

**MEETING DATE:** August 23, 2018

**TITLE:** Authorization to apply for Conservation Partners Legacy Grand Funding for Arden Park

**RESOLUTION NUMBER:** 18-087

**PREPARED BY:** Renae Clark

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**TELEPHONE:** 952-641-4510

**REVIEWED BY:**  Administrator       Counsel       Program Mgr. (Name):  
 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 authorization at August 23 meeting</u>	

**PURPOSE or ACTION REQUESTED:**

Authorization to apply for FY 2019 grant funding through the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program.

**PROJECT/PROGRAM LOCATION:**

Arden Park, Edina

**PROJECT TIMELINE:**

Applications due September 17, 2018

**SUMMARY:**

In 2016, the Board of Managers appointed an Investment Task Force to initiate planning to increase the volume of outside funds supporting MCWD's capital improvement program. With Board concurrence, the Task Force established the following goals:

1. Obtain ongoing supplemental funding (larger than one-time project specific grants) to implement landscape scale restoration and implementation objectives identified within priority focal subwatershed plans, such as Six Mile Creek-Halsted Bay.
2. Increase one-time funding for specific capital improvements identified through responsive track planning.
3. Obtain one-time or ongoing supplemental funding for MCWD programs, historically funded through levy resources (land management, data collection, education and communications, permitting, operations, etc.)

Accordingly, staff continues to identify and target one-time project specific supplemental funding for priority activities. The Board has requested that they be notified of grant opportunities and authorize staff to apply for grants.

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 2019, staff has identified the Arden Park Restoration project in Edina as a good candidate for grant funding.

The Conservation Partners Legacy (CPL) Grant Program is now accepting applications to provide competitive matching grants up to \$400,000. Evaluation criteria focus on habitat benefits for restoration of forest, wetlands and prairies for fish and wildlife and also include public benefits for access to fishing and other wildlife based recreation opportunities. Staff believe that the combination of habitat restoration and community benefits make Arden Park a competitive project for these funds. Application was authorized and submitted in 2017 but the project was not selected for funding. Based on MCWD staff conversations with program administration staff at MN DNR, the application is a good candidate for funding and will be strengthened with more detailed information. The 2018 application will include improved focus on CPL program goals with more defined construction plans and project costs.

The application will focus on creek corridor benefits including new floodplain forest, stream health improvement metrics, and the multiple community benefits regarding the enhanced physical access to the creek for fishing and passive enjoyment of the restored corridor.

The application period for the CPL grant closes on September 17, 2018. Staff will coordinate with MN DNR and the City of Edina to draft the application and determine the amount of funding requested to ensure that the application is positioned competitively.

**RESOLUTION**

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WHEREAS, in 2016, the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) Board of Managers appointed an Investment Task Force to initiate planning to increase the volume of outside funds supporting MCWD's capital improvement program; and

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

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR) administers the Conservation Partners Legacy (CPL) Grant Program for the restoration, enhancement and protection of Minnesota's wetlands, forests, prairies and habitat for fish and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, staff has reviewed the District's Capital Improvement Plan for 2019 to determine which projects are suitable for this grant funding and recommends applying for CPL grant funds for the Arden Park Restoration Project;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers authorizes staff to apply for FY 2019 grant funds through the MN DNR Conservation Partners Legacy Grant program.

Resolution Number 18-087 was moved by Manager \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by Manager \_\_\_\_\_.  
Motion to adopt the resolution \_\_\_ ayes, \_\_\_ nays, \_\_\_ abstentions. Date: \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary Date: \_\_\_\_\_