

**MEETING DATE:** July 28, 2016

**TITLE:** Authorization to apply for grant funding through BWSR Clean Water Fund and Hennepin County Natural Resources

**RESOLUTION NUMBER:** 16-062

**PREPARED BY:** Michael Hayman

**E-MAIL:** mhayman@minnehahacreek.org

**TELEPHONE:** 952-471-8226

**REVIEWED BY:**  Administrator       Counsel       Program Mgr. (Name): 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): <u>Requesting approval on July 28, 2016</u>	

**PURPOSE or ACTION REQUESTED:**

Authorization to apply for FY 2017 grant funding through the BWSR Clean Water Fund Competitive Grant program and Hennepin County Natural Resources Grant program for a variety of District initiatives.

**PROJECT/PROGRAM LOCATION:**

Edina, Minneapolis, St. Louis Park and Victoria

**PROJECT TIMELINE:**

BWSR grant applications due August 8, 2016

**SUMMARY:**

Each year, staff evaluates the District’s Capital Improvement Plan to determine which projects are well positioned to apply for grant funding. Looking ahead to 2017, staff has identified a variety of project opportunities in which grant funding has been deemed beneficial in advancing initiatives, or necessary in order to advance the project toward successful implementation. Projects identified for the 2017 grant cycle include a stormwater management project in Victoria, the Arden Park stream restoration project in Edina, the Minnehaha Preserve Enhancement project (parking and trailhead) in St. Louis Park, the Methodist Hospital floodplain and wetland enhancement project in St. Louis Park, and Minneapolis stormwater improvement opportunities in coordination with the current FEMA initiative.

Projects will be applied for through the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) Clean Water Fund, Hennepin County Natural Resources Opportunity Grant, or in some instances, both. These grants are available to local government units for projects that protect, enhance, and restore water quality and natural areas. The application period for the BWSR grant closes on August 8, 2016. Applications for the Hennepin

County grant are accepted year-round. Staff will coordinate with BWSR, Hennepin County, and the appropriate project partners to draft the applications and determine the amount of funding requested to ensure that the applications are positioned competitively.

At the July 28, 2016 Board meeting staff will provide a presentation to further detail the aforementioned project opportunities and each projects respective positioning as it relates to District priorities and particular grant funding prospects. Staff will also introduce the Victoria stormwater management project in greater detail and provide the Board with information on this recently identified partnership opportunity in the Six Mile-Halsted Bay subwatershed.

This opportunity was recently identified during a routine coordination meeting between the District and City of Victoria. Downtown Victoria has a significant amount of development and redevelopment planned, and a regional approach to managing stormwater runoff from these sites presents an opportunity to improve water quality draining into Auburn Lake, an impaired water body, beyond what would be achieved through regulatory compliance alone. Staff are also evaluating the feasibility of concurrently providing treatment of discharges from Church Lake, a water body of concern and one that contributes towards the impairment of Auburn. A letter of support from the City of Victoria is attached. A preliminary concept plan and proposal will be presented at the July 28 Board Meeting.



# City of Victoria

MCWD Board of Managers,

I am writing to express the City of Victoria's support for the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District's (MCWD) assistance in targeting clean water legacy grant funds for the implementation of a regional stormwater solution for downtown Victoria, and to improve regional water quality draining into Auburn Lake, an impaired waterbody. As identified in our 2015 Memorandum of Understanding, the City supports the MCWD's direction to coordinate City and watershed efforts under the balanced urban ecology approach, and wishes to work with the MCWD to implement projects and programs that integrate water resource and community goals.

The City looks forward to carrying this partnership forward in a significant way through the Six Mile-Halsted Bay Planning Partnership, currently underway. The City and MCWD acknowledge that natural resource goals can support the City's goals, including providing abundant parks, trail, and open space, creating meaningful destinations, and providing well maintained and planned infrastructure. Through advanced coordination, the City and MCWD will identify specific opportunities as well as a working framework to meet both agencies objectives. In recent meetings, the City and MCWD have discussed several creative options to integrate each agency's comprehensive plan to memorialize the need for coordination and partnership into the future. Meanwhile, there is an immediate opportunity to integrate redevelopment and infrastructure planning in Downtown Victoria to exceed regulatory requirements and to address the regional water quality needs of Auburn Lake.

The City is very excited to collaborate on the planning of long term improvements in this area, and with the potential to leverage and integrate investment with the MCWD. A fundamental goal of the Six Mile Planning Partnership will be to align and integrate plans and funding resources. In this instance, the City's eligibility for these funds will be enhanced through grant partnership with MCWD. In the future the City looks forward to taking the lead to secure other funds in partnership with the MCWD to implement the strategic objectives of the Six Mile-Halsted Bay Plan.

We look forward to continued coordination with the MCWD as we partner to advance mutual goals in the Six Mile-Halsted Bay Subwatershed.

Sincerely,



Laurie Hokkanen  
City Manager

----- [www.ci.victoria.mn.us](http://www.ci.victoria.mn.us) -----