

MEETING DATE: March 22, 2018

TITLE: Authorization to Submit Partnership Proposals with Great River Greening to Apply for Outdoor Heritage Fund and Environmental & Natural Resources Trust Fund Grants

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 18-024

PREPARED BY: Laura Domyancich

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REVIEWED BY: Administrator Counsel Program Director:
 Board Committee Engineer Program Manager: Tiffany Schaufler

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): Seeking approval at March 22, 2018 Board Meeting.	

PURPOSE or ACTION REQUESTED:

Authorization to submit Partnership Proposals with Great River Greening to apply for Outdoor Heritage Fund and Environmental & Natural Resources Trust Fund grants.

PROJECT/PROGRAM LOCATION:

Broin property, Minnetonka; Diercks property, Minnetrista; Methodist Hospital easement, St. Louis Park.

PROJECT TIMELINE:

Summer 2019 – Summer 2020 Project implementation.

PROJECT/PROGRAM COST:

None.

PAST BOARD ACTIONS:

December 11, 2014 – Resolution 14-105: Authorization to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with Great River Greening

February 26, 2015 – Resolution 15-018: Authorization to submit Partnership Proposals with Great River Greening to apply for Outdoor Heritage Fund and Environmental & Natural Resources Trust Fund grants

March 10, 2016 – Resolution 16-020: Authorization to Submit a Partnership Proposal with Great River Greening to apply for a LCCMR Grant

October 27, 2016 – Resolution 16-080: Authorization to Execute an Agreement with Great River Greening to Perform Vegetation Restoration at the Minnehaha Preserve

**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.**

February 23, 2017 – Resolution 17-012: Authorization to Execute an Agreement with Great River Greening to Perform Vegetation Restoration at Painter Creek and Mud Lake Sites

SUMMARY:

In December 2014, the Board of Managers authorized execution of a Memorandum of Understanding with Great River Greening. Great River Greening has partnered with over 600 public and private entities, including cities, counties and community groups, empowering restoration and stewardship initiatives by providing matching funds, ecological expertise, project management, and community engagement.

Great River Greening has the distinguishing core competencies of a highly trained ecological staff, a dynamic community and youth involvement program, and a collaborative philosophy. In addition, they are able to help leverage funds from sources including the State of Minnesota Environmental Trust Fund and the Outdoor Heritage Fund.

Great River Greening is currently developing its proposals for both the Outdoor Heritage Fund (through their Metro Big Rivers Partnership) and Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund (through their Metro Conservation Corridors Partnership). Through these two major conservation partnerships, Great River Greening secures resources to protect, restore, and enhance priority habitat for wildlife and the public.

MCWD staff have identified three District properties (Broin, Diercks, and Methodist Hospital easement) where restoration goals, outlined in each site's Natural Resource Management Plan, align with natural resource objectives targeted by these funding sources. The Partnership Proposal, to be submitted by Great River Greening, will communicate planned restoration work at each of these sites based on these goals. This proposal does not obligate the District to any expenditures. If the proposal is accepted, the District may enter into a separate grant agreement stating terms of payment and future obligations for District land management. These terms would be considered following potential appropriations in 2019.

The Board of Managers has requested that it be notified when staff is seeking grant funding. District staff intends to submit Partnership Proposals to Great River Greening to apply for grant funding to restore and enhance vegetation and habitat on these District properties and easement located throughout the District.

ATTACHMENT:

1. District Property Map

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 18-024

TITLE: **Authorization to Submit Partnership Proposals with Great River Greening to apply for Outdoor Heritage Fund and Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund grants**

- WHEREAS, the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) Board requested it be notified of grant opportunities and, when time allows, authorize the Administrator to apply for grants; and
- WHEREAS, the MCWD has invested substantial public resources in targeted creek corridors to acquire conservation rights, restore riparian lands and establish natural riparian corridors in order to pursue and achieve the MCWD's water quality and water resource protection goals; and
- WHEREAS, the MCWD and Great River Greening have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which has established mutual goals and a cooperative framework within which the potential for beneficial and cost-effective projects and programs may be explored; and
- WHEREAS, within the MOU both parties expressed their interest in integrating their strengths and capacities in order to develop and carry out a program to preserve, enhance, and extend the MCWD's conservation property through expertise, partnership, community capacity building, and creative funding; and
- WHEREAS, Great River Greening is currently developing its proposals for both the Outdoor Heritage Fund and Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund; and
- WHEREAS, MCWD staff plans to submit Partnership Proposals with Great River Greening to apply for grant funding to restore and enhance vegetation and habitat on the District's properties (Diercks, Broin, and Methodist Hospital easement) located throughout the MCWD; and
- WHEREAS, the approval to submit Partnership Proposals does not obligate the MCWD to expenditures or future work at these project sites. The Proposals identify site natural resource management goals that align with objectives of these potential funding sources and initiate an opportunity for the MCWD to diversify its funding sources.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers authorizes the Administrator to submit Partnership Proposals with Great River Greening to apply for Outdoor Heritage Fund and Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund grants.

Resolution Number 18-024 was moved by Manager _____, seconded by Manager _____.
Motion to adopt the resolution ___ ayes, ___ nays, ___ abstentions. Date: _____.

Secretary Date: _____

District Properties: Fee title and Easements

