



**MINNEHAHA CREEK**  
**WATERSHED DISTRICT**  
QUALITY OF WATER, QUALITY OF LIFE

**Meeting:** Board of Managers  
**Meeting date:** 5/22/2025  
**Agenda Item #:** 7.1  
**Board Consent Item**

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**Title:** Authorization to Execute Grant Agreement for Watershed-Based Implementation Funding

**Resolution number:** 25-031

**Prepared by:** Name: Rebecca Neal  
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**Reviewed by:** Names/Title: Becky Christopher, Policy Planning Director

**Recommended action:** Authorization to execute a grant agreement with the Board of Water and Soil Resources for Watershed-Based Implementation Funding for two projects: Cedar-Bloomington Stormwater BMP (MCWD, MPRB, Minneapolis) and Montgomerie Ave Area Drainage Project (Deephaven)

**Schedule:** June-August 2025 – Board approval of funding agreements with partners  
December 2027 – Grant expiration

**Budget considerations:** N/A

**Past Board action:** Res #: 25-029 Title: Authorization to Apply for Watershed-Based Implementation Funding

**Summary:**

Background:

The fourth round of Watershed-Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) has been approved through the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR). For this round, funds were allocated on a watershed basis, with the Minnehaha Creek watershed area receiving \$424,534 to fund eligible projects for implementation between 2025-2027. Eligible entities in our allocation area include Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD), Hennepin and Carver counties, Carver Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), and municipalities.

The program requires a convene meeting process through which participants meet to develop a budget request for submittal to BWSR that is prioritized, targeted, and measurable. Participants include one representative from each watershed district, SWCD, county with a current groundwater plan, and up to two representatives from municipalities within the allocation area. MCWD served as the convener for this process and solicited project proposals from all the eligible entities. Two projects were submitted for consideration:

Cedar-Bloomington Stormwater BMP

MCWD, along with the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (MPRB) and the City of Minneapolis, submitted the Cedar-Bloomington Stormwater BMP, which will convert parkland along Minnehaha Parkway from Cedar Ave to 16<sup>th</sup> Ave in Minneapolis into a multi-basin stormwater wetland that provides water quality improvements to impaired Lake Hiawatha and flood mitigation for the surrounding neighborhoods. This project is estimated to provide 20-40 lbs/yr of total phosphorus (TP) removal. Depending on the scale and final layout of the wetlands, the total construction cost of the stormwater wetlands ranges from \$490,000-\$840,000. This project is part of a broader partnership between MPRB, Minneapolis, and MCWD, and is the first of three projects from MPRB's Master Plan that the partnership has selected to move forward.

Montgomerie Ave Area Drainage Project

The City of Deephaven submitted the Montgomerie Ave Area Drainage Project, which will construct an underground infiltration system at Calvary Church that will remove 7.8 lbs of TP/yr to Lake Minnetonka and reduce local flooding. The total cost estimate of this project is \$588,000. This project was also submitted to MCWD for funding support through the Land & Water Partnership (LWP) program in 2024, and the Board concurred with staff's recommendation to provide funding of \$125,000.

At the convene meeting on April 9, 2025, the group agreed that both projects were worth supporting and recommended splitting the \$424,534 between the two projects. Based on the relative cost-effectiveness of the two projects and the level of support needed for both projects to be able to advance, the group decided to allocate \$224,534 toward Cedar-Bloomington Stormwater BMP and \$200,000 toward the Montgomerie Ave Project.

At the April 24, 2025 Board Meeting, the Board authorized staff to apply for the grant funds, with MCWD serving as the grantee to allow for easier transfer of funds between the two projects, if needed, based on additional feasibility work and cost refinement for the two projects.

Requested Action and Next Steps:

BWSR has approved the application for the grant and now requires execution of their standard grant agreement before expenditures can begin. Staff is requested authorization to execute the grant agreement.

This summer, MCWD staff will work with our partners to develop agreements outlining the roles and expectations for advancing the projects and managing the grant. These agreements will be brought back for Board authorization in June-August.



## RESOLUTION

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**Resolution number:** 25-031

**Title:** Authorization to Execute Grant Agreement for Watershed-Based Implementation Funding

- WHEREAS, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) has transitioned its Clean Water Funding model from project by project competitive grants to a coordinated watershed funding approach which relies on comprehensive watershed management plans to provide assurance that actions are prioritized, targeted, and measurable;
- WHEREAS, on August 24, 2023, BWSR approved the Watershed-Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) watershed allocations and program policy for the 2024-2025 biennium;
- WHEREAS, funds have been allocated based on hydrologic boundaries, and the Minnehaha Creek Watershed planning area has been allocated \$424,534;
- WHEREAS, the WBIF program requires that all eligible entities within the planning area, including the watershed district, counties, soil and water conservation districts, and cities, work together to develop a collaborative budget request that is prioritized, targeted, and measurable;
- WHEREAS, MCWD serves as the convener for this process and solicited project proposals from all the eligible entities, and two projects were submitted for consideration:
- Cedar-Bloomington Stormwater BMP (Minneapolis/Minneapolis Parks & Recreation Board (MPRB)/MCWD) – a regional stormwater management project in an MPRB-owned park that drains to Minnehaha Creek and impaired Lake Hiawatha;
  - Montgomerie Ave Area Drainage Project (Deephaven) – an underground stormwater infiltration system to address local flooding and improve water quality to Lake Louise and Lake Minnetonka;
- WHEREAS, the convene meeting was held on April 9, 2025 to review the projects and develop a budget request, and the group agreed that both projects were worth supporting and recommended splitting the funds between the two projects with \$224,534 allocated to the Cedar-Bloomington project and \$200,000 to the Montgomerie Ave project;
- WHEREAS, the group recommended that MCWD serve as the grantee to allow for easier transfer of funds between the two projects, if needed, based on additional feasibility work and cost refinement for the two projects;
- WHEREAS, at its April 24, 2025 meeting, the MCWD Board authorized staff to apply for the grant funds;
- WHEREAS, BWSR has approved the application for the grant and now requires execution of the grant agreement before expenditures can begin; and
- WHEREAS, staff will work with the project partners to develop agreements that outline the roles and expectations for advancing the projects and managing the grant, and these will be subject to MCWD Board approval;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the MCWD Board of Managers authorizes the District Administrator to execute a grant agreement with the Board of Water and Soil Resources for the above projects.

Resolution Number 25-031 was moved by Manager \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by Manager \_\_\_\_\_. Motion to adopt the resolution \_\_\_ ayes, \_\_\_ nays, \_\_\_ abstentions. Date: 5/22/2025

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Secretary

Secretary