

Meeting Date: 05/04/2017

Prepared by: Michelle Prosser

B1. Purpose/Action Requested:

Approve the Watercraft Inspections Agreement with WaterGuards, LLC.

Summary:

In 2016, the RCD had 4 watercraft inspectors manning Ramsey County boat launches for a total of 348 hours of inspection. In early 2017, the RCD sent a survey to stakeholders throughout Ramsey County, asking for their input regarding priority AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) funding. Respondents indicated that their highest priority was to have increased watercraft inspectors at boat launches in 2017. As such, the RCD has worked with WaterGuards LLC to draft an agreement that would allow for over 2100 hours of watercraft inspection in Ramsey County from May through September of 2017.

The RCD Board approved the Memo of Agreement (MOA) from Ramsey County Parks for the AIS Program at the February 2017 board meeting. In the MOA, the RCD agreed to coordinate boat access site inspections for up to \$80,000 for the 2017/2018 AIS budget.

Explanation of Fiscal/FTE Impact:

Funds for this agreement are available through the 2017 AIS Prevention Aid.

B2. Purpose/Action Requested:

Approve the AIS Becker Invoice.

Summary:

The Becker invoice is attached for \$850. Ramsey County Parks authorized this media contract before the RCD took over the program. Staff is requesting board approval to pay the invoice with AIS funds transferred to the RCD.

Explanation of Fiscal/FTE Impact:

Funds for this agreement are available through the 2017 AIS Prevention Aid.

B3. Purpose/Action Requested:

Approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Right Track.

Summary:

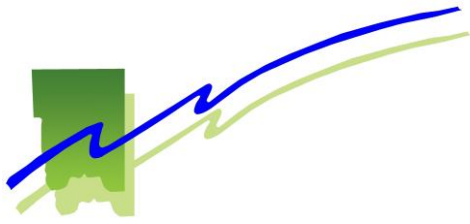
Right Track is a program that joins the City of St. Paul, St. Paul Public Schools and local businesses and organizations to provide professional skills training, internships and employment opportunities for youth. The program recruits high school students, matches them with employers and provides training and support for both youth and supervisors.

In 2017, the Ramsey Conservation District (RCD) would like to offer 2 internships through Right Track. This partnership will allow Right Track interns to learn hands-on skills in managing soil and water resources. In particular, Right Track interns would educate boaters on the threats of aquatic invasive species, as well as assist in other conservation-based tasks.

Right Track interns would be paid \$10/ hour and work 16 hours per week for 9 weeks. The total cost for the RCD for 2 Right Track interns would be \$2880.00.

Explanation of Fiscal/FTE Impact:

Funds for this agreement are available through the 2017 AIS Prevention Aid.



Meeting Date:05/04/2017

Prepared by: Andrea Prichard

Purpose/Action Requested:

Delegate RCD staff to approve well sealing applications and sign cost share agreements, based on qualifying criteria identified in the BWSR Clean Water Grant Work Plan.

Summary:

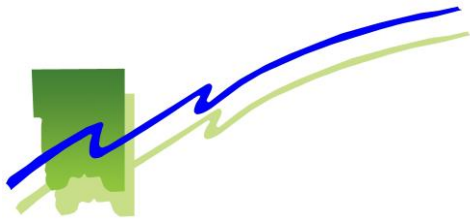
We received two FY-17 Clean Water Fund grants (\$20,000 and \$108,000) to help landowners pay for well sealing on their property with the objective of protecting groundwater resources against possible contamination through unsealed abandoned wells. The execution date for both grants was in April 2017. For past well sealing grants, the RCD Board has delegated staff approval of well sealing applications and to sign the cost share agreements, once the qualifying criteria is met, which is two estimates from licensed contractors and to sign the cost share agreement. After being approved for the program, those that seal their well using a licensed contractor and return required forms to the RCD (Well and Boring Sealing Record, Invoice showing payment, and W-9) are then eligible for reimbursement (pending Board approval) for 50% of the cost of sealing their well, up to a maximum of \$750.

Explanation of Fiscal/FTE Impact:

Clean Water Fund 2017 grants will be used to pay for landowner reimbursement. Staff time is paid using the C17-5165 clean water fund grant.

Supporting Documents:

None



Meeting Date:05/04/2017

Prepared by: Ann WhiteEagle

N. Purpose/Action Requested:

Approve staff submitting a 2017 LCCMR Proposal for Native Plant Education/Implementation Benefitting Pollinators and Water

Summary:

The application for the 2017 LCCMR is due May 15, 2017 and the staff is requesting board approval to submit the proposal. The goal of this application is a broad educational effort, which is twofold: 1.) to educate diverse audiences (preK-adult audiences of all ethnicities) about the multiple benefits of native plants and 2.) to implement native plantings by providing resources, assistance and incentive rebates. Long-term, we are promoting adopting different land-management practices that provide habitat to pollinators, reduce the use of chemicals, promote water conservation and protection, and even reduce carbon footprints and protect air quality. And since most land in Minnesota is privately owned, individuals have a wonderful opportunity to manage their lands to positively impact the environment. This would provide cost share to landowners to install pollinator plantings.

We do not have an education coordinator on staff and this grant would provide funding to contract with area experts to lead the education efforts, such as Dawn Pape (who started Blue Thumb) and Heather Holmes, an award winning author and expert on native bees and pollinators. Also assisting will be the Freshwater Society and the Master Water Stewards Program. The final budget is still being worked on, but the estimated application will be about \$400,000.

Explanation of Fiscal/FTE Impact:

Other partners are providing the match, with the total match not yet available. It would not have a fiscal impact for the RCD.