



RESOLUTION

Resolution number: 20-067

Title: Authorization to Release the Request for Proposals for Design Services for 325 Blake Road Stormwater Management and Site Restoration

WHEREAS

the MCWD established the area between West 34th Street and Meadowbrook Lake in the cities of Hopkins and St. Louis Park as a priority area for capital project improvements aimed at stormwater improvement, streambank restoration and broader community goals;

WHEREAS

the MCWD Board of Managers has developed a series of strategic capital project initiatives within the urban corridor to advance goals of improving the ecological integrity of Minnehaha Creek, while reintegrating the stream corridor into the surrounding urban fabric;

WHEREAS

in 2011 the MCWD acquired the 325 Blake Road property for water resource purposes including stream restoration, regional stormwater management, and corridor habitat and passive recreation improvements, and for the opportunity to integrate these purposes with the public purposes of other bodies;

WHEREAS

the MCWD Board of Managers has adopted a policy "In Pursuit of a Balanced Urban Ecology," establishing MCWD's fundamental philosophy and way of doing business, including joining with others to pursue watershed management goals integrated with land use planning; intensifying and maintaining focus in high priority areas; and being flexible and adaptive to new ways of doing business with partners, to effectively leverage assets;

WHEREAS

the MCWD has moved forward in planning and construction of regional stormwater infrastructure, Minnehaha Creek Greenway expansion planning, site facility decommissioning and demolition, environmental remediation and preliminary redevelopment;

WHEREAS

in July 2013, the MCWD Board of Managers ordered the 325 Blake Road Stormwater Management Project, taking advantage of the opportunity to manage approximately 270 acres of area wide stormwater runoff at 325 Blake Road through the diversion of surrounding urban watersheds into the property via construction of two primary stormwater diversions – Powell Road and Lake Street – and construction of the on-site infiltration/filtration facilities at 325 Blake Road;

WHEREAS

construction of the Powell Road Stormwater Diversion was completed in 2015, effectively diverting the first one inch of rainfall from approximately 217 acres of urban land, with the diversion remaining bulk headed until the stormwater management facility is constructed on the 325 Blake Road site;

WHEREAS

construction of the Lake Street Stormwater Diversion was completed in 2019, effectively diverting the first one-and-one-quarter inch of rainfall from approximately 30 acres, with the diversion remaining bulk headed until the stormwater management facility is constructed;

WHEREAS

in 2018, the MCWD demolished the former cold storage warehouse located on the site and prepared the site for implementation of its stormwater and greenway restoration project;

- WHEREAS dating back to the ordering of its project, the MCWD developed a pre and post project monitoring plan that will inform project design and establish a strong research baseline for future effectiveness monitoring and will use these data to inform the design development of the treatment facility on the site, thus ensuring that the most effective management practices are incorporated to remove particulate and dissolved phosphorus as well as sediment loads;
- WHEREAS throughout 2019, in order to gain a deeper understanding of the site from a natural resources and redevelopment perspective, MCWD refined its preliminary visioning and technical work, including an internal design charrette to lay out potential greenway and redevelopment scenarios and refined engineering analyses that further outline the technical requirements of treating a large quantity of regional stormwater;
- WHEREAS the request for proposals (RFP) includes design and engineering services for the 325 Blake Road Regional Stormwater and Greenway capital project, as well as the closely related Cottageville Park Phase II Riparian Restoration capital project in order to provide economies of scale and allow for the design of a seamless ecological and trail corridor through this segment of the Minnehaha Creek Greenway;
- WHEREAS the MCWD endeavors to implement a thoughtful design for the stormwater and greenway restoration project in a manner that is careful to integrate a large scale stormwater treatment facility on a highly visible site with the potential to attract diverse users of the regional trail and SWLRT systems, and residents from the surrounding neighborhoods and further afield;
- WHEREAS the RFP for design services is intended to attract consultant teams that can deliver on this lofty yet nuanced vision, while maintaining the flexibility to integrate MCWD's capital project with a comprehensive redevelopment of the site should conditions allow;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers authorizes the release of the request for proposals for design services for 325 Blake Road stormwater management and site restoration, and allows for the administrator to make non-substantive edits to the document and schedule based on advice of MCWD legal counsel.

Resolution Number 20- 067 was moved by Manager Maurice, seconded by Manager Miller. Motion to adopt the resolution 7 ayes, 0 nays, ___ abstentions. Date: 8/27/2020

Kurt Rogness Date: August 27, 2020
Secretary