Memorandum

To: Nine Mile Creek Watershed District Board of Managers
From: Janna Kieffer
Subject: Summary of May 4, 2016 Community Input Forum
Date: June 14, 2016
Project: Water Management Plan Update
Cc: Bob Obermeyer, Erica Sniegowski, Kevin Bigalke and Michael Welch

On May 4, 2016 the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District (NMCWD) hosted a community input forum to inform citizens about the NMCWD and the update of its Water Management Plan and solicit feedback regarding citizen issues and concerns. The forum was held at the Centennial Lakes Pavilion in Edina. Attendance included 18 citizens, three Nine Mile Creek staff members, two NMCWD managers, and one NMCWD consultant.

Meeting Agenda

At the onset of the meeting, participants were greeted by NMCWD staff and asked to sign in and prepare a name tag. Participants were given a colored dot and instructed to locate their residence on a large map of the Nine Mile Creek watershed. At the sign-in table, participants were also given 3” x 5” cards with instructions to answer each of three strategic questions which were shown on a large projection screen. The questions were in relation to which NMCWD resources were used, how they were used and what people most valued about the resources within the watershed. During a welcome and overview by the District administrator, staff collected the 3” x 5” cards which were then tabulated and results were presented at the end of the meeting.

The attendees were arranged into small groups of 4-8 people per table in order to facilitate the next part of the meeting, the “brain sprinting” exercise. The “brain sprinting” exercise was a timed effort that focused on gathering responses in a rapid, repeating sequence. The first round of the exercise focused on generating the key issues/concerns in relation to the water resources within the NMCWD, such as invasive species, animal habitats, stormwater and other pollutants, water quality, aquatic vegetation, increased development/impervious surfaces and the need for education and maintenance. The second round of the “brain sprinting” exercise was then to identify potential solutions to the issues identified in the first round. The “brain sprinting” responses were tabulated on pre-printed sheets that were gathered at the end of the meeting. After the exercise, each of the small groups were given a chance to discuss some key issues and solutions from their table, selecting one issue and solution to share with the larger group.
Next, NMCWD staff led a brief question and answer session, followed by a summary of next steps in the planning process, and a quick presentation of which resources the group most used, how they used the resources, and a summary of what the group most valued about the water resources within the Nine Mile Creek watershed. The meeting was then adjourned.

**Documenting the Results**

NMCWD staff gathered a variety of information from the community input forum, including:

- A colored dot on the District watershed map for each person that attended the meeting.
- The three 3” x 5” cards for each participant that included answers to three strategic questions.
- One sheet (two sides) for each participant that summarized the issues and solutions identified in the “brain sprinting” exercise.

At sign-in, attendees were given a colored dot and instructed to locate their residence on a large map of the Nine Mile Creek watershed. A photo of the “dot” map is included as Figure 1. The majority of attendees were from Edina and Bloomington, with one representative from both the cities of Eden Prairie and Hopkins. As seen in Figure 1, a large portion of the forum participants were from a residential neighborhood near Normandale Lake.

Staff compiled the answers to each of the three strategic questions and organized the responses into similar categories. This information was summarized based on the number of responses in each category (in a spreadsheet) and summarized in graphical format at the closing of the forum meeting (see Figures 2 through 4).

All responses collected during the “brain sprinting” exercise were compiled into a spreadsheet as a first step. The responses were then organized into gross categories and then further refined into more specific categories. The compiled results for the key issues of concern and ideas for improvement are presented in Figures 5 and 6, respectively. As noted above, a large portion of the forum participants reside in Bloomington. As such, many comments specific to Normandale Lake were shared during the brain sprinting exercise.

**Incorporating the Results into the NMCWD Plan Update**

A summary of the May 4, 2016 Community Input Forum was provided to the NMCWD Board of Managers at their May 5, 2016 Board Workshop. This information, along with input gathered from the community input survey, was considered as the Board of Managers conducted issue identification and prioritization for the Water Management Plan update. Feedback from the community input forum is also being used as staff develop goals, policies, and implementation activities for inclusion in their updated Water Management Plan.
Figure 1. Watershed “dot” map, with dots representing where forum attendees live.
Figure 2. Summary of responses to question “What lakes, creeks, and/or wetlands do you visit in the watershed?”
Figure 3. Summary of responses to question “How do you use the lakes, creeks, and/or wetlands in the watershed?”

Figure 4. Summary of responses to question “What do you value most about your local lakes, creeks, and wetlands?”
Figure 5. Brain Sprinting Exercise: **Key Issues of Concern**

Note: [#] indicates frequency of comment
**Figure 6. Brain Sprinting Exercise: Ideas for Improvement**

Note: [#] indicates frequency of comment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Normandale Lake</th>
<th>Surface Water Quality</th>
<th>Ecology/AIS</th>
<th>Other</th>
<th>Education and Outreach</th>
<th>Land Use Planning</th>
<th>Organization Management</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Update UAA Study</strong> [1]</td>
<td><strong>Install more ponds</strong> [1]</td>
<td><strong>Introduce Bottom Feeding Fish</strong> [1]</td>
<td><strong>Offer Incentives for Improved Water Quality</strong> [1]</td>
<td><strong>Collaborate with Lake Associations</strong> [1]</td>
<td><strong>Present more Incentives for Improved Water Quality</strong> [2]</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Prioritization</strong> [1]</td>
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**Figure 6. Brain Sprinting Exercise: Ideas for Improvement**

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