

MEETING DATE: March 26, 2015

TITLE: Authorization to Enter into an Agreement with Blue Water Science to complete Aquatic Plant Surveys and Flowering Rush Assessment on MCWD Waterbodies.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 15-024

PREPARED BY: Eric Fieldseth, AIS Program Manager

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REVIEWED BY: Administrator Counsel Program Mgr. (Name): Craig Dawson
 Board Committee Engineer Other

WORKSHOP ACTION:

<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): _____	

PURPOSE or ACTION REQUESTED:

Authorization to enter into an agreement with Blue Water Science to provide aquatic plant surveys on bays of Lake Minnetonka (Crystal, Black, Seton and Emerald) and complete a Flowering Rush Assessment on Minnehaha Creek.

PROJECT/PROGRAM LOCATION:

Lake Minnetonka Bays (Crystal, Black, Seton and Emerald) – Aquatic Plant Surveys
Minnehaha Creek (Headwaters at Grays Bay to Nokomis Weir) – Flowering Rush Assessment

PROJECT TIMELINE:

May to September 2015

PROJECT/PROGRAM COST:

Fund name and number: 2206 - AIS
Requested amount of funding: \$16,350
Is a budget amendment requested? No
Is additional staff requested? No

PAST BOARD ACTION:

July 26, 2012 – Resolution 12-064. MCWD Board of Managers Approved a Flowering Rush Survey on the Minnehaha Creek from the Nokomis Weir to the Mississippi River.

AIS Early Detection and Baseline Monitoring was included in the 2015 AIS Work Plan which was approved at the June 26, 2014 Board Meeting.

SUMMARY:

The MCWD AIS Management Plan identifies the need to complete an AIS inventory of all waterbodies within the District, as well as perform early detection monitoring for new AIS. 2014 was the first year of the program and involves a combination of aquatic plant surveys and comprehensive early detection monitoring. The plant surveys allow us to assess the current state of invasive plants in our lakes, as well as serve as an additional early detection tool for new invasive plants. Most of the work is completed by MCWD staff, but utilizing consultants will allow us to get more waterbodies completed each year.

Desired Monitoring Schedule

Aquatic Plant Surveys (spring and summer surveys)

- Low use lakes without a public access: Surveys within the last 5 years desired
- Higher use lakes and those with a public access: Surveys within the last 3 years are desired

Comprehensive Early Detection Monitoring

- Lakes with a public boat access (high risk): Annual Monitoring
- Lakes without a public access (Lower Risk): Surveys every 5 years

In 2014, the MCWD AIS Program had a staff of two performing AIS monitoring. Comprehensive early detection monitoring was completed on 10 waterbodies, and aquatic plant surveys were completed on 12. Staff found two new infestations with this monitoring; Eurasian Watermilfoil in Saunders Lake and zebra mussels in Christmas Lake. Monitoring was cut short due to the Christmas Lake zebra mussel infestation, as that took most of staff's time late in the year.

In 2015, there will be a second crew as well as consultants to get more waterbodies completed. Comprehensive early detection monitoring is scheduled for 31 waterbodies, and aquatic plant surveys are scheduled for 42, with many waterbodies receiving both types of surveys.

This work on Lake Minnetonka will allow to assess the current state of invasive plants in these bays, as well as provide early detection of other invasive plants.

Flowering Rush Assessment on the Minnehaha Creek

In 2012, a Flowering Rush survey was completed on Lake Minnetonka and a portion of the Minnehaha Creek from the Lake Nokomis Weir to the mouth of the Mississippi River. This section of the creek was chosen as Flowering Rush was known to be present along this stretch. Due to time and financial restraint at that time, the upper portion of the creek was not assessed.

This assessment will finish the survey on the creek by starting at the headwaters at Grays Bay Dam, and go all the way down to the Lake Nokomis Weir. This survey will also capture other emergent aquatic plants, and can serve as an early detection tool for AIS.

