

MEETING DATE: April 11, 2019

TITLE: Authorization to execute agreements for 2019 watercraft inspection cost-share partnerships

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 19-044

PREPARED BY: Eric Fieldseth

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REVIEWED BY: Administrator Counsel Program Manager: Brian Beck
 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): Requesting Approval at April 11, 2019 Board Meeting	

PURPOSE or ACTION REQUESTED:

Authorization to execute agreements with the following partners to provide support for their AIS watercraft inspection programs at a not-to-exceed amount as indicated below:

- Carver County (\$13,000)
- Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (\$45,000)
- City of Shorewood (\$16,000)
- Three Rivers Park District (\$5,355)

PROJECT/PROGRAM LOCATION:

Carver County (Lake Minnewashta and Piersons Lake); City of Shorewood (Christmas Lake); Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board (Bde Maka Ska, Lake Harriet, and Lake Nokomis); Three Rivers Park District (Lake Zumbra, Steiger Lake, Auburn Lake, and Lake Minnetonka Regional Park)

PROJECT/PROGRAM COST:

Fund name and number: AIS, 500-5005
Budgeted amount: \$80,000
Requested amount of funding: \$79,355

PAST BOARD ACTION:

May 24, 2012	Approval of AIS Management Plan development process and establishment of AIS Plan Task Force (12-042)
July 25, 2013	Adoption of AIS Management Program as an amendment to the District's 2007 Comprehensive Water Resources Management Plan (13-076)
February 9, 2017	Adoption of 2017 Strategic Alignment Plan, including proposal to reduce direct AIS prevention spending (17-007)

SUMMARY:

AIS Program History

In 2012, the MCWD established an aquatic invasive species (AIS) prevention and management program due to the threat AIS pose to aquatic ecological health, the absence of a statewide framework for AIS, and the need for consistent AIS prevention funding. MCWD’s program included research about the spread and impact of AIS, early detection monitoring, rapid response to infestations, education, and funding for inspectors at boat launches.

Over time, local partners’ involvement in AIS prevention surpassed MCWD’s limited ability to fund this work across the watershed’s large number of public accesses, lakes, and streams. In 2014, the State of Minnesota began allocating funding and delegating authority to counties for AIS prevention activities, which reinforced the need for MCWD to change its funding strategy.

AIS Program Realignment

In 2017, the MCWD realigned its programming, financial, and human resources to focus on implementing high-impact capital projects and changing policy to integrate land use and water planning based on the MCWD Strategic Alignment Plan. In 2017, District staff began to implement the Strategic Alignment Plan by gradually reducing AIS watercraft inspection funding to accomplish the strategic priority of decreasing the District’s direct prevention costs (Figure 1). MCWD’s shift in resources between 2016 and 2018 has allowed District staff to identify high impact AIS management projects such as carp management in the Six Mile Creek – Halsted Bay subwatershed to further align programming with the District’s Strategic Alignment Plan and 2017 Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan.

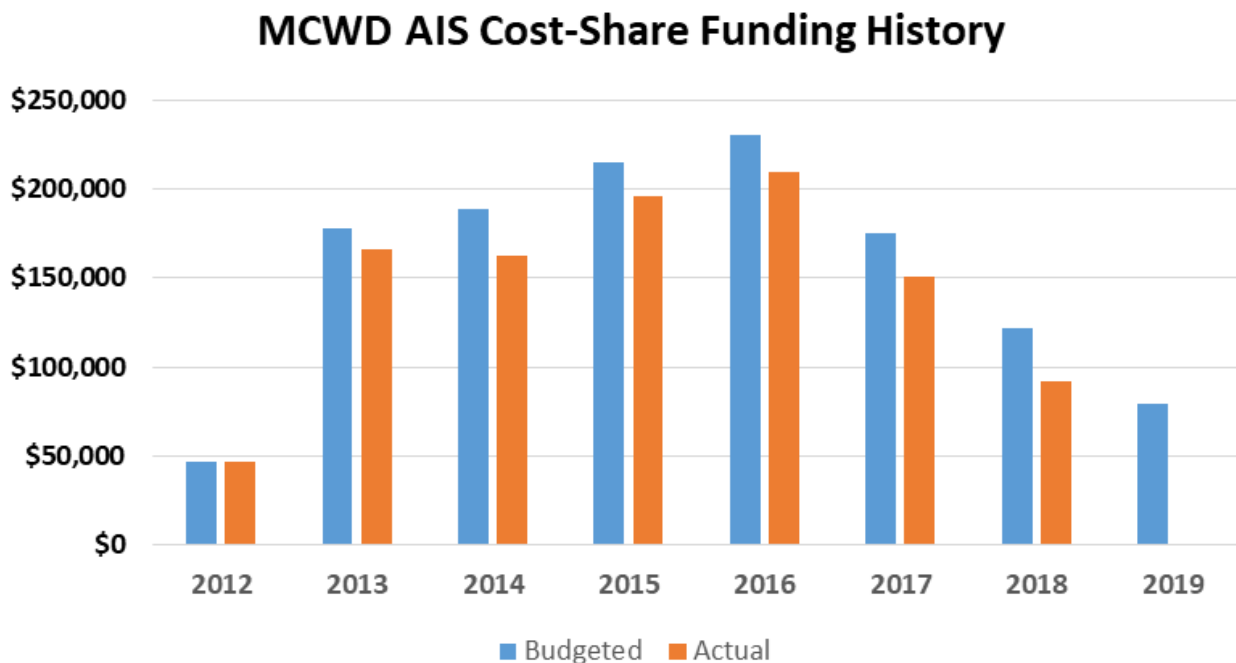


Figure 1. AIS Watercraft Inspection Cost-Share Funding History

MCWD's Realigned Approach

Today, the MCWD prioritizes AIS management strategies that align with partnership opportunities for improving water quality and ecological health in our areas of focus. It uses a multi-pronged approach:

- Direct management of AIS that degrade water quality or ecological integrity with proven, cost-effective management options that integrate with District priorities in priority geographies. This includes the Six Mile Creek-Halsted Bay Habitat Restoration Program, which focuses on management of common carp.
- Leading diagnostic assessments to identify the impact of AIS on ecosystem functions. An example is the partnership between the District, the City of Long Lake, City of Medina, City of Orono, and the Long Lake Waters Association to assess the impacts of common carp and other drivers of poor water quality in the Long Lake Creek Subwatershed. This study will outline scientifically sound management techniques for improving ecological health and water quality conditions.
- Being responsive to regional and local partnership opportunities outside focal areas that align with the District's focus on management of AIS to improve ecological health and water quality conditions of our lakes and streams. MCWD will continue to work with its partners to improve ecological health and water quality throughout the watershed with high impact AIS management projects.
- Partnering with the Minnesota AIS Research Center (MAISRC) on several research projects to develop new AIS prevention and management techniques. MCWD staff have served on MAISRC's technical committee, helping prioritize, and recommend research that provides the greatest benefit for prevention and management of AIS.

2019 AIS Cost-Share Partnerships Summary

MCWD's 2019 approved workplan and budget identified \$80,000 for funding support to our partners for the operation of watercraft inspection programs, which is a decrease of \$32,000 from MWCD's 2018 watercraft inspection cost-share budget (Figure 1). The decrease in funding from 2018 to 2019 reflects MCWD's continued effort to implement its strategic priorities outlined in the 2017 Watershed Management Plan.

Table 1 is a summary of the proposed cost-share amounts for each partner. Each partner will be required to submit a report and proof of final inspection hours and cost at the end of the season, at which point MCWD will provide its cost-share reimbursement to each partner for a not-to-exceed amount as listed in the table below.

Table 1. Summary of Proposed 2019 MCWD AIS Cost-Share Partnerships

Partner	Lakes Included	Partner Program Cost	MCWD's Proposed Cost-Share Amount
MPRB	Bde Maka Ska, Harriet & Nokomis	\$192,617	\$45,000
TRPD	Zumbra, Steiger, Auburn & Minnetonka Regional Park	\$18,900	\$5,355
City of Shorewood	Christmas Lake	\$79,720	\$16,000
Carver County	Minnewashta, Piersons	\$48,795	\$13,000
Total			\$79,355

Next Steps

In May 2019, Research and Monitoring staff will facilitate a discussion with the Operation and Programs Committee of the District's strategic position on AIS programming and discuss the long-term program alignment.

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 19-044

TITLE: Authorization to Execute Agreements for 2019 Watercraft Inspection Cost-Share Partnerships

- 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, in 2012, the District established an AIS program recognizing the ecological threat AIS provide, and addressing the lack of a statewide framework and consistent funding source for AIS; and
- WHEREAS, in 2014, the State of Minnesota identified counties as the appropriate local government unit to direct AIS prevention activities, and began allocating dedicated funding for AIS prevention to counties; and
- WHEREAS, in 2016, the District realigned its programming, financial and human resources to focus on building high-impact capital projects and changing policy to integrate land use and water planning; and
- WHEREAS, through this strategic realignment, the District's AIS program was repositioned to focus on improving water quality and ecological integrity in areas of high need in the watershed; and
- WHEREAS, in 2017, the District began communicating to our partners this strategic shift in AIS programming, and begun reducing its contributions to our partners AIS watercraft inspection programs over a few years, allowing time for our partners build more capacity to operate independently; and
- WHEREAS, 2019 is the third year of reductions in funding support to our partners for their AIS watercraft inspection programs; and
- WHEREAS, the District will discuss the long-term plan for these funds through its 2020 budget process; and
- WHEREAS, the District has approved in its 2019 budget up to \$80,000 to support our partners' watercraft inspection programs; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers authorize the execution of an agreement with Carver County, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, City of Shorewood, Three Rivers Park District to provide funding support for its watercraft inspection program at a cost not to exceed \$13,000, \$45,000, \$16,000, and \$5,355, respectively; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Managers authorize the District Administrator, upon advice of counsel and with such further minor revisions as may be necessary to effect the intent of the parties, to enter into these agreements.

Resolution Number 19-044 was moved by Manager _____, seconded by Manager _____.
Motion to adopt the resolution ___ ayes, ___ nays, ___ abstentions. Date: _____.

Secretary _____ Date: _____