

**Minnehaha Creek Watershed District**

**REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION**

**MEETING DATE:** September 26, 2019

**TITLE:** 2019 North American Lake Management Society conference attendance

**RES. NUMBER:** 19-084

**PREPARED BY:** Brian Beck

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**TELEPHONE:** 952-471-8306

**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 September 26, 2019 Board Meeting	

**PURPOSE or ACTION REQUESTED:**

Approval of funding to send two staff members – Jill Sweet and Kailey Cermak – to the 2019 national conference of the North American Lake Management Society conference in Burlington, VT.

**PROJECT TIMELINE:**

The conference will be held from November 11-14, 2019 in Burlington, VT.

**PROJECT/PROGRAM COST:**

Fund name and number: 100-5001  
Current Budget: \$4,102.55  
Expenditures to date: \$3,897.45  
Requested amount of funding: \$3,900 (not-to-exceed)

**SUMMARY:**

Each year, the North American Lake Management Society (NALMS) holds a national conference to exchange information between lake professionals, researchers, and citizens on managing lakes and their watersheds. The conference has a diverse program that includes such topics as watershed planning, lake restoration, water quality monitoring, nutrient loading and alum usage, and many other subject areas that are pertinent to the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District's (District or MCWD) mission and the Research and Monitoring program's purpose and goals.

The Research and Monitoring program purpose is to:

- 1.) Diagnose water quality and ecological issues
- 2.) Identify project locations
- 3.) Inform project design
- 4.) Assess effectiveness of projects
- 5.) Communicate data driven stories

To deliver on the aforementioned goals, staff must continue to grow their technical skillset in order to analyze data, support project identification, and creatively communicate project effectiveness. The 2019 conference includes a full day workshop in data manipulation and analysis tools (R for Aquatic Research) that will help R&M staff increase their technical capacity to drive projects, automate data processing, and tell data driven stories.

Maintaining membership and participation in the NALMS conferences will be beneficial with the District's role on the steering committee for the 2020 national conference held in Minnesota.

Staff is requesting funding to send two (2) staff members – Jill Sweet and Kailey Cermak – to attend the NALMs conference for an amount not-to-exceed \$3,900. This amount will cover conference registration, travel, and accommodations based on projected costs of approximately \$1,600 – \$1,950 per attendee.

**RESOLUTION**

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**RESOLUTION NUMBER:**    19-084

**TITLE:**            **2019 North American Lake Management 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 Research and Monitoring Department support the District's mission by diagnosing water resource issues, informing project location and design, and communicating results;

WHEREAS, implementation of the Research and Monitoring strategic priorities requires continued professional development in areas of data analysis, data visualization, and watershed management;

WHEREAS, the Board of Managers supports professional development as it pertains to delivering on the District's mission and goals;

WHEREAS, the NALMS hosts an annual conference providing professional development, continuing education, and networking opportunities for water resources professionals;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers authorize two (2) staff to attend the 2019 North American Lake Management conference for a cost not to exceed \$3,900 for registration, travel, and accommodations.

Resolution Number 19-084 as moved by Manager \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by Manager \_\_\_\_\_.

Motion to adopt the resolution \_\_\_ ayes, \_\_\_ nays, \_\_\_ abstentions. Date: \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

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