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**Title:** Authorization to Submit a Letter of Support to the LCCMR for the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board's Proposed Kenilworth Channel Shoreline Restoration and Enhancement Project

**Resolution number:** 20-036

**Prepared by:** Name: Tiffany Schaufler  
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**Reviewed by:** Name/Title: Michael Hayman, Project Planning Manager

**Recommended action:** Authorize the District Administrator to sign a letter and submit it to the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) for the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board's proposed project to restore and enhance the shoreline along the Kenilworth Channel.

**Schedule:** April 23, 2020 – Board considers submitting letter of support  
April 30, 2020 – Submission deadline for 2021 LCCMR proposal

**Summary:**

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) is proposing to implement the Kenilworth Channel Shoreline Restoration and Enhancement Project (Project) which would stabilize, restore, and enhance the ecology of the north and south shoreline of the Kenilworth Channel, located west of the Southwest LRT bridge connection to Cedar Lake (see map in Attachment A).

During the 1960s a wood retaining wall was constructed along this channel (see pictures in Attachment A), however, this wall is now in poor condition and is failing. Given the importance of this channel's hydrological, ecological, and recreational connection between Cedar Lake and Lake of the Isles, the MPRB is proposing to remove the wood retaining wall and restore the channel's shoreline to something more natural.

MPRB's proposed project would leverage opportunities to enhance the ecology and wildlife capacity of the channel, while limiting the installation of structured retaining walls to those areas where natural stabilization is not feasible due to site and access constraints. The project is proposed to provide approximately 1,200 linear feet of restored shoreline that would incorporate riparian and aquatic benefits through the use of rock, soil, native vegetation and enhanced tree cover.

Presently MPRB's funds would allow for the design of the project and some construction, however, MPRB does not have sufficient funds to complete the full implementation of the project. Therefore, the MPRB is planning to submit a proposal to Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) to help fund the effort. The MPRB's proposal would seek approximately \$896,500 in funds from the LCCMR for the project and would leverage approximately \$616,800 in cash match from MPRB.

As MPRB prepares their LCCMR proposal, they reached out to District staff to seek a letter of support to submit to the LCCMR with their proposal. Given the District's goals to improve water quality and ecological integrity, and our policy to naturalize shorelines, District staff recommends supporting MPRB's Project by submitting a letter of support to the LCCMR. A draft letter of support can be viewed in Attachment B.

**Supporting documents (list attachments):**

- Attachment A: Graphic of MPRB's proposed Kenilworth Channel Shoreline Restoration & Enhancement Project
- Attachment B: Draft MCWD letter of support to LCCMR for MRPB's Project



**RESOLUTION**

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**Title:** Authorization to Submit a Letter of Support to the LCCMR for the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board’s Proposed Kenilworth Channel Shoreline Restoration and Enhancement Project

WHEREAS the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District’s (District) Watershed Management Plan (WMP) identifies the Minnehaha Creek subwatershed as a priority geography for focusing the District’s planning activities and coordination efforts with its subwatershed partners;

WHEREAS the District’s WMP identifies water quality and ecological integrity goals for the Minnehaha Creek subwatershed and identifies shoreline restoration as a management strategy to achieve those goals;

WHEREAS it is the District’s policy to promote the naturalization of shorelines whenever possible;

WHEREAS the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) is submitting a proposal to the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) for the Kenilworth Channel Shoreline Restoration and Enhancement Project (“Project”) which would restore and naturalize approximately 1,200 lineal feet of shoreline in between Cedar Lake and Lake of the Isles;

WHEREAS the MPRB has sought the District’s support for this Project through a letter of support which would be submitted as part of MRPB’s LCCMR proposal;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers authorizes the Administrator to submit the attached letter of support to the LCCMR for the MRPB’s proposed Kenilworth Channel Shoreline Restoration and Enhancement Project;

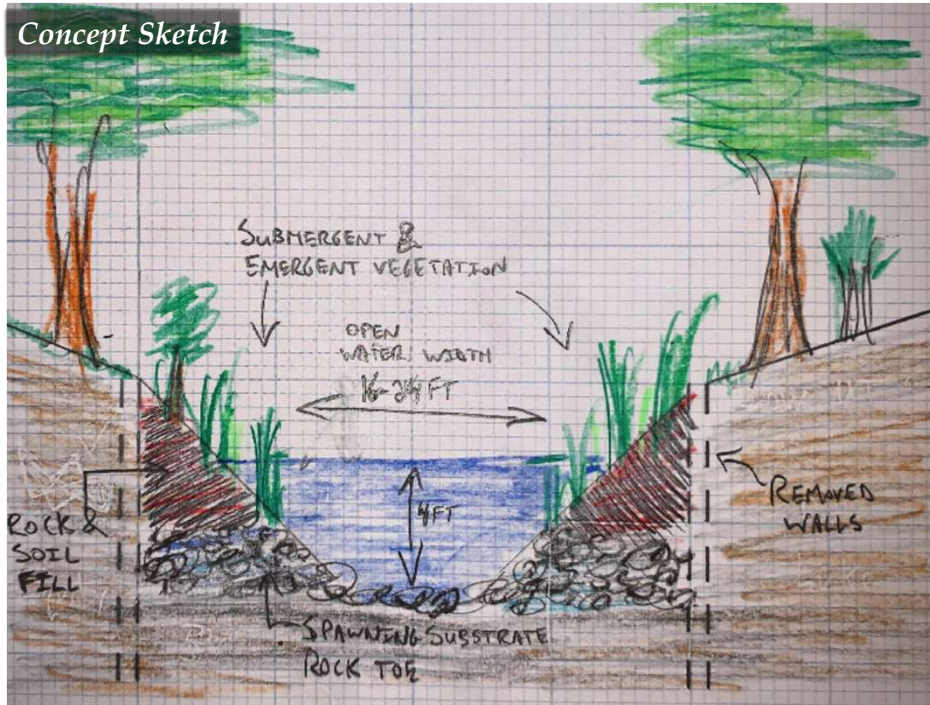
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the District’s letter of support for the proposed MPRB Project is non-binding.

Resolution Number 20-036 was moved by Manager \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by Manager \_\_\_\_\_. Motion to adopt the resolution \_\_\_ eyes, \_\_\_ nays, \_\_\_ abstentions. Date: 4/23/2020

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary Date: April 23, 2020



# Kenilworth Channel Proposed Improvements





April 24, 2020

Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR)  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
State Office Building, Room 65  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear LCCMR Members,

The Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) is writing in support of the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board's (MRPB) funding proposal to the LCCMR.

MCWD's objectives and management strategies rest on our Balanced Urban Ecology approach to water resource planning and implementation. This approach recognizes the environmental, social and economic value created when the built and natural systems work in harmony. Clean water and a healthy natural environment are essential to create and sustain vibrant communities. The Minneapolis Chain of Lakes are a part of a landscape that create a sense of place that provides a local identity, adds economic value and increases well-being.

The MCWD and MPRB have a strong history of partnership and the work accomplished together by our agencies is noteworthy. The MCWD appreciates the ongoing coordination between our agencies on the proposed Kenilworth Channel Shoreline Restoration and Enhancement (Project). We understand that the proposed Project will provide an ecologically sensitive solution which will restore approximately 1,200 lineal feet of aquatic and riparian habitat along a critical water connection between Cedar Lake and Lake of the Isles. This Project intersects with the water quality and ecological integrity goals of MCWD to restore, maintain, and improve the quality of our surface waters and health of our ecological systems.

As MCWD continues its vision to create a landscape of vibrant communities where the natural and built environments in balance create value and enjoyment, we believe MPRB's Kenilworth Channel Shoreline Restoration and Enhancement Project will improve the water quality and ecological integrity of the iconic Chain of Lakes. For these reasons, please consider the MCWD's support for MPRB's proposal when making your 2021 funding decisions.

Sincerely,

James Wisker  
Administrator

*We collaborate with public and private partners to protect and improve land and water for current and future generations.*