

MEETING DATE: August 10, 2017

TITLE: Approval of 2017 Watershed Heroes Awards Recipients

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 17-049

PREPARED BY: Telly Mamayek

E-MAIL: tmamayek@minnehahacreek.org

TELEPHONE: 952-641-4508

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

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 type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): _____	

PURPOSE or ACTION REQUESTED:

Approval of recommended Watershed Heroes Awards recipients for 2017.

PROJECT/PROGRAM LOCATION:

The 2017 Watershed Heroes Awards will be presented at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church in Minneapolis on November 2, 2017.

PROJECT TIMELINE:

- On June 8, 2017, the MCWD Board of Managers approved restructuring the Watershed Heroes awards to reflect the five guiding principles of the organization. The new awards also retain the Young Naturalist category and the Lifetime Stewardship award, which has been renamed in honor of Cynthia Krieg.
- On June 21, 2017 staff distributed a news release announcing the new awards and soliciting nominations. By the July 21st deadline, a total of 16 nominations were received.
- On July 25, the nominations were discussed at a subcommittee meeting attended by several staff, Citizens Advisory Committee President Bill Bushnell, CAC member Steve Mohn and Board of Managers President Sherry White. The subcommittee agreed on a list of award recipients to be presented to the Planning and Policy Committee.
- On July 27, the Planning and Policy Committee recommended approval of the subcommittee's list.
- The MCWD Board of Managers will be asked for final approval of the award recipients at its meeting on August 10, 2017.
- In August, a press release will be issued announcing the award recipients and invitations will be printed and mailed after Labor Day.

- The awards will be presented at the Sunset Celebration at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church in Minneapolis on November 2.

PROJECT/PROGRAM COST:

Fund name and number:	Communications, 4003
Current budget:	\$ 10,000
Expenditures to date:	\$ 0
Requested amount of funding:	\$ 0
Is a budget amendment requested?	No
Is additional staff requested?	No

PAST BOARD ACTIONS:

- On March 8, 2007, the MCWD Board of Managers appointed Managers Keeley and Smith to a 40th Anniversary subcommittee which will work with staff to plan the events series. In August 2007, the MCWD Board of Managers authorized the 2008 work plan for the Education and Communications program, which includes "Watershed Events, including Watershed Heroes Award Event."
- On February 14, 2008, the MCWD Board of Managers directed staff to plan an awards ceremony event of less magnitude than the "Blue Tie" gala of 2007. On February 21, 2008, the MCWD Board of Managers approved resolution 08-010, 2008 Events: Watershed Events: Watershed Awareness campaign.
- On June 26, 2008, the MCWD Board of Managers approved the 2009 Education Work Plan, which includes the Watershed Heroes event. On January 15, 2009, the MCWD Board of Managers assigned Managers Keeley, Blixt and Klingelhutz to the Awards Committee.
- On July 16, 2009, the MCWD Board of Managers approved the 2010 Education Work Plan, which includes the Watershed Heroes Event.
- On October 7, 2010, the MCWD Board of Managers approved the 2011 Education and Communications Work Plan, which includes the Watershed Heroes event and Manager Bill Olson filled the vacancy on the Awards Committee left by Manager Klingelhutz's resignation.
- On July 7, 2011, the MCWD Board of Managers approved the 2012 Education Work Plan, which includes the Watershed Heroes event. On April 5, 2012, Manager Davis White filled the vacancy on the Awards Committee left by Manager Keeley's departure from the Board of Managers.
- On July 26, 2012, the MCWD Board of Managers approved the 2013 Communications Work Plan, which includes the Watershed Heroes event.
- On June 13, 2013, the MCWD Board of Managers approved the 2014 Communications Work Plan, which includes the Watershed Heroes event.
- In September 2014, the MCWD Board of Managers approved the 2015 District budget, which included the 2015 Communications Work Plan and budget for the Watershed Heroes event.
- In September 2015, the MCWD Board of Managers approved the 2016 District budget, which did not include the Watershed Heroes event pending the outcome of a strategic review of the District's programs and development of the District's commemoration of its 50th anniversary in 2017.
- In September 2016, the MCWD Board of Managers approved the 2017 District budget, which included funding for a Watershed Heroes event as part of the District's 50th anniversary celebration.
- On December 8, 2016, the MCWD Board of Managers approved the 50th anniversary events series, which includes the Sunset Celebration on November 2nd where the Watershed Heroes awards will be presented.
- On June 8, 2017, the MCWD Board of Managers approved a restructured Watershed Heroes awards program which includes new awards named after the District's guiding principles, a Young Naturalist award and the Cynthia Krieg Lifetime Stewardship award. The board also approved holding formal ceremonies once every five years and, in the intervening years, presenting awards in the community or at MCWD Board of Managers meetings.

SUMMARY:

The intent of the Watershed Heroes awards is to recognize individuals and organizations who performed outstanding public service related to water resources in the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District.

The MCWD Board of Managers has identified seven categories of Watershed Heroes Awards with the following criteria:

- **Partnership** - Given to an organization or individual that has effectively leveraged their assets in partnership with the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District to achieve exceptional results in natural resource management, integrate their work with the District's and add broader value to the community.
- **Innovation** - Given to an organization or individual that has implemented innovative policies, programs, or projects to protect and improve quality of water, quality of life in the Minnehaha Creek Watershed.
- **Excellence** - Given to an organization or individual that achieves outstanding natural resource benefits in the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District.
- **Sound Science** - Given to an organization or individual that makes a meaningful contribution to the scientific body of knowledge related to natural resource protection.
- **Service** - Given to an organization or individual that has demonstrated a commitment to the environment or whose actions have resulted in the protection or improvement of natural resources in the Minnehaha Creek Watershed.
- **Young Naturalist** - Given to an organization or individual that has demonstrated a commitment to the environment or whose actions have resulted in the protection or improvement of natural resources in the Minnehaha Creek Watershed.
- **Cynthia Krieg Lifetime Stewardship Award** - Given to an individual who has, during his or her lifetime, played a significant and lasting role in watershed management and demonstrated leadership in natural resources stewardship.

The following nominations are proposed for 2017 Watershed Heroes awards:

Partnership Award – Japs-Olson Company

For its commitment to partnership in achieving an environmentally friendly expansion of its business that was the culmination of several years of work with the District. Japs-Olson Company worked in partnership with the District to treat stormwater from the expansion and the surrounding area, and donated nearly four acres of land for restoration and improved public access to the Minnehaha Creek Preserve and the Minnehaha Creek Greenway. The project involved a complex series of agreements with the Cities of Hopkins and St. Louis Park and resulted in a project that improves water quality, ecological integrity and community connectivity, and is projected to create 150 jobs.

Innovation Award – Lennar Corporation

For its hard work and creative spirit in its pursuit of a 99-unit residential development in Victoria. By working in coordination with the City of Victoria and the District, the project will restore 12 acres and permanently protect 23.5 acres of public water wetland, which is beyond Lennar's regulatory obligation. Its willingness to invest in

natural resources locally enabled the restoration of a priority wetland that's in the Six Mile Subwatershed, which is a priority area for improvement projects.

Excellence Award – Park Nicollet

For its leadership and vision in improving Minnehaha Creek, which sparked the creation of the Minnehaha Creek Greenway – a series of improvements that restores the natural curves to the creek, improves wildlife habitat, creates new access to green space and connects communities. Park Nicollet's commitment to balancing excellent service to the community and supporting ecological integrity in the landscape continued with the construction of a flood wall in 2017 that resulted in a six-acre wetland restoration.

Sound Science Award – Dr. Peter Sorensen

For his commitment to researching common carp's impact on our water resources and developing an integrated protocol to sustainably control common carp in a system. Dr. Sorensen's ground-breaking research has improved the understanding of the role carp has played in damaging ecosystems and has provided a path forward to effective management strategies.

Service Award – Minneapolis Area Synod of the ELCA

For their collective achievement in engaging a broad network of congregations in the watershed to increase awareness of water quality issues and spark stewardship of the natural resources in their communities. Over the past two years, congregations have hosted stewardship events, adopted sustainable property maintenance practices, educated their congregants about clean water and pursued sustainable measures to mitigate polluted stormwater runoff.

Young Naturalist Award – The Blake School Fourth Grade Class

For their creativity and enthusiasm in learning about the importance of our water resources and how to protect them from stormwater runoff. Through a combination of classroom and field learning experiences, the students demonstrated their new-found knowledge through the creation of 3-D models of the Minnehaha Creek Greenway to visualize and demonstrate runoff, cleanups along the creek and nearby storm drains, and tours of the watershed. Their efforts serve as a role model for experiential learning that connects people to our water resources.

Cynthia Krieg Lifetime Stewardship Award – Peggy Knapp

For her dedication to protecting water resources, which has had a lasting impact on lakes, rivers, streams and wetlands across the region and the state. Hired as the Freshwater Society's Director of Programs 2010, Knapp has designed and implemented a multitude of civic engagement programs including the Master Water Stewards Program which was founded in the MCWD in 2013 and is being expanded statewide.

Known for her dynamic communications style and work on multiple platforms including television, Knapp has inspired and educated countless citizens to protect Minnesota's water resources. She is a natural leader and collaborator who knows how to bring people together to solve problems and get things done.

Knapp retired from the Freshwater Society in June 2017.

In the past, Watershed Heroes Awards have been given to:

<p><u>2015 Awards</u></p> <p>Excellence in Development Presbyterian Homes – Promenade of Wayzata</p> <p>Innovation in Government City of Minnetrista</p> <p>Outstanding Partner MN Department of Natural Resources, MN AIS Research Center, City of Shorewood, Christmas Lake Homeowners Association</p> <p>Youth Naturalist No award</p> <p>Citizen Engagement Master Water Stewards Program of the Freshwater Society</p> <p>Outstanding Contribution Florian and Linda Mae Kerbers, Dr. Glen Nelson</p> <p>Lifetime Stewardship John Barten</p> <p><u>2014 Awards</u></p> <p>Excellence in Development Tiny Diner</p> <p>Innovation in Government Hennepin County</p> <p>Outstanding Partner Three Rivers Park District</p> <p>Youth Naturalist Boy Scouts of America</p> <p>Citizen Engagement Peter Rechelbacher</p> <p>Outstanding Contribution Minnetonka and St Louis Park Sunrise Rotary Clubs</p> <p>Lifetime Stewardship Eugene Hickok and Mike Panzer</p>	<p><u>2013 Awards</u></p> <p>Excellence in Development No award</p> <p>Innovation in Government Carver County/Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board</p> <p>Outstanding Partner City of St. Louis Park</p> <p>Youth Naturalist Students of El Colegio High School</p> <p>Citizen Engagement Ken Gothberg</p> <p>Outstanding Contribution Liz Weir</p> <p>Lifetime Stewardship Lee Keeley</p> <p><u>2012 Awards</u></p> <p>Excellence in Development Award Woodland Cove, LLC and The Bancorp Group, Inc.</p> <p>Innovation in Government Award City of Shorewood</p> <p>Outstanding Partner Award City of Hopkins</p> <p>Youth Naturalist Award Youth of the Mooney Lake Storm Drain Project</p> <p>Citizen Engagement Award Lake Minnetonka Bay Captains</p> <p>Outstanding Contribution Award Dr. Peter Sorensen</p> <p>Lifetime Stewardship Award Herbert J. Suerth, Jr.</p>
--	--

2011 Awards

Excellence in Development Award
Solution Blue

Innovation in Government Award
MN Department of Veterans Affairs

Outstanding Partner Award
Minnesota Waters

Youth Naturalist Award
Youth of the Pierson Lake Association (APPLE)

Citizen Engagement Award
Lake Action Alliance

Outstanding Contribution Award
Bob & Jan Halverson

2010 Awards

Excellence in Development Award
Duke Realty

Innovation in Government Award
City of Minneapolis

Outstanding Partner Award
Tina Plant of Hedberg Landscape & Masonry
Supplies and the Go Blue! Team

Citizen Engagement Award
Metro Blooms

Outstanding Contribution Award
MCWD Rule Making Task Force

Lifetime Stewardship Award
Ginny Black

2009 Awards

Excellence in Development Award
Stonehenge USA

Innovation in Government Award
City of Mound

Outstanding Partner Award
Jacob Leinenkugel Brewing Company

Youth Naturalist Award
K.I.C.K. – Keep it Clean Kids

Citizen Engagement Award
Mike Shouldice

Outstanding Contribution Award
Mary Nolte

Lifetime Stewardship Award
Gabriel Jabbour

2008 Awards

Excellence in Development Award
Methodist Hospital

Innovation in Government Award
City of Minnetonka

Outstanding Partner Award
Bachman's

Youth Naturalist Award
No award given in 2008.

Citizen Engagement Award
Dave Oltmans & the Friends of Diamond
Lake

Outstanding Contribution Award
Sandy Colvin Roy

Lifetime Stewardship Award
Woody Love

2007 Awards

Excellence in Development Award
Locust Hills Development, LLC

Innovation in Government Award
City of Orono

Outstanding Partner Award
Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

Youth Naturalist Award
Gleason Lake Environmental Ambassadors

Citizen Engagement Award
Nokomis East Neighborhood Association

Outstanding Contribution Award
Raymond Haik

Lifetime Stewardship Award
Richard G. Gray, Sr., P Sc. and Richard P.
Caldecott, Ph. D.

Prior to 2007:

Nina Cole Valley View Middle School &
Elizabeth Crist, Valley View Middle School:
For their vigilance in discovering a puddle of
mercury adjacent to Minnehaha Creek and
contacting the Pollution Control Agency of
emergency containment and removal (April 26,
2001).

Representative Wes Skoglund, Representative
Dennis Ozment & Senator Julie Sabo:
For helping to protect the water resources of
Camp Coldwater Springs through their
legislative efforts and leadership on the springs
issue. (December 19, 2002).

Victor Gilbertson, local painter and retired
architect:
For immortalizing the bridges and the natural
environment along Minnehaha Creek in a book
of collected watercolor paintings, Watercolors of
Bridges over Minnehaha Creek (December 19,
2002).

Boy Scout Troop 6 of the Church of the
Good Shepard, Boy Scout Troop 110 of
Mount Olivet Lutheran Church & Troop 196
of Diamond Lake Lutheran Church:
For removing more than 1,100 pounds of
waste and debris from a stretch of
Minnehaha Creek (October 28, 2004).

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 17-049

TITLE: Approval of 2017 Watershed Heroes Award Recipients

WHEREAS, the MCWD has established the Watershed Heroes Awards to recognize individuals and groups that have made significant contributions to the quality of water, quality of life in the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District; and

WHEREAS, the MCWD has published a request of nominations and solicited nominations from the public, Board of Managers, Citizens Advisory Committee and staff; and

WHEREAS, a committee of staff, CAC and board members have reviewed the nominations and made the following recommendations for award recipients;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers hereby recognizes the following individuals and groups for their outstanding contributions to watershed management:

Partnership Award
Japs-Olson Company

Innovation Award
Lennar Corporation

Excellence Award
Park Nicollet

Sound Science Award
Dr. Peter Sorensen

Service Award
Minneapolis Area Synod of the ELCA

Young Naturalist Award
The Blake School Fourth Grade Class

Cynthia Krieg Lifetime Stewardship Award
Peggy Knapp

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED that the District Administrator is authorized to purchase appropriate awards to be given to the award recipients at the Sunset Celebration at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church on November 2, 2017.

Resolution Number 17-049 was moved by Manager _____, seconded by Manager _____.
Motion to adopt the resolution ___ ayes, ___ nays, ___ abstentions. Date: _____.

Secretary Date: _____