MCWD Partnership Approach

Hennepin Natural Resources Partnership Forum
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Minnehaha Creek Watershed District
Outline

- Evolution of District’s approach

- Partnership examples:
  - Projects
  - Permitting

- Group feedback/discussion
Land-Use and Water
Segregation of Land Use and Water Planning

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Land Use Planning</th>
<th>Water Resource Planning</th>
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<td>Primarily the focus of private enterprise as well as the various planning, zoning, public works and job-creation agencies in several layers of government</td>
<td>Mainly non-profits and other government agencies focused on conserving natural assets and protecting them from the damage that development can inflict</td>
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Traditional Approach

- Land use changes addressed through regulation
  - Safety net
  - Doesn’t generate improvements

- Projects planned for resource improvement
  - Planned on 10-year cycle
  - Based on technical understanding
  - Disjointed from land use planning
Evolution of New Approach – Minnehaha Creek Greenway
Methodist Hospital
Keys to Success

- Understand goals of partners and mutual interests
- Demonstrate value of water
- Build relationships and trust
- Be responsive and flexible
Balanced Urban Ecology

- Recognizes the interdependent relationship of the built and natural environments

Guiding Principles
- Partnership
- Focus
- Flexibility
Partnership Pros and Cons

- **Partnership Potential:**
  - Leveraging
  - Combining Complimentary Strengths
  - Capitalizing

- **Partnership Challenges:**
  - Requires different relationships, procedures and structures
  - Time consuming and more difficult than working alone

- **Partnership Rewards:**
  - Combine resources to accomplish more than working alone
  - Broader analysis of problems and opportunities
  - Identify intersection of multiple issues
  - Multiple viewpoints and holistic solutions
  - Build broader coalitions of support

Permitting Program Strategies

- Emphasis on early coordination
- Understanding goals of applicant
- Helping applicants navigate regulatory framework
- Innovation/Flexibility
Regulatory Case Study
Regulatory Case Study

- First wetland bank in the District
  - 22 acres of restored wetland
  - Makes siting requirements easier

- Greatest potential economic return for landowners
  - Approximately $50,000 per acre
  - 10-lot subdivision vs 6-lots from standard zoning

- Maximizes tax base and conservation goals for City
  - 19.5 acres of high-value upland
Questions/Discussion

- What are others doing to integrate land use and water planning?
- What other opportunities do you see to improve integration?
Strategies for partnership

- Convene/Ask/Network

- Empathize/Acknowledge Perspectives/Mutual Objectives
  - Recognize others’ goals as pathway to accomplishing your own

- Develop innovative solutions to partners’ objectives
  - Make an offer that can’t be refused

- Be multi-lingual
  - Sell and discuss solutions in language of your partner

- Align financial resources