

Minnehaha Creek Watershed District

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

MEETING DATE: April 14, 2016

TITLE: 2016 Watercraft Inspection Cost-Share Grant with Lake Minnetonka Conservation District

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 16-XXX

PREPARED BY: Eric Fieldseth, AIS Program Manager

E-MAIL: efieldseth@minnehahacreek.org

TELEPHONE: 952-471-7873

REVIEWED BY: Administrator Counsel Director (Name): Craig Dawson
 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): Recommend Approval	

PURPOSE or ACTION REQUESTED:

The MCWD provided a cost-share grant to the Lake Minnetonka Conservation District (LMCD) to perform watercraft inspections for aquatic invasive species (AIS) in 2015. LMCD has submitted a proposal and request for funding in 2016. MCWD funding for the program would be the same in 2016, per the approved workplan. The Board of Managers should adopt a resolution that authorizes execution of an agreement with LMCD, and authorize the District Administrator, upon advice of counsel and with such further minor revisions as may be necessary to effect the intent of the parties, to enter into this agreement.

PROJECT/PROGRAM LOCATION:

Lake Minnetonka Public Accesses (Carsons Bay, Cooks Bay, Halstead Bay & Wayzata Bay)

PROJECT TIMELINE:

May 27 through September 5

PROJECT/PROGRAM COST:

Fund name and number: AIS - 5005

Requested amount of funding: \$18,781

Is a budget amendment requested? No

Is additional staff requested? No

PAST BOARD ACTION:

The MCWD provided cost-share grants for AIS watercraft inspections in 2012; the percentage of costs reimbursed varied among the grantees. Grants were awarded to Carver County (Lake Minnewashta), LMCD (Lake Minnetonka), Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (Lakes Calhoun, Harriet and Nokomis), and City of Shorewood (Christmas Lake).

In 2013, grants were awarded on a design to reimburse 50 percent of costs above expenditures incurred in 2011, so that grantees would receive at least as much as they did in 2012, and be encouraged to provide more service in 2013. The Board authorized a cost-share grant with the LMCD for up to \$21,600. The actual grant amount based on services performed in 2013 was \$16,736.

In 2014, the Board authorized a cost-share grant with LMCD for up to \$23,979. The actual grant amount based on services performed in 2014 was \$17,725.

In 2015, the Board authorized a cost-share grant with LMCD for up to \$19,500. The actual grant amount based on services performed in 2014 was \$18,649.

SUMMARY:

The MCWD began cost-share grants for watercraft inspection for AIS in 2012. The inspections were designed and continue to be education activities to prevent the introduction and spread of AIS. Authority for inspections lies with the DNR, and the DNR authority can be provided to local government units through an agreement (often referred to as a “delegation agreement”). As the MCWD has awarded cost-share grants, grantees must demonstrate that they have a valid DNR agreement in place.

Grantees must provide an estimate of cost for their inspection services, and this estimate becomes the maximum amount that will be awarded. The District reimburses the lesser of this estimate or the cost actually incurred. The grants are released in lump-sums after the boating season and after the grantee has provided a report summarizing the inspection activities performed.

The proposal for cost-share funding with Lake Minnetonka Conservation District is as follows:

Three components to this program are planned for 2016

1. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR) will provide AIS inspection/education hours (no cost to the Lake Minnetonka community) at the Grays Bay, Maxwell Bay, North Arm, and Spring Park Bay public accesses. This will include a combination of Level 1 and 2 watercraft inspections.
2. Seasonal employees hired by the TRPD will educate the public on AIS through its gate attendants at the Lake Minnetonka Regional Park.
3. The LMCD will provide AIS inspection/educational hours at the Carsons Bay, Cooks Bay, Halstead Bay, and Wayzata Bay public accesses. Program details include:
 - Inspections are planned from May 27th through September 5th on Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, and Holidays. Inspection times include: 1) Thursdays and Fridays (11 a.m. to 7 p.m.), and 2) Saturdays, Sundays, and Holidays (6 a.m. to 6 p.m.).
 - The LMCD will be contracting with the Three Rivers Park District (TRPD) to conduct these watercraft inspections. A total of 2,472 contracted hours are planned for 2016.
 - Estimated costs for all aspects of this program are \$46,745. The LMCD has secured \$9,183 of grant funding from Hennepin County Environmental and Management through the TRPD. Thus, the balance of estimated costs for the 2016 program are \$37,562. The LMCD is seeking a 50% cost-share grant with the MCWD for an amount up to \$18,781.

In 2015, over 10,000 hours of inspections occurred on Lake Minnetonka, with 2,280 hours coming from the LMCD's program, the rest came from the DNR and Three Rivers Park District. Between all partners, 36,144 watercraft were inspected. 732 watercraft were stopped attempting to enter the lake with potential AIS onboard. 26% of the watercraft exiting the lake had vegetation, water or actual zebra mussels on the watercraft. Vegetation and water can also inhabit zebra mussels and their veliger larvae, so these exiting inspections are critical for reducing the risk of new AIS infestations in the other District lakes.

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 16-XXX

TITLE: Authorization to Enter into Cost-Share Agreement with the Lake Minnetonka Conservation District to Provide Watercraft Inspection Services at Lake Minnetonka in 2016

WHEREAS, in 2012 the MCWD initiated a cost-share program with local units of government to augment the level of effort they had planned for inspection of watercraft for the presence of aquatic invasive species, and the subsequent education of watercraft operators of proper equipment cleaning and compliance with AIS laws; and

WHEREAS, the Board approved continuation for these activities in its 2016 budget; and

WHEREAS, the District has communicated its 2016 cost-share funding program wherein it would provide 50 percent of the cost for these services; and

WHEREAS, the District has provided cost-share grant funding in 2015 through an agreement with Lake Minnetonka Conservation District for the performance of watercraft inspections at Lake Minnetonka public access; and

WHEREAS, Lake Minnetonka Conservation District has requested cost-share grant funding in 2016, presented a proposed schedule to perform watercraft inspections totaling 2,472 hours of service from May 27 through September 5, 2016 with an estimated cost-share amount to be \$18,781; and

WHEREAS, Lake Minnetonka Conservation District's request is consistent with the District's cost-share grant program for 2016; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers authorizes the execution of an agreement with Lake Minnetonka Conservation District to provide AIS education through these watercraft inspection services at certain Lake Minnetonka public accesses, with the District's cost-share grant not to exceed \$18,781.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Managers authorize the District Administrator to enter into this agreement contingent that applicant demonstrate its AIS and lake management plans and related activities are consistent with the goals of the MCWD's Comprehensive Waster Resource Management Plan and upon advice of counsel and with such further minor revisions as may be necessary to effect the intent of the parties.

Resolution Number 16-XXX was moved by Manager _____, seconded by Manager _____. Motion to adopt the resolution _ ayes, _ nays, _ abstentions. Date: April 14, 2016.

Secretary

Date: _____



LAKE MINNETONKA CONSERVATION DISTRICT

5341 MAYWOOD ROAD, SUITE 200 • MOUND, MINNESOTA 55364 • TELEPHONE 952/745-0789 • FAX 952/745-9085
Gregory S. Nybeck, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 5, 2016

Mr. Craig Dawson
Minnehaha Creek Watershed District
15320 Minnetonka Blvd.
Minnetonka, MN 55345

Dear Mr. Dawson:

RE: MCWD Cost-share for 2016 Watercraft Inspections

Background

As we enter the 2016 boating season, the Lake Minnetonka Conservation District (LMCD) is finalizing its program to help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS) by educating the public on AIS as part of a Lake Minnetonka watercraft inspection program. This program commenced in 2002 and has continued to become more comprehensive on an annual basis, with the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) participating since 2010.

Program Details

In 2016, the goals will be consistent with past years. These include:

1. To improve the public's knowledge of Minnesota AIS laws through education;
2. To improve boater behavior on complying with Minnesota AIS laws;
3. To reduce the chances of a new AIS introduction into Lake Minnetonka; and
4. To help reduce the chances of spreading AIS from Lake Minnetonka (in particular zebra mussels) to other bodies of water within the MCWD by providing outgoing inspections.

The following three components to this program are planned in 2016.

1. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR) will provide AIS inspection/educational hours (no cost to the Lake Minnetonka community) at the Grays Bay, Maxwell Bay, North Arm, and Spring Park Bay public accesses. This will include a combination of Level 1 and 2 watercraft inspections.
2. The LMCD will provide AIS inspection/educational hours at the Carsons Bay, Cooks Bay, Halstead Bay, and Wayzata Bay public accesses. Program details include:
 - Inspections are planned from May 27th through September 5th on Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, and Holidays. Inspection times include: 1) Thursdays and Fridays (11 a.m. to 7 p.m.), and 2) Saturdays, Sundays, and Holidays (6 a.m. to 6 p.m.).
 - The LMCD will be contracting with the Three Rivers Park District (TRPD) to conduct these watercraft inspections. A total of 2,472 contracted hours are planned for 2016.



Mr. Craig Dawson
April 5, 2016
Page 2

- Estimated costs for all aspects of this program are \$46,745.00. The LMCD has secured \$9,183 of grant funding from Hennepin County Environment and Management through the TRPD. Thus, the balance of estimated costs for the 2016 program are \$37,562.00.
3. Seasonal employees hired by the TRPD will educate the public on AIS through its gate attendants at the Lake Minnetonka Regional Park.

2016 Funding Request

The LMCD has greatly appreciated its partnership with the MCWD on this program. For 2016, the LMCD would like to request the MCWD for 50% of the balance of estimated costs (\$18,781.00).

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or you need additional information. Thanks!

Sincerely,



James Jay Green, Chair
LMCD Board of Directors