

MEETING DATE: March 26, 2015

TITLE: Authorization to Enter into an Agreement with Freshwater Scientific Services to complete Aquatic Plant Surveys on MCWD Waterbodies.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 15-025

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 Freshwater Scientific Services to provide a summer aquatic plant survey on the Minneapolis Chain of Lakes (Calhoun, Harriet, Isles, Cedar and Brownie) to assess current conditions of invasive aquatic plants and serve as an early detection tool for new invasive aquatic plants.

PROJECT/PROGRAM LOCATION:

Minneapolis Chain of Lakes (Calhoun, Harriet, Lake of the Isles, Cedar and Brownie)

PROJECT TIMELINE:

July or August 2015

PROJECT/PROGRAM COST:

Fund name and number: 2206 - AIS
Requested amount of funding: \$9,470
Is a budget amendment requested? No
Is additional staff requested? No

PAST BOARD ACTION:

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, we will have 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.

Minneapolis Chain of Lakes (Calhoun, Harriet, Isles, Cedar and Brownie)

The Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board (MPRB) historically has performed aquatic plant surveys on their lakes, however, they have been sporadic, completed as they get time, and the whole chain has never been completed at one time. Doing all the lakes at one time will allow a better assessment of the current state of invasive plants in those lakes, as well as serve as an early detection tool for new invasive plants. The MPRB has agreed to share in the costs of these surveys, as it provides benefits to both organizations. They have agreed to pay for the spring survey, and the MCWD would pay for the summer surveys. Spring and summer surveys are desired because different invasive species can be present at different times of the year.

