COON CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT
Request for Board Action

MEETING DATE: March 13, 2017
AGENDA NUMBER: 07
ITEM: Citizen Advisory Committee Report

AGENDA: Policy

ACTION REQUESTED

BACKGROUND
The Citizen Advisory Committee met Wednesday, March 8 to discuss the following:
1. Spring Flooding Outlook
2. Sunrise River WMO Boundary update
3. Mississippi River Mass Wasting

ISSUES/CONCERNS
1. **Spring Flooding Outlook:** No concerns - spring flooding is unlikely, but with current saturated soils, heavy precipitation events may result in flooding. However, on the flip-side, there was some discussion about wildfire season being early and perhaps long. There have been some roadside grass fires already.

2. **Sunrise River WMO Boundary update:** There was concern about the affected people outside of CCWD not requesting the boundary change nor benefitting from it. The consensus was to not change the boundary for that area since there seems no harm for the residents to be outside the CCWD unless statute required it. There was no preference for splitting the hydrologic area based on political boundary.

3. **Mississippi River Mass Wasting:** Members reviewed the draft presentation for the upcoming meeting with affected residents. They gave suggestions:
   a. Find rate of progression
   b. Educate homeowners along the river bluff about home & yard care practices that can help prevent contributing to issue in long-term (downspout routing, importance of deep-rooted plants to help hold the bank, other landscaping practices)
   c. Investigate finance options:
      i. Contact other watershed organizations who have dealt with mass wasting in Eden Prairie, MN River
      1. Insurance options, if any
      ii. Qualifying as a state emergency
      iii. Met Council stormwater grant; 25% cost-share by WD, WMO, or SWCD

PRIOR DECISIONS
The CAC meets the second Wednesday of the month, 11 months out of the year.

OPTIONS
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RECOMMENDATION
Receive report
The Metropolitan Council (Council) will implement a stormwater grant program effective February 27, 2017. Grants will be awarded on a competitive basis to metropolitan area watershed management organizations (WMOs), watershed districts (WDs), or soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs). The Council will provide 75% of the program cost; the grantee must provide the remaining 25%. Grants will be made available in amounts with a minimum of $10,000 and a maximum of $200,000. Grantees will be required to provide promotional/educational signage regarding the project for the benefit of cities and the public.

Due to the relatively small amount of available funding, only watershed management organizations (WMOs), watershed districts (WDs) or soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs) in the seven-county metropolitan area are eligible to apply for these grants.

The Council encourages all metro area WMOs/WDs/SWCDs to work with cities and other local units of government within their watersheds and to submit all appropriate project proposals for consideration.

THE COUNCIL WILL ENCOURAGE ALL SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS TO SOLICIT AND INCLUDE METROPOLITAN COUNCIL UNDERUTILIZED BUSINESSES (MCUB) FIRMS IN GRANT FUNDED ACTIVITIES THAT MCUB FIRMS CAN PERFORM. THE COUNCIL WILL REQUIRE ALL GRANTEES TO REPORT ON THE RESULTS OF THESE EFFORTS. A LIST OF MCUB FIRMS IS AVAILABLE ON THE COUNCIL’S WEBSITE.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN APRIL 14, 2017.

Application Process

- Applicants must be watershed management organizations (WMOs) watershed districts (WDs), or soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs) located in the seven-county metropolitan area.
- Organizations will have six weeks to submit grant applications.
- Metropolitan Council will notify applicants of grant awards by May 30, 2017.
- Successful applicants will be required to submit detailed project work plans and budgets which will be included as exhibits in the standard grant agreements.
- The Council will encourage all successful applicants to solicit and include Metropolitan Council Underutilized Businesses (MCUB) firms in grant funded activities that MCUB firms can perform. The Council will require grantees to report on the results of these efforts. A list of MCUB firms is available on the Council’s website.
- No project expenses incurred before agreement execution will be eligible for reimbursement by the Metropolitan Council.
- No payments will be made that would cause total compensation to exceed the total grant amount.

Primary Proposal Selection Criteria

- Innovative or novel methods or practices to treat or manage stormwater

Preference will also be given to projects that are:

- Can serve as visible demonstration projects
- Are easily replicated in other parts of the metro area
- Have a strong educational component
- Are construction ready; with no implementation delays foreseen
- Focus on multiple benefits such as
- Volume reduction
- Stormwater reuse
- Address difficult pollutants such as chloride, nitrate, or bacteria
- Address difficult sites: small sites, redevelopment, contaminated, or compacted areas
- Provide greater than required treatment, i.e. “treatment train” practice sequencing
- Address items generally not eligible for cost share like practice maintenance, or research

**Secondary Selection Criteria**

Additional credit will be given to projects that:
- Benefit impaired waters and are identified as needed in local water management plans
- Have multiple partners
- Leverage other funds
- Include provisions for long-term maintenance
- Integrate other regional water issues, i.e. groundwater and drinking water supply
- Are located in parts of the Metropolitan Area that have not received funding before (contribute to geographic balance)
- Support equity and sustainability principles of Thrive MSP 2040 and the Water Resources Policy Plan

If you have any questions, please contact Joe Mulcahy at joe.mulcahy@metc.state.mn.us or 651-602-1104.

Thanks.