

Minnehaha Creek Watershed District

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

MEETING DATE: April 28, 2016

TITLE: Authorization to enter into agreement with Hennepin County to accept grant award for Zebra Mussel Veliger Control Study.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 16-038

PREPARED BY: Eric Fieldseth, AIS Program Manager

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

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:

Hennepin County has awarded the District a \$24,000 grant to evaluate prevention and population suppression of zebra mussels by targeting veliger larvae with very low doses of a copper-based pesticide. Staff requests authorization to enter into agreement with Hennepin County to accept grant award and perform related work in partnership with the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center.

PROJECT/PROGRAM LOCATION:

Lake Minnetonka

PROJECT TIMELINE:

May through December 2016

PROJECT/PROGRAM COST:

Fund name and number: 5005, AIS

Grant Amount: \$24,000

Requested amount of District funding: \$0

PAST BOARD ACTION:

March 24, 2016 – Staff presented to the Board that Hennepin County awarded MCWD a \$24,000 grant to perform a Zebra mussel veliger control study in partnership with the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center.

April 14, 2016 Board Workshop: Approved forwarding authorization for agreement with Hennepin County to the consent agenda on the April 28, 2016 meeting.

BACKGROUND:

The 2014 Legislature appropriated \$10 million annually to go to counties for prevention activities related to managing aquatic invasive species (AIS). Hennepin County sets aside some of those funds for competitive grants to area agencies and groups for AIS Prevention and Research. The Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC) proposed a partnership with MCWD to apply for a grant to study a unique way of possibly controlling zebra mussel populations in some lakes and preventing their spread. The MCWD acted as a local agency to apply for the funds. MAISRC will lead the study, with assistance from MCWD staff. A summary of the research study is below:

SUMMARY

This proposal would evaluate prevention and population suppression of zebra mussels by targeting veliger larvae with very low doses of a copper-based pesticide, EarthTec QZ. Literature has shown that molluscicides are more toxic to veliger larval stages than to adults – particularly in the case of copper-based pesticides.

The prevention benefits would be twofold: first would be control of adult population sizes, and second would be reduction in concentrations of live larvae in “residual waters” transported by recreational boats. Reducing larval survival would also reduce recruitment (i.e., larval settlement). Controlling recruitment (via bay wide or lake wide treatments in small lakes) could reduce ecological and economic harm with minimal non-target impacts. And given the short life span of adults and the fact that population persistence over the longer term depends on annual recruitment, this strategy might be used to control population growth rate. This study would be led by Dr. Mike McCartney from the MN AIS Research Center, with assistance from MCWD staff.

RESOLUTION

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- 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 applied 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 copper-based pesticides can be effective at controlling zebra mussels, and literature has shown microscopic veligers can be controlled with very low doses reducing non-target impacts; and
- WHEREAS, In 2014 the Minnesota Legislature appropriated \$10 million annually to counties for AIS Prevention activities, and Hennepin County set aside a portion of its funds for grant opportunities; and
- WHEREAS, The Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center proposed a partnership with MCWD to apply for a Hennepin County grant to study zebra mussel veliger control; and
- WHEREAS, Hennepin County has awarded the MCWD with a grant of \$24,000 to partner with the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center to perform a Zebra mussel veliger control study; and
- WHEREAS, At the March 24, 2016 Board Meeting, staff presented that Hennepin County awarded MCWD a \$24,000 grant to perform a Zebra mussel veliger control study in partnership with the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers hereby authorize the District Administrator to enter into agreement with Hennepin County to accept grant award, upon approval of District Counsel as to form and execution.

Resolution Number 16-038 was moved by Manager _____, seconded by Manager _____.
Motion to adopt the resolution ___ ayes, ___ nays, ___ abstentions. Date: April 28, 2016.

Secretary Date: _____