

MEMORANDUM
Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District

To: Board of Managers
From: Mike Kinney
Subject: Watershed Management Plan Update

Date: February 21, 2019

Background/Discussion

The purpose of this agenda item is to obtain Board direction on the initial steps for the District's 10-year Watershed Management Plan update and discuss coordination efforts with Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District (CMSCWD) on each organization's Plan update since we share similar timelines for updates.

The CLFLWD Plan is set to expire ~~October~~ September 28, 2021. The Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) recommends beginning a major plan update 1-1.5 years in advance of expiration, so at this point we are ahead of schedule. However, given the level of community input that we anticipate in this process along with building in extra time for the Board's review, starting this process in the near future seems reasonable.

Additionally, in an effort to improve efficiency and increase consistency across watershed boundaries, staff proposes to work cooperatively with CMSCWD throughout the process by holding combined Technical Advisory Committee meetings, working toward aligning Plan formats, coordinating public meetings to also parallel the LSC 1W1P planning process, etc. So far, CMSCWD has completed the first step as part of its Plan update: it requested Agency priority issues in advance of the main plan kickoff. There is a 60-day response period associated with this request. CMSCWD has not proceeded very much beyond that initial step due to the pending retirement of Mr. Shaver and the hiring of a new administrator, so once CLFLWD completes that task, we will be aligned with CMSCWD in the process. Note that CMSCWD's Plan expires about one year before ours.

Recommended Action

Staff requests Board consensus on sending out the request for Agency priority issues. A general process timeline and outline of next steps will be provided at the March regular board meeting.