John,

Sorry that it has taken me so long to get back to you. We are mainly interested in impaired waters, protection of unimpaired waters, stormwater re-use, and groundwater/surface water interactions. While these are all touched upon in the current plan, we are especially interested in progress or changes since the last amendment to the plan was approved, such as the status of TMDL implementation plans, lake management plans, and updated rules.

As you know, we are interested in the Central Draw project due to the presence of the Regional Park; so updates on scheduling and construction, erosion and sediment control measures for the ravine and the eastern channel, and any proposed monitoring of the stream and Ravine Lake. We are also interested in progress on the Grey Cloud Island slough, the Newport Ravine, protection of Powers Lake, local flood control, and evaluation of any issues in the areas added to the District from the former Lower St. Croix WMO.

So basically, we know the District has been very active in identifying, evaluating, and formulating solutions to issues in the watershed and we would like details on progress and planned future implementation efforts. I hope this helps.

Thanks Joe,
Much if not all of what you listed below is in SWWD’s current plan and will carry over to the update. Does Met Council have any identified issues/priorities specific to SWWD?

John Loomis/SWWD
651-714-3714

From: Mulcahy, Joe [mailto:joe.mulcahy@metc.state.mn.us]
Sent: Friday, January 16, 2015 10:25 AM
To: Loomis, John
Subject: SWWD Watershed Management Plan Update

John,

Judy Sventek asked me to respond to your letter dated January 12, 2015, so I am providing information as requested for the preparation of the District’s Watershed Management Plan Update.

The direction and policy that follows comes from the Council’s 2030 Regional Development Framework and the 2030 Water Resources Management Policy Plan both of which can be found on the Council’s web page at www.metrocouncil.org. The updated watershed management plan should include policies related to the protection of area water resources with the end goal in mind of no adverse impact on the quality of water so that the water quality leaving the metropolitan area is as good as the quality of water entering the area.

The plan needs to include quantifiable and measurable goals and policies that address water quantity, water quality, recreation, fish and wildlife, enhancement of public participation, groundwater, wetlands, and erosion issues.

Council staff will be looking for the plan to address the issues and problems in the watershed and to include projects or actions and funding to address the issues and problems. At a minimum the watershed should address:

1. Any problems with lake and stream water quality and quantity including information on impaired waters in the watershed and the Commission’s role in addressing the impairments,
2. Flooding issues in the watershed,
3. Storm water rate control issues in the watershed,
4. Impacts of water management on the recreation opportunities,
5. Impact of soil erosion problems on water quantity and quality, and,
6. The general impact of land use practices on water quantity and quality.

Finally, the plan needs to include policies and strategies related to monitoring of area water resources and the use of best management practices, a list of the requirements for local surface water management plans, erosion and sediment control standards and requirements, and volume reduction goals more stringent than or at least as restrictive as requirements in the NPDES construction general permit.
I am sure you are aware that several lakes in the watershed have been monitored through the Council’s Citizen-Assisted Monitoring Program (CAMP). This data can be found in our Environmental Information Management System (EIMS) database which can be accessed on line at www.metrocouncil.org, if you do not have it already. If you have trouble downloading the data from EIMS, please contact me and I will have someone pull the information you need.

Also on our web page you can find 2010 land use information for all of the communities in the watersheds.

We would be interested in serving on the plan update Technical Advisory Committee; please contact Judy Sventek, manager of the Water Resources Assessment section when you schedule the first meeting. You can call her at 651-602-1156, or email her at judy.sventek@metc.state.mn.us.

Thanks.