

**MEETING DATE:** May 26, 2016

**TITLE:** Authorization to enter into agreement with the USGS to contribute towards a Zebra Mussel Control Study pending final approval of USGS grant award from the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center.

**RESOLUTION NUMBER:** 16-050

**PREPARED BY:** Eric Fieldseth, AIS Program Manager

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**TELEPHONE:** 952-471-7873

**REVIEWED BY:**  Administrator  Counsel  Dept. Director.(Name) Craig Dawson  
 Board Committee  Engineer  Other: Kelly Dooley

**BOARD 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): Recommend Approval	

**PURPOSE or ACTION REQUESTED:**

Authorization to enter into agreement with the USGS to contribute towards a zebra mussel control study pending final approval of USGS grant award from the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center.

**PROJECT/PROGRAM LOCATION:**

Lake Minnetonka  
USGS Lab in LaCrosse, WI

**PROJECT TIMELINE:**

July 31, 2016 – June 30, 2017  
MCWD contribution will occur in 2016

**PROJECT/PROGRAM COST:**

Fund name and number: Research and Monitoring: AIS Program (5005)  
Requested amount of funding: \$20,000  
Budgeted amount in 2016 work plan: \$20,000  
Is a budget amendment requested? No  
Is additional staff requested? No

**PAST BOARD ACTION:**

March 24, 2016 – Staff presented AIS updates to the Board, which included this zebra mussel control project with the USGS.

May 12, 2016 – Board recommended sending item to consent agenda for the May 26, 2016 Board Meeting.

**SUMMARY**

In the 2016 work plan, staff identified a need to further develop research on zebra mussel control products, and budgeted \$20,000 to put towards a smaller scale study evaluating a couple control products with the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center. This research would build off of the information MCWD gained from the Christmas Lake Zebra mussel rapid response, where three different products were used for zebra mussel control.

The Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center; however, identified an opportunity to conduct a larger scale study, looking at more products and variables. The USGS was identified as a research agency who may be best to perform this research and apply for the grant funding. The USGS has been a leader in zebra mussel control research, with recent work focused on the product Zequanox. The contributed funds from MCWD would aide in the competitive grant process, and the fact that this project would have local support and contributions would elevate the status for funding.

While MCWD gained valuable knowledge from the Christmas Lake treatments there is still not enough hard science on the best doses and exposure times needed for each product, as well as how they perform in different water temperatures. This research will provide better information about the use and dosage of the zebra mussel control products that will allow organizations, such as the Watershed District, to make more informed decisions during rapid assessment situations.

Deliverable for the District

The final product from this research will be the creation of a temperature-dependent treatment protocol with four different control products. This decision support tool will greatly aid in future rapid response decisions and control options for zebra mussels.

Current status of Grant Award

The USGS is awaiting final approval on the grant award, in an amount of \$186,999. The grant decision is close to being finalized. It is timely that authorization for agreements between the District and the USGS is approved in May, pending final approval of the grant award. Work is set to begin in July 2016.

Funding

USGS Grant Award from MAISRC: \$186,999

MCWD Contribution: \$20,000

USGS Appropriated & In-Kind: \$141,330

The District would be contributing the \$20,000 that was budgeted in the 2016 work plan towards the research, with the report being the final deliverable to the District. District staff will also assist by monitoring lake water temperature, collecting test zebra mussels from Lake Minnetonka, and providing review of testing protocols and dissemination products.

**RESOLUTION**

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**TITLE:** Authorization to enter into agreement with the USGS to contribute towards a Zebra Mussel Control Study pending final approval of USGS grant award from the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center.

- WHEREAS, Zebra mussels have been shown to provide ecological impacts in some waterbodies, and are present in several District lakes; and
- WHEREAS, The MCWD AIS Management Plan identifies research studies as an important component to the program, and will be a ready partner for pilot projects that may serve as models for regional or state-wide application; and
- WHEREAS, The Christmas Lake rapid response to the zebra mussel infestation showed three different products can be effective at controlling zebra mussels, but we are lacking hard science to better inform proper doses and exposure times needed at certain water temperatures for cost-effective, science based decision making; and
- WHEREAS, The USGS has previous experience evaluating the zebra mussel control product Zequanox, and are interested in further research on zebra mussel control; and
- WHEREAS, The Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center issued a call for proposals for research, and the USGS applied for funding with the District as a local partner and contributor;
- WHEREAS, The USGS was selected for a full proposal and are near completion of being awarded a grant of \$186,999 to perform the study; and
- WHEREAS, The 2016 budget and work plan identifies \$20,000 to further evaluate zebra mussel control products that can better inform decision making.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers hereby authorize the District Administrator to enter into agreement with the USGS, upon approval of District Counsel as to form and execution, for a cost not to exceed \$20,000.

Resolution Number 16-050 was moved by Manager \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by Manager \_\_\_\_\_.  
Motion to adopt the resolution \_\_\_ ayes, \_\_\_ nays, \_\_\_ abstentions. Date: May 26, 2016.

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