

MEETING DATE: February 26, 2015

TITLE: Authorization to submit Partnership Proposals with Great River Greening to apply for Outdoor Heritage Fund and Environmental & Natural Resources Trust Fund grants

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 15-018

PREPARED BY: Tiffany Schaufler

E-MAIL: tschaufler@minnehahacreek.org

TELEPHONE: 952-641-4513

REVIEWED BY: Administrator Counsel Program Director: 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): Not reviewed at Workshop	

PURPOSE or ACTION REQUESTED:

Authorization to submit Partnership Proposals with Great River Greening to apply for Outdoor Heritage Fund and Environmental & Natural Resources Trust Fund grants.

PROJECT/PROGRAM LOCATION:

District wide, see attached map of District properties.

PROJECT TIMELINE:

- March 13, 2015: Partnership Proposal due
- July 1 2016 – June 30, 2019: Project implementation (if grant funding is approved)

PROJECT/PROGRAM COST:

None

PAST BOARD ACTIONS:

December 11, 2014 – Resolution 14-105: Authorization to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with Great River Greening

SUMMARY:

In December 2014, the Board of Managers authorized execution of a Memorandum of Understanding with Great River Greening. Great River Greening has partnered with over 600 public and private entities, including cities, counties and community groups, empowering restoration and stewardship initiatives by providing matching funds, ecological expertise, project management, and community engagement.

Great River Greening has the distinguishing core competencies of highly trained ecological staff, a dynamic community and youth involvement program, and a collaborative philosophy. In addition, they are able to help leverage funds from sources including the State of Minnesota Environmental Trust Fund and the Outdoor Heritage Fund.

Great River Greening is currently developing its proposals for both the Outdoor Heritage Fund (through their Metro Big Rivers Partnership) and Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund (through their Metro Conservation Corridors Partnership). Through these two major conservation partnerships, Great River Greening secures resources to protect, restore, and enhance priority habitat for wildlife and the public.

The Board of Managers has requested that they be notified when staff are seeking grant funding. District staff intends to submit Partnership Proposals to Great River Greening to apply for grant funding to restore and enhance vegetation and habitat on District properties and easements located throughout the District.

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WHEREAS, the MCWD Board requested that they be notified of grant opportunities and, when time allows, authorize staff to apply for grants; and

WHEREAS, the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District has invested substantial public resources in targeted creek corridors to acquire conservation rights, restore riparian lands and establish natural riparian corridors in order to pursue and achieve the District's water quality and water resource protection goals; and

WHEREAS, MCWD and Great River Greening have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which has established mutual goals and a cooperative framework within which the potential for beneficial and cost-effective projects and programs may be explored; and

WHEREAS, within the MOU both parties expressed their interest in integrating their strengths and capacities in order to develop and carry out a program to preserve, enhance and extend the District's conservation property through expertise, partnership, community capacity building and creative funding; and

WHEREAS, Great River Greening is currently developing its proposals for both the Outdoor Heritage Fund and Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund; and

WHEREAS, District staff plans to submit Partnership Proposals with Great River Greening to apply for grant funding to restore and enhance vegetation and habitat on District properties and easements located throughout the District.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers authorizes staff to submit Partnership Proposals with Great River Greening to apply for Outdoor Heritage Fund and Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund grants.

Resolution Number 15-018 was moved by Manager _____, seconded by Manager _____.
Motion to adopt the resolution ___ ayes, ___ nays, ___ abstentions. Date: _____.

Secretary Date: _____

**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.**

District Properties: Fee title and Easements

