Request for Board Action

Attachment 6.3

Agenda Item: Stewardship Fund Program Update

Presenter: Emmy Baskerville Doeckel and Adam Flett

Meeting Date: 10 November 2026 **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: 10 November 2026

Background

MWMO Staff responsible for the implementation of the Stewardship Fund program conducted an evaluation to determine if changes were needed to the program. Program changes are proposed based on project metrics, input gathered from meetings with current and former grantees, feedback from MWMO staff and Community Advisory Committee, discussions with community partners, and in consideration of labor and material cost increases over the past several years.

The proposed changes of the program include:

- an increase in the maximum funding level of the Planning Grant from $20,000 to $25,000,
- an increase in the maximum funding level of the Action Grants from $50,000 to $75,000,
- and an increase in the overall annual program budget from $350,000 to $500,000, and finally,
- grant maximum per project is increased from $75,000 to $105,000.

Mississippi Watershed Management Organization

RESOLUTION 2026-028

A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN INCREASE IN STEWARDSHIP FUND

WHEREAS, The Mississippi Watershed Management Organization works to protect and improve water quality, habitat and natural resources in an urban watershed that drains directly into the Mississippi River; and

WHEREAS, The MWMO Board of Commissioners has created the Stewardship Fund to engage the community in the protection of said resources; and

WHEREAS, Staff have conducted a comprehensive review of the Stewardship Program, which included discussions with current and former grantees, MWMO Staff, and the CAC, and analysis of program metrics; and

WHEREAS, Stewardship Fund Planning Grant amounts have remained unchanged since 2022, and Action Grant amounts since the program's inception in 2008;

WHEREAS, The Stewardship Fund's annual program budget was last increased in 2022; and

WHEREAS, Staff and the Citizen Advisory Committee recommend increasing the maximum Planning Grant award to $25,000, the maximum Action Grant award to $75,000, and the annual program budget to $500,000.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the MWMO Board of Commissioners approves increasing the maximum funding level of the Planning Grants to $25,000, the maximum funding level for Action Grants to $75,000, and the overall program budget increasing to $500,000

Adopted this the 10th day of November, 2026.

Review for the Board: _____

Connie Buesgens, Chair

Review for Administration: _____

Kevin Reich, Executive Director