

MEETING DATE: December 17, 2015

TITLE: Approval of Cynthia Krieg Watershed Stewardship Fund Grant Applications for the 2016 Funding Cycle

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 15-098

PREPARED BY: Darren Lochner

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REVIEWED BY: Administrator Counsel Program Mgr. (Name): Darren Lochner & Sarah Fellows
 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 in the amount of \$122,888 for 13 grant proposals to the Cynthia Krieg Watershed Stewardship Fund during the 2016 cycle. These projects are designed to forward the mission of the watershed district through innovative educational activities that leverage existing or promote new collaborative community partnerships.
- 2) Authorize the District Administrator to execute and sign grant agreements with each of the recipients.

PROJECT/PROGRAM LOCATION:

Watershed-wide.

PROJECT TIMELINE:

October 16, 2015 MCWD received 18 applications to Cynthia Krieg Watershed Stewardship Fund.
November 16, 2015 Cynthia Krieg Subcommittee met to review applications and forward recommendations to the CAC.
November 18, 2015 CAC approved Subcommittee’s recommendations and forward the recommendations to the Board of Managers in December, 2015.
December 10, 2015 Board review of CAC recommendations to advance to Board Consent Agenda
December 17, 2015 Pending: Board final approval of Cynthia Krieg Stewardship Fund grant awards

PROJECT/PROGRAM COST:

Fund name and number: Cynthia Krieg Stewardship Fund (2301)
Current budget: \$125,000.00
Expenditures to date: \$0.00

**DRAFT for discussion purposes only and subject to Board approval and the availability of funds.
Resolutions are not final until approved by the Board and signed by the Board Secretary.**

Requested amount of funding: \$122,888
 Is a budget amendment requested? no
 Is additional staff requested? no

PAST BOARD ACTIONS:

No past Board actions in 2015.

SUMMARY:

The Cynthia Krieg Watershed Stewardship Fund was established by the MCWD in 2000 in memory of Cynthia Krieg, whose life exemplified dedication to community service and natural resource protection. This fund supports projects that encourage community service initiatives that protect water quality and promote public awareness of nonpoint source pollution and clean water practices. Applications are accepted on an annual basis for projects to be completed during the following calendar year.

In 2016, the Cynthia Krieg Watershed Stewardship Fund has approximately \$125,000 available for distribution. The MCWD received 18 applications requesting \$287,058. All applications were reviewed by the Cynthia Krieg Subcommittee on November 16, 2015 and the full CAC on November 18, 2015.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Based on staff and committee reviews, it is recommended that 13 applications be awarded grant funds for a total distribution of \$122,888, and the District Administrator has authorization to execute and sign grant agreements with each recipient. Attached is a summary of the grant applications and the CAC recommendations for Board review. Full applications have been made available for review by all CAC and Board members via this Dropbox folder:

https://www.dropbox.com/s/81g5dlda8fbcnpd/All%20Applications%20Combined_all%20files.pdf?dl=0

<i>Organization Name</i>	<i>Requested</i>	<i>Funded</i>
<i>Funded Applications:</i>		
1. Alliance for Sustainability	\$15,000	\$5,000
2. Camp Fire Minnesota	\$15,364	\$10,000
3. Field Community School	\$14,350	\$14,350
4. Freshwater Society	\$5,000	\$5,000
5. Friends of the Mississippi River	\$15,930	\$12,000
6. Meadowbrook Collaborative	\$9,038	\$9,038
7. Metro Blooms	\$25,000	\$15,000
8. Minneapolis Area Synod	\$22,500	\$12,000
9. Partnership Academy	\$8,100	\$7,000
10. St. David's Center	\$25,000	\$4,500
11. University of Minnesota (video)	\$12,000	\$7,000
12. University of Minnesota (insects)	\$25,000	\$5,000
13. Wilderness Inquiry	\$20,000	\$17,000
<i>Not funded:</i>		
14. Citizens for Lakeview Preservation Inc	\$23,250	\$ -
15. City of Victoria	\$9,300	\$ -
16. Lake Minnewashta Preservation Association	\$15,000	\$ -
17. Southside Pride	\$4,434	\$ -

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18. Vortex Navigation Company	\$22,792	\$ -
Total:	\$287,058	\$122,888

Project Summaries:

I. Alliance for Sustainability – *Linking Master Water Stewards with Cities to Strengthen Surface Water Plans & Lake Associations*

Alliance for Sustainability will support Master Water Stewards in Edina, St. Louis Park, Minneapolis, Hopkins, Chanhassen, and other interested cities to work with their City’s Environmental Commission and staff to develop strong ten year Surface Water Management Plans for their cities by engaging residents and by using best practices from NEMO, the Met Council, MPCA, and other cities. Surface Water Management plans will include an assessment of their city’s water resources related problems, and their local implementation plan of solutions. MWS will then engage residents to reduce phosphorus and chloride runoff in surface waters through city wide education and behavior change campaigns and will mentor the newly forming volunteer Lake Associations in their cities, helping neighbors to develop and implement action steps that address the specific impairments their lakes are facing.

Funding request: \$15,000 / Funding recommendation: \$5,000

II. Camp Fire Minnesota – *Camp Fire’s Water Systems & Quality Initiative*

Camp Fire Minnesota will expand its Water Systems and Quality Initiative through curriculum enhancements, environmental education partnerships, the launch of a new Fellow position to deliver, support and organize nature-based curriculum and experiential education activities for our Club and Camp youth, and the introduction of a dynamic new program: “Canoe Club”. Canoe Club will get Camp Fire youth out to paddle their own urban backyard waterways, for an up close and personal experience with their watershed.

Funding request: \$15,364 / Funding recommendation: \$10,000

III. Citizens for Lakeview Preservation Inc – *Lakeview Legacy Park*

Citizens for Lakeview Preservation will organize public participation in the planning and installation of wetland-related demonstration areas that will be used to educate and inspire visitors to a new and innovative park. Pond shoreline will be transformed into a healthy native plant community providing buffering for water quality protection as well as healthy aquatic and upland habitat while previously untreated stormwater runoff will be pretreated through installation of an infiltration basin/raingarden. Funds will also be used to create permanent educational displays and brochures describing the rationale, construction, function, and maintenance of these areas.

Funding request: \$23,250 / Funding recommendation: \$0

IV. City of Victoria – *Healthy Community, Healthy Environment*

The City of Victoria will put on community bus tours to the Landscape Arboretum to educate, bring together, and help our citizens understand the importance of landscape maintenance of different grass types, and how different lawn maintenance (such as fertilizer) affects water quality. In the spring, they will have community workshops with topics on lawn maintenance and water quality. Funds will support outreach materials including flyers, festivals, and booths at public events to promote the workshops and bus tour.

Funding request: \$9,300 / Funding recommendation: \$0

V. Field Community School – *Field Community School Watershed Education*

Field Community School will develop hands-on, site-specific education curriculum for 5th – 8th grade science staff to use in coordination with on-site raingardens and pollinator gardens. They will also provide community education opportunities through the development and installation of permanent signage at the raingardens and pollinator gardens to educate the general public and neighborhood at large about the benefits of stormwater best management practices and how the site specific gardens improve water quality and ecosystems.

Funding request: \$14,350 / Funding recommendation: \$14,350

VI. Freshwater Society – *Water Re-Use Workshop*

High demand for water in Minnesota has put pressure on freshwater resources – pressure that could be alleviated through stormwater re-use. In partnership with industrial, non-profit, and government partners, the Freshwater Society will host a one-day conference that results in action steps to make it easier to realize stormwater re-use projects. The conference will allow officials and designers to see the spectrum of potential reuse projects in Minnesota, from capture (raingardens) to large-scale outdoor use to indoor harvest and reuse systems, and identify the policy and legislative changes that will remove unnecessary barriers to implementing more of these projects.

Funding request: \$5,000 / Funding recommendation: \$5,000

VII. Friends of the Mississippi River – *Minnehaha Creek Watershed Youth & Community Stewardship Initiative*

Friends of the Mississippi River will hold two community rain barrel workshops to train and inspire 40-60 local residents to take action in their homes and yards to protect local water resources. FMR will organize and lead classroom presentations and outdoor service projects to engage and educate 120-150 youth about how our actions and practices on the landscape can affect water quality, and how to prevent water pollution. In addition, FMR will build sustainable relationships with MCWD teachers, youth group leaders, community organizations, and local citizens to support FMR's continued work in the watershed.

Funding request: \$15,930 / Funding recommendation: \$12,000

VIII. Lake Minnewashta Preservation Association – *LMPA Digital Display Campaign for Awareness and Abatement of Aquatic Invasive Species*

There is a continual need to educate the public, particularly those that use the watershed lakes, of the threat of invasive species to the health of watershed lakes as well as how they can individually help prevention the invasion and spread of those AIS. Digital display ads will run across mobile platforms (tablet and smartphone) targeted to users by GPS geographical location (Geo-fencing) to increase awareness and prevention of aquatic invasive species in the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District. Ads will also run across the Star Tribune network (PC/Desktop, tablet, and mobile) and will be targeted by zip code, to take users to a website with targeted messaging.

Funding request: \$15,000 / Funding recommendation: \$0

IX. Meadowbrook Collaborative - *Meadowbrook Collaborative Friends of the Creek*

Many of the families of Meadowbrook Collaborative are low-income and/or newly arrived to the country. Meadowbrook Collaborative aims to increase their familiarity with the creek, understanding of local ecology, and confidence in how to use natural resources safely through seasonal visits to Minnehaha Falls, resources for a canoe trip to observe the beginning of the creek, and educational materials to be used near the boardwalk at the Minnehaha Preserve. The project will provide experiences that many of the residents would otherwise not be able to afford.

Funding request: \$9,038 / Funding recommendation: \$9,038

X. Metro Blooms – Sustainable Maintenance Approaches for Stormwater Best Management Practices

Metro Blooms will develop and implement maintenance education pilot projects, develop new and enhance existing online maintenance and evaluation resources, and encourage maintenance through voluntary inspections. Together, these projects improve water quality by implementing options for long-term, sustainable maintenance of stormwater management practices within the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District.

Funding request: \$25,000 / Funding recommendation: \$15,000

XI. Minneapolis Area Synod – Watershed Moment Campaign

The Minneapolis Area Synod will increase the practical engagement of Lutheran Congregations through a holistic campaign that integrates education, ritual, water stewardship projects, storytelling, and action events. Through large travelling maps of the watershed districts, a toolkit of guiding questions and resources for congregations, and dedicated congregational organizing efforts, leaders from the 31 Lutheran congregations in the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District will guide their communities to better understand and care for the watershed.

Funding request: \$22,500 / Funding recommendation: \$12,000

XII. Partnership Academy – Why Care About the Creek?: A Curricular Collaboration for Elementary Students

Partnership Academy 5th grade teachers and Stonebridge World School 4th grade teachers will work together to develop an integrated curriculum to promote understanding of ecology, conservation, an appreciation of nature, and an interdisciplinary understanding of the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District. Over this long-term study, students will explore the essential questions: Why care about the creek? And Is it worth time and energy to protect the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District?

Funding request: \$8,100 / Funding recommendation: \$7,000

XIII. Southside Pride – Protect Precious Water

Southside Pride will sponsor an essay contest for high school students at South, Roosevelt, and Washburn High Schools. Students will be asked to write a 500 word essay on the question: “What can we do to protect and improve the Minnehaha Creek Watershed?” Winning students at each school will receive a \$100 prize and their essays will be published in all three editions of Southside Pride.

Funding request: \$4,434 / Funding recommendation: \$0

XIV. St. David’s Center – St. David’s Center Wetland Education Initiative

St. David’s will install a boardwalk, design and create a raingarden exhibit, and install educational signage throughout the wetland that complements and supports their science curriculum for children ages 3 through 8. The three primary goals are: 1) significantly increase child, parent, staff, and community resident access to the wetland; 2) deepen understanding of the value of raingardens as one strategy to improve water quality; and 3) expand knowledge about wetlands, natural science and the importance of conservation and environmental stewardship.

Funding request: \$25,000 / Funding recommendation: \$4,500

XV. University of Minnesota – You Can Build A Raingarden

The University of Minnesota will produce a professional video about raingardens, using local music, local musicians, and social media to reach residents throughout the watershed. The goal is to connect viewers to the watershed and Metro Blooms/Blue Thumb in a practical, yet creatively compelling way. Residents will be encouraged to attend raingarden workshops, install raingardens, and practice other water and soil

conservation strategies.

Funding request: \$12,000 / Funding recommendation: \$7,000

XVI. University of Minnesota – Bee Squad and Master Water Stewards Raingarden Insect Survey

Beneficial insects, such as pollinators and garden pest predators are an essential component to the health of urban green spaces, and are often indicator species for the health of the local environment. This project will investigate the benefits of local raingardens by the systematic sampling of insects in those systems to provide useful baseline data on what insects are present in these raingardens and facilitate teamwork between partners who can be trained to scientifically observe urban green spaces.

Funding request: \$25,000 / Funding recommendation: \$5,000

XVII. Vortex Navigation Company – The Ark of the Anthropocene

The Ark of the Anthropocene will incorporate and preserve the plants that are native to the area in an enclosed biosphere. It will also monitor the health of the lake through sensors installed on the ark. These components will allow the public and researchers to access and use current data about the lake, centralize data resources for disparate organizations, citizen scientists and interested neighbors. The ark will transmit a live camera feed and will broadcast water quality data about the lake. The ark will contain an archive about the lake and its previous condition.

Funding request: \$22,792 / Funding recommendation: \$0

XVIII. Wilderness Inquiry – Watershed Education through Urban Wilderness Canoe Adventures

Wilderness inquiry will provide hands-on watershed education by reaching more than 2,250 youth along the Minnehaha Creek Watershed. Staff and partners will use proven best practices to deeply engage with three Minneapolis schools and two suburban schools, in addition to continuing to serve 2,000 students through activity days involving canoeing and watershed education. The project will result in increased environmental awareness among youth, greater collaboration among environmental/outdoor agencies and local school districts, and innovative alternatives to traditional education experiences among underserved youth.

Funding request: \$20,000 / Funding recommendation: \$17,000

RESOLUTION

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TITLE: **Approval of Cynthia Krieg Watershed Stewardship Fund Grant Applications for the 2016 Funding Cycle**

WHEREAS, the Cynthia Krieg Watershed Stewardship Fund Program was established by the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District to support community service projects that protect or improve water quality and promote public awareness of non-profit pollution prevention within the watershed district; and

WHEREAS, eighteen applications requesting a total of \$287,058 were received for the 2016 funding cycle; and

WHEREAS, staff, the Cynthia Krieg Citizens Advisory Subcommittee, and Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) members reviewed all of the full proposals on November 16 and 18, 2015; and

WHEREAS, the Citizens Advisory Committee voted on November 18, 2015 to recommend approval of thirteen grant applications for a total distribution of \$122,888 from the Cynthia Krieg Watershed Stewardship Fund.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers have considered the Citizen Advisory Committee recommendations and hereby authorize funding thirteen applications, pending compliance with district policies, for a total of \$122,888, from the Cynthia Krieg Watershed Stewardship Fund Program as follows; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the District Administrator be authorized to sign the appropriate agreements with each funding recipient; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that if Minnehaha Creek Watershed District permits are required, that they be applied for and approved before the release of funding.

Resolution Number 15-098 was moved by Manager _____, seconded by Manager _____.
Motion to adopt the resolution ___ ayes, ___ nays, ___ abstentions. Date: _____.

_____ Date: _____