



LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

Executive Summary for Action

Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Board of Managers Meeting

Wednesday, February 21, 2018

Agenda Item

Item 6. B. - Watershed Management Plan

Prepared By

Linda Loomis, Administrator

Summary

The Bloomington and Eden Prairie/Chanhassen Public Information meeting have occurred. Attendance was not as good as we had anticipated, but it did offer a good opportunity to speak with those that did come. City staff was at both meetings and were an invaluable resource. The city showed staff that in many cases the city regulation is just as strict, if not more so, than the LMRWD proposed standard. The majority of the property owners were supportive of the revised standard.

The TAC met on January 30, 2018. Staff presented the revised Bluff and Steep Slope Standard and answered questions. Manager Hartmann was able to attend the later part of the meeting. The change in the standard from restrictive to permissive in nature was well received by the cities, however state agencies expressed concern. Staff asked the TAC to submit any comments to the District by Friday, February 16, so that comments can be reported to the Managers.

Della and I had a conversation with Jennie Skancke, Kate Drewry and Jason Spiegel from the DNR about the change. The DNR will be submitting comments to the District about the revision. They are concerned that the proposed revision will not afford the same level of protection that the original draft proposed. They also expressed concern that having a definition for bluff and for steep slopes separately will confuse people. We explained the logic behind the District's decision to change the definition was to disconnect the definition of bluff from shoreland.

Staff will be making a presentation to the Carver City Council on Tuesday, February 20th and the Burnsville public information meeting will be held on Thursday, February 22nd. The city of Savage has indicated that they would like to hold a public information meeting for its residents. Staff is working out the details of this meeting with the city.

Staff has also met with staff from the city of Savage and Burnsville. Burnsville has indicated they will be submitting comments with respect to the revised "Bluff and Steep Slope" standard, but have asked for more time.

One topic was brought up when meeting with Burnsville was surrounding the floodplain model the DNR, Corps of Engineers and the LMRWD had prepared in 2004. The model has been used to evaluate impacts of developments in the floodplain, however, LMRWD staff was not sure whether the model is being updated when new development occurs.

Staff has done some investigation and discovered that the model is not updated, so the cumulative impact of development that has occurred in the floodplain since the model was built are not taken into account. The LMRWD may want to pursue updating the model, which is over 15 years old.

Staff wants to give the Managers a head's up that we will need to update the task order with Burns & McDonnell again. The additional costs are due to updating the maps with the revised standard, additional field investigations and the number of meeting cities have requested.

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Staff would also like direction from the Managers regarding Ike's Creek and whether or not it should be identified in the plan as a high value resource. If the Managers choose to do so, there will likely be objections from the city of Bloomington.

Attachments

No attachments

Recommended Action

Provide direction to staff regarding Ike's Creek