



MEMORANDUM

Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District

Date: April 6, 2023
To: CLFLWD Board of Managers
From: Mike Kinney, District Administrator
Subject: Letter of Support for DNR Grant



District Wide

Background/Discussion

The purpose of this agenda item is to obtain Board support for the District Administrator to provide a letter of support for a grant application made by the MN Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to the U.S. Department of Interior for funding of shoreline restoration efforts by stakeholders in the Natural Shoreline Partnership.

Staff have been representing CLFLWD and providing watershed perspective on the statewide Natural Shoreline Partnership. This work group includes public and private stakeholders with an interest in maintaining and restoring healthy shorelines across the state. Some of these stakeholders are DNR, the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), MN Coalition of Lake Associations (MN COLA), Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), MN Lakes and Rivers, Blue Thumb, Freshwater, and Itasca Waters. The group's interests have included supporting research on wake boats, promoting shoreline restorations, shoreline inventories, outreach and behavior change, and funding.

DNR staff in the Natural Shoreline Partnership shared a federal funding opportunity for restoration projects that is consistent with the partnership's efforts to advance collaboration between state agencies, local government units (LGUs) (including watershed districts), and non-profit / non-governmental organizations. These implementation grants awarded by the Department of the Interior range from \$1 million to \$5 million. The consensus from the stakeholders in the partnership is to move forward with a proposal that requests funding to advance BWSR, SWCD, watershed district, and Blue Thumb's existing shoreline restoration efforts and provide Minnesota Lakes and Rivers and MN COLA funding at the lake association scale. The specifics of this grant proposal are still being developed.

The deadline for a pre-proposal is April 20, 2023. Projects that pass the initial review will be asked to submit a full proposal by July 20, 2023.

Recommended Action

Proposed Motion: Manager _____ moves to authorize the administrator to submit a letter of support on behalf of the CLFLWD for the Natural Shoreline Partnership. Seconded by Manager _____.