

MEETING DATE: March 10, 2016

TITLE: Authorization to Submit a Partnership Proposal with Great River Greening to apply for a LCCMR Grant

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 16-020

PREPARED BY: Tiffany Schaufler

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REVIEWED BY: Administrator Counsel Program Director:
 Board Committee Engineer Other

WORKSHOP ACTION:

<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): Not reviewed at Workshop. Seeking approval at March 10, 2016 Board Meeting.	

PURPOSE or ACTION REQUESTED:

Authorization to submit a Partnership Proposal with Great River Greening to apply for a LCCMR grant.

PROJECT/PROGRAM LOCATION:

Six Mile Marsh Prairie Restoration Project, Minnetrista

PROJECT TIMELINE:

July 1, 2017 – 2020 Project implementation (if grant funding is approved)

PROJECT/PROGRAM COST:

Fund name and number: Project Maintenance & Land Management, 2003

Current budget: \$546,429

Expenditures to date: \$2,408.08

Requested amount of funding: \$25,000 (MCWD match for grant if grant is approved)

PAST BOARD ACTIONS:

December 11, 2014 – Resolution 14-105: Authorization to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with Great River Greening

February 26, 2015 – Resolution 15-018: Authorization to submit Partnership Proposals with Great River Greening to apply for Outdoor Heritage Fund and Environmental & Natural Resources Trust Fund grants

SUMMARY:

In December 2014, the Board of Managers authorized execution of a Memorandum of Understanding with Great River Greening. Great River Greening has partnered with over 600 public and private entities, including cities, counties and community groups, empowering restoration and stewardship initiatives by providing matching funds, ecological expertise, project management, and community engagement.

Great River Greening has the distinguishing core competencies of highly trained ecological staff, a dynamic community and youth involvement program, and a collaborative philosophy. In addition, they are able to help leverage funds from sources including the State of Minnesota Environmental Trust Fund and the Outdoor Heritage Fund.

In 2015, the District and Great River Greening partnered to apply for LCCMR and Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF) grant funding to restore and enhance vegetation and habitat on District properties and easements. This partnership was successful as the District and Great River Greening are scheduled to be awarded \$186,100 (\$71,100 with OHF & \$115,000 with LCCMR) in grant funds on July 1, 2016.

Recently Great River Greening and District staff have discussed applying for a LCCMR grant to investigate the role of haying to remove excess nitrogen and promote plant diversity and pollinators in grassland ecosystems. The Six Mile Marsh Prairie Restoration site is proposed to represent a pilot project to test the impacts of haying on soil nitrogen and plant-pollinator diversity. Nitrogen, vegetation, and pollinator data will be collected pre and post treatment. The data will then be analyzed by Great River Greening and the results decimated through reports and presentations. BWSR is supportive of this effort and is pushing for pilot tests such as this, especially as a means to manage perpetual conservation easements throughout the state.

The Board of Managers has requested that they be notified when staff are seeking grant funding. District staff intends to submit a Partnership Proposal to Great River Greening to apply for grant funding to implement a haying research project at the Six Mile Marsh Prairie Restoration site.

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WHEREAS, the MCWD Board requested that they be notified of grant opportunities and, when time allows, authorize staff to apply for grants; and

WHEREAS, the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District has invested substantial public resources in targeted creek corridors to acquire conservation rights, restore riparian lands and establish natural riparian corridors in order to pursue and achieve the District’s water quality and water resource protection goals; and

WHEREAS, MCWD and Great River Greening have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which has established mutual goals and a cooperative framework within which the potential for beneficial and cost-effective projects and programs may be explored; and

WHEREAS, within the MOU both parties expressed their interest in integrating their strengths and capacities in order to develop and carry out a program to preserve, enhance and extend the District’s conservation property through expertise, partnership, community capacity building and creative funding; and

WHEREAS, Great River Greening is currently developing its proposal to the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) to apply for grants for Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund; and

WHEREAS, District staff plans to submit Partnership Proposals with Great River Greening to the LCCMR for a grant to implement a haying research project at the Six Mile Marsh Prairie Restoration site.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers authorizes staff to submit a Partnership Proposal with Great River Greening to apply for a LCCMR grant for the Six Mile Marsh Prairie Restoration site.

Resolution Number 16-020 was moved by Manager _____, seconded by Manager _____.
Motion to adopt the resolution ___ ayes, ___ nays, ___ abstentions. Date: _____.

Secretary

Date: _____