COON CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT

Request for Board Action

MEETING DATE: July 22, 2019
AGENDA NUMBER: 7
ITEM: Request to Seek Bids - Pleasure Creek B&IESF Project

FISCAL IMPACT: $88,392.50
POLICY IMPACT: Policy

REQUEST
Authorize staff to seek bids for project

BACKGROUND
Pleasure Creek was added to Minnesota’s 303(d) list of impaired waters for aquatic life impairments in 2006 due to macroinvertebrate bioassessments and for aquatic recreation impairments in 2014 due to elevated levels of Escherichia coli (E. coli). Excess total phosphorus (TP), total suspended solids (TSS), and habitat alterations were identified as the primary stressors to Pleasure Creek’s biota. Pollutant loading allocations were established for TSS, TP, and E. coli as part of the CCWD TMDL approved in 2016.

In 2018, the District was awarded a Clean Water Fund Watershed Based Funding grant administered by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources in the amount of $191,973 for the Iron Enhanced Sand filter project.

This project will directly reduce the TP & E. coli loading attributable to regulated urban stormwater runoff and thus make progress towards achieving TMDL Wasteload Allocations for Pleasure Creek. Regulated stormwater runoff was identified as a primary cause of both TP & E. coli loading to Pleasure Creek. It should be noted that other projects such as bank stabilizations have been completed in the Pleasure Creek subwatershed to target TSS and particle-bound phosphorus. Filtration-based BMPs, like the proposed project, are necessary to bind and remove dissolved and bacterial pollutants.

On June 18, 2018 the project site was included on the Annual Board Tour.

At the September 10, 2018 Board meeting the Board approved the 2019 budget including the construction of the Pleasure Creek Biochar and Iron Enhanced Sand Filter.

On February 25, 2019 the Board authorized the District to enter into and executed a Joint Powers Agreement with the City of Blaine for the implementation of the project.

On March 26, 2019 an informational public neighborhood meeting was held at Blaine City Hall. 30 properties were invited; 0 attended.

On July 18 Staff met with city staff to review the design plans and discuss the roles for the bidding process and construction.
**ISSUES/CONCERNS**

**Funding:** In addition to the received grant funding the District has budgeted $88,392.50 and the City of Blaine has agreed to contribute up to $200,000.

**Post-construction Maintenance:** The City of Blaine has agreed to provide routine maintenance of the sand filter and pump post construction. The District will provide funds for future media replacement.

**Trail:** The project site is entirely on city owned property. A trail exists immediately adjacent the project site which is to remain open to the public during construction however areas maybe temporarily barricaded for public safety.

**Public safety:** The media (sand, biochar and iron filings) used in the filter pose no significant safety concerns. Vegetation will be planted along the perimeter of the filter to keep pedestrians out of the filter. Signage will be posted adjacent the filter illustrating the project details and instructing people to stay out.

**Watershed Based Funding:** In 2018 the District was awarded a Clean Water Fund Watershed Based Funding grant in the amount of $191,973 to partially fund iron enhanced sand filters on Woodcrest and Pleasure Creek. The remaining project funds were to come from District and city contribution. The District then was awarded a Clean Water Fund Projects and Practices grant for a portion of the Woodcrest sand filter. To minimize confusion and simplify grant reporting it was decided to shift all Watershed Based Funding to the Pleasure Creek project and offset the balance with the District contribution.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Authorize staff to seek bids
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