

Minnehaha Creek Watershed District

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

MEETING DATE: March 14, 2019

TITLE: 2019 National American Planning Association conference attendance

RES. NUMBER: 19-027

PREPARED BY: Michael Hayman

E-MAIL: mhayman@minnehahacreek.org **TELEPHONE:** 952-471-8226

REVIEWED BY: Administrator Counsel Program Mgr.
 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): Approval at March 14, 2019 Board Meeting	

PURPOSE or ACTION REQUESTED:

Approval of funding to send three staff members – James Wisker, Becky Christopher and Tiffany Schaufler – to the 2019 national conference of the American Planning Association in San Francisco, CA.

PROJECT TIMELINE:

The conference will be held from April 13-16, 2019 in San Francisco, CA

PROJECT/PROGRAM COST:

Fund name and number: 100-1002 (administration) and 200-2002 (planning)

Current Budget: \$5,000 for training in 1002; \$4,000 for training in 2002

Expenditures to date: \$0

Requested amount of funding: \$7,500

SUMMARY:

Each year, the American Planning Association (APA) holds a national conference, highlighting emerging issues, new trends, and best practices in the planning field. The conference program is diverse, and includes such topics as natural resources and environmental planning, resiliency planning, planning for a changing climate, innovation in government, parks and recreation, land-use and development, and many other subject areas that are pertinent to the District’s mission.

The District’s driving ethos and policy direction, Balanced Urban Ecology, focuses on the integration of land-use and water planning to effectively align natural resources with social and economic value to create vibrant communities. It is this philosophy that recognizes that the District’s water quality goals will be best achieved through partnership development, and that the impact of our work on the communities we serve will be amplified by seeking to add value to related public initiatives such as parks and open space and economic development.

To carry out its vision, the organization is directing its focus on:

- 1) developing high impact capital projects integrated with non-water initiatives through multijurisdictional partnership, and
- 2) changing the land-use water policy environment to increase early value added partnership with private development, public infrastructure, and public policy and planning

Increased participation in the APA – locally, regionally, and nationally – provides a professional development opportunity to increase staff's ability to effectively implement both of the District's principal strategies. Staff not only develop increased awareness of best practices to enhance our implementation effectiveness, but also develop a national profile that can be leveraged for organizational growth and planning and policy influence.

The 2019 national conference strongly reflects the local issues that the District is increasingly focusing its policy and implementation efforts on. For instance, multiple tracks at the national conference are centered on resiliency planning, innovative adaptation planning, green infrastructure initiatives, and smart policies for a changing climate.

Staff is requesting funding of an amount not-to-exceed \$7,500 for three (3) staff members – James Wisker, Becky Christopher and Tiffany Schaufler – to attend the conference in April. This amount will cover conference registration, travel, and accommodations based on projected costs of approximately \$2,100 – \$2,500 per attendee.

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION NUMBER: **19-027**

TITLE: **2019 National American Planning Association Conference Attendance**

WHEREAS, the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers has adopted a balanced urban ecology policy that recognizes the multi-sector value of integrating natural systems and land use planning;

WHEREAS, the District's principal organizational strategy includes developing high impact capital projects integrated with non-water initiatives through multijurisdictional partnership, and changing the land-use and water policy environment to increase early value-added partnership with private development, public infrastructure, and public policy and planning;

WHEREAS, implementation of the balanced urban ecology and organization strategic direction requires continued professional development in areas of municipal and land use planning;

WHEREAS, the District has continued its presence at the Minnesota chapter of the American Planning Association (APA) through conference presentations in 2016, 2017 and 2018, and national recognition at the 2018 APA Water Planning Connects conference;

WHEREAS, the Board of Managers supports professional development in areas outside of water resources in order to effectively integrate its work with that of our partners;

WHEREAS, the APA hosts an annual conference providing professional development, continuing education, and networking opportunities for planning professionals;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers authorize three (3) staff to attend the 2019 National American Planning Association conference for a cost not to exceed \$7,500 for registration, travel, and accommodations.

Resolution Number 19-027 was moved by Manager _____, seconded by Manager _____.
Motion to adopt the resolution ___ ayes, ___ nays, ___ abstentions. Date: _____.

_____ Date: _____
Secretary