



Title: 2022 National American Planning Association Conference Attendance

Resolution number: 22-012

Prepared by: Michael Hayman, Project Planning Manager
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Reviewed by: Anna Brown, Planner-Project Manager

Recommended action: Approval of funding to send up to five staff members – Anna Brown, Gabe Sherman, Helen Schnoes, James Wisker and Michael Hayman – to the 2022 national conference of the American Planning Association in San Diego, CA.

Schedule: The conference will be held April 30 – May 3, 2022

Budget considerations: Fund name and code: General Operations (1002), Planning (2002) and Outreach (4002)
Fund budget: \$8,500 for training and \$1,500 for expenses in 1002; \$6,300 for training and \$7,700 for expenses in 2002; \$10,000 for training and \$2,000 for expenses in 4002.
Expenditures to date: \$0
Requested amount of funding: \$12,500 (registration, travel and accommodations)

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 climate change impacts and action, agile planning methods and approaches, planning with intention for inclusion and equity, leveraging technology, transportation and infrastructure, 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, transportation and infrastructure, and economic development.

Increased participation in the APA – locally, regionally, and nationally – provides a professional development opportunity to increase staff's ability to effectively implement the District's principal strategy of integrating land use and water. 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 in planning and policy influence.

Staff is requesting funding of an amount not-to-exceed \$12,500 for up to five (5) staff members – Anna Brown, Gabe Sherman, Helen Schnoes, James Wisker and Michael Hayman – to attend the conference in late-April/early-May. This amount will cover conference registration, travel and accommodations based on projected costs of approximately \$2,100 – \$2,500 per attendee.



RESOLUTION

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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 and attendance, and national recognition at the 2018 APA Water Planning Connects conference;

WHEREAS the Board of Managers supports professional development in areas beyond 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 up to five (5) staff to attend the 2022 National American Planning Association conference for a cost not to exceed \$12,500 for registration, travel and accommodations.

Resolution Number 22-012 was moved by Manager _____, seconded by Manager _____. Motion to adopt the resolution ___ ayes, ___ nays, ___ abstentions. Date: 3/10/2022

Secretary Date: _____