

Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission

Meeting date: September 8, 2015

Subject: Distributing State Fiscal Year 2016 Appropriations for Metropolitan Regional Parks System Operations and Maintenance

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: Minn. Stats. 473.351

Staff Prepared/Presented: Mark VanderSchaaf, Director, Regional Planning (651-602-1441)

Division/Department: Community Development, Regional Parks and Natural Resources Unit

Proposed Action

Information item only. No action required.

Background

State funds for a portion of the operations and maintenance (O&M) of regional parks and trails are appropriated annually from the General Fund and Lottery in Lieu of Sales Tax revenue. The Metropolitan Council (Council) is responsible for distributing O&M funds to each regional park implementing agency according to a formula set out in Minnesota Statute Section 473.251, subdivision 3.

- 40% is based on each agency's proportion of the total system use or visits in the previous year
- 40% is based on each agency's proportion of the total system expenditure for O&M for the previous calendar year
- 20% is based on each regional agency's acreage in proportion to the overall regional system, with park reserve resource management lands divided by four.

Rationale

The statute requires the Council to make the annual calculations to distribute the funds and report on the amount of money distributed to each regional park implementing agency. The Council is also required to report on the estimate of the percentage of O&M expenditures paid for with state money. The 2016 report is attached to this item.

Funding

The state appropriated \$8,540,000 for O&M funding to the Metropolitan Regional Parks System for State Fiscal Year 2016, which runs from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016. The Lottery revenue portion of the payment is a projection – the actual amount will depend upon receipts to the State Lottery.

The statute allows for state funding of 40% of each implementing agency's actual annual O&M cost if the legislature has made sufficient O&M money available. If insufficient funds are available to cover the full 40%, the funds are made available in the proportions described above. Since 2000 percentage of O&M costs covered by state appropriations has dropped from 17.69% to 8.6%.

Known Support / Opposition

Not applicable.