

Minnehaha Creek Watershed District

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

MEETING DATE: August 22, 2019

TITLE: Authorization to Apply for BWSR Clean Water Funds Competitive Grant Funding for Wassermann Lake Internal Load Management Project

RES. NUMBER: 19-072

PREPARED BY: Anna Brown

E-MAIL: abrown@minnehahacreek.org

TELEPHONE: 952-641-4522

REVIEWED BY: Administrator Counsel Program Mgr. (Name): _____
 Board Committee Engineer Other: Brian Beck

WORKSHOP ACTION:

<input type="checkbox"/> Advance to Board mtg. Consent Agenda.	<input type="checkbox"/> Advance to Board meeting for discussion prior to action.
<input type="checkbox"/> Refer to a future workshop (date): _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Refer to taskforce or committee (date): _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Return to staff for additional work.	<input type="checkbox"/> No further action requested.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): Seeking Approval at the August 22 Board Meeting	

PURPOSE or ACTION REQUESTED:

Authorization to submit a proposal to the State Board of Water and Soil Resources for a Clean Water Fund grant for an aluminum sulfate treatment on Wassermann Lake

PROJECT/PROGRAM LOCATION:

Wassermann Lake, Victoria, MN

PROJECT TIMELINE:

September 9, 2019 Proposals due

PROJECT/PROGRAM COST:

N/A

PAST BOARD ACTION:

N/A

SUMMARY:

In 2016, the Board of Managers appointed an Investment Task Force to initiate planning to increase the volume of outside funds supporting MCWD's capital improvement program. With Board concurrence, the Task Force established the following goals:

1. Obtain ongoing supplemental funding (larger than one-time project specific grants) to implement landscape scale restoration and implementation objectives identified within priority focal subwatershed plans, such as Six Mile Creek-Halsted Bay.

2. Increase one-time funding for specific capital improvements identified through responsive track planning.
3. Obtain one-time or ongoing supplemental funding for MCWD programs, historically funded through levy resources (land management, data collection, education and communications, permitting, operations, etc.)

Accordingly, staff continues to identify and target one-time project specific supplemental funding for priority activities. The Board has requested that they be notified of grant opportunities and authorize staff to apply for grants.

The Board of Water and Soil Resources has released its annual call for Clean Water Fund Competitive Grant proposals. The Clean Water Fund was established in Minnesota Statute 114D.50 with the purpose of protecting, enhancing, and restoring water quality in lakes, rivers, and streams in addition to protecting ground water and drinking water sources from degradation. This year, the call for proposals includes the Projects and Practices fund, which applies to implementation activities. After scanning the MCWD capital improvement plan for candidate projects that both would be competitive within this funding pool and could be implemented within the three year grant window from 2020 through 2022, the Wassermann Lake Internal Load Management project was identified for submittal to the competitive grant program.

Wassermann Lake is an impaired water body with a TMDL requiring 470 pounds per year reduction in phosphorus loading. The 2013 diagnostic study estimates an annual internal release rate of 375 pounds per year. The Wassermann Lake Internal Load Management Project was identified in the District Watershed Management Plan for the purpose of reducing internal phosphorus loading, improving water clarity and creating a more abundant and diverse aquatic vegetation community. The project would entail two treatments of aluminum sulfate over a three to five year timeframe, with possible maintenance treatments in subsequent years. The estimated load reduction will be developed through feasibility.

Through a 2015 Memorandum of Understanding, the City of Victoria and District have made restoration of Lake Wassermann a shared priority. To date, substantial work is underway or complete towards that restoration goal, including:

- In 2016, MCWD partnered with Lennar Corporation to restore 12 acres of wetland upstream of Lake Wassermann
- Through the SMCHB Habitat Restoration Program, the District has successfully managed carp below the target density of 100 kg/ha and has the infrastructure in place to prevent new immigration and manage future recruitment
- In the Spring of 2019, the District completed the first of two alum treatments in the Wassermann West Pond, which will reduce watershed loading to Lake Wassermann by an estimated 35 lbs/year
- In 2020, construction is anticipated on the Wassermann Lake Park project, a 33.5 acre site restoration and park improvement in partnership with the City of Victoria

With the successful implementation of the aforementioned projects, the District is well positioned to plan for an alum treatment of Wassermann Lake in 2021, with possible maintenance applications later years.

The grant funds will be requested to cover feasibility and implementation for an estimated cost of \$360,000. The grant requires a 25% match which will go towards both feasibility and implementation. Staff will continue to refine to cost estimate leading up to the grant submittal deadline of September 9, 2019.

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 19-072

TITLE: **Authorization to Apply for BWSR Clean Water Funds Competitive Grant Funding for Wassermann Lake Internal Load Management Project**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution 14-047 the MCWD Board of Managers has identified the Six Mile Creek subwatershed as a priority area for focusing District planning activities and coordination efforts with subwatershed partners;

WHEREAS, on March 26, 2015 the Board authorized the District to enter a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Victoria (the City), outlining opportunities to collaborate and integrate mutual efforts in the realms of coordinated planning of local water and land use plans, assessment of specific water management issues, and coordinated regulatory review of water and land development, and specifically identified a shared interest between the two parties in addressing the impairment of Wassermann Lake;

WHEREAS, in 2016, the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) Board of Managers appointed an Investment Task Force to initiate planning to increase the volume of outside funds supporting MCWD's capital improvement program;

WHEREAS, the MCWD Board requested that they be notified of grant opportunities and authorize staff to apply for grants;

WHEREAS, the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) offers Clean Water Fund (CWF) Competitive Grants for projects and practices that protect, enhance, and restore water quality;

WHEREAS, the MCWD Watershed Management Plan identifies the Wassermann Lake Internal Load Management Project as a planned capital investment to reduce internal nutrient loading, improve water clarity, and create a more abundant and diverse aquatic vegetation community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers authorizes staff to apply for 2020 BWSR CWF Competitive Grant Funding for the Wassermann Lake Internal Load Management Project.

Resolution Number 19-072 was moved by Manager _____, seconded by Manager _____.
Motion to adopt the resolution ___ ayes, ___ nays, ___ abstentions. Date: _____.

Secretary

Date: _____