

MEETING DATE: September 25, 2014

TITLE: Authorization for MCWD Board of Managers President to sign a letter of support for the City of Minneapolis to apply for a BWSR Clean Water Fund Grant for the Lake Nokomis Neighbors for Clean Water project.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 14-081

PREPARED BY: Brett Eidem, Cost Share Specialist

E-MAIL: beidem@minnehahacreek.org

TELEPHONE: (952) 641-4523

REVIEWED BY: Administrator Counsel Program Mgr. (Name): Telly Mamayek
 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): <u>Not previously reviewed</u>	

PURPOSE or ACTION REQUESTED:

Authorize MCWD Board President to sign a letter of support for the City of Minneapolis to apply for a BWSR Clean Water Fund Grant for the Lake Nokomis Neighbors for Clean Water project.

PROJECT/PROGRAM LOCATION:

Neighborhoods around Lake Nokomis, Minnehaha Creek Subwatershed

PROJECT TIMELINE:

Spring 2015-Fall 2017 (if awarded funding in 2014)

PROJECT/PROGRAM COST:

Fund name and number: 3130 MCWD Cost Share Grant Fund

Cost Share 2014 Budget: \$633,413.00

Amount Approved in 2014: \$146,621.15

Requested amount of funding: None

Is a budget amendment requested? No

Is additional staff requested? No

PAST BOARD ACTIONS:

July 31, 2014- Approval of funding of 50 percent of the documented cost of the project, not to exceed \$26,300.00 from the Cost Share Fund, for the installation of stormwater BMPs on 12 properties on a block in the Nokomis Neighborhood in Minneapolis.

Background:

The TMDL Study for Lake Nokomis was completed and approved by the EPA in 2011. It provided the basis for identification of pollution sources causing the surface water impairment. Initial planning for this project in 2012 included an inventory and assessment of the project area. The Lake Nokomis drainage area in the City is dominated by single family residential neighborhoods, small business nodes and parkland. Whereas the parkland around the lake contributes surface runoff to the lake, most of the runoff enters the lake at 10 outfalls, where storm drains carrying runoff from “pipesheds” (the portion of the watershed conveyed by storm pipes to a single outfall) ranging from 3.5 acres to 167 acres discharge to the lake. Grit chambers and stormwater wetland ponds have been installed to provide treatment for some of the pipesheds; however, others have no structural BMPs to mitigate runoff effects. For this project, the neighborhoods with a direct connection through the Minneapolis storm sewer system are targeted as priority areas because the reduction of volume, sediment and phosphorous loading will have the greatest surface water benefit. With this information and a goal to target private properties, planning started with a multi-scaled stormwater BMP retrofit analysis. The goal was to vet the most effective projects, at specific locations, with site-driven design and cost optimization, ensuring the highest value for dollar spent. A systematic incremental cost analysis identified that small-scaled BMPs such as raingardens and permeable paver strips to disconnect residential backyards, garage roofs and driveways, as well as roofs and parking lots from businesses, schools and faith-based organizations would attain the best result within a specified price range.

Lake Nokomis Neighbors for Clean Water is a partnership involving Metro Blooms, MCWD, the City of Minneapolis, Hennepin County, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of MN, Friends of Lake Nokomis, and Nokomis East Neighborhood Association (NENA). The project focuses on private property to re-create alleyways and boulevards as community spaces with an ecological function. This will be done through the use of stormwater best management practices (BMPs) including raingardens, permeable pavement strips, bio swales, trench drains, and redirected downspouts. The goal of the project is to improve water quality in Lake Nokomis through a citizen-based, neighborhood-focused process that engages local property owners in stormwater management.

The District has helped with the two earlier phases of the project. The first was through a MCWD Cynthia Krieg grant in 2013 which was awarded to Metro Blooms to investigate the Lake Nokomis subwatershed by developing a subwatershed analysis, identifying the priority private properties with the largest opportunities for stormwater capture. Through this grant funding, Metro Blooms identified priority properties and also began educational efforts within the neighborhood through workshops, as well as providing onsite consultations to design these stormwater BMPs. They have since developed a strategy to recruit block leaders to create program awareness and interest from neighborhood advocates for clean water. They currently have 12 block leaders that are engaging their neighbors and creating interest in the program with the help of the Master Water Steward Program as well as assistance from Metro Blooms with education and consultations.

The second was through the recent cost share project that was approved for 50% funding of the pilot alleyway stormwater BMP retrofit installation. This project was recently constructed and will be the demonstration for other neighborhood blocks to visit to help educate on what these projects look like, how they have strengthened the community engagement, and how it will assist in the improvement of water quality in Lake Nokomis.

Metro Blooms’ goal is to leverage their demonstration installation to apply for Clean Water Funding from the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) this fall to complete 15 more alleyway projects like this in the Lake Nokomis subwatershed over the next 3 years and hopefully meet Lake Nokomis’ pollution reduction goals. Metro Blooms has requested a letter of support from MCWD for the City of Minneapolis to apply for this grant funding.

Project Details:

The next phase of the project includes construction of 15 more alleyway projects. Over a three year period of implementation, the quantifiable outcomes would be substantial progress toward the Lake Nokomis subwatershed TMDL volume and pollutant removal goals (projected 15 lbs of P reduction).

District staff has been an advocate for this project since its inception in 2012. In September of 2013, the City of Minneapolis applied to BWSR for a Clean Water Fund Grant with support from District Cost Share and Education Staff. The letter was signed by the District Administrator. Financial support from the District was discussed at that time, but no request for Board action was made. This year, Metro Blooms is asking again for District support of the project and its application to BWSR. They had originally asked if this year the District would be willing to apply for the grant on Metro Blooms' behalf. District staff met with the City of Minneapolis and Metro Blooms, and decided that although we do see water quality and educational benefits from the project, that the District would be best positioned as a partner and strong supporter of the project. Staff also felt that more details need to be discussed before being able to justify asking for the Board to support this project to a specific dollar amount or become the main applicant for the grant. By writing a letter of support, the District can help show support and acknowledge that through this partnership, multiple organizations' benefits can be reached through the same project. The project will help engage and educate the communities near Lake Nokomis on water quality and use funding from the private property owners, the City of Minneapolis, Hennepin County, MCWD, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of MN, and Metro Blooms to reduce pollutants and volume of stormwater draining to Lake Nokomis.

The grant application language is currently under development. District staff will work with Metro Blooms and the City of Minneapolis to strengthen the application before submitting. Attached is a map showing focus areas and a preliminary project budget including BWSR Grant requested funding. All grant funding is contingent on BWSR awarding of the grant. Metro Blooms, who will be the project manager of this initiative, has requested \$150,000 from MCWD for the implementation of these BMPs on private properties. District staff is working with Metro Blooms and the city to evaluate the funding amount and the value of the projected outcomes from this project. MCWD is not approving or promising any funding for the project at this time, but rather, supporting the concept of the project. Staff will bring a more detailed project proposal and breakdown of funding and cost benefits if the project is awarded funding by BWSR. The project will be reviewed for consistency with the current Cost Share Program evaluation criteria, and if awarded BWSR grant funding, will be brought to the Board through the current Cost Share application review procedure.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends authorization of MCWD Board of Managers President to sign a letter of support for the City of Minneapolis to apply for a BWSR Clean Water Fund Grant for the Lake Nokomis Neighbors for Clean Water project.

Attachments:

1. Project Site Map
2. Preliminary Project Budget
3. Draft MCWD Letter of Support

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 14-081

TITLE: **Authorization for MCWD Board President to sign a letter of support for the City of Minneapolis to apply for a BWSR Clean Water Fund Grant for the Lake Nokomis Neighbors for Clean Water project.**

WHEREAS, the Stormwater BMP Cost Share Program was established by the MCWD to provide grants to property owners to design and install best management practices that will reduce the volume and increase the quality of stormwater flowing offsite;

WHEREAS, the 2007 MCWD Comprehensive Water Resources Management Plan identifies several goals within the Minnehaha Creek Subwatershed, including promoting infiltration and filtration of surface runoff to improve water quality and increase groundwater recharge, reduce existing flows from drainage areas to decrease the negative effects of stormwater runoff and bounce from existing and proposed development, and promoting the use BMP's and requiring their adoption on development sites;

WHEREAS, the MCWD Board of Managers has adopted a policy "In Pursuit of a Balanced Urban Ecology" establishing a MCWD's fundamental philosophy and way of doing business, including joining with others to pursue watershed management goals integrated with land planning; intensifying and maintaining focus in high priority areas; and being flexible and adaptive in new ways of doing business with partners, to effectively leverage assets; and

WHEREAS, on July 31, 2014, the MCWD Board of Managers authorized funding of 50 percent of the documented costs for construction of stormwater BMPs on 12 properties within one block in the Lake Nokomis subwatershed, not to exceed \$26,300.00, by Metro Blooms from the Stormwater BMP Cost Share fund;

WHEREAS, Metro Blooms and the City of Minneapolis requested a letter of support from Minnehaha Creek Watershed District before applying for a BWSR Clean Water Fund Grant with MCWD as a partner;

WHEREAS, Cost Share staff has worked with the City of Minneapolis and Metro Blooms on the language within the BWSR Clean Water Fund Grant application and finds it to align with the evaluation criteria of the Cost Share program;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers authorizes the MCWD Board President to sign the attached letter of support for the City of Minneapolis' application for a BWSR Clean Water Fund Grant for the Lake Nokomis Neighbors for Clean Water project, expressing the managers' intent to consider the project for an award of District cost-share financial support;


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the District's support for the project is conceptual and non-binding, and does not prejudice a formal determination on dedication of District funding to the Lake Nokomis Neighbors for Clean Water project after further documentation is prepared and presented and all applicable necessary public procedures have been completed.

Resolution Number 14-081 was moved by Manager _____, seconded by Manager _____.
Motion to adopt the resolution ___ ayes, ___ nays, ___ abstentions. Date: _____.


Secretary Date: _____

Lake Nokomis Neighbors for Clean Water

Legend

 Focus Area

Project focus is to the east of Lake Nokomis. This area drains directly to the lake and does not pass through any pre-treatment.

 2014 Installations

Demonstration Blooming Alley installed in 2014. Ten properties participated to install 5 raingardens, 1 trench drain, 3 permeable pavement strips and 6 bioswales.

 Interested Properties

121 interested properties were acquired through 2013 site consultations, residential KAP survey, and outreach events. Blocks with numerous interested properties will serve as "back-ups" if current block leaders cannot fulfill commitment.

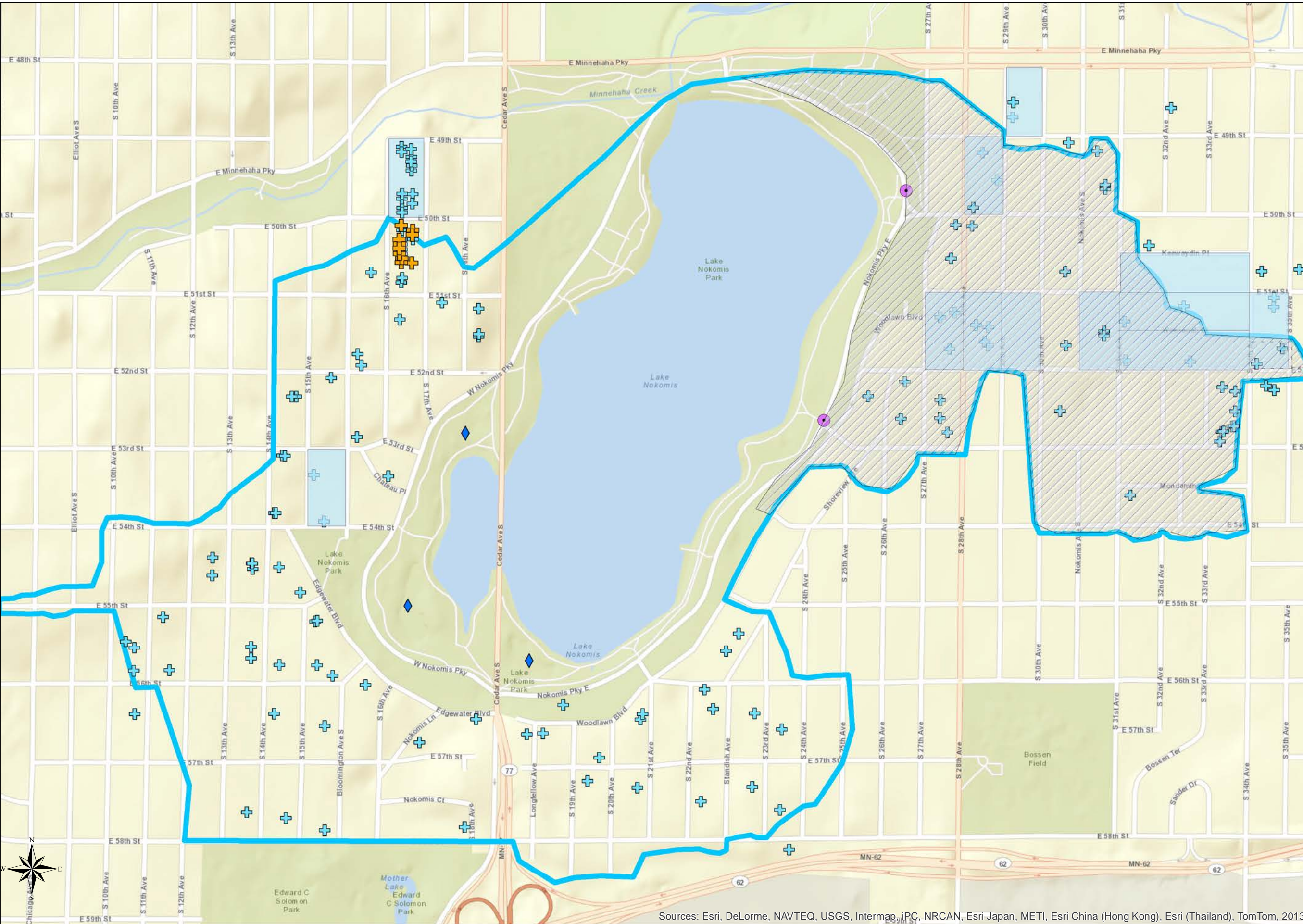
 Block Leaders

Through an Alley Tour, word of mouth, and outreach at local events, 12 block leaders have committed to engaging their neighbors in this project.

 Grit Chambers

 Ponds

 Watershed



Nokomis CWF Project Budget Estimate									
Task #	Project Outputs	# Projects	Est. Per Project	Total Project	BWSR Grant	Owner Match	Local Gov't Match	Match	Notes
1	Residential Backyards & Driveways (Yrs 1-3)	180	\$ 2,750.00	\$ 495,000	\$ 248,000	\$ 72,000	\$ 175,000	MCWD and HC	Includes installation oversight
2	Project Development	180	\$ 300.00	\$ 54,000	\$ 16,425		\$ 37,575	City of Minneapolis	Master Water Stewards and Master Gardeners To Assist
3	Technical Assistance & Engineering	180	\$ 500.00	\$ 90,000	\$ 90,000				
4	Administration & Coordination	180	\$ 150.00	\$ 27,000	\$ 14,575		\$ 12,425	City of Minneapolis	
Sub Total				\$ 666,000	\$ 369,000	\$ 72,000	\$ 212,575		\$ 653,575



September 25, 2014

Lois Eberhart, Water Resources Administrator
City of Minneapolis
309 South 2nd Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55401

On behalf of the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) Board of Managers, I am pleased to provide this letter in support of the City of Minneapolis' Clean Water Fund grant application for the *Lake Nokomis Neighbors for Clean Water* project ('Nokomis Project'). As proposed, this project will address the 103B/8410 plans of the MCWD and the EPA-approved TMDL for Lake Nokomis through a citizen-based, neighborhood-focused process that engages local property owners in managing their stormwater.

MCWD successfully partnered with the City of Minneapolis and Metro Blooms on a previous project of this scale in 2009. The award-winning *Powderhorn Neighborhood of Raingardens* project engaged residents around Powderhorn Lake in the installation of nearly 130 residential raingardens. Targeting urban, residential property owners at the parcel level with practical stormwater management support is one of MCWD's greatest opportunities; and notably, a considerable challenge for such a sizeable, ever-developing watershed.

Similarly, MCWD supports the Nokomis Project's parallel approach to implementing stormwater best management practices on private property at the neighborhood block scale, to inspire community engagement, and build awareness and momentum around stormwater management. The District has already provided technical and financial assistance for other phases of this project. In 2013, the MCWD partnered with Metro Blooms on the demonstration phase of this project which provided a highly-visible platform for broad implementation.

While MCWD is not approving or promising any additional funding for the project at this time, MCWD will consider assisting eligible property owners through its Cost Share program if the Clean Water Fund grant application is successful.

Thank you for your leadership on this effort. It is an excellent opportunity to leverage each of our organizations' resources to improve an impaired water body within the MCWD.

Sincerely,

Sherry Davis White,
MCWD Board President

The Minnehaha Creek Watershed District is committed to a leadership role in protecting, improving and managing the surface waters and affiliated groundwater resources within the District, including their relationships to the ecosystems of which they are an integral part. We achieve our mission through regulation, capital projects, education, cooperative endeavors, and other programs based on sound science, innovative thinking, an informed and engaged constituency, and the cost effective use of public funds.