

**Minnehaha Creek Watershed District**

**REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION**

**MEETING DATE:** April 9, 2015

**TITLE:** Authorization of Cost Share Funding- Union Congregational Church

**RESOLUTION NUMBER:** 15-037

**PREPARED BY:** Brett Eidem, Cost Share Grant Administrator

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**TELEPHONE:** 952-641-4523

**REVIEWED BY:**  Administrator  Counsel  Program Mgr. (Name): Telly Mamayek  
 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:**

1. Authorize funding of 75 percent of the documented cost of the project, not to exceed \$15,525.00 from the Cost Share Fund, for the installation of 4 stormwater BMPs, contingent on a signed grant agreement and signed maintenance agreements that include a landscape design plan that is mutually agreed upon by the grant recipient and District staff.
2. Authorize the Administrator to execute and sign a Cost Share funding and maintenance agreement between Union Congregational Church and the District.

**PROJECT/PROGRAM LOCATION:**

3700 Alabama Ave S, St. Louis Park (map attached)

**PROJECT TIMELINE:**

Summer 2015

**PROJECT/PROGRAM COST:**

Fund name and number:

**Cost Share Grant Program (3130)**

Current budget:

\$832,000

Amount approved in 2015 to date:

\$516,290

Requested amount of funding:

75% of the documented costs for construction of 4 stormwater BMPs, not to exceed \$15,525.00.

## **PROJECT DETAILS:**

The project consists of:

- Removal of existing turf grass and redirection of stormwater through an added curb to divert roof and parking lot runoff to a pre-treatment catch basin and then eventually to a two cell raingarden
- Installation of a cistern to capture and re-use roof runoff to water vegetable garden
- Installation of a permeable paver community sitting area where there will be educational signage about the project and other nearby District initiatives
- Education curriculum that will be incorporated into connected day care and opportunities to work with Hopkins and St. Louis Park High School environmental science clubs

## **ESTIMATED WATER QUALITY BENEFITS**

- **Annual Volume Reduction**
  - 245,637 gallons/year
- **Annual Total Suspended Solids Reduction**
  - 132 lbs/year
- **Annual Total Phosphorus Reduction**
  - 0.5 lbs/year

(These estimated reductions have been calculated by Metro Blooms through a WinSlamm model, and checked by staff using an Excel spreadsheet calculator developed by Wenck Associates for stormwater BMP's.)

## **SUMMARY:**

Union Congregational Church is a small congregation in St. Louis Park with large opportunities for water quality improvement and education and outreach within the community. This project is led by two 2014 Master Water Stewards, Sue Nissen and Randy Holst. The church is located just west of Hwy 7 and Hwy 100, and is less than a mile from the Districts geographic focus of the Urban Corridor in St. Louis Park. The MWS worked with District staff, Metro Blooms and Ecoscapes to create an entire site retrofit to capture as much of the runoff from the 1.2 acre site as possible. However, even with District's cost-share assistance, the church cannot afford to implement the entire site retrofit. Similar to the past funded cost share project at St. Luke Presbyterian Church in Minnetonka, we identified the most visible BMPs with the greatest potential for water quality impact. The project proposes a two cell raingarden with a pre-treatment catch basin on the most visible corner of the property, capturing a majority of the sites impervious surface. The project is also proposing a large above ground cistern to capture and re-use roof runoff for their existing vegetable garden. There will also be a permeable paver community sitting area next to the raingarden, to engage the congregation, passersby, and serve as an outdoor classroom for the daycare and other school fieldtrips.

The church site currently creates a large amount of untreated runoff that flows directly into the street and city storm sewer. The approximate area of impervious runoff is 16,995 square feet (sf). The drainage area where the three BMPs are located is a total of 68,131 sf. The designer used a 1.25" rain event to calculate what the project could capture. The four stormwater BMPs would be able to capture 82% of this drainage area. The catch basin will capture a majority of the sediment from parking lot and roof runoff, extending the longevity of the raingarden and minimizing maintenance from sedimentation. The two cell raingarden will be planted with native plants and trees that infiltrate water and support wildlife, with specific emphasis on providing habitat for pollinators and Monarch butterflies. The area will be covered with hardwood mulch and edged with Chilton edging. The 275 gallon cistern will capture roof runoff and will be re-used to water the nearby vegetable garden. The church proposes creating an outdoor area to rest and reflect, study or connect with others, by installing a 10' by 10' permeable Willow Creek brickstone paver patio nestled between the second cell of the raingarden and the Church at the corner of Alabama Avenue and Oxford Street. Stepping-stones will lead from the sidewalk along Alabama Avenue into the sitting area. This area will be a highly visible, welcoming space for

the community. It's a place for classes to study, students to take their parents, congregants to gather and neighbors to explore. District staff will work with the church to create educational signage on benefits of the raingarden, but also will connect this project to other District initiatives in the area for greater education of MCWD.

The church is connected to KidZone, a neighborhood daycare (voted best daycare in St. Louis Park in 2014-SLP Magazine). The staff at KidZone already embraces authentic curriculum about the environment and sustainability. They raise organic foods for their own kitchen and donation in the church vegetable garden. This spring all five classrooms are starting plants (including native plants) from seed, for their garden plots at the church and their home gardens. The daycare is highly enthusiastic and committed to incorporating numerous lessons about rain gardens, water usage, native plants, and pollinators into their curriculum. Hopkins and St. Louis Park high schools both have Environmental Science Clubs. Students in the clubs often need volunteer hours. Kirk Shoeger, who teaches at Hopkins High School, is contacting the clubs to explore strategies for students to volunteer and visit the site.

On March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015, staff presented the project at the CAC meeting and received a unanimous recommendation for funding. There was a discussion over whether the sitting area next to the garden should be included in the District funding. We usually do not fund patio spaces, but the consensus of the CAC was that having the designated community space for an outdoor classroom will lead to a much more engaging and successful project. After final clarification from legal counsel, the creation of impervious surface is not eligible for cost share funding. The contractor has proposed an alternative permeable paver patio, which will demonstrate another BMP alternative for the construction of impervious surface.

### **DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, AND MATERIAL COSTS**

The total project cost is approximately \$20,700, which includes an estimate of \$1,500 for educational signage.

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff and the CAC reviewed the project through the community engagement evaluation criteria, and is recommending funding of 75% of the project, not to exceed \$15,525.00, contingent on a signed grant and maintenance agreement that is mutually agreed upon by the Cost Share recipients and District staff.

#### Attachments:

1. Aerial Site Plan
2. Site Design Plans
3. Cost Share Evaluation Review
4. Union Congregational Church Proposal
5. Cost Estimate Breakdown

**RESOLUTION**

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**RESOLUTION NUMBER:**    15-037

**TITLE:**            **Cost Share Funding for Union Congregational Church Stormwater Management Project**

WHEREAS,    the Cost Share Program was established by the MCWD to provide grants to property owners to design and install best management practices that will reduce the volume and increase the quality of stormwater flowing offsite and provide support for beyond-regulation projects that protect and improve water resources; and

WHEREAS,    the District's 2007 Comprehensive Water Resources Management plan also identifies expanding the knowledge base of water resources management and providing education opportunities through demonstrative projects within the watershed as key functions of the Cost Share Program; and

WHEREAS,    funds are available in the 2015 budget for the Cost Share Grant Program; and

WHEREAS,    Union Congregational Church applied for cost share funding for a 4 stormwater BMP projects to collect and infiltrate roof and driveway runoff, and

WHEREAS,    on March 11, 2015, the grant proposal was reviewed by the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) and the CAC made a recommendation to the Board to approve the proposal and provide funding in the amount requested; and

WHEREAS,    MCWD staff has reviewed the proposal and the CAC's recommendation, and finds the proposal to be consistent with the goals the Stormwater BMP Cost Share Program and recommends funding of \$15,525.00 from the Stormwater BMP Cost Share fund; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the MCWD Board of Managers authorizes funding of 75 percent of the documented costs for construction of 4 stormwater BMPs and educational signage, not to exceed \$15,525.00, by Union Congregational Church from the Stormwater BMP Cost Share fund, contingent on a signed grant and maintenance agreement that includes a final landscape design plan and educational signage that is approved for Cost Share purposes by the grant recipient, property owners and District staff; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the MCWD Board of Managers authorizes the Administrator on advice and consent of counsel to sign a grant agreement and maintenance agreement with the property owner on which BMP's are to be installed.

Resolution Number 15-037 was moved by Manager \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by Manager \_\_\_\_\_.  
Motion to adopt the resolution \_\_\_ ayes, \_\_\_ nays, \_\_\_ abstentions. Date: \_\_\_\_\_.

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