

MEETING DATE: August 23, 2018

TITLE: Authorization to Apply for Water Resource Center & Minnesota Stormwater Research Council CWF Grant Funding to Create Participatory Modeling in South Minneapolis

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 18-085

PREPARED BY: Tiffany Schaufler

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

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 submit a proposal to the Water Resource Center and Minnesota Stormwater Research Council for Clean Water Grant funding to create participatory modeling in South Minneapolis.

PROJECT/PROGRAM LOCATION:

Minneapolis

PROJECT TIMELINE:

Proposals due – September 10, 2018

PROJECT/PROGRAM COST: N/A

PAST BOARD ACTIONS: N/A

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 Water Resource Center (WRC) at the University of Minnesota, in cooperation with the Minnesota Stormwater Research Council (MRSC) have issued a request for proposals to advance stormwater science, technology, and management in Minnesota. The major source of funding for the selected proposals would come through an appropriations from the Clean Water Fund. The request for proposals can be viewed here: https://www.wrc.umn.edu/sites/wrc.umn.edu/files/stormwater_advances_rfp-final-7_july_2018.pdf

Dr. Dan Milz is a visiting Assistant Professor of Environmental Planning and Civic Engagement and is currently collaborating on projects studying how planning processes can help communities' site green infrastructure (e.g. raingardens, bioswales) to mitigate flooding in urban neighborhoods. Dr. Milz and his project team (Dr. Moira Zellner and Dr. Leilah Lyons) reached out to the District to inquire if the District would be interested in partnering on a proposal to develop participatory modeling in South Minneapolis. Participatory modeling is a purposeful learning process for action that engages the implicit and explicit knowledge of stakeholders to create formalized and shared representation(s) of reality.

Dr. Milz and his team have been developing an approach to facilitate community engagement around stormwater, flooding, and green infrastructure using a computer model that is paired with a hands-on, game board interface. The purpose of the participatory model is not intended to replicate the detailed engineering modeling that already exists but rather is to create a visual framework for discussion and collaboration. This engagement technology would allow stakeholders to playfully design, test, and revise green infrastructure plans to help them understand stormwater management and urban flooding. This participatory modeling has been used in the Chicago region: <http://udv.lab.uic.edu/featured-projects/participatory-modeling-planning-sustainable-water-management/>

Given the District's current focus in the Minnehaha Creek subwatershed and the creek corridor in Minneapolis, District staff recognize the community engagement support that this participatory modeling could bring to those stakeholders, and recommends offering the District's support to Dr. Milz, Dr. Zellner, and Dr. Lyons as they prepare to submit a proposal.

The City of Minneapolis and Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board are also considering offering their support on this proposal. Proposals are due September 10, 2018.

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION NUMBER: **18-085**

TITLE: **Authorization to Apply for Water Resource Center & Minnesota Stormwater Research Council CWF Grant Funding to Create Participatory Modeling in South Minneapolis**

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 Water Resource Center in cooperation with the Minnesota Stormwater Research Council is offering Clean Water Fund monies for projects that advance stormwater science, technology, and management in Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Milz, Dr. Zellner, and Dr. Lyons are interested in partnering with the District on a proposal which would develop participatory modeling in South Minneapolis; and

WHEREAS, staff recognize the community engagement support that participatory modeling could bring to South Minneapolis stakeholders as the District looks to plan and implement stormwater management projects;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers authorizes staff to support a joint proposal with Dr. Milz, Dr. Zellner, and Dr. Lyons in response to the RFP issued by the Water Resource Center & Minnesota Stormwater Research Council; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the District Administrator is authorized to take all steps necessary to support a joint proposal to the Water Resource Center & Minnesota Stormwater Research Council.

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

Secretary

**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.**