

Minnehaha Creek Watershed District

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

MEETING DATE: February 22, 2018

TITLE: 2018 National American Planning Association Conference Attendance

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 18-016

PREPARED BY: Anna Brown

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REVIEWED BY: Administrator Counsel Program Mgr. James Wisker
 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): Approval at February 22 Board Meeting	

PURPOSE or ACTION REQUESTED:

Approval of funding to send staff to the 2018 national conference of the American Planning Association

PROJECT TIMELINE:

The conference will be held from April 21-24, 2018 in New Orleans, LA

PROJECT/PROGRAM COST:

Fund name and number: 200-2002
Current Budget: \$912,310.00
Expenditures to date: \$17,063.94
Requested amount of funding: \$7,500

SUMMARY:

Each year, the American Planning Association (APA) holds a national conference, highlighting emerging issues, new trends, and best practices in the planning field. The conference program is diverse, and includes such topics as natural resources and environmental planning, innovation in government, parks and recreation, land-use and development, and many others pertinent to the District’s mission.

The adoption of the Balanced Urban Ecology policy in 2014 asserted the District’s focus on the integration of land-use and water planning. Through its adoption, the Board of Managers recognized not only that the District’s water quality goals could be better achieved through partnership development, but also that the impact of our work on the communities we serve could be amplified by seeking to add value to related public initiatives such as parks and open space and economic development, working towards the integration of natural resources with social and economic value.

**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.**

In February of 2017, the Board of Managers adopted an organizational strategic direction which sought to align District resources to reflect, amongst other things, the role of the Balanced Urban Ecology policy as foundational to the District's success. This included updating the District's vision, mission, and guiding principles, as well as defined the organization's principal strategies of:

- Developing high impact capital projects integrated with non-water initiatives through multijurisdictional partnership
- Changing the land-use water policy environment to increase early value added partnership with private development, public infrastructure, and public policy and planning

Staff are currently engaged in the development of a land use - water policy plan to establish an approach to achieving the latter organizational strategy. One of the recommendations within that plan will be to increase the local, regional, and national profile of the District within the land use and municipal planning community, allowing the District to increase regional influence and more effectively integrate our work with that of our partners.

Increased participation in the APA – locally, regionally, and nationally – provides a professional development opportunity to increase staff's ability to effectively implement both of the District principal strategies. Staff not only can develop increased awareness of best practices to enhance our implementation effectiveness, but also develop a profile within the planning community that can be leveraged for organizational growth and planning and policy influence.

Staff intend to use attendance at the conference to make new professional connections and showcase some of the major planning and project initiatives, with the goal of presenting these initiatives at the 2019 conference. Initiatives to feature include:

- The 2017 Watershed Management Plan
- The Greenway planning and implementation
- Planning in the Six Mile Creek-Halsted Bay Subwatershed, with focus on integration of water resources with land use planning through "green-printing"

With the requested funding not to exceed \$7,500, three (3) staff members will be able to attend the conference in April. This amount will cover conference registration, travel, and accommodations based on the following costs, resulting in a total cost between \$2,100 and \$2,500 per attendee:

Registration	\$1,050
Hotel	\$209 - \$296 per night
Airfare	\$397 - \$526 round trip

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 18-016

TITLE: 2018 National American Planning Association Conference Attendance

WHEREAS, the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers has adopted a balanced urban ecology policy that recognizes the multi-sector value of integrating natural systems and land use planning;

WHEREAS, on February 9, 2017, the Board of Managers approved the District's strategic direction and alignment report, stating its principal organizational strategy of:

- Developing high impact capital projects integrated with non-water initiatives through multijurisdictional partnership;
- Changing the land-use and water policy environment to increase early value-added partnership with private development, public infrastructure, and public policy and planning;

WHEREAS, implementation of the balanced urban ecology and organization strategic direction requires staff professional development in areas of municipal and land use planning;

WHEREAS, the District is currently developing a land use - water policy plan to influence policy at the local and regional level;

WHEREAS, the land use – water policy plan will include an objective of increasing the District's local, regional, and national profile within the land use planning community through conference attendance and presentations;

WHEREAS, the District has begun to establish a presence at the Minnesota chapter of the American Planning Association (APA) through conference presentations in 2016 and 2017;

WHEREAS, the District Board of Managers support the professional development of staff in areas outside of water resources, and the need to continue engaging the MCWD within the land use planning community

WHEREAS, the APA hosts an annual conference providing professional development, continuing education, and networking opportunities for planning professionals;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers authorize three (3) staff to attend the 2018 National American Planning Association conference for a cost not to exceed \$7,500 for registration, travel, and accommodations.

Resolution Number 18-016 was moved by Manager _____, seconded by Manager _____.
Motion to adopt the resolution ___ ayes, ___ nays, ___ abstentions. Date: _____.

Secretary Date: _____