

Minnehaha Creek Watershed District

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

MEETING DATE: March 22, 2018

TITLE: 2018 AIS Watercraft Inspection Cost-Share Partnerships

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 18-028 to 18-032

PREPARED BY: Eric Fieldseth, AIS Program Manager

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REVIEWED BY: Administrator Counsel Dept. Director (Name):
 Board Committee Engineer Other

BOARD 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): Recommend Approval	

PURPOSE or ACTION REQUESTED:

AIS watercraft inspection cost-share proposals have been received from Carver County (\$18,812), Lake Minnetonka Conservation District (\$9,000), City of Shorewood (\$23,304), Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (\$65,160) and Three Rivers Park District (\$5,504); for a grand total of \$121,780 requested. Staff is seeking approval to enter into agreement with each AIS cost-share partner for a not-to-exceed of the requested amount.

PROJECT/PROGRAM LOCATION:

- Carver County: Minnewashta, Piersons & Wassermann Lakes
- Lake Minnetonka Conservation District: Lake Minnetonka (Carsons, Halsted & Wayzata Bays)
- City of Shorewood: Christmas Lake
- Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board: Calhoun, Harriet & Nokomis Lakes
- Three Rivers Park District: Lake Minnetonka Regional Park, Zumbra, Steiger & Auburn Lakes

PROJECT/PROGRAM COST:

Fund name and number: AIS, 5005
Budgeted Amount: \$122,000
Requested amount of funding: \$121,780

PAST BOARD ACTION:

- Figure 1. Historical & 2018 Proposed Funding Levels for Watercraft Inspections
- March 8, 2018 Operations and Programs Committee – Reviewed 2018 AIS cost-share partnerships

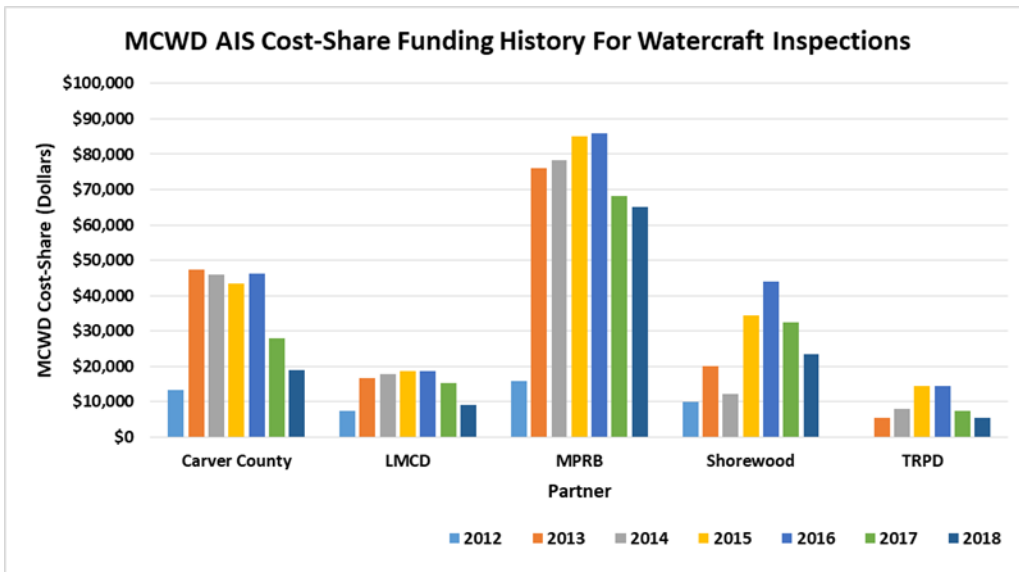


Figure 1. AIS Watercraft Inspection Cost-Share Funding History

Background:

AIS Watercraft Inspection Program Background:

As zebra mussels were first found in Lake Minnetonka in 2010, the District began focusing more resources on AIS prevention, and in 2012, began developing an AIS Management Plan that would later be adopted into the District's 2007 Comprehensive Plan in 2013. Watercraft inspections were a primary AIS prevention tool noted in that plan. Pre-2012, watercraft inspections were mainly a tool used by the MN DNR to provide education about AIS to boaters. In 2012, the MCWD was instrumental in working with the DNR to develop a delegation agreement that would delegate the DNR's authority to local government units to conduct watercraft inspections at public boat launches. The delegation agreements required local agencies to use DNR trained and authorized watercraft inspectors, but gave more local control to the hours of coverage at individual boat launches. During that time, the District contributed some nominal funding to local partners to support their watercraft inspection programs. However, in 2013, the District increased its funding to support these inspection programs and encouraged its partners to create more robust watercraft inspection programs to slow the spread of AIS, while also building in more capacity for them to continue this work independently over time.

Delegation agreements between the DNR and local government units are now very common, and watercraft inspections remain the primary tool for state and local agencies to provide AIS prevention. Within the District, watercraft inspection programs are operated by the MN DNR, and several local partners which we have supported both technically and financially since 2012/2013, including Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, Lake Minnetonka Conservation District, City of Shorewood, Three Rivers Park District and Carver County.

While watercraft inspections have slowed the spread of AIS, they have not prevented lakes such as Christmas, Minnewashta and Lake Harriet from becoming infested with zebra mussels. New threats have emerged, such as Starry Stonewort and Spiny Waterflea, and inspections remain a primary strategy of our partners to slow the spread and educate users while research catches up. Funding sources have also shifted. In 2014, the state legislature passed a county tax bill that provided \$10 million directly to Minnesota counties to support AIS prevention programs, with annual funding being appropriated in the following years. The District has worked with both Hennepin County and Carver County in using those funds.

MCWD Strategic Realignment of AIS Programming:

Through the District's strategic planning process, AIS activities were reprioritized to better align resources with the District's strategic direction of developing high impact capital projects and changing the land-use and water policy environment. Program activities were recalibrated as follows:

1. Management and control of high impact AIS (e.g. common carp) to improve water quality and ecological integrity, when prioritized and coordinated with organizational planning and project priorities.
2. Early detection and rapid response to identify new introductions and respond with management and control when criteria are met to improve or protect ecological integrity by preventing establishment of a new AIS.
3. Promoting research partnerships to facilitate the use of MCWD aquatic systems as a living laboratory to advance AIS science and inform MCWD management planning and implementation.
4. Support AIS prevention efforts of our partners by developing optimal cost solutions in implementation of their programs

AIS Watercraft Inspection Funding Background:

The District began providing cost-share funds to our partner's for their watercraft inspection programs in 2012, at varying levels of contributions that totaled almost \$47,000. In 2013, the District increased its available funds to \$178,000 for these partnerships, and formalized the amount awarded to be up to 50% of the watercraft inspection services cost. From 2013 to 2016, the District also paid 100% of the cost for inspection hours at six lakes that had previously received no watercraft inspector coverage, these lakes included Piersons, Wassermann, Parley, Steiger, Zumbra and Auburn. The District contracted directly with Carver County to provide the inspection services at Piersons, Wassermann and Parley, and with Three Rivers Park District to provide the inspection services at Steiger, Zumbra and Auburn, which are all within the Carver Park Reserve.

Through the strategic planning process, AIS activities were reprioritized to ensure resources are better aligned with the District's strategic goals. It was determined to begin drawing down our funding contributions in a measured way over time that supported partner's efforts to step into this niche at a more localized level. This would allow the MCWD to focus and align its resources on its strategic priorities, while supporting partner led efforts to engage in programs that slow the spread on a waterbody by waterbody basis.

In 2017, the District began coordinating with our partners on its new strategic direction. Our partners were informed that funds to support individual watercraft inspection programs would be slowly reduced over time, allowing them time to build more capacity to continue individually and to begin exploring other funding opportunities, such as the state funds for AIS prevention which are distributed by the counties. In 2017, funds were reduced from almost \$230,000 to \$175,000 by the District no longer providing 100% of the cost for the six accesses that had no previous inspector coverage, although the District would still be able to provide a cost-share for those lakes. Funds were further reduced in 2018, with \$122,000 available to provide partner support for inspections.

Carver County and Hennepin County have both been receiving state funds dedicated for AIS prevention activities annually since 2014. In 2017, Carver County received \$126,092. They use these funds to combat AIS through three areas: education, monitoring and inspections. In 2017, Hennepin County received \$307,742. They open up most of these funds to an open pass-through grant to local partners, while others were implemented by county staff. Funding has been used for inspections at public accesses, outreach and education, early detection, research and boat cleaning facilities.

2018 AIS Cost-Share Funding

While watercraft inspections can slow the spread of AIS, the District is not positioned to meaningfully operate a watershed scale prevention program that is financially sustainable or effective. Therefore, the program is focused on supporting local efforts where partners are willing to dedicate their own resources in slowing the spread of AIS. The plan is to get these programs up and running, providing a value added boost with a finite lifespan. With state funding in place, and local pilot programs growing in traction, the District can continue to

reduce our contributions while still remaining fully engaged as a technical partner. \$122,000 was approved in the District's 2018 work plan for these activities, a 30% reduction from 2017. It's expected that these funds will continue to be reduced at a rate that allows our partners to build their capacity to take on this work individually.

Staff has received cost-share requests from our partners for their 2018 inspection programs, and these requests along with staff's recommendation were reviewed by the Operations and Programs Committee during their March 8th meeting. The committee provided no additional changes to staff's recommendation for dispersing these funds in 2018. With all requests, the District could cost-share up to 36% of each program and be within the \$122,000 budgeted for the activity. A brief description of each partner's program is below, along with its proposed total program cost and proposed MCWD cost-share amount.

PROPOSAL DETAILS

Summary Table of Requests for Funding

Partner	Program Cost	External Grants	Eligible Expenses	MCWD 36% cost-share
MPRB	\$181,000	\$0	\$181,000	\$65,160
TRPD	\$15,288	\$0	\$15,288	\$5,504
LMCD	\$35,000	\$10,000 (Henn. Co.)	\$25,000	\$9,000
City of Shorewood	\$74,734	\$10,000 (Henn. Co.)	\$64,734	\$23,304
Carver County	\$52,255	\$0	\$52,255	\$18,812
				\$121,780

Additional Details

Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

The MPRB's goal is that 100% of watercraft are inspected prior to using the public boat launch at Bde Maka Ska, and Lakes Harriet and Nokomis.

14,468 hours of inspections planned to occur May 1 – December 1, 7 day/week at three boat launches.

Three Rivers Park District

The TRPD inspection coverage at Zumbra, Steiger and Auburn is limited, but reinforces the potential for watercraft inspections to occur at any time boaters use the access. They also provide additional hours at Lake Minnetonka Regional Park which are focused on outbound inspections to reduce the spread of AIS from Lake Minnetonka.

Zumbra, Steiger, Auburn: 600 inspection hours planned May 26 – September 3

Lake Minnetonka Regional Park: 856 inspection hours planned May 26 – September 23

Lake Minnetonka Conservation District

The LMCD provides inspections at Carsons Bay, Halsted Bay and Wayzata Bay public accesses. The MN DNR provides inspections at higher use accesses on Minnetonka, including Grays Bay, Maxwell Bay, North Arm and Spring Park Bay.

1700 hours of inspections planned to occur May 25 – September 3, Friday, Saturday, Sunday & Holidays

City of Shorewood

The City of Shorewood partners with the Christmas Lake Homeowners Association to provide inspection and decontamination at the Christmas Lake boat launch. Their goal is to inspect every watercraft entering and exiting this lake.

3200 hours of inspections planned to occur mid-April – October, 7 days/week

Carver County

Carver County provides inspections at Lake Minnewashta, Piersons Lake and Wassermann Lake.

Minnewashta: 2,083 inspection hours planned from May 12 – Oct 14, 7 days/week

Piersons: 636 inspection hours planned from May 12 – Sept 3, Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays

Wassermann: 208 inspection hours planned from May 12 – Sept 3, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays

Piersons and Wassermann: Shared 552 hours between May 12 – Sept 3, Monday - Thursday

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 18-028

TITLE: Authorization to enter into cost-share agreement with Carver County to provide watercraft inspection services at Lake Minnewashta, Piersons Lake and Wassermann Lake in 2018

WHEREAS, the District's mission is to collaborate with public and private partners to protect and improve land and water for current and future generations; and

WHEREAS, aquatic invasive species are drivers of change in aquatic ecosystems, and watercraft inspections can slow the spread of AIS; and

WHEREAS, the District recently underwent a strategic planning process that reprioritized AIS activities to better align internal resources with the District's mission; and

WHEREAS, managing high impact species (e.g. common carp) is the highest priority activity, while supporting our partner prevention efforts is a lesser priority; and

WHEREAS, the District has begun reducing its contributions to our partners' AIS watercraft inspection programs in 2017, as partners build more capacity to operate independently; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Managers has approved the 2018 AIS work plan, which includes \$122,000 for cost-share funding of watercraft inspection programs led by our partners; and

WHEREAS, the District received cost-share funding proposals from Carver County for Lake Minnewashta, Piersons Lake and Wassermann Lake for a total requested amount of \$18,812; and

WHEREAS, Carver County's request is consistent with the District's AIS work plan for 2018; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers authorizes the Administrator, on advice of counsel, to execute an agreement with Carver County providing \$18,812 in District cost-sharing funds to support County watercraft inspection services in accordance with a mutually agreed scope.

Resolution Number 18-028 was moved by Manager _____, seconded by Manager _____.
Motion to adopt the resolution ___ ayes, ___ nays, ___ abstentions. Date: _____.

Secretary _____ Date: _____

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 18-029

TITLE: Authorization to enter into cost-share agreement with the Lake Minnetonka Conservation District to provide watercraft inspection services at Carsons Bay, Halsted Bay and Wayzata Bay on Lake Minnetonka in 2018

WHEREAS, the District's mission is to collaborate with public and private partners to protect and improve land and water for current and future generations; and

WHEREAS, aquatic invasive species are drivers of change in aquatic ecosystems, and watercraft inspections can slow the spread of AIS; and

WHEREAS, the District recently underwent a strategic planning process that reprioritized AIS activities to better align internal resources with the District's mission; and

WHEREAS, managing high impact species (e.g. common carp) is the highest priority activity, while supporting our partner prevention efforts is a lesser priority; and

WHEREAS, the District has begun reducing its contributions to our partners' AIS watercraft inspection programs in 2017, as partners build more capacity to operate independently; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Managers has approved the 2018 AIS work plan, which includes \$122,000 for cost-share funding of watercraft inspection programs led by our partners; and

WHEREAS, the District received cost-share funding proposals from the Lake Minnetonka Conservation District for Carsons Bay, Halsted Bay and Wayzata Bay for a total requested amount of \$9,000; and

WHEREAS, Lake Minnetonka Conservation District's request is consistent with the District's AIS work plan for 2018; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers authorizes the Administrator, on advice of counsel, to execute an agreement with Lake Minnetonka Conservation District providing \$9,000 in District cost-sharing funds to support Lake Minnetonka Conservation District's watercraft inspection services in accordance with a mutually agreed scope.

Resolution Number 18-029 was moved by Manager _____, seconded by Manager _____.
Motion to adopt the resolution ___ ayes, ___ nays, ___ abstentions. Date: _____.

Secretary _____ Date: _____

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 18-030

TITLE: Authorization to enter into cost-share agreement with Three Rivers Park District to provide watercraft inspection services at Lake Minnetonka Regional Park, Lake Zumbra, Steiger Lake and Auburn Lake in 2018

WHEREAS, the District's mission is to collaborate with public and private partners to protect and improve land and water for current and future generations; and

WHEREAS, aquatic invasive species are drivers of change in aquatic ecosystems, and watercraft inspections can slow the spread of AIS; and

WHEREAS, the District recently underwent a strategic planning process that reprioritized AIS activities to better align internal resources with the District's mission; and

WHEREAS, managing high impact species (e.g. common carp) is the highest priority activity, while supporting our partner prevention efforts is a lesser priority; and

WHEREAS, the District has begun reducing its contributions to our partners' AIS watercraft inspection programs in 2017, as partners build more capacity to operate independently; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Managers has approved the 2018 AIS work plan, which includes \$122,000 for cost-share funding of watercraft inspection programs led by our partners; and

WHEREAS, the District received a cost-share funding proposal from Three Rivers Park District for a total requested amount of \$5,504; and

WHEREAS, Three Rivers Park District's request is consistent with the District's cost-share program for 2018; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers authorizes the Administrator, on advice of counsel, to execute an agreement with Three Rivers Park District providing \$5,504 in District cost-sharing funds to support Three Rivers Park District's watercraft inspection services in accordance with a mutually agreed scope.

Resolution Number 18-030 was moved by Manager _____, seconded by Manager _____.
Motion to adopt the resolution ___ ayes, ___ nays, ___ abstentions. Date: _____.

Secretary _____ Date: _____

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 18-031

TITLE: Authorization to enter into cost-share agreement with the City of Shorewood to provide watercraft inspection services at Christmas Lake in 2018

- WHEREAS, the District's mission is to collaborate with public and private partners to protect and improve land and water for current and future generations; and
- WHEREAS, aquatic invasive species are drivers of change in aquatic ecosystems, and watercraft inspections can slow the spread of AIS; and
- WHEREAS, the District recently underwent a strategic planning process that reprioritized AIS activities to better align internal resources with the District's mission; and
- WHEREAS, managing high impact species (e.g. common carp) is the highest priority activity, while supporting our partner prevention efforts is a lesser priority; and
- WHEREAS, the District has begun reducing its contributions to our partners' AIS watercraft inspection programs in 2017, as partners build more capacity to operate independently; and
- WHEREAS, the Board of Managers has approved the 2018 AIS work plan, which includes \$122,000 for cost-share funding of watercraft inspection programs led by our partners; and
- WHEREAS, the District received a cost-share funding proposal from the City of Shorewood for a total requested amount of \$23,304; and
- WHEREAS, City of Shorewood's request is consistent with the District's cost-share program for 2018; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers authorizes the Administrator, on advice of counsel, to execute an agreement with City of Shorewood providing \$23,304 in District cost-sharing funds to support City watercraft inspection services in accordance with a mutually agreed scope.

Resolution Number 18-031 was moved by Manager _____, seconded by Manager _____.
Motion to adopt the resolution ___ ayes, ___ nays, ___ abstentions. Date: _____.

Secretary _____ Date: _____

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 18-032

TITLE: Authorization to enter into cost-share agreement with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board to provide watercraft inspection services at Lake Calhoun, Harriet and Nokomis in 2018

WHEREAS, the District's mission is to collaborate with public and private partners to protect and improve land and water for current and future generations; and

WHEREAS, aquatic invasive species are drivers of change in aquatic ecosystems, and watercraft inspections can slow the spread of AIS; and

WHEREAS, the District recently underwent a strategic planning process that reprioritized AIS activities to better align internal resources with the District's mission; and

WHEREAS, managing high impact species (e.g. common carp) is the highest priority activity, while supporting our partner prevention efforts is a lesser priority; and

WHEREAS, the District has begun reducing its contributions to our partners' AIS watercraft inspection programs in 2017, as partners build more capacity to operate independently; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Managers has approved the 2018 AIS work plan, which includes \$122,000 for cost-share funding of watercraft inspection programs led by our partners; and

WHEREAS, the District received a cost-share funding proposal from the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board for a total requested amount of \$65,160; and

WHEREAS, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board's request is consistent with the District's cost-share program for 2018; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers authorizes the Administrator, on advice of counsel, to execute an agreement with Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board providing \$65,160 in District cost-sharing funds to support Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board's watercraft inspection services in accordance with a mutually agreed scope.

Resolution Number 18-032 was moved by Manager _____, seconded by Manager _____.
Motion to adopt the resolution ___ ayes, ___ nays, ___ abstentions. Date: _____.

Secretary _____ Date: _____