CHAPTER 1.0 Introduction

City of St. Louis Park Surface Water Management Plan

Chapter 1.0 Introduction

1.1 Location and History

Located in Hennepin County just west of Minneapolis, the 10.7-square-mile city of St. Louis Park is a fully developed suburban community. The population of St. Louis Park is approximately 48,800 residents, making it the 20th-largest city in Minnesota. St. Louis Park contains a variety of natural resources including several wetlands and small lakes, wooded areas, parks, and recreational lands, as well as the Minnehaha Creek corridor.

Two watershed management organizations cover St. Louis Park, each with its own governing body: the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (BCWMC) and the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD).

St. Louis Park's population has been relatively stable since 1980. Currently, nearly all of the city is developed. St. Louis Park's land use comprises predominantly low-density residential areas with interspersed park and open areas. Commercial, office, industrial, and other high-density land use generally occur along the major transportation corridors nearby such as Interstate 394, Highway 7, Excelsior Boulevard, Highway 100, and Highway 169.

St. Louis Park has a long and interesting history, from when the land was settled by Dakotah and Ojibway Indians to its inclusion in the 1803 Louisiana Purchase, its settlement by European and American-born farmers in the 1850s, its progression from a township to a village in 1886, and finally to becoming an incorporated city in 1954.

In 1851, Indian tribes signed an agreement allowing settlement of lands west of Fort Snelling, and by the 1850s, farmers began settling in the area that is now St. Louis Park. By 1873, two railroads passed through St. Louis Park, connecting the flour mills in Minneapolis with the grain fields in the west. Community leaders believed that the railroad would help transform the village into a center of trade and industry. In 1886, the area known as Elmwood was incorporated into the village of St. Louis Park. Originally, the village center was located at the intersection of the Minneapolis and St. Louis railroad (now the Canadian Pacific railroad) and Wooddale Avenue. However, the original concentric pattern was eventually outgrown by the rising population of Minneapolis.

In the 1890s, St. Louis Park's commercial development was concentrated in the village center. However, this development was limited by the financial panic of 1893 and the depression of the late 1890s. By the end of World War I, only seven scattered retail stores operated within St. Louis Park. Street cars limited local enterprise, too, in that they provided easy access to more reliable commercial opportunities in Minneapolis. The lumber baron Thomas Barlow Walker and other wealthy industrialists incorporated the Minneapolis Land and Investment Company, which started to develop St. Louis Park for industrial, commercial, and residential use. They sought to maintain Minneapolis' economic advantage over St. Paul. In 1892, Walker's company platted about 1,000 acres using a layout influenced by George Pullman's "model city." This subdivision plan, called the "rearrangement of St. Louis Park," was organized around a grid of streets, street car lines, railroads, and railroad spurs that served the needs of a growing industrial suburb.

Development occurred rapidly in the early 1890s but slowed with the downward turn of the economy. However, despite the financial panic of 1893, marked by the collapse of railroad companies and bank failures, land speculation continued, and subdivision of land occurred in sporadic and erratic patterns. In 1933, Carol W. Hurd headed a committee to rectify the inconsistent street naming that these erratic subdivisions caused. The city's current street naming conventions are the result of Hurd's effort.

Vigorous home-building occurred in the later 1930s but came to a halt with World War II. Following the war, in the late 1940s and the 1950s, 60 percent of the city's residential housing stock was constructed. However, the later subdivisions no longer used the grid pattern typical of the older sections of St. Louis Park. Rather, these new developers utilized the new suburban ideals of cul-de-sacs and curvilinear streets. Most of the recent residential developments in St. Louis Park are not single-family homes but multiunit apartment and condominium buildings.

As transportation shifted to the automobile in the 1940s, the retail and service sectors followed suit. In the 1940s, Lilac Way, the first shopping center in the state, was constructed on the northeast corner of Highway 100 and Excelsior Boulevard. It was demolished in the late 1980s for a redevelopment project. Just south of this area, the Miracle Mile Mall was constructed in 1950 and still prospers today.

In 1956, Knollwood Mall was constructed. It was one of the largest shopping centers in the western suburbs until the construction of the Southdale and Ridgedale Malls in Edina and Minnetonka, respectively. Another significant commercial development to occur in St. Louis Park is the Excelsior and Grand redevelopment project located on Excelsior Avenue between France Avenue and Highway 100. Completed in 2007, Excelsior and Grand is a mixed-use development with first-floor commercial areas and multifamily residential living spaces on the floors above. Conveniently located just west of downtown Minneapolis, The West End is an up-tempo mixed-use development approximately 40 acres located at the southwest corner of I-394 and Highway 100. The West End development include The Shops at West End: 350,000-square-foot lifestyle center, 30,000-square-foot office (completed 2009), Flats at West End: 119-unit apartment building (completed 2013), Millennium at West End Apartments: 158 units (completed 2015), Central Park West: 5 buildings of apartments, a hotel, office spaces and multi-family residential properties to be completed between 2017 – 2022. In general, the city plans to manage land use in the future by increasing the number of multifamily and mixed-use developments.

Some of the city's first parks were dedicated by the original subdividers of the city. Other lands became parks and open spaces through tax forfeiture. These lands were essentially low, wet areas with soil that was unstable for building purposes. Overall, park land was not acquired according to any overall plan or system. In the 1950s, city officials recognized that the city's population growth was occurring at a faster rate than the community could manage. In 1959, the city had its first park bond sale to acquire land and improve its parks and open spaces. Today, the city has 72 parks and open space areas that span over 820 cumulative acres.

Because much of the city developed before many major standards and regulations related to wetlands, water quantity, and water quality were implemented, the city has had to retroactively update its surface water management and treatment infrastructures. As this redevelopment occurs, stormwater management practices can be incorporated into the system.

In 2001, the city developed its first "City of St. Louis Park Comprehensive Water Resource Management Plan." The document established a stormwater management plan for the city, integrating flood control with wetland and water quality needs.

1.1.1 City of St. Louis Park: Vision

In 1994, St. Louis Park undertook its first visioning process, "Vision 1.0: A Community of Choice for a Lifetime," to capture ideas from citizens on the overall direction of the city. At the time, citizens were concerned about a lack of a downtown and wanted more sidewalks and bike paths, among other things. It made a decisive move toward determining its own destiny. Over the next ten years, the city worked to build the rec center and aquatic center, Wolfe Park, the amphitheater, Excelsior and Grand, the St. Louis Park parks and trails plan, housing opportunities, and stronger neighborhoods. Since the success of Vision 1.0, the city continues to reevaluate and update its vision every decade with greater community involvement.

In 2005 and 2006, teams consisting of participants from throughout the community worked for six months to develop a community-wide strategic action plan called "Vision 2.0: Discover, Dream, Design." This effort was aimed at creating a unique community that people would want to call home. The groups involved in developing the plan included representatives from the government, schools, businesses, community organizations, religious institutions, and neighborhoods. The purpose of Vision 2.0 was to develop goals for the future of St. Louis Park as well as the action steps, timelines, and potential partnerships. The focus of Vision 2.0 was to consider eight major community components: arts and culture, the environment, transportation, gathering places, sidewalks and trails, housing, community events, and diversity.

Because the environment is one of these eight major components, St. Louis Park vows to remain committed to being a leader in environmental stewardship. One goal is to increase environmental consciousness and responsibility in all areas of city business. This includes encouraging green building designs, the creation of open spaces, and environmental innovations.

"Vision 3.0: A Place for All People" was launched and completed in 2017, with a major focus on engaging as many citizens as possible. In Vision 3.0, residents reported that they valued "care [for] and enjoyment of the natural environment," and they identified "climate change" as a top issue facing the city. They recommended that the city "continue to lead in environmental stewardship and ensure access to green space for [the] future." For more information about Vision 3.0, see the following website: https://www.stlouispark.org/our-city/about-us/vision-st-louis-park.

1.2 Purpose and Scope

The Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP) is a local water management plan prepared in accordance with Minnesota Statute 103B.235 and Minnesota Rules 8410. The purpose of the SWMP includes those purposes listed in Minnesota Statute 103B.201 for metropolitan water management programs:

- to protect, preserve, and responsibly use natural surfaces, groundwater storage, and retention systems;
- to minimize the public capital expenditures needed to correct flooding and water quality problems;
- to identify and plan for a means to effectively protect and improve surface and groundwater quality;
- to establish more uniform local policies and official controls for surface and groundwater management;
- to prevent erosion of the soil into surface water systems;
- to promote effective groundwater recharge;
- to protect and enhance fish and wildlife habitats and water recreational facilities; and
- to secure other benefits associated with proper management of surface and ground water.

The SWMP meets the policies and requirements of the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District and Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission, as well as other local, state, and federal agencies. This SWMP was designed to further the city's vision statements, guiding goals and policies toward surface water management, preservation, and capital improvement program and plans. Those vision statements are as follows:

- Ensure every person understands the stormwater and natural systems and where their water goes and encourage people to change their actions to positively influence those systems.
- Incorporate a city-wide, integrated, and collaborative approach to maximizing stormwater and natural system opportunities through landuse changes.
- Collaborate beyond expectations to further define and utilize our resources and better manage stormwater and our natural systems to revitalize and connect our community and guarantee our future resilience.
- Position natural systems in balance with the built environment to place the community as a vibrant, resilient regional land use and water resource management leader.

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1.3 Plan Organization

The SWMP sets the course for the city's management of surface water and stormwater. It provides data and other background information, outlines the applicable regulations, assesses city-wide and specific issues, sets city-wide surface water goals and policies, and lists implementation tasks to achieve the goals. It also provides information regarding the funding of the implementation program. The SWMP is organized into six major chapters, summarized as follows:

Executive Summary: The executive summary provides the highlights of the SWMP, including the SWMP purpose and scope, goals, policies, and implementation tasks.
Chapter 1.0 Introduction: Chapter 1 provides general background information on the city's history of surface water management, including a summary of water management agreements and Minnesota regulatory framework.
Chapter 2.0 Physical Environment and Land Use: Chapter 2 provides technical information describing the surface and subsurface conditions of the city. Most of this chapter presents a city-wide inventory of climate and precipitation, topography, soils, geology, groundwater, public waters, wetlands, surface water monitoring information, floodplain information, unique features and scenic areas, pollutant sources, major basins, and overall drainage patterns. Chapter 2 also includes a number of maps, such as city-wide maps of land use, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MnDNR) public waters, wetlands, and drainage basins, as well as maps showing the drainage patterns for each major drainage basin. It also includes a number of tables such as precipitation information and water quality information.
Chapter 3.0 Existing and Potential Water Resource-Related Problems: Chapter 3 assesses challenges the city faces in managing stormwater in a fully built environment on behalf of the public. This section discusses the overall adequacy of the city's ordinances and official controls, jurisdictional issues, education and public involvement program, maintenance, and funding.
Chapter 4.0 Goals and Policies: Chapter 4 presents the goals and policies of the city. It describes the components of the city's SWMP implementation program, including its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), its Phase-II municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) permit, information on the operation and maintenance of stormwater systems, and information about education and public involvement.
Chapter 5.0 Implementation Program: Chapter 5 presents funding, ordinance implementation and official controls, implementation priorities, detailed implementation plan, and budget.
Chapter 6.0 References: Chapter 6 lists the documents and other references used in the preparation of the SWMP.

1.4 Plan Update and Amendment Procedures

This SWMP guides the City of St. Louis Park's activities through 2027 or until it is superseded by the adoption and approval of a subsequent SWMP. The city will begin the process of updating this plan one to two years before its expiration date. The updated plan will meet the requirements of applicable Minnesota laws and rules, the BCWMC, and the MCWD.

The city must revise this SWMP through an amendment prior to the next update of the plan if minor changes are required, BCWMC or MCWD updates their respective watershed management plans or if problems arise that are not addressed in the SWMP. However, this SWMP remains in full effect until an updated SWMP can be approved by the BCWMC and the MCWD.

Any significant changes to this SWMP must be approved by the BCWMC, the MCWD and Metropolitan Council. Minor changes to this SWMP will not require WMO approval and can be made by city staff, but WMOs must be promptly informed. The city considers minor changes to be those that do not modify the goals, policies, or commitments identified in the SWMP. Examples of minor changes include the following:

- the inclusion of new or corrected hydrologic modeling results and mapping, as long as the changes do not significantly affect the rate or quality of intercommunity stormwater runoff;
- adjustments to subwatershed boundaries, provided that the changes will have no significant impact on the rate or quality in which stormwater runoff is discharged from the city boundaries;
- the inclusion of new/updated water quality monitoring data;
- minor changes to the city's implementation program, such as added or removed projects, schedule changes, and revised cost estimates, as long as there are no intercommunity impacts of such changes and so long as the changes stem from the goals and policies listed in the SWMP; and
- revisions to the city's design guidelines and standards to reflect the new BCWMC and MCWD rules, and other applicable regulations if the changes do not result in less stringent requirements.

If it is unclear whether a proposed SWMP change is minor or not, the city will bring the issue to the BCWMC and the MCWD for determination. The city's amendment procedure for significant changes to the SWMP is as follows:

1. **Preparation**: City staff prepare and review the SWMP amendment.
    - Significant changes shall be made known to the following parties:
        1. The city manager, director of inspections, engineering director, community development director, and operations and recreation director

2. The City of St. Louis Park engineering department, community development department, and operation and recreation department.
3. All affected watershed management organizations in Hennepin County, and the Metropolitan Council

2. **Consideration**: The city council will consider the SWMP amendment as prepared by staff. The council can either approve or deny submitting the amendment for WMO review and approval. If the city council votes to submit the amendment for WMO approval, the council also needs to determine when/if a public hearing or other public process should be undertaken.
3. **Submission, Review, and Approval**: The proposed SWMP amendment is submitted to the BCWMC and the MCWD for review and approval. The review process for a SWMP amendment is the same as it was for the original SWMP. The WMOs have 60 days to review and comment on the proposed SWMP amendment.
4. **Adoption**: If both WMOs approve the SWMP amendment, the city council will adopt the SWMP amendment.

1.5 Water Resources-Related Agreements

The City of St. Louis Park has entered into several surface water-related agreements over the years that have affected how the city manages its surface water. These agreements include:

1. Cooperative Agreement for Vegetation Management at Twin Lakes Park, City of St. Louis Park, April 19, 2010
2. Reach 20 Restoration Project Cooperative Agreement 2012
3. Easement between City of St. Louis Park and Minnehaha Creek Watershed District related to the Minnehaha Preserve (Reach 20), Doc. No. T5032867, January 14, 2013
4. Reach 20 Restoration Project Second Cooperative Agreement, December 12, 2013
5. A Joint and Cooperative Agreement for the Establishment of a Bassett Creek Watershed Management Organization to Plan, Control and Provide for the Development of Bassett Creek, August 29, 2014.
6. Cooperative Agreement, City of St. Louis Park and Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, Powell Road Stormwater Diversion Project, January 29, 2015
7. Memorandum of Understanding between Minnehaha Creek Watershed District and the City of St. Louis Park for Local Water Planning and Regulation, January 19, 2016
8. 2017 Water Education Activities Letter of Understanding between Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission and the City of St. Louis Park, February 21, 2018.

The agreement is included in **Appendix A**.

1.6 Regulatory Framework/Agency Responsibilities

Various units of government are involved in water-resource related activities, including the City of St. Louis Park, watershed management organizations, the Metropolitan Council, Hennepin County, the MnDNR, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB), the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), and the US Army Corps of Engineers (COE).

1.6.1 City of St. Louis Park

St. Louis Park actively and progressively manages stormwater to protect life, property, and waterbodies within the city as well as receiving waters outside the city. To this end, St. Louis Park creates and implements regulatory programs that accomplish these aims. This SWMP serves as the city's guide for operating and maintaining the city's stormwater system. It also maps out the general direction the city will take in planning for the future.

The city intends to continue its implementation of the following water resource-related elements of the St. Louis Park code of ordinances as well as the city's stormwater pollution prevention program, its wetland management plan, and its floodplain district ordinance.

The city requires permits and/or approvals for land use modifications that result in land disturbance (including redevelopment), depending on the type of project. See **Chapter 5** for a complete list of permits and approvals potentially required by the City of St. Louis Park.

The BCWMC and MCWD act as the local government unit (LGU) responsible for administering the wetland conservation act (WCA) in St. Louis Park.

The city is responsible for informing developers and other project applicants regarding the city's requirements. It is their responsibility to comply with BCWMC, MCWD, and other regulatory agencies.

The city is required to meet the conditions of its NPDES MS4 permit and to implement the St. Louis Park Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program (SWPPP). The city continues to actively engage the MPCA and others to keep its permit and implementations up to date regarding technology and regulations.

More information is available at the city's website: www.stlouispark.org.

1.6.2 Watershed Management Organizations

The Metropolitan Surface Water Management Act (Chapter 509, as per the laws of 1982, Minnesota Statute Section 103B.201 to 103B.255, as amended) establishes requirements for watershed management organizations to prepare watershed management plans within the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. The law requires these plans to focus on the purpose of these organizations, which is to:

- protect, preserve, and responsibly use natural surfaces, groundwater storage, and retention systems;
- minimize public capital expenditures needed to correct flooding and water quality problems;
- identify and plan for means to effectively protect and improve surface and groundwater quality;
- establish more uniform local policies and official controls for surface and groundwater management;
- prevent erosion of soil into surface water systems;
- promote effective groundwater recharge;
- protect and enhance fish and wildlife habitats and water-based recreational facilities; and
- secure other benefits associated with the proper management of surface and ground water.

The city lies within two watershed management organizations, each with its own governing body: the BCWMC and the MCWD, as described below.

1.6.2.1. Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (BCWMC)

The BCWMC encompasses land within nine communities: St. Louis Park, Crystal, Golden Valley, Medicine Lake, Minneapolis, Minnetonka, New Hope, Plymouth, and Robbinsdale. The BCWMC's current Watershed Management Plan was adopted by the commission in September 2015. The BCWMC's plan sets the vision and guidelines for managing surface water within its boundaries.

The BCWMC does not issue formal permits. Instead, the member cities must implement the BCWMC's development policies. The BCWMC or its staff sends a letter of approval to each member city, stating that each proposed project meets the requirements of the BCWMC plan. This occurs prior to the city issuing its construction permit or other approval permit. The BCWMC also reviews applications to the MnDNR for public waters work and appropriations permits.

The BCWMC provides leadership and assists member communities with certain water management issues. It also coordinates intercommunity stormwater runoff planning and design. The BCWMC reviews local water management plans for conformance with its goals, policies, and rules and for the sake of intercommunity consistency.

More information is available at the BCWMC website: www.bassettcreekwmo.org.

1.6.2.2. Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD)

The MCWD consists of 27 cities and 2 townships on the western edge of the Twin Cities area. The MCWD adopted its most recent watershed management plan, the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Comprehensive Water Resources Management Plan, on January 11, 2018.

The MCWD is a political subdivision created under state law and exists to pursue water resource management purposes set forth in Minnesota Statutes 103B.201 and 103D.201. The mission of MCWD is to collaborate with public and private partners to protect and improve land and water for future generations. As established through the Water Management Plan, MCWD's organizational philosophy recognizes that the natural environment is an integral component of vibrant communities and creates a sense of place, provides vital connections, and enhances social and economic value. This philosophy stems from the MCWD's Balanced Urban Ecology policy. The Balanced Urban Ecology Policy is grounded in the principles of focusing on high priority projects, partnership to pursue watershed management goals, and exercising flexible when considering the needs of its partners. MCWD is especially interested in the partnership with St. Louis Park due to significant, ongoing land use planning and development in the City. Through this Plan cycle, coordination and holistic planning between St. Louis Park and MCWD will continue, to pursue Greenway expansion, regional stormwater management, flood management while leveraging the asset value of St. Louis Park's natural resources to enhance community connections and the built environment.

The MCWD maintains a regulatory program that requires development projects and some redevelopment projects to treat and control the rate of stormwater discharge using a variety of BMPs. Development and water resource-related projects must apply for and receive MCWD permits before work can begin. The City of St. Louis Park assumes sole erosion control permitting responsibility within the MCWD watershed. For projects requiring a permit under the MCWD's rules, a permit must be obtained from the MCWD.

More information is available at the MCWD website: www.minnehahacreek.org.

1.6.3 Metropolitan Council

The Metropolitan Council (Council) provides regional planning and wastewater services (i.e., collection and treatment) for the seven-county metropolitan area. It also reviews and comments on watershed management plans, local water management plans, and local comprehensive land use plans. It also maintains the following programs:

- The Watershed Outlet Monitoring Program (WOMP)with BCWMC
- The Citizen-Assisted Monitoring Program (CAMP)
- The Environmental Information Management System (EIMS)

- The Regional Master Water Supply Plan for the Metropolitan Area

In 2015, the Council adopted the 2040 Water Resources Policy Plan (WRPP) which presents policies and strategies focused on supporting prosperity, livability, equity, sustainability, and stewardship, outcomes identified in Thrive MSP 2040. The WRPP highlights the importance water resources management plays in achieving economic growth, competitiveness, and high quality of life. The WRPP provides regional strategy for balancing demands of growth with the protection and management of our lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands, and groundwater through integrated planning for wastewater, water supply, and surface water management.

More information is available at the Metropolitan Council's website: www.metrocouncil.org.

1.6.4 Hennepin County

Hennepin County plays a role in surface and groundwater protection and management through implementation of its Natural Resources Strategic Plan (2015 through 2020). Since 2014, the county has taken the lead role in delivering soil and water conservation services throughout the county with all duties and authorities of the Soil and Water Conservation District. The county's goals, objectives, and strategies include working to protect and restore lakes, rivers, streams, and wetlands; to preserve the health of aquatic ecosystems; to meet applicable standards for fishing and recreation; and to ensure that water supplies are sustainable.

The county offers a variety of programs that provide funding and technical assistance to projects for surface and groundwater protection plans. The county monitors and enforces rules regarding subsurface septic treatment systems (SSTS) and administers a well-sealing, cost-share program.

More information is available at the Hennepin County website: https://www.hennepin.us.

1.6.5 Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MnDNR)

The MnDNR Ecological and Water Resources Division manages water resources through a variety of programs in its water resources, groundwater, floodplain management, and climatology sectors. The MnDNR administers the public waters work permit program, the water appropriation permit program, the dam safety permit program, the aquatic plant management control permit program, and other fishery-related permits.

More information is available at the MnDNR website: www.dnr.state.mn.us.

1.6.6 Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR)

The BWSR oversees the state's watershed management organizations (joint powers, county, and watershed district organizations) and the state's soil and water conservation districts, and it administers rules for WCA and metropolitan-area watershed management.

The BWSR also provides funding to LGUs to deliver soil and water conservation services. Grant funds from the BWSR support and increase the local capacity to implement programs and leverage ongoing partnerships with cities and WMOs.

More information is available at the BWSR website: www.bwsr.state.mn.us.

1.6.7 Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA)

The MPCA administers the State Discharge System/NPDES Permit Program (e.g., point source discharges of wastewater), the NPDES General Stormwater Permit Program for Construction Activity, the NPDES General Industrial Stormwater Permit Program, the NPDES Phase-I and Phase-II Stormwater MS4 Permit Programs, and the individual sewage treatment system regulations (per Minnesota Rules 7080). The MPCA also reports the state's "impaired waters" to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and facilitates the development of total maximum daily load reports and implementation plans.

The MPCA administers and enforces laws relating to pollution of the state's waters, including groundwater, as well as Section 401 of the Clean Water Act—the Water Quality Certification program, which is primarily administered by the COE. Section 401 certification is required to obtain a federal permit for any activity that will result in a discharge to navigable waters in the United States. Formal applications for 401 certifications must be sent to the MPCA. The MPCA also monitors ambient groundwater quality and administers septic system design and maintenance standards.

More information is available at the MPCA website: www.pca.state.mn.us.

1.6.8 Minnesota Department of Health (MDH)

The MDH is the official state agency responsible for addressing environmental health matters, including groundwater protection. The MDH administers the Well Management Program, the Wellhead Protection Program, and the Safe Drinking Water Act. The MDH also issues fish-consumption advisories. The MDH is responsible for preventing pollution of water supplies to ensure safe drinking water sources and to limit public exposure to contaminants. Through implementation of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, the MDH conducts the Public Water Supply Program, which allows it to monitor groundwater quality and train water supply system operators. As part of its role in wellhead protection, the MDH developed a guidance document called "Evaluating Proposed Stormwater Infiltration Projects in Drinking Water Supply Management Areas" (MDH, 2016).

More information is available at the MDH website: http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/index.html.

1.6.9 Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB)

The EQB is made up of nine agency heads from the departments of administration, agriculture, commerce, employment and economic development, health, natural resources, transportation, the BWSR, and the MPCA, and as well as citizen members. The agency provides leadership and coordination across agencies on priority environmental issues that are multijurisdictional and multidimensional as well as opportunities for public access and engagement through the state's environmental review program including environmental assessment worksheets (EAWs) and environmental impact statements (EISs).

More information is available at the EQB website: www.eqb.state.mn.us.

1.6.10 Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT)

As part of the 2003 and subsequent NPDES permits, the MnDOT metro district was required to develop and implement a SWPPP to reduce the discharge of pollutants from the storm sewer system to the maximum extent practicable.

The primary goal of MnDOT is to develop and implement its SWPPP program so that it is consistent with other permitted entities and to ensure uniform regulatory environments for the public. Any work done on or affecting MnDOT property must be approved by MnDOT.

More information is available at the MnDOT website: http://www.dot.state.mn.us.

1.6.11 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE)

The COE administers the Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act and Sections 401 and 404 of the Federal Clean Water Act Permit Program and the Section 404 Permit Program.

Section 404: Authorizations. The Federal Clean Water Act requires that anyone who wants to discharge dredged or fill material into U.S. waters, including wetlands, must first obtain a Section 404 permit from the COE. Examples of activities that require a Section 404 permit include construction of boat ramps, placement of riprap for erosion protection, placing fill in a wetland, building a wetland, construction of dams or dikes, stream channelization, and stream diversion.

When Section 404 permit applications are submitted to the COE, the applications are typically posted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Forest Service, the EPA, and other federal agencies to review and provide comments on the application. The COE evaluates permit requests for the potential impact to various functions and values of the wetland.

Section 401: Water Quality Certifications. A Section 401 water quality certification may be granted if an applicant demonstrates that a proposed activity "will not violate Minnesota's water quality standards or result in adverse long-term or short-term impacts on water quality." Greater protection is given to a category of waters designated as "outstanding resource value waters." The waters in this category have received this designation because of their exceptional value. These include scientific and natural areas; wild, scenic, and recreational river segments; and calcareous fens.

More information is available at the COE website: www.usace.army.mil.