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MEMO

TO: Nine Mile Creek Watershed District Board of Managers
FROM: Randy Anhorn
DATE: February 11, 2020
RE: Update from TAC Meeting on High Water Levels and Potential for Localized Spring Melt Flooding

Background

This agenda item is to give a brief summary of what was discussed at the January 17, 2019 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting on high water levels in the District and the potential for localized spring melt flooding.

Here was the TAC meeting agenda:

1. **Groundwater/Surface Water Interaction Study**- Presentation
2. **High Water Levels and Potential for Springtime Flooding**
 - a. Review current water levels (based on early-January lake levels)
 - i. Identify/discuss differing “critical conditions” for different portions of the creek system (i.e. landlocked areas or areas with restricted outlets versus areas more sensitive to high-flow events)
 - b. What do the high-water levels mean for risk of springtime flooding?
 - i. Potential for flooding around land-locked lakes
 - ii. Potential for flooding around lakes with restricted or pumped outlets
 - iii. Potential for flooding along creek if snowfall is heavy throughout remainder of winter
 - c. What can we do to prepare?
 - i. Potential District analyses to help assess risk along creek system and major waterbodies
 1. Snowmelt modeling of creek system
 2. Review of inundation potential around land-locked lakes and/or lakes with restricted/pumped outlets
 3. Other?
 - ii. Evaluation of more localized issues (specifically related to land-locked waterbodies or those with restricted outlets)?
 - iii. Pre-melt maintenance inspections
 - iv. Public communication/education

Some highlights on what we heard include:

- Adding information on the District’s website about:

- Information on recent (5-year) wet period and 2019 being wettest on record
 - Link to MDNR
 - National Weather Service
 - Hennepin County Mesonet
- Resulting in high groundwater (include access to recent NMCWD groundwater data)
- Resulting in historic high lake levels (include access to recent NMCWD lake level data)
 - It would be beneficial to have real-time lake and groundwater levels that auto populate with new reading and show graph when you click on lake or groundwater observation well
- Add a property owner “tool kit” – personal responsibility
 - FEMA flood insurance (i.e., 30-day waiting period) link to FEMA page
 - Helpful information on options for flood insurance (e.g., info on what typically is/isn’t covered under certain policies, what questions to ask or terminology to use when discussing flood insurance with an insurance agent).
 - Other flood risk intervention fact sheet/websites (Edina has some already)
- Add a list of local contacts (cities) where property owners can get sandbags and other resources
- No need for another District-wide snowmelt analysis
- Would be good to gather the cities XP-SWMM models together to “re-sew” it together
- A review of inundation potential around land-locked lakes and/or lakes with restricted/pumped outlets would be beneficial to the cities

Attached are two scope of work/costs from Barr for conducting a screening-level 2020 flood risk analysis for six land-locked lakes throughout the District and “re-sewing” the District-wide XP-SWMM model with updates information from each city.