

**Minnehaha Creek Watershed District**

**REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION**

**MEETING DATE:** December 11, 2014

**TITLE:** Approval of Cynthia Krieg Watershed Stewardship Fund Grant Applications for the 2015 Funding Cycle

**RESOLUTION NUMBER:** 14-XXX

**PREPARED BY:** Darren Lochner

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**TELEPHONE:** 952-641-4524

**REVIEWED BY:**  Administrator  Counsel  Program Mgr. (Name): Darren Lochner  
 Board Committee  Engineer  Other

**WORKSHOP ACTION:**

<input checked="" 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:**

- 1) Authorize funding in the amount of \$125,000 for 10 grant proposals to the Cynthia Krieg Watershed Stewardship Fund during the 2015 cycle. These projects are designed to forward the mission of the watershed district through innovative educational activities that leverage existing or promote new collaborative community partnerships.
- 2) Authorize the District Administrator to execute and sign grant agreements with each of the recipients.

**PROJECT/PROGRAM LOCATION:**

Watershed-wide.

**PROJECT TIMELINE:**

October 24, 2014 MCWD received 11 applications to Cynthia Krieg Watershed Stewardship Fund.  
November 12, 2014 Cynthia Krieg Subcommittee met to review applications and forward recommendations to the CAC.  
November 12, 2014 CAC approved Subcommittee's recommendations and forward the recommendations to the Board of Managers in December, 2014.  
December 11, 2014 Board review of CAC recommendations to advance to Board Consent Agenda  
December 18, 2014 Pending: Board final approval of Cynthia Krieg Stewardship Fund grant awards

**PROJECT/PROGRAM COST:**

Fund name and number: Cynthia Krieg Stewardship Fund (2301)  
Current budget: \$125,000.00  
Expenditures to date: \$0.00  
Requested amount of funding: \$125,000

**DRAFT for discussion purposes only and subject to Board approval and the availability of funds.  
Resolutions are not final until approved by the Board and signed by the Board Secretary.**

Is a budget amendment requested? no  
 Is additional staff requested? no

**PAST BOARD ACTIONS:**

No past Board actions in 2014.

**SUMMARY:**

The Cynthia Krieg Watershed Stewardship Fund was established by the MCWD in 2000 in memory of Cynthia Krieg, whose life exemplified dedication to community service and natural resource protection. This fund supports projects that encourage community service initiatives that protect water quality and promote public awareness of nonpoint source pollution and clean water practices. Applications are accepted on an annual basis for projects to be completed during the following calendar year.

In 2015, the Cynthia Krieg Watershed Stewardship Fund has approximately \$125,000 available for distribution. The MCWD received 11 applications requesting \$186,895. All applications were reviewed by the Cynthia Krieg Subcommittee on November 12, 2014 and the full CAC on November 12, 2014.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Based on staff and committee reviews, it is recommended that 10 applications be awarded grant funds for a total distribution of \$125,000, and the District Administrator has authorization to execute and sign grant agreements with each recipient. Attached is a summary of the grant applications and the CAC recommendations for Board review. Full applications have been made available for review by all CAC and Board members via this Dropbox folder:

[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/nv5n6pe0npv820x/AAA\\_79zObJOpaxEY0mUEo1Uga?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/nv5n6pe0npv820x/AAA_79zObJOpaxEY0mUEo1Uga?dl=0)

<i>Organization Name</i>	<i>Requested</i>	<i>Funded</i>
<i>Funded Applications:</i>		
1. Alliance for Sustainability	\$15,000	\$12,000
2. The Blake School – 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	\$3,025	\$3,025
3. Freshwater Society	\$25,000	\$25,000
4. Highpoint Center for Printmaking	\$15,000	\$15,000
5. Kenwood Elementary School	\$17,520	\$7,500
6. Lynnhurst Neighborhood Association	\$17,350	\$15,725
7. Metro Blooms	\$25,000	\$22,000
8. Minnetonka Public Schools #276	\$25,000	\$5,750
9. Minneapolis Park and Rec Board	\$4,000	\$4,000
10. Wilderness Inquiry	\$15,000	\$15,000
<i>Not funded:</i>		
11. Hamline University CGEE	\$25,000	\$ -
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$186,895</b>	<b>\$125,000</b>

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## **Project Summaries:**

### **I. Alliance for Sustainability - Mentoring Master Water Stewards in Congregations, Neighborhoods & Commissions for Hands-On Projects**

Recruit and mentor Master Water Stewards (MWS) working with 9 congregations to plan and install rain gardens and/or organize behavior change campaigns. We will continue supporting 3 master water stewards doing projects with neighborhoods and city environmental commissions in Minneapolis, Edina and St. Louis Park. We will also link MWSs into the efforts of the Citizens for the Minnehaha Creek Corridor Coalition & Coalition for MCW.

Funding request: \$15,000 / Funding recommendation: \$12,000

### **II. The Blake School – Grade 4 - Runoff Curriculum and Service Project for 4th Graders at The Blake School**

The 4th graders at the Blake School will learn about the water cycle and the impact of runoff pollution on water, especially within the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District. In order to understand the impact of individuals on the environment, the students will work with a small group to design a model of one part of the Minnehaha Creek Watershed. Using their models, they will create public service announcements to be shown in the Blake community. They will also design posters for the broader community about the impact of runoff pollution. Finally, they will participate in a clean-up event and/or storm drain labeling.

Funding request: \$3,025 / Funding recommendation: \$3,025

### **III. Freshwater Society - Master Water Stewards Online**

The Freshwater Society is looking to expand the program throughout the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District area to create an even bigger impact on water quality. We are requesting Cynthia Krieg Watershed Stewardship funding to assist the Master Water Stewards program with the costs of creating a high-quality, rigorous online alternative for the Master Water Stewards curriculum.

Funding request: \$25,000 / Funding recommendation: \$25,000

### **IV. Hamline University CGEE - StormDrain Goalie Community Outreach Project**

Create an interconnected suite of exhibits and online tools that facilitate behavior change using environmental psychology and community-based social marketing strategies, and by engaging users in a fun, interactive game called *StormDrain Goalie*.

Funding request: \$25,000 / Funding recommendation: \$0

### **V. Highpoint Center for Printmaking - The Rain Garden Project**

Build partnerships between Highpoint and two Minneapolis Elementary Schools: Jefferson Community School and Lake Harriet School, both located in MCWD. The project will serve ~100 fourth and fifth grade students - who will receive free printmaking classes at Highpoint that will have a thematic focus on HP's two on-site rain gardens and water quality messaging. These schools were selected based on their diverse student populations who are often underserved in learning the art of printmaking and environmental education experiences.

Funding request: \$15,000 / Funding recommendation: \$15,000

**VI. Kenwood Elementary School Green Team - Watershed Curriculum and Destination Raingarden**

Install a raingarden at the corner of Penn Ave S and W 21<sup>st</sup> St to catch runoff from the school playground and incorporates an existing sculpture, a path of poetry stepping-stones and educational signage. The garden will be leveraged as part of a hands-on 5<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum to educate students about the Cedar Lake and Lake of the Isles subwatersheds.

Funding request: \$17,520 / Funding recommendation: \$17,520

**VII. Lynnhurst Neighborhood Association - Lynnhurst Blooming Alleys**

Educate 5 blocks of Lynnhurst residents near Minnehaha creek to engage them in implementing stormwater bmps along their alleyways that reduce pollution into the Creek. This project tests and innovative model for community partner collaboration and training.

Funding request: \$17,350 / Funding recommendation: \$15,725

**VIII. Metro Blooms - Diamond Lake Blooming Alleys**

Develop and test an innovative, data-driven water quality improvement project led by Diamond Lake community members and Master Water Stewards. Use GIS algorithm developed by consultant to identify blocks with greatest potential to reduce water quality impacts, engage residents in education and implementation of stormwater BMPs.

Funding request: \$25,000 / Funding recommendation: \$22,000

**IX. Minnetonka Public Schools #276 - Mitten Pond Improvement Project**

Improve the ecology of Mitten Pond in Excelsior by removing invasive species and improving shoreline to create a beautiful entrance to this western edge of the City and provide a demonstration site for elementary school education.

Funding request: \$25,000 / Funding recommendation: \$5,750

**X. Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) - Keep the Wild Wild**

A coordinated social marketing campaign with local businesses and vendors to create positive behavior change that prevents visitors from feeding birds.

Funding request: \$4,000 / Funding recommendation: \$4,000

**XI. Wilderness Inquiry - Urban Wilderness Canoe Adventures**

Integrate water quality testing, watershed education and stewardship service projects into curriculum for 1,650 MPS students participating in the UWCA program – a partnership of NPS, MPS and SPPs, at sites within the MCWD boundaries, including the Minneapolis Chain of Lakes, Lake Nokomis, Minnehaha Falls Park, Powderhorn Park and other areas along Minnehaha Creek.

Funding request: \$15,000 / Funding recommendation: \$15,000

**RESOLUTION**

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**RESOLUTION NUMBER:** 14-XXX

**TITLE:** **Approval of Cynthia Krieg Watershed Stewardship Fund Grant Applications for the 2015 Funding Cycle**

WHEREAS, the Cynthia Krieg Watershed Stewardship Fund Program was established by the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District to support community service projects that protect or improve water quality and promote public awareness of non-profit pollution prevention within the watershed district; and

WHEREAS, eleven applications requesting a total of \$186,895 were received for the 2015 funding cycle; and

WHEREAS, staff, the Cynthia Krieg Citizens Advisory Subcommittee, and Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) members reviewed all of the full proposals on November 12, 2014; and

WHEREAS, the Citizens Advisory Committee voted on November 12, 2014 to recommend approval of ten grant applications for a total distribution of \$125,000 from the Cynthia Krieg Watershed Stewardship Fund; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers have considered the Citizen Advisory Committee recommendations and hereby authorize funding ten applications, pending compliance with district policies, for a total of \$125,000, from the Cynthia Krieg Watershed Stewardship Fund Program as follows; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the District Administrator be authorized to sign the appropriate agreements with each funding recipient; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that if Minnehaha Creek Watershed District permits are required, that they be applied for and approved before the release of funding.

Resolution Number 14-XXX was moved by Manager \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by Manager \_\_\_\_\_.  
Motion to adopt the resolution \_\_\_ ayes, \_\_\_ nays, \_\_\_ abstentions. Date: \_\_\_\_\_.

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