAs.
131	6.3.2.4	Page 6-16; Section 6.3.2.4 Flood Management: Delete the work "fairly" in the last sentence. This term is a judgement and everyone may not agree.	Bloomington	Section 6.3.2.4 was revised as requested.
132	6.4	The great work performed by the district's education and outreach staff is apparent for all to see, and the BSC is excited to help promote the District's community clean water programs.	Bloomington Sustainability Commission	Thank you for your comment.
133	6.5.1/4	Include a table prior to Table 6-1 that shows 10 year historic budgets by major program area for comparison. Describe board policy development milestones and consider ramp-up period through plan implementation years 1-5 based on those policy milestones. It would be nice to be able to look back in 5 years and see how much of what was written was done and track corresponding policy milestones.	Edina	While we review past budgets as part of our annual budget and workplan process, we do not see the need for it to be included in our 10-year Plan. We envision that as part of our annual reporting/tracking process and biennial review, we will track annual accomplishments and needs based on the action identified in Section 5 and further identified in Table 6-1.
134	6.5.1	Page 6-19; Section 6.5.1 District Fiscal Management: The first paragraph states that a single property cannot be in more than one watershed district. There are several properties in the Bush Lake Drive and Lindstrom Drive area where the platted lots are legally split to accommodate 2 different watershed districts.	Bloomington	A watershed's true hydrologic boundary can be slightly different than the boundaries from which it assesses ad valorem tax due to parcels transecting more than one watershed's hydrologic boundaries. In which case the parcel as a whole is with the taxing district of only one of the

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				watershed districts.
135	6.5.1	This raises the question- how does NMCWD coordinate with other watershed districts to ensure no one is taxed twice or is not taxed at all.	Citizen	Using the watershed district's established boundaries, the county Auditor establishes the boundaries of its taxing district from which the District can levy ad valorem taxes and can impose special assessments. A watershed's hydrologic boundary can be slightly different than the boundaries from which it assesses ad valorem tax due to parcels transecting more than one watershed's hydrologic boundaries. In which case the parcel as a whole is with the taxing district of only one of the watershed districts.
136	6.5.2	<i>Staffing Plan: These requests are now being met with existing resources. The District may hire additional staff as needs arise.</i> Earlier it was mentioned that staff may not be able to implement all sections of this plan - are there certain sections that are cause for concern?	Minnetonka	Nothing specific.
137	6.5.2	The BLC encourages the NMCWD to expand staff/staff resources as needed for District identified/backed project analysis, planning/collaboration, implementation oversight and also including operations & maintenance of District-backed projects. And, to provide compliance inspections as needed of District-permitted projects (during the stages of planning, implementation and maintenance of private projects).	Bush Lake Chapter IWL	As stated in the plan, the District will annually review workload and workplans to evaluate organizational capacity and needs.
138	6.5.2	BSC recommends that the district evaluate whether their staffing levels are sufficient to carry out the plan and whether the staffing to consult mix is optimal? Other watershed districts, of comparable size and population, have more internal employees, which may allow them to more effectively manage water resources and environmental issues within the district (e.g. Minnehaha Creek- 33 staff, Rice Creek- 13 staff, Capitol Region-15 staff, Ramsey Washington Metro- 12 staff).	Bloomington Sustainability Commission	As stated in the plan, the District will annually review workload and workplans to evaluate organizational capacity and needs.
139	6.5.5	Page 6-24 and 6-25. Should wetlands be another priority selecting criteria?	Citizen	Section 6.6.2 will be revised to include protect and restore high quality wetlands" as a criterion for District project involvement.
140	6.5.6	The BLC requests that the NMCWD expand efforts for providing Sustainable Stormwater Management and Landscaping planning assistance to District-located land owners – beginning focus with landowners of 1-2+ acre parcels.	Bush Lake IWL	The planning grants are currently a 3-year pilot and after the pilot is complete and evaluated, the District may look to expand it.

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141	6.5.6.1	Suggested revision- Competitive Cost-Share Program (6.5.6.1): Revise to include 2-year plant establishment period as cost-shareable for professional maintenance (e.g. Vegetation maintenance by specialized contractor) (e.g. Eagan example). Also consider same for "special cost share projects" (6.5.6.3)	Bloomington Sustainability Commission	We will take this under consideration as we continually reevaluate our cost-share program.
142	6.5.6.2	Suggested edit/revision- Planning- Grants (6.5.6.2): Revise to include district residing <u>businesses</u> , etc. that owns 2.5+ acres for developing plans for Sustainable Stormwater Management and Landscaping (e.g. Donaldson's)	Bloomington Sustainability Commission	This section (now section 6.6.3.2) will be revised to specify "nonprofit organizations that are held by an organization that is open and accessible to the public".
143	Table 6-2	It may be worthwhile to add identifying numbers to each of the implementation items in Table 6-2. This would help out for future reference and reporting.	Citizen	Table 6-2 will be revised to include identification numbers for each implementation item.
144	7.1.1	Having just recently updated the City's LWMP, we hope to have addressed many of the comments that were incorporated into this current version of the Districts Plan. The City plans to make minor updates to the LWMP prior to sending it off to the Met Council and the Watershed Districts for its Comprehensive Plan review.	Eden Prairie	Thank you. We are looking forward to seeing the resulting LWMP update.
145	7.1.2	As discussed earlier, the Eden Prairie City Council has previously expressed interest in exercising regulatory authority to ensure a high level of customer service and a "one stop shop" for development. Please address how variances and exceptions would be approached if a city looks to exercise sole regulatory authority. The City of Eden Prairie is not looking to pursue the regulatory authority at this point, but it would be helpful to have that information clearly established.	Eden Prairie	Thank you for your comment.
146	7.2	<i>Impacts on Local Governments: The one exception is the requirement that a city adopt and implement a groundwater conservation policy.</i> Again, what data is this going to be based on, and what implications will this have for development/permit review for cities?	Minnetonka	Please see response to comment 99.
147	8.0	Complete dates following local adoption, prior to submittal of final draft to the plan review agencies.	BWSR	Yes, we will include the appropriate dates.

Comments Received from:

Bloomington Sustainability Commission
Bush Lake Chapter of the Izaak Walton League

May/June, 2017

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Citizen – Michael Berndt

Citizen – Walter Levesque (Master Water Steward)

City of Bloomington

City of Eden Prairie

City of Edina

City of Minnetonka

Metropolitan Council

MN Board of Water and Soil Resources

MN Department of Agriculture

MN Department of Natural Resources

MN Department of Transportation

MN Pollution Control Agency