



**Title:** Authorization to Apply for Watershed-Based Implementation Funding

**Resolution number:** 23-012

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**Recommended action:** Authorize staff to apply for grant funding through the Board of Water and Soil Resources Watershed-Based Implementation Funding Program

**Schedule:** March 30, 2023 – Deadline for Work Plan approval  
 December 31, 2025 – Grant expiration

**Budget considerations:** N/A

**Past Board action:** N/A

**Summary:**

The third round of Watershed-Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) is available through the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR). For this round, funds have been allocated on a watershed basis, and the Minnehaha Creek Watershed planning area has \$418,140 available to fund eligible projects/activities for implementation in 2023-2025.

Eligible entities in our allocation area include Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD), Hennepin and Carver counties, Carver Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), and municipalities. For a project/activity to be eligible for funding, it must be identified in the implementation section of an eligible plan. In our allocation area, for this round, eligible plans include only the MCWD Watershed Management Plan and the Carver County Groundwater Plan. Activities must have a primary benefit towards water quality and must be completed by December 31, 2025.

The program requires a convene meeting process through which participants meet to develop a budget request for submittal to BWSR that is prioritized, targeted, and measurable. Participants include one representative from each watershed district, SWCD, county with a current groundwater plan, and up to two representatives from municipalities within the allocation area. MCWD served as the convener for this process and solicited project proposals from all the eligible entities. Two projects were submitted for consideration:

Entity	Project Name	Description	Water Quality Benefit	Cost
Long Lake/ MCWD	Holbrook Park Regional Stormwater Treatment	Regional stormwater management of 147 acres of drainage in a city park via subsurface infiltration to reduce nutrient loading to impaired Long Lake. Identified as a priority project in the MCWD's Long Lake Creek Roadmap.	46.9 lbs TP/yr	\$1,292,867
Medina	Morningside Ravine Stabilization	Stabilization of 400' of eroding ravine and construction of a 0.4 acre pond to reduce erosion and sediment/nutrient loading to Lake Katrina, which flows into Painters Creek and ultimately Jennings Bay.	30.3 lbs TP/yr	\$343,200

The convene meeting was held on January 3, 2023 to review the projects and develop a budget request. The group agreed that both projects were worth supporting and recommended splitting the \$418,140 between the two projects. MCWD staff is in coordination with the two cities to determine the recommended split between the two projects based on estimated costs, project schedules, and the cities' capacity to provide matching funds. It is currently estimated that Medina will be seeking approximately \$243,000 based on funds that the City already has allocated toward the Morningside project. The remaining amount of approximately \$175,000 could then be used to initiate feasibility work for the Holbrook Park project while additional grant funding is pursued to support implementation.

It is recommended that MCWD serve as the grantee to allow for easier transfer of funds between the two projects, if needed, based on additional feasibility work and cost refinement for the two projects. MCWD staff will develop agreements with the two cities to outline how funds will be passed on, as well as roles and responsibilities for grant administration and any other support the MCWD may wish to provide for these projects. These agreements will be brought back for Board authorization, along with authorization to execute the grant agreement.



## RESOLUTION

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- WHEREAS, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) has transitioned its Clean Water Funding model from project by project competitive grants to a coordinated watershed funding approach which relies on comprehensive watershed management plans developed under the One Watershed, One Plan Program or the Metropolitan Surface Water Management Act to provide assurance that actions are prioritized, targeted, and measurable; and
- WHEREAS, on October 27, 2021, BWSR approved the Watershed-Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) watershed allocations and program policy for the 2022-2023 biennium; and
- WHEREAS, funds have been allocated based on hydrologic boundaries, and the Minnehaha Creek Watershed planning area has been allocated \$418,140; and
- WHEREAS, the WBIF program requires that all eligible entities within the planning area, including the watershed district, counties, soil and water conservation districts, and cities, work together to develop a collaborative budget request that is prioritized, targeted, and measurable; and
- WHEREAS, MCWD served as the convener for this process and solicited project proposals from all the eligible entities, and two projects were submitted for consideration:
- Holbrook Park Regional Stormwater Treatment (Long Lake/MCWD) – a regional stormwater management project in a Long Lake-owned park that was identified as a priority in MCWD’s Long Lake Creek Roadmap;
  - Morningside Ravine Stabilization (Medina) – a ravine stabilization and pond construction project to reduce erosion and sediment/nutrient loading to Lake Katrina and Painters Creek; and
- WHEREAS, the convene meeting was held on January 3, 2023 to review the projects and develop a budget request, and the group agreed that both projects were worth supporting and recommended splitting the \$418,140 between the two projects; and
- WHEREAS, it is recommended that MCWD serve as the grantee to allow for easier transfer of funds between the two projects, if needed, based on additional feasibility work and cost refinement for the two projects; and
- WHEREAS, the MCWD Board has requested that they be notified of grant opportunities and authorize staff to apply for grants; and
- WHEREAS, staff will work with the cities of Long Lake and Medina to finalize the recommended funding split between the two projects and develop agreements that outline the roles and expectations for advancing the projects and managing the grant;
- NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers authorize staff to apply for grant funding through the BWSR Watershed-based Implementation Funding Program for the aforementioned projects.

Resolution Number 23-012 was moved by Manager \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by Manager \_\_\_\_\_. Motion to adopt the resolution \_\_\_ ayes, \_\_\_ nays, \_\_\_ abstentions. Date: 2/9/2023

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

DRAFT