COON CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT
Request for Board Action

MEETING DATE: March 12, 2018
AGENDA NUMBER: 12
ITEM: JPA with City of Coon Rapids for LSCCR Project

FISCAL IMPACT: $0
POLICY IMPACT: Policy

REQUEST
Execute Joint Powers Agreement with City of Coon Rapids for implementation of the Lower Sand Creek Corridor Restoration Project

BACKGROUND
Sand Creek was listed on Minnesota’s 303(d) list of impaired waters for aquatic life impairments in 2006. Excess total suspended sediment, excess phosphorus, altered habitat, and altered hydrology were identified as the primary stressors to macroinvertebrate and fish health in Sand Creek. In 2015, the annual ditch inspection revealed that the downstream-most section of Sand Creek was a sediment and nutrient-loading hotspot due to the extent of active streambank erosion in this reach.

In 2017, the District was awarded a grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency in the amount of $269,563 and a grant from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) in the amount of $195,158 for implementation of the Lower Sand Creek Corridor Restoration (LSCCR) Project. The purpose of this project is to reduce sediment and pollutant loading, provide long-term channel stability, and to improve aquatic and riparian habitat along a ½-mile reach of Lower Sand Creek between the BNSF Railroad and Xeon Blvd in Coon Rapids, MN. The majority of the Project area is owned by the City of Coon Rapids, with the remaining portions privately owned, but within city trail and/or District drainage easements.

ISSUES/CONCERNS
Joint Powers Agreement:
In accordance with BWSR Clean Water Fund grant policies, BWSR requested that the District enter into a formal agreement with the City of Coon Rapids to ensure the successful implementation of the LSCCR Project. City of Coon Rapids Staff fully supports this Project and worked with District staff to draft a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) that grants the District access for Project construction and future maintenance. This JPA has been reviewed by legal representatives for both parties and is scheduled to be presented to City Council pending approval by the CCWD Board of Managers.

RECOMMENDATION
Execute Joint Powers Agreement with the City of Coon Rapids.