



Title: Authorization to Extend Five Vegetation Maintenance Contracts Through 2022

Resolution number: 22-019

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Reviewed by: Name/Title: N/A

Recommended action: Authorization to amend a contract with Landbridge Ecological with a scope of services for one year of vegetation maintenance at the Minnehaha Creek Greenway sites; authorization to amend a contract with Prairie Restorations, Inc. with a scope of services for one year of vegetation maintenance at the Six Mile Marsh Prairie Restoration and Laketown Wetlands sites; authorization to amend a contract with Landbridge Ecological with a scope of services for one year of vegetation maintenance at the Pond Buffers & Shoreline sites; authorization to amend a contract with Minnesota Native Landscapes with a scope of services for one year of vegetation maintenance at the West & Southwest sites; and authorization to amend a contract with Natural Shore Technologies with a scope of services for one year of vegetation maintenance at the CR 101 Shoreline and Jennings Bay Wetland sites.

Schedule: April 2022: Execute extended contracts
April 2022 – December 2022: Vegetation maintenance performed

Budget considerations: Fund name and code: Project Maintenance & Land Management, 2003
Fund budget: \$1,944,769.52
Expenditures to date: \$29,443.48
Requested amount of funding: \$174,205.90

Res #: 19-034 Authorization to Enter into Four Contracts for
Vegetation Maintenance at 25 Sites

Res #: 21-026 Authorization to Execute a Contract for Six Mile Marsh
Prairie and Laketown Wetland Vegetation Maintenance

Summary:

In 2003, the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) adopted a policy in which MCWD maintains vegetation established as part of capital project implementation. This action was in response to the finding that project partners may not have the expertise, budget, or oversight needed for ongoing vegetation maintenance and that MCWD is best equipped to ensure that maintenance is regular and consistent. As more recent capital projects have reached the end of their warranty period, and maintenance and management goals have been refined for MCWD lands, the number of sites where vegetation maintenance is needed has grown to 27 sites.

In 2020 and 2021, MCWD entered into five vegetation maintenance contracts to manage the vegetation at these 27 sites. These five contracts grouped the 27 sites by geography and similar vegetation maintenance needs. The table below provides a breakdown of the five contracts and their associated sites.

Minnehaha Creek Greenway Sites (4 sites)	SMMRP & Laketown (2 sites)	Pond Buffers & Shorelines Sites (11 sites)	West & Southwest Sites (8 sites)	CR 101 Shoreline & Jennings Bay Wetland (2 sites)
Cottageville Park	Six Mile Marsh Prairie Restoration	Nokomis Gateway Pond	Long Lake Creek Wetland	CR 101 Causeway Shoreline
Minnehaha Preserve (Reach 20)	Laketown Wetland	Nokomis Amelia Pond	Independence Wetland	Jennings Bay Wetland Restoration
Minnehaha Creek Preserve Enhancement (Japs Olson)		Nokomis Knoll Pond	Johnson / Rolling Hills Restoration	
Methodist Hospital Wetland Restoration		SW Bde Maka Ska Ponds	County Road 26 Remeander (Waldera Barkus)	
		Cedar Meadows Pond	Chute Property	
		Twin Lakes Pond	Rye Property	
		Long Lake Ponds and Shoreline	Gould Property	
		Our Lady of the Lake Rain Garden	Steiger Wetland	
		Gideon Glen		
		Minnehaha Creek Headwaters Shoreline		
		MCWD Office Buffer		

The scope of work for each of these five contracts was complete on December 31, 2021. During the remainder of 2022, the Project Maintenance & Land Management Program will be reassessing MCWD’s approach to vegetation maintenance and recommending a revised approach for 2023 and beyond. Given staff’s forthcoming reassessment, staff recommends extending the five vegetation maintenance contracts through December 31, 2022 and amending the contracts with new scopes of work for 2022. Staff has reviewed this recommendation with MCWD Legal Counsel and MCWD Legal Counsel has drafted a contract amendment document which would allow each of the five contracts to be extended through December 31, 2022, and modified with their respective scope of work for vegetation maintenance in 2022.

MCWD staff solicited quotes for vegetation maintenance in 2022 from the current five contractors. MCWD received the following responses, which staff considers to be competent and responsible and therefore recommends their approval:

- Award of the Minnehaha Creek Greenway Sites contract to Landbridge Ecological for one year of vegetation maintenance in the amount of \$24,999 and establish a not-to-exceed budget of \$27,498.90; and
- Award of the Six Mile Marsh Prairie Restoration & Laketown Wetland contract to Prairie Restorations, Inc. for one year of vegetation maintenance in the amount of \$31,900 and establish a not-to-exceed budget of \$35,090; and
- Award of the Pond Buffers & Shorelines Sites contract to Landbridge Ecological for one year of vegetation maintenance in the amount of \$49,490 and establish a not-to-exceed budget of \$54,439; and
- Award of the West & Southwest Sites contract to Minnesota Native Landscapes for one year of vegetation

maintenance in the amount of \$47,980 and establish a not-to-exceed budget of \$52,778; and

- Award of the County Road 101 and Jennings Bay Wetland contract to Natural Shore Technologies for one year of vegetation maintenance in the amount of \$4,000 and establish a not-to-exceed budget of \$4,400.

The five quotes total a combined budget of \$158,369, with a not-to-exceed budget of \$174,205.90. The combined budget amount is in line with the past two years of vegetation maintenance costs, where MCWD spent \$158,393.16 in 2020 and \$158,015.75 in 2021.



RESOLUTION

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- WHEREAS, the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) engages in regional capital improvement projects as described in its Water Resource Management Plan; and
- WHEREAS, the MCWD had conducted various regional treatment facilities that include a vegetation component; and
- WHEREAS, the MCWD Board of Managers has a maintenance policy that includes maintenance of vegetation planted in conjunction with capital projects; and
- WHEREAS, in 2019 and 2020, MCWD entered into five contracts for vegetation maintenance at the Minnehaha Creek Greenway sites, the Six Mile Marsh Prairie & Laketown sites, the Pond Buffers and Shoreline sites, the West & Southwest sites, and the CR 101 Shoreline & Jennings Bay Wetland sites; and the vegetation maintenance scope of work for these contracts was complete on December 31, 2021; and
- WHEREAS, in 2022, staff will be reassessing MCWD's approach to vegetation maintenance and recommending a revised approach for 2023 and beyond; and
- WHEREAS, staff recommends amending the five contracts for vegetation maintenance at the Minnehaha Creek Greenway sites, the Six Mile Marsh Prairie & Laketown sites, the Pond Buffers and Shoreline sites, the West & Southwest sites, and the CR 101 Shoreline & Jennings Bay Wetland sites to extend them through December 31, 2022 and incorporate a supplemental scope of services for 2022; and
- WHEREAS, MCWD staff has obtained a quote from Landbridge Ecological for one year of vegetation maintenance at the Minnehaha Creek Greenway sites for \$24,999; and
- WHEREAS, MCWD staff has obtained a quote from Prairie Restorations, Inc. for one year of vegetation maintenance at the Six Mile Marsh and Laketown sites for \$31,900; and
- WHEREAS, MCWD staff has obtained a quote from Landbridge Ecological for one year of vegetation maintenance at the Pond Buffers and Shoreline sites for \$49,490; and
- WHEREAS, MCWD staff has obtained a quote from Minnesota Native Landscapes for one year of vegetation maintenance at the West & Southwest sites for \$47,980; and
- WHEREAS, MCWD staff has obtained a quote from Natural Shore Technologies for one year of vegetation maintenance at the CR 101 Shoreline and Jennings Bay Wetland sites for \$4,000.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers authorize the District Administrator, on advice of District Counsel, to amend a contract with Landbridge Ecological with a scope of services for one year of vegetation maintenance at the Minnehaha Creek Greenway sites in the amount of \$24,999 and that the Board establishes a Minnehaha Creek Greenway sites project maintenance budget in the not-to-exceed

amount of \$27,498.90 and authorizes the District Administrator, in his judgement, to authorize change orders obligating MCWD up to that amount; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the District Administrator is authorized, on advice of District Counsel, to amend a contract with Prairie Restorations, Inc. with a scope of services for one year of vegetation maintenance at the Six Mile Marsh Prairie Restoration and Laketown Wetland sites in the amount of \$31,900 and that the Board establishes a Six Mile Marsh Prairie Restoration and Laketown Wetland sites project maintenance budget in the not-to-exceed amount of \$35,090 and authorizes the District Administrator, in his judgement, to authorize change orders obligating MCWD up to that amount; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the District Administrator is authorized, on advice of District Counsel, to amend a contract with Landbridge Ecological with a scope of services for one year of vegetation maintenance at the Pond Buffers & Shoreline sites in the amount of \$49,490 and that the Board establishes a the Pond Buffers & Shoreline sites project maintenance budget in the not-to-exceed amount of \$54,439 and authorizes the District Administrator, in his judgement, to authorize change orders obligating MCWD up to that amount; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the District Administrator is authorized, on advice of District Counsel, to amend a contract with Minnesota Native Landscapes with a scope of services for one year of vegetation maintenance at the West & Southwest sites in the amount of \$47,980 and that the Board establishes a West & Southwest sites project maintenance budget in the not-to-exceed amount of \$52,778 and authorizes the District Administrator, in his judgement, to authorize change orders obligating MCWD up to that amount; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the District Administrator is authorized, on advice of District Counsel, to amend a contract with Natural Shore Technologies with a scope of services for one year of vegetation maintenance at the CR 101 Shoreline and Jennings Bay Wetland sites in the amount of \$4,000 and that the Board establishes the CR 101 Shoreline and Jennings Bay Wetland sites project maintenance budget in the not-to-exceed amount of \$4,400 and authorizes the District Administrator, in his judgement, to authorize change orders obligating MCWD up to that amount; and

Resolution Number 22-019 was moved by Manager _____, seconded by Manager _____. Motion to adopt the resolution ___ ayes, ___ nays, ___ abstentions. Date: 4/14/2022

Secretary Date: _____