



# Request for Board Action

Attachment 6.4

**Agenda Item:** Approval of Matching Grant Funds for the Towerside District System

**Presenter:** D. Kalmon

**Meeting Date:** March 12, 2024

**Flexibility:** ☐ Yes ☒ No

**Estimated Time:** ☐ Consent Agenda ☒ 10 Min. ☐ 15 Min. ☐ 30 Min. ☐ 45 Min. ☐ 1 Hour

**Action Request:** ☐ Information/Review ☒ Motion to approve ☐ Budget Change ☐ Other

**Board Action:** ☐ Approved ☐ Denied ☐ Tabled ☐ Accepted Report ☐ Other

**Date of Action:** March 12, 2024

**Background:** (ATT 6.4.1 MPRB Matching Grant Graphic)

In January 2021, staff finalized a Board-approved \$32,500 MWMO grant agreement with Wall Companies for the Towerside Phase II District Stormwater System Project. Additional partners on the project have included the Metropolitan Council (via regional trail funding), the City of Minneapolis (via a pre-development grant), the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (via land dedication and easements), and Towerside representatives (via community participation).

The current 30-percent design process is advancing conceptual designs that integrate stormwater into public and private green spaces to provide a more complete public realm with water quality treatment, reuse, habitat, and rate control benefits built in as the basis for redevelopment.

MPRB staff are currently requesting a \$140,000 grant (25 percent match) from the MWMO that will leverage a Met Council grant of \$420,000 (75 percent). If received, the total funding would be used towards purchasing a new 1-acre park (outlined in blue) in front of the Crusher Elevators, adding on to other parkland that could be used to implement a co-designed MPRB and MWMO District System that manages habitat, public space, and surface stormwater within the larger Malcolm Yards area.

At this time, MWMO staff are requesting a \$140,000 grant to MPRB that will leverage \$420,000 in Met Council funding to acquire a new 1-acre park in front of the Crusher Elevators.

# **Mississippi Watershed Management Organization**

## **RESOLUTION 2024-011**

### **A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN MPRB MATCHING GRANT FOR THE TOWERSIDE DISTRICT SYSTEM.**

WHEREAS, The MWMO's 10-Year Plan has established a goal to protect and improve the Mississippi River with implementation actions that improve habitat structure and ecosystem function within highly urban settings; and

WHEREAS, The MWMO is an active member in the Towerside Innovation District, which supports the development of new innovative urban stormwater management practices; and

WHEREAS, The site owned by Wall Development Companies has the capacity to provide significant above-and-beyond water quality treatment, reuse, habitat, and rate control benefits; and

WHEREAS, The MWMO Board entered into an MOU with MPRB and Wall Companies on Aug. 16, 2018, to work towards a District System design that manages habitat, public space (parks), and surface stormwater within the larger Malcolm Yards area; and

WHEREAS, The \$140,000 grant will leverage a \$420,000 Met Council grant that adds parkland to the project that can be used to implement components of a District System; and

WHEREAS, The \$140,000 in funds is currently available in MWMO's Land Acquisition fund; and

WHEREAS, Staff recommends the Board of Commissioners approve a \$140,000 grant to MPRB that will leverage \$420,000 in Met Council funding, thereby closing the funding gap needed to acquire 1-acre of parkland in front of the Crusher Elevators

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the MWMO Board of Commissioners approves a \$140,000 grant to MPRB that will leverage \$420,000 in Met Council funding, thereby closing the funding gap needed to acquire 1 acre of parkland in front of the Crusher Elevators, and authorizes MWMO staff to take all necessary administrative actions to implement the resolution.

Adopted this the 12<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2024.

Review for the Board: \_\_\_\_\_

Randy Stille, Chair

Review for Administration: \_\_\_\_\_

Kevin Reich, Executive Director