



MEMORANDUM

To: MCWD Board of Managers

From: Tiffany Schaufler

Date: June 5, 2017

Re: Minneapolis – Minnehaha Creek Subwatershed Integrated Planning Request for Qualifications Update

Purpose:

To provide an update on the integrated planning of the Minnehaha Creek subwatershed in Minneapolis and the proposed next steps.

Background:

At the February 23, 2017 Board of Managers meeting, the Board approved Resolution 17-017 which authorized the District to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the City of Minneapolis (City) and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) and issue a request for qualifications (RFQ) for the integrated planning of the Minnehaha Creek Subwatershed in Minneapolis. Through this MOU the three agencies have agreed to mutually support an effort to create a multi-jurisdictional concept plan and capital improvement plan to improve the natural and built environments within the Minnehaha Creek subwatershed in the City of Minneapolis.

Since the February 23, 2017 Board Meeting, District staff has been coordinating with the MPRB and City on drafting the RFQ. The original intent of the RFQ was to seek a consultant team to assist with the FEMA streambank repairs and assist in concept plan development integrating streambank restoration, steam channel modifications, stormwater management, riparian corridor improvements, flood mitigation, and regional trail and park improvements along the Minnehaha Creek corridor. During the drafting of the RFQ, MPRB staff suggested expansion of the RFQ to include master planning for the Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail. The Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail is a 253 acre regional facility with 5.3 miles of parkway and is located within the MPRB system. Inclusion of this master planning within the RFQ would allow the FEMA streambank repairs to include broad scale landscape considerations related to the ecology of the creek. By introducing those topics in the context of a larger planning process, the streambank restoration activities can be considered more holistically. Recreation and connectivity, goals of the MPRB, might be better aligned with the District's goals to improve water quality and the ecological integrity of Minnehaha Creek.

We collaborate with public and private partners to protect and improve land and water for current and future generations.

District staff and MRPB staff are excited about the opportunity to fully integrate the planning of the Minnehaha Creek corridor space. Integration means the agencies would use the same consultant team for the entire process. The first phase of the project is proposed to be led by the District and focus on more technical aspects of streambank restoration and the identification of joint agency opportunities. The second phase of the project is proposed to be led by MPRB and focus on broader recreational and connectivity concerns typical of a MPRB master plan. Integration of these processes should allow for a more integrated plan which meets the specific goals of each agency and the broader goals of enhanced ecology, stormwater management, and recreation and connectivity for the entirety of the Minnehaha Creek corridor in Minneapolis. Additionally, this integration will allow the public to follow a single process making the public input process more logical and efficient.

Next Steps:

The RFQ for the integrated planning of the Minnehaha Creek subwatershed in Minneapolis was issued on June 5, 2017 and can be viewed on the District's website at <http://minnehahacreek.org/request-qualifications-integrated-planning-minnehaha-creek-subwatershed> Submissions for the RFQ are due on June 16, 2017. District, MPRB and City staff will then review the submissions and select a consultant team. The District and MPRB will then work with the selected consultant team to draft a scope of work for the project. District staff plans to bring the scope of work and consultant contract agreement before the Board of Managers for consideration at the July 13, 2017 Board Workshop.

If there are questions in advance of the meeting, please contact Tiffany Schaufler at 952-641-4513 or at tschaufler@minnehahacreek.org.

We collaborate with public and private partners to protect and improve land and water for current and future generations.