



**Title:** Authorization to Submit a Letter of Support to LCCMR for the City of Excelsior’s Commons Park Shoreline Improvement Project

**Resolution number:** 26-025

**Prepared by:** Name: Kate Moran  
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**Recommend action:** Authorize District Administrator to finalize and submit letter of support to LCCMR for the City of Excelsior’s Commons Park Shoreline Improvement Project

**Summary:**

The City of Excelsior is preparing to submit a proposal to the [Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources](#) (LCCMR) for the Excelsior Commons Park Shoreline Improvement Project. The proposal seeks funding to support shoreline stabilization, native restoration, and associated stormwater management improvements along Lake Minnetonka at Excelsior Commons Park.

The City previously submitted this project for LCCMR funding. While it was not selected during the last funding cycle, the City has refined the application based on feedback and intends to resubmit it for consideration during this current funding cycle.

Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) staff have provided technical assistance through the [Land and Water Partnership](#) (LWP) program. Since late 2023, staff have participated in site visits, offered guidance on shoreline stabilization and ecological restoration best practices, identified other potential grant funding opportunities to support implementation, and provided pre-application permitting guidance.

MCWD submitted a letter of support for the City’s prior LCCMR application and continues to support efforts to naturalize shorelines, improve water quality, and strengthen ecological integrity. Staff recommend submitting an updated letter of support for the City of Excelsior’s 2027 LCCMR funding proposal.

**Attachment:**

Attachment 1 – Draft Letter of Support



**RESOLUTION**

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WHEREAS, the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (“District”) advances its Balanced Urban Ecology (BUE) vision to integrate natural systems and built environments in ways that improve water quality and water quantity, protect ecological integrity, and support thriving communities;

WHEREAS, it is the District’s policy to promote the naturalization of shorelines whenever possible;

WHEREAS, since late 2023, District staff have provided technical assistance to the City of Excelsior through the District’s Land and Water Partnership (LWP) program, including participation in site visits, guidance on shoreline stabilization and ecological restoration best practices, identification of other potential grant funding opportunities, and pre-application permitting guidance;

WHEREAS, the City of Excelsior is preparing to submit a proposal to the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) for native shoreline stabilization and stormwater management improvements at Excelsior Commons Park on Lake Minnetonka;

WHEREAS, the City has requested a letter of support from the District to accompany its LCCMR proposal;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers authorizes the District Administrator to finalize and submit a letter of support to the LCCMR on behalf of the District for the City of Excelsior’s proposal; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the District’s letter of support for the proposed project is non-binding.

Resolution Number 26-025 was moved by Manager \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by Manager \_\_\_\_\_. Motion to adopt the resolution \_\_\_ ayes, \_\_\_ nays, \_\_\_ abstentions. Date: 2/26/2026

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary Date: \_\_\_\_\_



February 27, 2026

Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR)  
Centennial Office Building, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
658 Cedar Street  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear LCCMR Members,

The Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) writes in support of the City of Excelsior's proposal to the LCCMR for the Excelsior Commons Park Improvement Project, which includes stabilization and ecological restoration of the Lake Minnetonka shoreline at Excelsior Commons Park.

MCWD believes that healthy natural systems underpin community identity, ecological function, and long-term resilience. Excelsior Commons Park is a valued public open space along the shoreline of Lake Minnetonka. Its prominent shoreline location presents a meaningful opportunity to address ongoing erosion while demonstrating how ecological restoration can support long-term shoreline stability, improve water quality, and maintain public access to the lake.

MCWD supports the City of Excelsior's proposal to strengthen shoreline stability, enhance native shoreline vegetation, and improve stormwater management through the installation of a planted shoreline buffer, swales, and a wet meadow. This living shoreline approach will serve as a visible example of ecological design within a prominent public setting on Lake Minnetonka.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal in your 2027 funding decisions.

Sincerely,

James Wisker  
Administrator

*We collaborate with public and private partners to protect and improve land and water for current and future generations.*