

MEETING DATE: August 24, 2017

TITLE: Authorization to apply for grant funding through MN DNR Conservation Partners Legacy (CPL) Grant Program

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 17-050

PREPARED BY: Renae Clark

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REVIEWED BY: Administrator Counsel Program Mgr. (Name):
 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): <u>Requesting approval on August 24, 2017</u>	

PURPOSE or ACTION REQUESTED:

Authorization to apply for FY 2018 grant funding through the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program.

PROJECT/PROGRAM LOCATION:

Arden Park, Edina

PROJECT TIMELINE:

Applications due September 12, 2017

PROJECT/PROGRAM COST: N/A

PAST BOARD ACTIONS: N/A

SUMMARY:

Each year, staff evaluates the District’s Capital Improvement Plan to determine which projects are well positioned to apply for grant funding. Looking ahead to 2018-19, staff has identified the Arden Park Restoration project in Edina as a good candidate for grant funding and has previously received authorization to apply to BWSR for Clean Water Funds and to Hennepin County for the Natural Resources Opportunity Grant.

The Conservation Partners Legacy (CPL) Grant Program evaluation criteria focus on habitat benefits for restoration of forest, wetlands and prairies for fish and wildlife. Evaluation criteria also include public benefits for access to fishing and other wildlife based recreation opportunities. Staff believe that the combination of habitat restoration and community benefits make Arden Park a competitive project for these funds.

**DRAFT for discussion purposes only and subject to Board approval and the availability of funds.
Resolutions are not final until approved by the Board and signed by the Board Secretary.**

The application will focus on creek corridor benefits including new floodplain forest, stream health improvement metrics, and the multiple community benefits regarding the enhanced physical access to the creek for fishing and passive enjoyment of the restored corridor.

The application period for the CPL grant closes on September 12, 2017. Staff will coordinate with MN DNR and the City of Edina to draft the application and determine the amount of funding requested to ensure that the application is positioned competitively.

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WHEREAS, the MCWD Board requested that they be notified of grant opportunities and authorize staff to apply for grants; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR) administers the Conservation Partners Legacy (CPL) Grant Program for the restoration, enhancement and protection of Minnesota's wetlands, forests, prairies and habitat for fish and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, staff has reviewed the District's Capital Improvement Plan for 2018-19 to determine which projects are suitable for this grant funding and recommends applying for CPL grant funds for the Arden Park Restoration Project;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers authorizes staff to apply for FY 2018 grant funds through the MN DNR Conservation Partners Legacy Grant program.

Resolution Number 17-050 was moved by Manager _____, seconded by Manager _____.
Motion to adopt the resolution ___ ayes, ___ nays, ___ abstentions. Date: August 24, 2017.

Secretary Date: _____