



Title:	2023 American Geophysical Union Conference Attendance
Resolution number:	23-064
Prepared by:	Name: Brian Beck Phone: 952-471-8306 bbeck@minnehahacreek.org
Reviewed by:	Not Applicable
Recommended action:	Approval of funding to send four (4) staff members – James Wisker, Becky Christopher, Alex Steele, and Brian Beck – to the 2023 national conference of the American Geophysical Union in San Fransisco.
Schedule:	The conference will be held December 12-16, 2023
Budget considerations:	5001-4065/4060: Fund budget: \$5,000/\$10,000 for Training/Expenses in 2023 5001-4065/4060: Expenditures to date: \$1,249/\$151 2008-4065/4060: Fund budget: \$3,300/\$2,700 for Training/Expenses in 2023 2008-4065/4060: Expenditures to date: \$1,710/785 1002-4065/4060: Fund budget: \$6,500/1,000 for Training/Expenses in 2023 1002-4065/4060: Expenditures to date: \$3,429/\$522 Requested amount of funding: \$9,500
Past Board action:	Not Applicable

Summary:

Each year, the American Geophysical Union (AGU) holds a national conference, highlighting emerging issues, new trends, and cutting-edge research in a variety of fields such as hydrology, climatology, ecology, geology, and hydrogeology. The AGU conference has a unique ability to bring together national experts who can bridge these niche academic fields to support key Minnehaha Creek Watershed District initiatives such as climate change adaptation.

The adoption of the draft Climate Action Framework in 2022 by the MCWD Board of Managers has asserted the District’s focus on developing a strategy and approach for responding to climate change. To accomplish this, the District is working to identify knowledge gaps and build out our organizational capabilities so that we are able to understand, assess, and predict the impacts of climate change. While the technical tools and technology of today address our current needs, we must develop the next generation of tools and technology to enhance our capabilities to meet future needs. MCWD staff are actively prototyping modeling tools, policy solutions, and geographic information systems to support the District’s ability to understand and predict the impacts of climate change. The 2023 AGU meeting has several sessions and tracks that will directly inform the District’s ability to implement the Climate action framework including:

- Water and Society: Adaptive Management for Floods and Droughts in the face of Global Climate and Socioeconomic Change

- Modeling Hydrological Processes and Changes Under a Changing Environment
- Machine Learning in Hydrologic Modeling
- Advances in Understanding Impacts of Land Use and Land Cover Change in a Changing Climate
- Advances in Integrated Data Collection, Analysis, and Flood Modeling of Complex Urban Systems
- Long-Term Climate Modeling and Hydrologic Projection

Staff are requesting funding of an amount not-to-exceed \$9,500 for four (4) staff members – **James Wisker, Becky Christopher, Alex Steele, and Brian Beck** – to attend the conference in December. This amount will cover conference registration, travel, and accommodations based on projected costs of approximately \$2,375 per attendee.

Registration	\$775
Hotel	\$295 per night
Airfare	\$400 round trip



RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, climate change is measurably changing the distribution, frequency, and intensity of rainfall in Minnesota;

WHEREAS, these shifting precipitation patterns are stressing our natural and built environments, impacting pollutant loading, stream channel erosion, wetland functions, surface and surficial groundwater interactions, habitat, and homes, businesses, and public infrastructure;

WHEREAS, on April 28, 2022 the Board of Managers approved the District’s Draft Climate Action Framework to create a clear strategy to guide how we will respond to climate challenges within the watershed in coordination with the State of Minnesota, regional partners, and local communities’ climate action work.

WHEREAS, implementation of the balanced urban ecology and organization strategic direction requires staff professional development in areas of watershed modeling and climate impact assessment;

WHEREAS, the District Board of Managers supports the professional development of staff in areas outside of water resources, and the need to continue engaging national experts in other academic fields to inform MCWD’s approach to climate change adaptation;

WHEREAS, the AGU hosts an annual meeting providing professional development, continuing education, and networking opportunities for hydrology, ecology, and water resource professionals; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers authorizes four (4) staff to attend the American Geophysical Union National Conference for a cost not to exceed \$9,500 for registration, travel, and accommodations.

Resolution Number 23-064 was moved by Manager _____, seconded by Manager _____. Motion to adopt the resolution ___ ayes, ___ nays, ___ abstentions. Date: 10/26/2023

_____ Date: _____ Secretary