



MEMORANDUM

To: MCWD Board of Managers
From: James Wisker, Administrator
Date: November 18, 2019
Re: Request for Letter of Support – Lake Effect Project, Wayzata

Purpose:

The Wayzata Lake Effect Conservancy has requested the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD or District) be included on a letter of support (attached) to the Commissioner of the Minnesota Management and Budget, for the City of Wayzata’s Lake Effect Project.

This memorandum provides background information for the Board’s consideration of the request at the November 21, 2019 Meeting.

Background:

Goals:

As described on the City of Wayzata’s [website](#), the Wayzata Lake Effect Project is a “long term commitment to reconnect residents to Wayzata’s greatest asset, Lake Minnetonka.”

This work revolves around the following core values:

- Connected; Make the lakefront safe and connected
- Clean; Make the lakefront more environmentally sensitive
- Welcoming; Make the lakefront open to all members of the community.

Project Elements:

The plans for the project include the following elements:

- The redesign of Lake Street from Broadway to Barry to make it more pedestrian friendly with added space for sidewalk shopping and dining, landscaping and a two-way bike lane on the south side of the street.
- The transformation of the city’s municipal parking lot at Lake and Broadway into a Plaza Park. This will provide flexibility for multiple uses, increase green space and provide more inviting places to enjoy beautiful lake vistas.
- Upgraded railroad crossings at Barry and at Broadway. To make the lake more accessible requires improving crossings at the railroad tracks for ease and safety.

We collaborate with public and private partners to protect and improve land and water for current and future generations.

- The Depot Park area will be upgraded to make the entire area more ADA (Americans with Disabilities) accessible, add more green space, inviting places for enjoying lake views and new public restrooms, along with possible minor renovations to the Depot building itself.
- The Eco Park includes a restored shoreline marsh that beautifies and improves the water quality of this area. With sufficient funds, the section foreman house will be refurbished with a community room honoring the history of the site and an interactive learning center where programming by the Lake Minnetonka Science Collaborative and others can take place.
- Connecting the park spaces would be a meandering Boardwalk from the Eco Park west to the Depot Park. This will provide direct access to the lake and will include ecological restoration of the shoreline to a more natural state and helps preserve lake quality and beauty for generations to come.

Wayzata Lake Effect Conservancy:

The [Conservancy](#), which is working in partnership with the City of Wayzata, was formed in 2016 to advocate and raise funds for the development, maintenance and operation of the Lake Effect Project.

November 21, 2019 Meeting:

At the November 21, 2019 Meeting the Board of Managers will be asked to consider the request, by the Lake Effect Conservancy, to be included in the attached letter of support.

If you have questions in advance of the meeting, please contact James Wisker at 952.641.4509 or Jwisker@minnehahacreek.org

We collaborate with public and private partners to protect and improve land and water for current and future generations.



Wayzata Lake Effect Conservancy

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November 10, 2010

To: Commissioner of Minnesota Management and Budget
Governor's Senior Advisor on Bonding

I want to bring your attention to an exciting initiative that is gaining momentum on Lake Minnetonka. The Lake Effect Project is a fully-designed, shovel-ready, multi-phase transformation of public shoreline on Lake Minnetonka. Our community recognizes visitors from across Minnesota are already attracted to Wayzata's lakefront. Over the past 10 years, the community has been dreaming of an even better experience for residents and visitors alike. It's already a picturesque destination in the heart of Wayzata, but it's not as safe or accessible as Minnesotans desire. In fact, only 2% of the Lake Minnetonka shore is publicly owned. Wayzata Bay, which is the most accessible part of the lake only a couple of minutes from US Hwy 12, I-394, and I-494, has the longest stretch of public shore with unobstructed views. However, currently, there is very limited direct public access to the lake.

We are creating public access so that our many regional partners listed in this letter can activate their programming on Lake Minnetonka. We have established partnerships with schools, camps and other non profit organizations to give youth access to the lake as an inspiring and unique waterfront "living classroom" for the environment and history

The overall cost of this initiative is \$20 million, \$10 million will be provided by the City of Wayzata and Three Rivers Park District construction is scheduled to begin 2020. The City is requesting an additional \$10 million to pay for the second and final phase of the Lake Effect Project.

Regards,

Lake Effect Conservancy Board

Andrew Mullin

Terri Huml

Mick Johnson

Sharon Lim

Bob Ambrose

Ty Purdy

Jon Halverson

Marnix Guilumme

Barry Carlson

Dan Koch

Joann Birkholz

Sara Showalter

Bob Maclean

Rick Kotovic

Johnny Grant

Dave Pearce

Kristin Evenson

The following partners strongly support this project:

Three Rivers Park District

Boe Carlson, Superintendent

Hennepin County

Jan Callison, Commissioner

Wayzata Public Schools

Chace Anderson, Superintendent

YMCA

Kit Swanson
Camp & Community Outreach
Director

Science Museum

Hennepin History

John Crippen, Executive Director

**Minnehaha Creek Watershed
District**

Sherry White, Chair

Wayzata Park and Trails

Dan Baasen, Chair

Lake Minnetonka Association

Eric Evenson, Executive Director

IOCP

Ladonna Hoy, Executive Director

University of Minnesota

Tom Fisher, Director of MN Design
Center

Fresh Water Society

Executive Director

Museum of Lake Minnetonka

Jim Zimmerman

Wayzata Sailing

Matt Thompson, Executive Director

Wayzata Fishing

Krista Ice, Board Member

Wayzata Heritage Preservation

Nate Ledding, Chair

Minnetonka Power Squadron

Paul Morales, Chair

Wayzata Historical Society

Sue Sorrentino, Board Member