



Date: August 28, 2007

To: MWMO Board of Commissioners

From: Brett Emmons, Camilla Correll and Kristen Larson

RE: MWMO Third Generation Watershed Management Plan:
Summary of Planning Process for Board Kick-Off Meeting

The objective of this memorandum is to summarize the information that both Emmons & Olivier Resources, Inc. (EOR) and the Hoisington-Koegler Ground Inc. (HKGi) will be presenting at the September 11, 2007 MWMO Board Kick-Off Meeting. The meeting will be held from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. at the Council Chambers of the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, 2117 West River Road, Minneapolis, MN 55411-2227.

The Kick-Off Meeting for the MWMO Third Generation Planning Process is intended to introduce the MWMO Board of Commissioners to the following:

- Consultants selected to facilitate this process for the MWMO
- The planning process
- The Public Involvement component of the planning process
- The Board's involvement in the planning process
- MWMO's Staff involvement in the planning process
- Members selected for the Public Involvement portion of the process

As this outline indicates, members selected to participate on the Science Advisory Group (SAG), the Implementation Advisory Group (IAG), and the standing Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) have been invited to attend the Kick-Off Meeting as well. The format of the meeting is as follows: the first half will be dedicated to a presentation by EOR and HKGi and the second half will be dedicated to questions as well as an opportunity to socialize with many of the participants in the planning process. A list of the invitees is attached to this memorandum.

PLANNING PROCESS AND TIMELINE

The Mississippi Watershed Management Organization (MWMO) is initiating the development of its Third Generation Watershed Management Plan (WMP). Given that the date of the Second Generation Watershed Management Plan is 2000 and that the

LGUs are in the process of preparing their comprehensive plans for submittal in 2008, the MWMO is embarking on a two-year planning process that will facilitate the LGUs planning efforts while meeting the requirements of Minnesota Statute 103B and Minnesota Rule 8410.

There are a number of things which make the development of the MWMO Third Generation Watershed Management Plan unique: its urban setting and the diversity of its constituents, its main water resource (the Mississippi River), its history and relationships with the LGUs, and the projects and studies it has conducted since the completion of the 2000 WMP. These factors, as well as others identified during the planning process, will result in a cutting-edge plan that will address the following:

- **Local and Regional Priorities and Planning Efforts** - The plan will tackle bigger regulatory issues and provide a framework to understand the various responsibilities and roles in programs and efforts such as NPDES, TMDLs, source water and groundwater protection, and brown field remediation.
- **Resource-Based Technical Standards** – These standards will be developed using information collected by the MWMO, agencies, the University of Minnesota, LGUs, and others. The proposed standards will also be reviewed and discussed by the various groups established for the Public Involvement portion of the planning process (these groups are defined below). It is anticipated that these standards will be shared with the local communities for their use in permitting.
- **Future Trends** – The plan will address such issues as global warming, the effect of air quality on water quality, and new trends in urban redevelopment.
- **Sub-Watershed Framework** - The plan and implementation program will be structured in a subwatershed framework to ensure the issues are well formulated with local buy-in and the solutions are tailored to the local social and environmental context.
- **Implementation** – The plan will include the development of an implementation plan that will guide annual work plans, funding needs, and implementation.
- **Plan Amendment Process** – The plan will be developed to provide flexibility in the plan amendment process.
- **Stakeholder Involvement** – The plan development process will provide for strong stakeholder involvement and facilitation skills to ensure local integration of the plan. This will involve close collaboration between MWMO Staff, stakeholders, and the EOR/HKGi Team to include other local and regional planning priorities and goals and therefore better implementation success.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROCESS

The strength of a watershed management plan and its success in guiding future watershed management depends on the level of public involvement in the planning process. By soliciting comments and feedback from the citizens, neighborhood leaders, technical experts and city staff, the WMP can effectively identify and address those issues which are critical to protecting the resources. This is especially important in a setting as diverse as the MWMO. As a result, the following groups and committees have been established to participate in the Public Involvement portion of the planning process:

Science Advisory Group (SAG)

In order to create a science and resource-based plan, a Science Advisory Group (SAG) will be established to assist with the planning process. The purpose of the SAG is to utilize the knowledge and expertise of the local scientific community to help develop a technically sound plan. The SAG will meet at key times in the process to review background data, to assist in the development of various standards and guidelines, and to review key elements of the plan.

Implementation Advisory Group (IAG)

The purpose of the Implementation Advisory Group (IAG) is to involve local officials and policy makers in the development of the plan in order better coordinate the planning and management activities of the various entities within the MWMO boundaries. The IAG will meet at key times in the process to review issues, help establish policies, to review and comment on various standards and guidelines, and to review and comment on the implementation plan.

Subwatershed Advisory Group (SWAG)

A series of four Subwatershed Advisory Group (SWAG) meetings will be held early in the planning process to collect specific information about the local water and natural resources as well as any local issues related to these resources. These SWAG meetings will consist primarily of citizens who live in these geographic areas. An additional purpose of this series of meetings will be to identify one individual from each of these groups who would be willing to continue participating in the process by serving on the Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC).

Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC)

In order to create a plan that takes into consideration the concerns of various stakeholder groups within the watershed, the MWMO Board is establishing a Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) to be involved in the planning process. The SAC will meet at key times in the process to help identify issues, help develop policies, and to review key elements of the plan.

Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC)

The existing MWMO Citizen Advisory Committee will have two options for participating in the Third Generation Watershed Management Planning Process. The first option is a commitment to participate in the complete planning process. CAC members

who choose this option will attend MWMO Board meetings and workshops where key elements of the plan will be reviewed and discussed. The second option is a commitment to review the draft plan during the statutory public review and comment period in 2009. A more detailed discussion of how these groups and committees will participate in the Public Involvement portion of the planning process will be presented at the Kick-Off meeting.

MWMO BOARD INTERFACE WITH PLANNING PROCESS

During the planning process, the MWMO Board of Commissioners will be called upon for input. This input will be solicited during each phase of the Plan Development:

1. Development of Issue Statements
2. Development of Measurable Goals and Policies
3. Development of the Implementation Plan
4. Development of the DRAFT Watershed Management Plan
5. Final Plan Review Process

The input that staff will be seeking from the MWMO Board of Commissioners is summarized in the following bullets and will be described in more detail at the Kick-Off Meeting:

- Review and discuss information gathered during the Public Involvement Process to determine what should be addressed/incorporated in the Plan.
- Provide input that may have been missed by staff or was not identified during the Public Involvement process.
- Review each draft of the Plan as it is written to eliminate the need to review the entire document (for the first time) at the end of the planning process.
- Review MWMO staff's response to comments from agencies, LGUs etc. received during the formal plan review process and provide staff with direction on how to address comments and incorporate any changes that need to be made in the plan.