

Committee Report

Business Item No. 2015-130

Environment Committee

Meeting date: June 9, 2015

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of June 24, 2015

Subject: Authorization to Award and Execute Targeted Stormwater Grants for the Waconia Stormwater Reuse Project, Minnesota Zoo BMP Project, and Tree Trust Disadvantaged Youth Project

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to award and execute targeted stormwater management demonstration grants described in Attachment A in the total amount of \$800,000.

Amendment to Proposed Action

An amendment to the proposed action was made as follows:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute targeted stormwater management demonstration grants to the City of Waconia and the Vermillion River Joint Powers Organization as described in Attachment A in the amount of \$750,000.

Summary of Committee Discussion/Questions

The Tree Trust project was pulled from the list of grantee's after further discussions. They were not prepared to accept the funding at this time. Waconia's proposed reuse project will allow the public to use the stormwater for irrigation which makes this different than most reuse projects which are used for irrigation on public open space. Access will most likely be limited to residents close to the system. The city will set up a stormwater reuse utility network to define the details of the program such as who has access, how much water can be used by each person/entity in the network. The remaining \$50,000 would be set aside for now. Staff is investigating additional projects to fund that will include an equity component. A business item will be prepared and brought back for approval once a new project has been determined.

Motion to approve the amended action was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Environment Committee

Meeting date: June 9, 2015

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of June 24, 2015

Subject: Authorization to Award and Execute Targeted Stormwater Grants for the Waconia Stormwater Reuse Project, Minnesota Zoo BMP Project, and Tree Trust Disadvantaged Youth Project

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: Water Resource Policy Plan, Minnesota Statute 471.59 (Joint Exercise of Powers) and 473.505 (Total Watershed Management)

Staff Prepared/Presented: Judy Sventek, 651-6025-1156

Division/Department: MCES c/o Leisa Thompson, 651-602-8101

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to award and execute targeted stormwater management demonstration grants described in Attachment A in the total amount of \$800,000.

Background

Research and monitoring has shown that nonpoint source pollution is having a detrimental effect on the water quality of lakes, streams, and rivers in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. Nonpoint source pollution is polluted stormwater runoff from agricultural and urban land that enters wetlands, lakes, streams, and rivers without treatment. The three proposed grants are for highly visible demonstration projects that can be replicated throughout the metro region.

Rationale

These projects support the Thrive MSP 2040 outcomes of stewardship and sustainability and the principles of integration, collaboration and accountability while also supporting the goal of the Water Resources Policy Plan. The proposed action requires Council approval.

Funding

Transfer from 2015 budgeted levy funds.

Known Support / Opposition

None

WACONIA STORMWATER REUSE PROJECT

Anticipated funding contribution: \$400,000

Attachment A

The City of Waconia Community Stormwater Reuse Project (WCSR) will install a community-scale water reuse system that will capture untreated stormwater and reduce pollutant loading to Bent Creek. This collaborative project with Carver County, Carver County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), City of Waconia and Independent School District 110 will service an approximated 252 acre drainage area by retaining and reusing 11.6 acre feet of previously untreated volume annually (22,000 irrigated gal/day, April-September). The captured water will be used to irrigate ball fields within the City owned Brooke Peterson Community Park providing the additional benefit of potable water conservation. Further, it will create a City of Waconia stormwater reuse utility network which will provide an opportunity for existing private landowners within the defined drainage area to hook into the new reuse system.

MINNESOTA ZOO BMP PROJECT

Anticipated funding contribution: \$350,000

The Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) is pursuing an opportunity to implement retrofit water quality best management practices in the Minnesota Zoo. The Minnesota Zoo has several subwatershed areas that currently outlet to Lebanon Hills Regional Park which eventually routes to Long and Farquar Lakes. These two lakes in Apple Valley have large total maximum daily load (TMDL) reduction requirements for phosphorus to meet water quality standards set by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA).

The complete scope of work has not been defined, but it is the VRWJPO's opinion that all identified projects within the Zoo could cost up to \$1,000,000. However, they see these projects as modular which could be prioritized to implement at a scale to match available resources.

Tree Trust Disadvantaged Youth Project

Anticipated funding contribution: \$50,000

MCES will partially fund a project that employs disadvantaged youth or young adults to plant trees, native plants, and other landscaping to intercept stormwater runoff and increase infiltration in summer 2015. Details and total costs of the project are still being worked out.