

MEETING DATE: August 23, 2018

TITLE: Authorization to Apply for BWSR CWF Competitive Grant Funding for Long Lake Creek Subwatershed Assessment

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 18-084

PREPARED BY: Eric Fieldseth

E-MAIL: efieldseth@minnehahacreek.org

TELEPHONE: 952-471-7873

REVIEWED BY: Administrator Counsel Program Mgr. (Name): Brian Beck
 Board Committee Engineer Other Becky Christopher

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): Requesting approval at the August 23, 2018 Board Meeting.	

PURPOSE or ACTION REQUESTED:

Authorization to apply for FY 2019 grant funding through the BWSR Clean Water Fund Accelerated Implementation Grant program for the Long Lake Creek Subwatershed Assessment.

PROJECT/PROGRAM LOCATION:

Upper Long Lake Creek Subwatershed – including the Cities of Medina, Long Lake, and Orono

PROJECT TIMELINE:

BWSR grant applications due August 31, 2018

PAST BOARD ACTION:

March 9, 2017 – Res. 17-019: Authorization to partner with the Cities of Long Lake, Medina and Orono, and the Long Lake Waters Association, to pursue Hennepin County Natural Resource Opportunity Grant funds, and to provide an in-kind contribution to advance a Long Lake Creek Subwatershed Carp Assessment (*Note – Grant funds were not awarded*)

April 26, 2018 – Res. 18-043: Authorization to execute an agreement with the Cities of Long Lake, Medina and Orono, and the Long Lake Waters Association, to partner on a carp assessment in Long Lake. MCWD’s participation is contingent upon all the partners contributing and partnering on the project.

July 12, 2018 – Res. 18-066: Resolution of Support for the Long Lake Creek Subwatershed Partnership. MCWD will act as a technical resource, synthesizing water quality data with carp data to more specifically diagnose issues and drivers within the subwatershed, and to regularly convene partners to identify, recommend and prioritize implementation efforts.

SUMMARY:

In 2016, the Board of Managers appointed an Investment Task Force to initiate planning to increase the volume of outside funds supporting MCWD's capital improvement program. With Board concurrence, the Task Force established the following goals:

1. Obtain ongoing supplemental funding (larger than one-time project specific grants) to implement landscape scale restoration and implementation objectives identified within priority focal subwatershed plans, such as Six Mile Creek-Halsted Bay.
2. Increase one-time funding for specific capital improvements identified through responsive track planning.
3. Obtain one-time or ongoing supplemental funding for MCWD programs, historically funded through levy resources (land management, data collection, education and communications, permitting, operations, etc.)

Accordingly, staff continues to identify and target one-time project specific supplemental funding for priority activities. The Board has requested that they be notified of grant opportunities and authorize staff to apply for grants.

The Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) opened its annual request for proposals (RFP) for Clean Water Fund competitive grants on July 9, 2018. This year's RFP includes the category of Accelerated Implementation which can be used for pre-project identification, planning and design. Staff has identified this grant opportunity as a potential fit for project identification and prioritization efforts in the Long Lake Creek Subwatershed.

Five lakes within the Long Lake Creek subwatershed are impaired for excess nutrients including Holy Name, School, Wolsfeld, Long, and Tanager. In 2014, the Upper Minnehaha Creek Watershed TMDL identified watershed phosphorus loading, internal phosphorus loading, and common carp as potential drivers for poor water quality and ecological integrity within these lakes. However, there has been little diagnostic work completed in this watershed, which makes it difficult to identify cost effective nutrient reduction projects.

Recently, a system-wide partnership has formed between the cities of Medina, Long Lake, and Orono, the Long Lake Waters Association, and the MCWD to pursue water quality improvements in the Long Lake Creek subwatershed. Work under this partnership was initiated earlier in 2018 by the Cities of Medina and Long Lake, and the Long Lake Waters Association to conduct a small scale carp assessment to begin understanding the impacts carp may be having on Long Lake. Additionally, over the last two years, MCWD has been focusing diagnostic monitoring in the Long Lake Creek Subwatershed to fill data gaps and begin identifying problem areas that may be driving nutrient impairments.

MCWD has committed to serving as a convener and technical resource for the partnership, synthesizing water quality data and carp data to more specifically diagnose issues and drivers within the subwatershed, and help recommend and prioritize implementation efforts. Staff believe the next step in this process is to identify cost effective watershed and in-lake BMPs to improve water quality for impaired water bodies within the Upper Long Lake Creek subwatershed. Applying for the Accelerated Implementation grant would allow MCWD to facilitate the advancement of water quality improvement projects in a region of the watershed we do not currently have the resources to support.

Staff has discussed the grant opportunity with the partners, including the City of Long Lake, City of Medina, City of Orono, and the Long Lake Waters Association, and each have committed to providing a letter of support for MCWD's application. Staff will work with BWSR staff and the partners to determine eligible grant match activities and the amount of funding for the request to ensure that the application is competitive.

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 18-084

TITLE: **Authorization to Apply for BWSR CWF Competitive Grant Funding for Long Lake Creek Subwatershed Assessment**

WHEREAS, in 2016, the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) Board of Managers appointed an Investment Task Force to initiate planning to increase the volume of outside funds supporting MCWD's capital improvement program; and

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

WHEREAS, the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) offers Clean Water Fund (CWF) Competitive Grants for projects and practices that protect, enhance, and restore water quality; and

WHEREAS BWSR's request for proposals for fiscal year 2019 grants includes Accelerated Implementation grants which can be used for pre-project identification, planning and design; and

WHEREAS, a regional partnership has formed between the Cities of Medina, Long Lake and Orono, and the Long Lake Waters Association, to pursue water quality improvements in the Long Lake Creek Subwatershed; and

WHEREAS, the District's watershed management plan acknowledges this regional partnership, with the partnership leveraging the skills and resources of each entity, by collaborating and identifying shared priorities for the implementation of projects and programs to improve water quality in the Long Lake Creek Subwatershed; and

WHEREAS, MCWD has committed to serving as a convener and technical resource for the partnership, synthesizing data to identify issues and drivers within the subwatershed to inform implementation; and

WHEREAS, staff is proposing to apply for an Accelerated Implementation grant to conduct a subwatershed assessment for the Upper Long Lake Creek subwatershed to identify cost effective watershed and in-lake BMPs to improve water quality for impaired lakes within the subwatershed; and

WHEREAS, each of the partners, including the City of Long Lake, City of Medina, City of Orono, and the Long Lake Waters Association have committed to providing a letter of support for MCWD's application;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the MCWD Board of Managers authorizes staff to apply for FY 2019 BWSR CWF Competitive Grant Funding for Long Lake Creek Subwatershed Assessment.

Resolution Number 18-085 was moved by Manager _____, seconded by Manager _____.
Motion to adopt the resolution ___ ayes, ___ nays, ___ abstentions. Date: _____.

Secretary Date: _____

**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.**



CITY OF ORONO

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August 14, 2018

MCWD Board of Managers
Minnehaha Creek Watershed District
15320 Minnetonka Blvd.
Minnetonka, MN 55345

Dear MCWD Board of Managers,

I am writing in support of the grant application for the BWSR Accelerated Implementation Grant for the Long Lake Creek subwatershed being submitted by the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District.

In 2014, the Upper Minnehaha Creek Watershed Nutrient and Bacteria TMDL Study identified high level nutrient load reduction goals for five impaired water bodies within the 11.9 square mile Long Lake Creek subwatershed. Between 2016 and 2018 a partnership emerged among cities within the Long Lake Creek subwatershed, the Long Lake Waters Association, and MCWD to pursue water quality improvements in water bodies impaired for excess nutrients. However, the only feasibility study that has been developed for the Long Lake Creek subwatershed was focused on watershed areas south of Long Lake. Therefore, the northern portion of the Long Lake Creek subwatershed that contains the majority of nutrient impairments lacks a detailed implementation framework. A full understanding of the impairments across the entire watershed is critical to the members of the partnership directing future resources toward water quality improvements.

Sincerely,

Adam T. Edwards, P.E.
Director of Public Works/ City Engineer
City of Orono

LONG LAKE WATER'S ASSOCIATION

August 17, 2018

Via eMail

Minnehaha Creek Watershed District
15320 Minnetonka Boulevard
Minnetonka, MN 55345

Re: BWSR Grant

Dear Mr. Wisker:

Long Lake Water's Association (LLWA) would like to express strong support of the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District's (MCWD) application for a BWSR Grant to improve the water quality in the Long Lake Creek Subwatershed.

Over the last two years, LLWA has been working with MCWD and the cities of Long Lake, Medina and Orono in a regional partnership to address water quality issues within the subwatershed. Over the past 6 months, these partners have shared resources to initiate Phase 1 of carp assessment, telemetry and data collection in Long Lake carried out by WSB and Associates. The MCWD has been a valuable partner in this project. LLWA has also partnered with Orono Schools to develop hands on student learning about water quality in our community.

For years, five of the seven lakes in the Long Lake Creek Subwatershed have been identified as impaired waters. The subwatershed will benefit greatly from a focused regional approach to address the water quality issues and to identify an implementation plan of improvement projects. LLWA understands that the MCWD Board will consider a proposal by staff to pursue an application for a BWSR Grant to identify these needed BMPs to improve water quality within the Long Lake Creek Subwatershed.

LLWA has a strong member base who live both on and off the lakes in Orono, Medina and Long Lake. This engaged and growing membership provides unique opportunities for ongoing education and community wide support. The LLWA fully supports MCWD's BWSR application, looks forward to continuing our partnership and to working together on the important waters related issues in the watershed.

Sincerely,

Cassy Ordway

Cassandra S. Ordway

Long Lake Waters Association Board Chair

P.O. BOX 195
LONG LAKE, MINNESOTA 55356
612-581-5651



CITY OFFICE

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August 15, 2018

Eric Fieldseth
Aquatic Ecologist
Minnehaha Creek Watershed District
15320 Minnetonka Blvd.
Minnetonka, MN 55345

Grant Application Letter of Support

Dear Mr. Fieldseth,

The City of Medina supports the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) application for the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) Accelerated Implementation Grant. The grant funds will accomplish the following goals and will further the Long Lake Subwatershed Carp study initiatives.

Project Abstract

In 2014, the Upper Minnehaha Creek Watershed Nutrient and Bacteria TMDL Study identified high level nutrient load reduction goals for five impaired water bodies within the 11.9 square mile Long Lake Creek subwatershed. In 2017, Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) updated its Watershed Management Plan, which outlines water quality issues, potential drivers of poor water quality, and general implementation strategies within the Long Lake Creek subwatershed.

Between 2016 and 2018 a partnership emerged among cities within the Long Lake Creek subwatershed, the Long Lake Waters Association, and MCWD to pursue water quality improvements in water bodies impaired for excess nutrients. However, the only feasibility study that has been developed for the Long Lake Creek subwatershed was focused on watershed areas south of Long Lake. Therefore, the northern portion of the Long Lake Creek subwatershed that contains the majority of nutrient impairments lacks a detailed implementation framework.

The goal of this project is to identify watershed and in-lake BMPs to improve water quality for impaired water bodies within and downstream of the Long Lake Creek subwatershed. The existing P8 watershed model and BATHTUB lake response models will be updated and refined with more detail to identify BMPs, develop project costs, and estimate nutrient load reductions. A feasibility report will be developed that outlines prioritized projects, potential load reductions, and project costs to accelerate implementation of water quality improvement projects within the Long Lake Creek subwatershed.

August 15, 2018

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The City of Medina has come to enjoy a strong working relationship with the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District and looks forward to carrying that positive momentum forward through this grant initiative and into future collaborative opportunities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "S" and a long, sweeping underline.

Scott Johnson

City Administrator