



Request for City Council Committee Action from the Department of Public Works

Date: October 8, 2013

To: Honorable Sandra Colvin Roy, Chair Transportation & Public Works Committee

Referral to: Honorable Betsy Hodges, Chair Ways and Means/Budget Committee

Subject: Grant Application to Clean Water Fund for Lake Nokomis Area Private Stormwater Management Practices

Recommendation:

Authorize Public Works to submit an application in the amount of \$502,200 for Minnesota Clean Water Land and Legacy Amendment funds in the Clean Water Fund administered by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR)

Previous Directives: None

Department Information:

Prepared by: Lois Eberhart, Water Resources Administrator, Surface Water & Sewers
Lisa Cerney, P.E., Director of Surface Water & Sewers

Approved by: _____

Steven A. Kotke, P.E., Director of Public Works

Presenters in Committee: Lois Eberhart

Financial Impact

- No financial impact

Community Impact

- Neighborhood Notification
- City Goals
- Comprehensive Plan
- Zoning Code
- Other

Supporting Information

Background

The City of Minneapolis began working with the Metro Blooms non-profit organization, the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, and the Friends of Lake Nokomis neighborhood group in 2012 on a project in the Nokomis neighborhoods of Minneapolis to engage residents and business owners in a project to prevent polluted stormwater from entering Lake Nokomis. Lake Nokomis, due to excessive phosphorus, is one of the impaired water bodies in Minnesota. The project is patterned after the Powderhorn Neighborhood of Raingardens project, however the new project is envisioned to target a higher level of source control of pollutants from private properties.

In order to tailor an education and outreach campaign for the community, Metro Blooms, in partnership with the City of Minneapolis and the University of Minnesota Water Resources Center, conducted a survey during the winter of 2012-2013. The number of households invited to participate was 701, a random sample of 2,650 residences in the project area. The response rate was 52%. The survey asked about yard care practices, gauged resident knowledge about stormwater runoff and the impact of yard care practices on the lake, assessed attitudes about concern for Lake Nokomis water quality, and asked about interest in participating in a program to take action on their properties.

Project Description

This project is located in south Minneapolis, within the area of Minneapolis that drains to Lake Nokomis which is impaired due to excessive phosphorus. A Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Study has been approved by the MPCA and the US EPA. The City of Minneapolis is one of the TMDL stakeholders with a responsibility to reduce the pollutant load of nutrients to the lake.

The focus of the grant request is funding for Metro Blooms to engage residents and business owners in a project to improve the water quality of Lake Nokomis by installing Best Management Practices (BMPs) to manage their stormwater on-site, in order to reduce pollution in stormwater runoff. Metro Blooms will work with the property owners to install rain gardens, permeable paver strips and other BMPs at over 100 properties in the Lake Nokomis subwatershed over the next four years. The target number of property types is broken down into 100 residential, 10 business, two faith-based organizations, and two Minneapolis Public Schools.

The grant application is in the amount of \$502,200. The additional funding sources anticipated for the balance of the project costs are Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (\$237,500), Hennepin County (\$50,000), the City of Minneapolis (\$47,400 from operating funds for education, outreach and technical assistance) and property owners (\$77,500). The \$77,500 anticipated from property owners is comprised of an average of the following: an average of \$2,000 per residential property, an average of \$5,000 per business property, an average of \$1,250 per faith-based organization, and an average \$2,500 per school.

Requested Action

Public Works seeks approval to apply to the Clean Water Fund administered by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) for \$502,200. If the grant is awarded, Public Works will return to T&PW for authorization to appropriate the funds and to negotiate and execute contracts with Metro Blooms to carry out the project and with BWSR for reimbursement of eligible funds.

Attachments

Figure 1: Project area

Cc: Council Member Quincy, Ward 11
Council Member Colvin Roy, Ward 12
Mike Abeln, Finance Department