

MEETING DATE: December 8, 2016

TITLE: Approval of Cynthia Krieg Watershed Stewardship Fund Grant Applications for the 2017 Funding Cycle

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 16-084

PREPARED BY: Sarah Fellows

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REVIEWED BY: Administrator Counsel Program Mgr. (Name): Darren Lochner & Sarah Fellows
 Board Committee Engineer Other

WORKSHOP ACTION:

<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): _____	

PURPOSE or ACTION REQUESTED:

- 1) Authorize funding in the amount of \$98,200 for 15 grant proposals to the Cynthia Krieg Watershed Stewardship Fund during the 2017 cycle. These projects are designed to forward the mission of the watershed district through innovative educational activities that leverage existing or promote new collaborative community partnerships.
- 2) Authorize the District Administrator to execute and sign grant agreements with each of the recipients.

PROJECT/PROGRAM LOCATION:

Watershed-wide.

PROJECT TIMELINE:

October 7, 2016 MCWD received 16 applications to Cynthia Krieg Watershed Stewardship Fund.
October 28, 2016 Staff met to review applications and forward recommendations to the CAC Subcommittee
November 2, 2016 Cynthia Krieg Subcommittee met to review applications and forward recommendations to the CAC.
November 9, 2016 CAC approved Subcommittee’s recommendations and forward the recommendations to the Board of Managers in December, 2016.
December 8, 2016 Board review of CAC recommendations to advance to Board Consent Agenda
December 15, 2016 Pending: Board final approval of Cynthia Krieg Stewardship Fund grant awards

PROJECT/PROGRAM COST:

Fund name and number: Cynthia Krieg Stewardship Fund (2301)

**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.**

Current budget: \$100,000.00
 Expenditures to date: \$0.00
 Requested amount of funding: \$98,200
 Is a budget amendment requested? no
 Is additional staff requested? no

PAST BOARD ACTIONS:

No past Board actions in 2016.

SUMMARY:

The Cynthia Krieg Watershed Stewardship Fund was established by the MCWD in 2000 in memory of Cynthia Krieg, whose life exemplified dedication to community service and natural resource protection. This fund supports projects that encourage community service initiatives that protect water quality and promote public awareness of nonpoint source pollution and clean water practices. Applications are accepted on an annual basis for projects to be completed during the following calendar year.

In 2017, the Cynthia Krieg Watershed Stewardship Fund has approximately \$100,000 available for distribution. The MCWD received 16 applications requesting \$194,035. Applications were reviewed by Education staff, followed by a subcommittee of approximately 15 staff on October 28, 2016. All applications were reviewed by the Cynthia Krieg CAC subcommittee on November 2, 2016 and the full CAC on November 9, 2016.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Based on staff and committee reviews, it is recommended that 15 applications be awarded grant funds for a total distribution of \$98,200, and the District Administrator has authorization to execute and sign grant agreements with each recipient. Attached is a summary of the grant applications and the CAC recommendations for Board review. Full applications have been made available for review by all CAC and Board members via this Dropbox folder:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/g4zivn8468bzm1z/AADA9LjRvfNgmGBi4G-RpAMia?dl=0>

<i>Organization Name</i>	<i>Requested</i>	<i>Funded</i>
<i>Funded Applications:</i>		
1. Alliance for Sustainability	\$12,000	\$1,250
2. The Blake School	\$1,650	\$1,450
3. Clear Springs Elementary School	\$3,365	\$3,000
4. Freshwater Society (Resilience)	\$15,000	\$5,000
5. Freshwater Society (MWS)	\$15,000	\$7,500
6. Friends of the Mississippi River	\$9,720	\$7,500
7. Great River Greening	\$10,000	\$10,000
8. Hamline CGEE	\$15,000	\$6,000
9. Lowry Hill East Neighborhood Association	\$12,300	\$10,000
10. Metro Blooms	\$15,000	\$10,000
11. Nawayee Center School	\$15,000	\$1,000
12. Southwest High PTSA – Wellness Committee	\$15,000	\$5,000
13. Tree Trust	\$10,000	\$8,000
14. University of Minnesota – Bee Squad	\$15,000	\$7,500
15. Wilderness Inquiry	\$15,000	\$15,000
<i>Not funded:</i>		
1. Northern Lights.mn	\$15,000	\$ -

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Total:	\$194,035	\$98,200
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Project Summaries:

I. Alliance for Sustainability – *Linking Master Water Stewards with Neighborhoods for Water Quality*

Alliance for Sustainability will strengthen engagement of Master Water Stewards in Edina, St. Louis Park, Minneapolis, Hopkins, and Minnetonka through raingarden maintenance days and by supporting targeted education and behavior change campaigns. The ultimate goal is to empower more residents & businesses to take action in achieving outcomes of their City’s surface water management plans.

Funding request: \$12,000 / Funding recommendation: \$1,250

II. The Blake School – *Using Plants to Fight Runoff Pollution – 4th Graders at The Blake School*

The Blake School 4th graders will learn about the water cycle and impact of runoff pollution on water (especially Minnehaha Creek). Students will travel the length of the creek, learning how the creek has changed, and how human choices impact the creek. Students will participate in a public service project by planting native plants on campus to improve creek health through erosion prevention. Students and teachers will partner to create signage at school talking about runoff and how people can protect the creek.

Funding request: \$1,650 / Funding recommendation: \$1,450

III. Clear Springs Elementary School – *Clear Springs Elementary Inquiry-Based Community Watershed Project*

Clear Springs Elementary School 5th graders will partner with a Master Water Steward working to install a cistern and raingardens at a St. Louis Park townhome. Students will learn about raingardens, stormdrains, and the environmental impacts of runoff. Students will then assist with raingarden installation, assist in interpretive signage development, and host a “Watershed Outreach Day” where they describe their project and what they learned to community members, city council members, etc.

Funding request: \$3,365 / Funding recommendation: \$3,000

IV. Freshwater Society – *Community Resilience Workshops – Building Resilience to Our Changing Climate*

Freshwater Society will utilize a public planning process that educates and engages communities on the importance of climate change, current and anticipated impacts, and the need to build community resilience through planning. Freshwater will facilitate a series of interactive workshops designed to identify local impacts, increase understanding of risk and vulnerability and identify strategies to increase resilience. The outcome will be local and specific climate change action plans for participating communities that can be incorporated into municipal comprehensive plans.

Funding request: \$15,000 / Funding recommendation: \$5,000

V. Freshwater Society – *Helping Cities Work with Master Water Stewards to Achieve MS4 Goals*

Freshwater Society will host an interactive event that will showcase examples of city efforts that have successfully engaged Master Water Stewards – presented by the city staff who led those efforts – and develop a framework other cities can use to effectively leverage the expertise and role of MWS. This will allow cities to better leverage the value Stewards can bring when trying to meet their MS4 permit goals.

Funding request: \$15,000 / Funding recommendation: \$7,500

VI. Friends of the Mississippi River – *Minnehaha Creek Watershed Stewardship Initiative*

Friends of the Mississippi River will host three community workshops to train and inspire local residents to take action in their homes and yards to protect local water resources. FMR will provide expanded opportunities for engagement and education, and will provide information on new, emerging pollution issues such as chloride impairments and micro-plastic fibers. Post-event follow up outreach and evaluation will provide valuable information about the impact of the workshops and push participants towards behavior changes and in-the-ground projects at home.

Funding request: \$9,720 / Funding recommendation: \$7,500

VII. Great River Greening – *Field Learning for Teens*

Great River Greening will pilot the Field Learning for Teens program in the Minnehaha Creek Greenway. GRG will work with science teachers and youth leaders to use restoration sites as vehicles to reinforce water quality concepts and inspire a passion for lifelong stewardship.

Funding request: \$10,000 / Funding recommendation: \$10,000

VIII. Hamline University CGEE - *Lake Hiawatha Adopt-A-Drain*

Hamline University will expand the Adopt-a-Drain outreach program in the Lake Hiawatha watershed by building on the current initiative and expanding into areas of the watershed not in direct proximity to the lake. Hamline will evaluate the similarities and differences in the two geographic areas to help determine how outreach methods and proximity to a water body affects adoption.

Funding request: \$15,000 / Funding recommendation: \$

IX. Lowry Hill East Neighborhood Association – *Low Salt Diet for Minneapolis Businesses*

The Environmental Committee of the Lowry Hill East Neighborhood Association will conduct a survey in a pilot area of southwest Minneapolis to determine current practices for snow removal and deicing of sidewalks. The survey will determine the preferred educational tools to develop an educational outreach campaign designed specifically for Minneapolis business nodes. The goal of the campaign is to reduce the amount of salt being used on Minneapolis sidewalks and parking lots.

Funding request: \$12,300 / Funding recommendation: \$10,000

X. Metro Blooms – *Maintenance Training & Certification for Non-Stormwater Professionals*

Metro Blooms will expand the availability of qualified and affordable maintenance services provided by volunteers and for hire by developing and offering a field training program for the non-stormwater professional. Primary audiences include youth participating in outdoor job programs and adults in natural resource volunteer programs including Master Water Stewards, Master Gardeners, and Master Naturalists. Following training, Metro Blooms will connect certified graduates with property owners in need of maintenance services.

Funding request: \$15,000 / Funding recommendation: \$10,000

XI. Nawayee Center School – *Mde Maka Ska Canoe Nations Gathering*

The Mde Maka Ska Canoe Nations Gathering event is an opportunity for Native American youth, parents, and community to re-engage the sacredness of water (mni wakan) by reintegrating this important piece of history surrounding the local water systems into local school curriculum. This day long educational event at Mde Maka Ska (Lake Calhoun) is part of a series of educational programs that help bring the Native American community together to learn about sacred waters.

Funding request: \$15,000 / Funding recommendation: \$1,000

XII. Northern Lights.mn – *Water Quality Chorus*

Northern Lights will collaborate with artist collective Platform to work with volunteer citizen scientists, leaders from the local singing community, and other clean water partners to translate water quality data into stories and songs shared and two participatory science+art events in the Minnehaha Creek watershed. The project seeks to build awareness about, empathy for, and increased caretaking of the watershed's waterways through the collective embodied experience of song.

Funding request: \$15,000 / Funding recommendation: \$0

XIII. Southwest High School PTSA Wellness Committee – *Water, Wellness, & Worldview*

The Wellness Committee of Southwest High School's PTSA will conduct a year-long study of how water, wellness, and worldview (WWW) are intricately connected – culminating in an all-school event tied to Wellness Day. The project stems from the mission of SWHS “to develop the whole person”, and the momentum after 2015's first ever Wellness Day, to weave a culture of wellness into the fabric of SWHS while helping other schools do the same. WWW would help build healthy individuals who understand that their world and their water are intricately tied to their wellbeing.

Funding request: \$15,000 / Funding recommendation: \$5,000

XIV. Tree Trust – *Be a Steward, Plant a Tree, Clean the Water*

Tree Trust will partner in fall 2017 with communities in the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District to offer a tree distribution and education program to residents. The program will educate homeowners on the benefits of trees in protecting and improving water quality, and would aid homeowners in planting trees to mitigate stormwater runoff. Tree Trust will target the upper watershed to distribute up to 200 trees and educate hundreds of residents.

Funding request: \$10,000 / Funding recommendation: \$8,000

XV. University of Minnesota – *Connecting Stormwater Management to Bees, Pollinators, Other Beneficial Insects & Healthy Ecosystems*

The University of Minnesota Bee Squad will build on lessons and successes of their 2016 grant by modifying and expanding the exploration of connecting stormwater management to beneficial insects, including bees and other pollinators, and healthy ecosystems to reduce pesticide use and increase water quality. The Bee Squad will offer 4 interactive events within the watershed, expand data collection via a photo survey, and hold an end of season event highlighting the collected data.

Funding request: \$15,000 / Funding recommendation: \$7,500

XVI. Wilderness Inquiry – *“Own Your Shed”: Increasing Access, Connections, and Ownership through Place-Based Watershed Education*

Wilderness inquiry will connect over 2,000 youth and their families to hands-on watershed education. Youth develop environmental stewardship through a three-step approach: *access* to their watershed through experiences such as canoeing and water quality testing, *connection* to their watershed by engaging in a service learning project, and *ownership* of their watershed by learning how changing behaviors positively impacts and protects the watershed. The project will engage youth and communities in MCWD through both small and large-scale events.

Funding request: \$15,000 / Funding recommendation: \$15,000

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 16-084

TITLE: **Approval of Cynthia Krieg Watershed Stewardship Fund Grant Applications for the 2017 Funding Cycle**

WHEREAS, the Cynthia Krieg Watershed Stewardship Fund Program was established by the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District to support community service projects that protect or improve water quality and promote public awareness of non-profit pollution prevention within the watershed district; and

WHEREAS, sixteen applications requesting a total of \$194,035 were received for the 2017 funding cycle; and

WHEREAS, staff, the Cynthia Krieg Citizens Advisory Subcommittee, and Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) members reviewed all of the full proposals on October 28, November 2 and November 9, 2016; and

WHEREAS, the Citizens Advisory Committee voted on November 9, 2016 to recommend approval of fifteen grant applications for a total distribution of \$98,200 from the Cynthia Krieg Watershed Stewardship Fund; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers have considered the Citizen Advisory Committee recommendations and hereby authorize funding fifteen applications, pending compliance with district policies, for a total of \$98,200, from the Cynthia Krieg Watershed Stewardship Fund Program as follows; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the District Administrator be authorized to sign the appropriate agreements with each funding recipient; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that if Minnehaha Creek Watershed District permits are required, that they be applied for and approved before the release of funding.

Resolution Number 16-084 was moved by Manager _____, seconded by Manager _____.
Motion to adopt the resolution ___ ayes, ___ nays, ___ abstentions. Date: _____.

_____ Date: _____