

October 26, 2018

Randy Anhorn, Administrator  
Nine Mile Creek Watershed District  
12800 Gerard Drive  
Eden Prairie, MN 55346

RE: City of Minnetonka Local Surface Water Management Plan  
Metropolitan Council Review File No. 22085-1

Dear Mr. Anhorn:

We have completed our review of the City of Minnetonka's (City) Local Surface Water Management Plan (Plan) dated September 2018. The Plan is an excellent tool for guiding the City's water management efforts. It clearly highlights the importance of the collaboration between the City and the four watershed organizations within its boundaries (Minnehaha Creek, Nine Mile Creek, and Riley-Purgatory-Bluff Creek Watershed Districts and Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission) in protecting and restoring the wetlands, creeks, lakes, and groundwater systems within the City. The Plan lays out a course of action that acknowledges the interconnection of groundwater and surface water and uses an integrated approach in managing those resources. We commend the City for its efforts in managing and protecting the region's waters.

The Plan is consistent with Council policies and the Council's *Water Resources Policy Plan*. We were especially impressed with the following:

- Comprehensive identification and assessment of water resources issues within the City, categorized both by issue type (eg. lakes, stormwater, wetland/shoreland/habitat, creeks, etc.) and by agency/watershed management organization.
- Acknowledgement of potential effects of stormwater infiltration on potable source water protection areas.
- Establishment of policies that encourage the use of water from designated stormwater storage facilities for irrigation, to both promote stormwater volume reduction and groundwater conservation.
- Acknowledgement that stewardship of natural resources and ecological systems, like woodlands, prairies, and other native vegetation areas promotes significant water resources benefits like reduction in runoff rates and volumes.
- Identification of challenges posed by climate change for water resources management; in particular, increasing precipitation levels and frequencies of high intensity storms resulting in greater stormwater runoff rates and volumes. The Plan provides guidance to assist the City in bolstering community resiliency. The City's 2040 Comprehensive Plan also includes a chapter on climate resiliency, providing additional information on community resiliency and climate change adaptation.

The Metropolitan Council's website and staff provide resources that may assist the City in implementing the Plan. For example

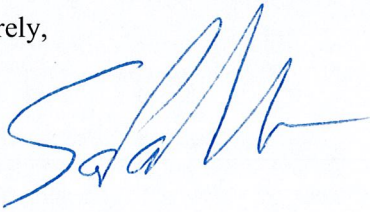
- A stormwater reuse guide and a water conservation toolbox  
(<https://metrocouncil.org/Wastewater-Water/Planning/Water-Supply-Planning.aspx>)



- A groundwater digest useful for educating the public (<https://metro council.org/Wastewater-Water/Publications-And-Resources/WATER-SUPPLY-PLANNING/Groundwater-Digest,-Twin-Cities-Metropolitan-Area,.aspx>)
- A Climate Vulnerability Assessment with an extreme heat map tool and a localized flood map screening tool (<https://metro council.org/Communities/Planning/Local-Planning-Assistance/CVA.aspx?source=child>)
- Metropolitan Council staff are facilitating the Twin Cities Monitoring and Data Assessment Group (TC-WaMoDaG), a partnership of public sector water resources practitioners collaborating to establish and promote standard practices for water monitoring, analysis, and data stewardships in the Twin Cities metro area. We invite City of Minnetonka water resources staff to join the partnership: see <https://sites.google.com/view/tc-wamodag> for more information.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Plan. If you have any questions regarding this review, please contact Karen Jensen at 651-602-1401 or [karen.jensen@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:karen.jensen@metc.state.mn.us).

Sincerely,



Sam Paske  
Assistant General Manager, Environmental Quality Assurance Department

cc: Will Manchester, City of Minnetonka, Director of Engineering  
Jennifer Munt, Metropolitan Council District 3  
Jake Reilly, Metropolitan Council Sector Representative  
Raya Esmacili, Metropolitan Council Referrals Coordinator  
Ana Vang, Metropolitan Council Community Relations  
Peter Grafstrom, Metropolitan Council Community Relations  
Karen Jensen, MCES Special Projects Section