

MEETING DATE: March 28, 2019

TITLE: Authorization to enter into four contracts for vegetation maintenance at 25 sites

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 19-034

PREPARED BY: Janna Jonely

E-MAIL: jjonely@minnehahacreek.org

TELEPHONE: 952-641-4523

REVIEWED BY: Administrator Counsel Program Mgr.: Michael Hayman
 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): Seeking final authorization at March 28, 2019 Board Meeting	

PURPOSE or ACTION REQUESTED:

Final authorization is requested to enter into contracts with:

Landbridge Ecological for one year of vegetation maintenance for the Minnehaha Creek Greenway Sites (4) which includes Cottageville Park, Minnehaha Creek Preserve (Reach 20), Minnehaha Creek Preserve Enhancement (Japs Olson), and Methodist Hospital Wetland Restoration, in the amount of \$51,476.57 and establish a not-to-exceed budget of \$56,624.23;

Minnesota Native Landscapes for one year of vegetation maintenance for Six Mile Marsh Prairie Restoration & Laketown Wetland in the amount of \$29,930 and establish a not-to-exceed budget of \$32,923;

Landbridge Ecological for three years of vegetation maintenance for the Pond Buffers & Shorelines Sites (11), which includes Nokomis Gateway pond, Nokomis Amelia pond, Nokomis Knoll pond, SW Bde Maka Ska (formerly Calhoun) pond, Cedar Meadows pond, Twin Lakes pond, Long Lake ponds and shoreline, Our Lady of the Lake rain garden, Gideon Glen pond, Minnehaha Creek Headwaters shoreline, and the MCWD Office buffer, in the amount of \$74,986.24 and establish a not-to-exceed budget of \$82,484.86 and

Minnesota Native Landscapes for three years of vegetation management at the West & Southwest Sites (8), which includes Long Lake Creek Wetland, Independence Wetland, Johnson/Rolling Hills Restoration, County Road 26 Remeander (Waldera Barkus), Chute, Rye, Gould, and Steiger Wetland Restoration in the amount of \$145,450 and establish a not-to-exceed budget of \$159,995.

PROJECT/PROGRAM LOCATION:

25 Sites throughout the District. See Attachment 1: Sites Map

See the table below for a breakdown of the four project contracts and associated sites.

Minnehaha Creek Greenway Sites (4) Contract Period: 2019	SMMRP & Laketown (2) Contract Period: 2019	Pond Buffers & Shorelines Sites (11) Contract Period: 2019-2021	West & Southwest Sites (8) Contract Period: 2019-2021
Cottageville Park	Six Mile Marsh Prairie Restoration	Nokomis Gateway Pond	Long Lake Creek Wetland
Minnehaha Creek Preserve (Reach 20)	Laketown Wetland	Nokomis Amelia Pond	Independence Wetland
Minnehaha Creek Preserve Enhancement (Japs Olson)		Nokomis Knoll Pond	Johnson / Rolling Hills Restoration
Methodist Hospital Wetland Restoration		SW Bde Maka Ska Ponds	County Road 26 Remeander (Waldera Barkus)
		Cedar Meadows Pond	Chute
		Twin Lakes Pond	Rye
		Long Lake Ponds and Shoreline	Gould
		Our Lady of the Lake Rain Garden	Steiger Wetland
		Gideon Glen	
		Minnehaha Creek Headwaters Shoreline	
		MCWD Office Buffer	

PROJECT TIMELINE:

Contract Period: 2019, Minnehaha Creek Greenway Sites (4), and Six Mile Marsh Prairie Restoration & Laketown Wetland

Contract Period: 2019-2021, Pond Buffers & Shorelines Sites (11), and West & Southwest Sites (8)

PROJECT/PROGRAM COST:

Fund name and number: Project Maintenance and Land Management, 200-2003

Current budget: \$811,845

Expenditures to date: \$94,974.64

Requested amount of funding: \$332,027.09

PAST BOARD ACTIONS:

- May 6, 2003: RES 03-008, Approval to Include Vegetation in District Maintenance Policy
- November 20, 2003: RES 03-048, Award Kestrel Contract for Design and Maintenance Plan for Vegetation at Regional Ponds
- May 13, 2004: RES 04-021, Accept Kestrel Plans for Buffer Designs/Maintenance at Regional Ponds
- July 22, 2004: RES 04-030, Award 2-year Contract to Kestrel for Vegetation Maintenance and Oversight at Regional Ponds
- May 1, 2008: RES 08-031, Award Contract to Kestrel for Inspections, Oversight, and Reporting on Vegetation Maintenance for Regional Pond Sites for Growing Season 2008
- December 11, 2008: RES 08-098, Authorize Staff to Solicit Bids for 5 Years of Vegetation Maintenance at

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10 Sites and Award Kestrel Contract to Prepare Bidding Documents and Technical Specifications

- June 11, 2009: RES 09-053, Award 5-year Contract for Vegetation Maintenance of District Projects
- April 24, 2014: RES 14-036, Award Contract for Vegetation Maintenance at 10 District Project Sites
- February 25, 2016: RES 16-014, Authorization to Enter into Contracts for Vegetation Maintenance at 17 Sites
- February 23, 2017: RES 17-013, Authorization to Enter into Contract for Vegetation Maintenance at 3 Sites
- March 22, 2018: RES 18-034, Authorization to Enter into a Contract for Vegetation Maintenance at 4 Sites

SUMMARY:

In 2003, the District adopted a policy in which the District maintains vegetation established as part of its implementation of projects. This action was in response to the finding that project partners may not have the expertise, budget, or oversight needed for ongoing vegetation maintenance and that the District is best equipped to ensure that maintenance is regular and consistent. As more recent capital projects have reached the end of their warranty period, and maintenance and management goals have been refined for District lands, the number of sites where vegetation maintenance is needed has grown to 27 sites.

Under the four proposed contracts, MCWD will be managing vegetation at a total of 25 sites throughout the watershed. These contracts continue ongoing vegetation maintenance at 19 sites and add two sites where construction warranty maintenance has ended (Cottageville Park and Minnehaha Creek Preserve Enhancement), one site where grant-funded management is limited in scope and additional management is needed (Six Mile Marsh Prairie), and three sites where new maintenance obligations are being initiated (Chute, Rye, and Gould properties). Two additional sites (Diercks and Broin) will have grant-funded management through Great River Greening and are not included in these proposed contracts. Under this contract framework, two contracts for vegetation management at six sites will expire at the end of 2019 (one-year term) and two contracts for 19 sites will expire at the end of 2021 (three-year term).

Proposed maintenance for 25 sites has been divided among four contracts in an effort to group sites geographically, to group similar management approaches and required equipment, and to align technical abilities of individual contractors with specific management techniques. In addition, organizing the work into four separate contracts as defined will facilitate staff’s oversight and administration of the work.

The District solicited quotes for vegetation maintenance from five contractors, all of which District staff considers to be competent and responsible, and received the following responses:

CONTRACTOR	Minnehaha Creek Greenway Sites (4)	SMMRP & Laketown Wetland	Pond Buffers & Shorelines Sites (11)	West & Southwest Sites (8)
Prairie Restorations, Inc.		\$33,980	\$121,915	\$166,165
Landbridge Ecological	\$51,476.57*	\$47,790	\$74,986.24*	\$234,675
Minnesota Native Landscapes	\$52,141	\$29,930*	\$99,665	\$145,450*
Applied Ecological Services	\$74,000.04	\$48,425	\$161,434	\$225,078
Natural Shore Technologies		\$31,260		

* Low Quote

Based on the submitted quotes, staff recommends the following:

- Award of the Minnehaha Creek Greenway Sites contract to Landbridge Ecological for one year of vegetation maintenance in the amount of \$51,476.57 and establish a not-to-exceed budget of \$56,624.23;
- Award of the Six Mile Marsh Prairie Restoration & Laketown Wetland contract to Minnesota Native Landscapes for one year of vegetation maintenance in the amount of \$29,930 and establish a not-to-exceed budget of \$32,923;
- Award of the Pond Buffers & Shorelines Sites contract to Landbridge Ecological for three years of vegetation maintenance in the amount of \$74,986.24 and establish a not-to-exceed budget of \$82,484.86; and
- Award of the West & Southwest Sites contract to Minnesota Native Landscapes for three years of vegetation maintenance in the amount of \$145,450 and establish a not-to-exceed budget of \$159,995.

At the March 28, 2019 Board meeting, Staff will provide a presentation detailing the recommended vegetation maintenance contracts and highlight the continued evolution of maintenance contracts for District projects throughout the watershed.

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 19-034

TITLE: **Authorization to Enter into Four Contracts for Vegetation Maintenance at 25 Sites**

WHEREAS, the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) engages in regional capital improvement projects as described in its Water Resources Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, the MCWD has constructed various regional treatment facilities that include a vegetation component; and

WHEREAS, the MCWD Board of Managers has amended the maintenance policy to include maintenance of vegetation planted in conjunction with capital projects, but not including mowing of lawns or general landscaping of the project site; and

WHEREAS, the MCWD current contracts for vegetation management expired December 31, 2018; and

WHEREAS, MCWD staff has obtained three quotes for vegetation maintenance services for the Minnehaha Creek Greenway Sites (4), and Landbridge Ecological submitted a low quote of \$51,476.57; and

WHEREAS, MCWD staff has obtained five quotes for vegetation maintenance services for the Six Mile Marsh Prairie Restorations & Laketown Wetland, and Minnesota Native Landscapes submitted a low quote of \$29,930; and

WHEREAS, MCWD staff has obtained four quotes for vegetation maintenance services for the Pond Buffers & Shorelines Sites (11), and Landbridge Ecological submitted a low quote of \$74,986.24; and

WHEREAS, MCWD staff has obtained four quotes for vegetation maintenance services for the West & Southwest Sites (8), and Minnesota Native Landscapes submitted a low quote of \$145,450.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the District Administrator is authorized, on advice of District Counsel, to enter into a contract with Landbridge Ecological in the amount of \$51,476.57 for the Minnehaha Creek Greenway Sites (4) vegetation maintenance and that the Board establishes a Minnehaha Creek Greenway Sites (4) project maintenance budget in the not-to-exceed amount of \$56,624.23 and authorizes the District Administrator, in his judgment, to authorize change orders obligating the District up to that amount; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the District Administrator is authorized, on advice of District Counsel, to enter into a contract with Minnesota Native Landscapes in the amount of \$29,930 for the Six Mile Marsh Prairie Restoration & Laketown Wetland vegetation maintenance and that the Board establishes a Six Mile Marsh Prairie Restoration & Laketown Wetland project maintenance budget in the not-to-exceed amount of \$32,923 and authorizes the District Administrator, in his judgment, to authorize change orders obligating the District up to that amount; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the District Administrator is authorized, on advice of District Counsel, to enter into a contract with Landbridge Ecological in the amount of \$74,986.24 for the Pond Buffers & Shorelines Sites (11) vegetation maintenance and that the Board establishes a Pond Buffers & Shorelines Sites (11) project maintenance budget in the not-to-exceed amount of \$82,484.86 and authorizes the District Administrator, in his judgment, to authorize change orders obligating the District up to that amount; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the District Administrator is authorized, on advice of District Counsel, to enter into a contract with Minnesota Native Landscapes in the amount of \$145,450 for the West & Southwest Sites (8) vegetation maintenance and that the Board establishes a West & Southwest Sites (8) Restoration project maintenance budget in the not-to-exceed amount of \$159,995 and authorizes the District Administrator, in his judgment, to authorize change orders obligating the District up to that amount.

Resolution Number 19-034 was moved by Manager _____, seconded by Manager _____.
Motion to adopt the resolution ___ ayes, ___ nays, ___ abstentions. Date: March 28, 2019.

Secretary Date: March 28, 2019

2019 Vegetation Maintenance – 25 Sites

-  Sites with Contract Period: 2019
-  Sites with Contract Period: 2019-2021

