DAKOTA COUNTY
PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Meeting Minutes

September 17, 2019
Conference Room L139, Western Service Center

Call To Order And Roll Call
Commissioner Mike Slavik
Commissioner Kathleen A. Gaylord
Commissioner Thomas A. Egan
Commissioner Mary Liz Holberg
Commissioner Chris Gerlach

Absent: Commissioner Liz Workman, Commissioner Joe Atkins

Also in attendance: Matt Smith, County Manager; Tom Donely, Assistant County Attorney; Steve Mielke, Physical Development Division Director; Jessica Johnson, Administrative Coordinator.

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m. by Chair Thomas A. Egan.

The audio recording of this meeting is available upon request.

Introductions
Commissioner Egan introduced four new staff members from Physical Development.

Audience
Commissioner Egan asked if there was anyone in the audience that wished to address the Physical Development Committee of the Whole on an item not on the agenda or an item on the consent agenda. No one came forward.

Approval Of Agenda (Additions/Corrections/Deletions)

On a motion by Commissioner Mary Liz Holberg, seconded by Commissioner Mike Slavik, the agenda was unanimously approved.

Consent Agenda

On a motion by Commissioner Kathleen A. Gaylord, seconded by Commissioner Mike Slavik, the consent agenda was unanimously approved as follows, with one item being tabled for a later meeting date:

5.1 Approval Of Minutes

5.2 Adoption Of Vermillion River Greenway – Hastings Master Plan

This item was tabled until a later meeting date.

5.3 Authorization To Submit Grant Applications To Eastern Federal Lands Highway Division For Federal Lands Access Program Funding For Minnesota And Mississippi River Greenways
WHEREAS, the Eastern Federal Lands Highway Division of the Federal Highway Administration will be accepting Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) applications; and

WHEREAS, the State of Minnesota will be allocated approximately $2.6 million in total funding for fiscal years 2020 through 2022; and

WHEREAS, the application deadline for the FLAP funding request is October 15, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area and the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge are the two grant-eligible Federal land units within Dakota County; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota River Greenway trail segment between Nicols/Cedar Trailhead and Lone Oak Trailhead is a priority project identified in the 2013 Minnesota River Regional Greenway Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the City of South St. Paul will be submitting a FLAP application to improve trailhead facilities along the Mississippi River Greenway at the Wakota Bridge Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Boat Access.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby supports and authorizes the Physical Development Director to submit a $600,000 grant request to the Federal Lands Access Program for the Minnesota River Greenway from the Cedar/Nichols Trailhead to the Lone Oak Trailhead; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That, subject to the federal funding award of the Dakota County grant application, the Dakota County Board of Commissioners will provide matching funds of $400,000 (40%) for the Minnesota River Greenway application; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby supports the City of South St. Paul's grant request of $720,000 to Federal Lands Access Program for the Wakota Bridge Trailhead improvements; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That, subject to federal funding award of the City of South St. Paul grant application, the Dakota County Board of Commissioners will provide a local match to the City of South St. Paul of up to $240,000 (20%) for the Wakota Bridge Trailhead Improvements on the Mississippi River Greenway to match the City's $240,000, for a total of a 40 percent match.

5.4 Planning Commission Update

This item was on the agenda for informational purposes only.

5.5 Approve Release Of Thompson County Park Master Plan And Thompson County Park Natural Resources Management Plan For Public Review

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 18-224 (April 24, 2018), the Dakota County Board of Commissioners (County Board) approved the consultant contract to update the 2005 Thompson County Park (TCP) Master Plan and to create the first TCP Natural Resources Management Plan (NRMP); and

WHEREAS, together, the plans present a long-range vision for the park and will guide 10-year priorities for recreation development, natural resource management, visitor services, and park operations; and

WHEREAS, the planning process is occurring in four phases during 2018–2019: 1) Organization (spring-fall 2018); 2) Research, Findings, and Vision (summer-fall 2018); 3) Concept Alternatives (winter 2018–2019); and 4) Plan Development and Approvals (spring 2019–winter 2019); and
WHEREAS, the first three phases of the project are complete; and

WHEREAS, the draft plan documents are based on the preferred concept presented to the Physical Development Committee of the Whole on June 11, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the draft TCP Master Plan presents a long-term vision and focuses on improvements within a 10-year horizon that address community-identified needs and desires including enhancing the lake as a focal point, natural resource restoration, expanded picnicking options, updated play experiences, increased public use of Thompson Activity Center, equipment rentals, and accessibility improvements; and

WHEREAS, the NRMP is a technical guide to restoration and management of the park’s natural areas; and

WHEREAS, the NRMP includes existing-conditions-assessment-based background research and field surveys, goals for the park by natural resource management area, implementation schedules, and cost estimates; and

WHEREAS, the plan recommends a phased approach to restoring all of the park’s natural areas within 10 years; and

WHEREAS, the Dakota County Planning Commission reviewed the draft TCP Master Plan and NRMP on August 22, 2019, and recommend release for public review.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Thompson County Park Master Plan and the Thompson County Park Natural Resources Management Plan be released for a 30-day public review period.

5.6 Authorization To Execute Household Hazardous Waste Inter-County Reciprocal Use Agreements

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 18-493 (September 18, 2018), the Dakota County Board of Commissioners approved the 2018–2038 Regional/Dakota County Solid Waste Master Plan (Master Plan); and

WHEREAS, as part of the Master Plan, the Dakota County Board of Commissioners encourages residents and businesses to properly manage hazardous wastes and recyclables to protect public health, surface water, and groundwater; and

WHEREAS, Dakota, Anoka, Carver, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington Counties each provide a household hazardous waste (HHW) management program for their residents; and

WHEREAS, the Dakota County Board of Commissioners desires to maintain a significant public service whereby County residents may use HHW management facilities in any of the metro counties; and

WHEREAS, the Dakota County Board of Commissioners wishes to recover the cost of collection and disposal of HHW to the extent possible; and

WHEREAS, the metro-county negotiated terms for an HHW inter-county reciprocal use agreement (Agreement); and

WHEREAS, the Agreement authorizes monetary transfers between counties to compensate each county for residents delivering HHW to sites in other counties; and

WHEREAS, the Agreement terms include providing for a five-year term, from January 1, 2020, through December 31, 2024; a flat annual per-vehicle service fee each year of the Agreement; encouraging product reuse at no cost
to residents; and continuing to require a 180-day notice from a county that wishes to withdraw.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the County Board Chair to execute the Household Hazardous Waste Inter-County Reciprocal Use Agreement with each metro county to allow residents to use facilities, as substantially presented to the Physical Development Committee of the Whole on September 17, 2019, subject to funding levels approved by the County Board as part of the 2020 budget, subject to approval by the County Attorney's Office as to form and subject to review and approval by the County Risk and Homeland Security Manager.

5.7 Authorization To Co-Sign Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Minor Modification Permit Application For Site Modifications At Specialized Environmental Technologies, Inc., Compost Facility

WHEREAS, Dakota County leases approximately 37 acres of land in Empire Township to Specialized Environmental Technologies, Inc. (SET), for solid waste management purposes, including source-separated organics composting, yard waste composting, and mixed municipal solid waste transfer; and

WHEREAS, SET has prepared a Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) minor modification solid waste facility permit application for construction and operations that has been reviewed by Dakota County staff and found to be complete and technically sound; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the authority of Minn. R. 7001.0060(E), Dakota County, as the landowner, is required to co-sign the MPCA Solid Waste Facility permit minor modification application, as co-permittee; and

WHEREAS, Empire Township has approved an interim use permit for the SET Empire facility.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Dakota County Board Chair to co-sign the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency minor modification solid waste facility permit application for construction and operations prepared by Specialized Environmental Technologies, Inc., for its solid waste operations located on 37 acres of County-owned land in Empire Township.

5.8 Authorization To Execute Joint Powers Agreement With City Of Apple Valley To Execute And Administer Water Efficiency Rebate Program

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. § 471.59 authorizes local governmental units to jointly or cooperatively exercise any power common to the contracting parties; and

WHEREAS, Dakota County and the City of Apple Valley are governmental units as that term is defined in Minn. Stat. § 471.59; and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Council will implement a water efficiency grant program effective September 30, 2019, to June 30, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the goal of the program is to support technical and behavioral changes that improve municipal water use efficiency in the seven-county metro area; and

WHEREAS, grants of up to $50,000 will be awarded to municipalities for providing rebates or grants to property owners on eligible devices to include toilet replacement, irrigation controller replacement, clothes washing machine replacement, irrigation spray sprinkler body replacement, and irrigation system audits; and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Council’s projections of increased groundwater demand estimate that Dakota County may experience 20 to 30 feet of groundwater drawdown by 2040 with the most significant drawdown
anticipated to occur in Apple Valley; and

WHEREAS, Dakota County and the City of Apple Valley propose a partnership in executing and administering the Water Efficiency Grant Program if awarded; and

WHEREAS, the City of Apple Valley responsibilities include identification of water efficiency needs and high-priority areas (if applicable), rebate promotion and communications collaboration, funding for the required 25 percent cost-share, and processing rebate payments to participants; and

WHEREAS, County responsibilities include assisting with program promotion and communications, administration of the grant to include the development of rebate application form(s), processing rebate applications, verifying purchase of devices to receive rebates, record retention, and maintaining quantitative data; and

WHEREAS, staff recommends executing a joint powers agreement with the City of Apple Valley to execute and administer a water efficiency rebate program for the period of September 30, 2019, to June 30, 2022, or until all grant funds are expended.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Environmental Resources Department Director to execute a joint powers agreement with the City of Apple Valley to execute and administer a water efficiency rebate program for the period of September 30, 2019, to June 30, 2022, or until all grant funds are expended, as substantially presented on September 17, 2019, to the Physical Development Committee of the Whole, and subject to approval by the County Attorney’s Office as to form.

5.9 Authorize Joint Powers Agreement With Cities Of Eagan And Burnsville To Delegate State Park Road Account Project Management And Establish Ongoing Maintenance Agreement For Nicols Road As Access To Minnesota River Greenway Trailhead

WHEREAS, Dakota County will be constructing the Minnesota River Greenway: Nicols Trailhead along Nicols Road; and

WHEREAS, Nicols Road provides the only vehicle access to the future trailhead and the existing Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Boat Launch in Fort Snelling State Park; and

WHEREAS, Nicols Road is currently designated a “minimum maintenance” road and is in very poor condition; and

WHEREAS, Dakota County received a $560,000 State Park Road Account (SPRA) Grant submitted by the Cities of Eagan and Burnsville to reconstruct Nicols Road from the railroad tracks to the trailhead entrance; and

WHEREAS, Nicols Road is a city road managed by the Cities of Eagan and Burnsville; and

WHEREAS, the SPRA program allows Dakota County to delegate grant responsibilities to the City of Eagan as the project design and construction agency lead; and

WHEREAS, upon completion of the road improvements and the new trailhead, Dakota County will assume routine maintenance of lower Nicols Road to maintain year-round access; and

WHEREAS, if project bids exceed SPRA grant amount of $560,000, Dakota County would provide up to $112,000 towards project construction cost exceeding grant amount; and

WHEREAS, staff recommends establishing a joint powers agreement with the Cities of Eagan and Burnsville for the reconstruction, maintenance, and cost-share of lower Nicols Road.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the...
County Manager, or their designee, to execute a joint powers agreement with the Cities of Eagan and Burnsville to establish Nicols Road reconstruction, maintenance, and cost-share partnership, subject to approval by the County Attorney’s Office as to form.

5.10 Authorization To Execute Amendment To Contract With Landbridge Ecological, Inc., To Continue Natural Area Vegetation Management For Lebanon Hills Regional Park And Thompson County Park

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 17-274 (May 23, 2017), the County Board adopted the Natural Resource Management System Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Natural Resource Management System Plan included a commitment to perpetually maintain restored vegetation within Dakota County Parks; and

WHEREAS, on November 21, 2018, staff solicited quotes for vegetation management throughout Lebanon Hills Regional Park and Thompson County Park on previously restored areas; and

WHEREAS, management activities include burning, mowing, applying herbicide, tree removal, planting, watering, and seeding; and

WHEREAS, quotes included hourly or per acre rates for each type of management task, to be performed at the direction of staff until contract spending maximum is reached or the contract expires; and

WHEREAS, on January 9, 2019, Dakota County entered into a contract (#C0031126) with Landbridge Ecological, Inc., to perform vegetation management throughout Lebanon Hills Regional Park and Thompson County Park; and

WHEREAS, the contract states that it shall be in effect until December 31, 2020, or until all services, labor, and materials to be provided by Contractor pursuant to the contract are satisfactorily completed, and final payment is made; and

WHEREAS, the contract spending maximum was set at $99,000; and

WHEREAS, Landbridge Ecological, Inc., has met and exceeded contract deliverables; and

WHEREAS, payments distributed for work performed under this contract in 2019 is approaching the contract spending maximum; and

WHEREAS, staff recommends the contract maximum be amended by $76,000 to result in a contract maximum of $175,000 to retain Landbridge Ecological, Inc., to continue vegetation management at Lebanon Hills Regional Park and Thompson County Park.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Parks, Facilities, and Fleet Management Director to execute an amendment to the contract with Landbridge Ecological, Inc., to increase the contract maximum by $76,000 to result in a contract maximum of $175,000 for vegetation management at Lebanon Hills Regional Park and Thompson County Park in 2019 and 2020.

5.11 Authorization To Submit Application For Conservation Partners Legacy Grants For Natural Resource Restoration In Thompson County Park

WHEREAS, the 2008 Minnesota Constitutional Legacy Amendment increased state sales tax and dedicated new revenue to natural resources, clean water, arts, cultural heritage, and parks and trails; and
WHEREAS, the Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program was established to restore, enhance, or protect forests, wetlands, prairies, and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) manages this program to provide grants from $5,000 to $400,000; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, $10,350,000 was dedicated to habitat projects located within the metro area; and

WHEREAS, a minimum 10 percent local match is required with any additional local match increasing the project’s competitiveness; and

WHEREAS, the Conservation Partners Legacy Metro grant cycle is now open with submittals due by September 23, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the proposed grant project at Thompson County Park (TCP) is a high-priority and is supported by the approved Natural Resources System Plan, by the draft TCP Natural Resources Management Plan and by the draft TCP Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the project is also a highly visible site that can serve to educate park visitors; and

WHEREAS, the 2018-2019 Thompson Lake Cleanup Project (TLCP), removed pollutants from sediments on the lake’s north end and installed best management practices to treat incoming stormwater runoff from the watershed including lakeshore restoration, but only involved 500 feet of the 2500 foot lakeshore, so with the grant the entire lakeshore will be restored; and

WHEREAS, staff has requested County Board consideration of this grant application:

- Project Title: Thompson Lake Shoreline Restoration
- Project Location: TCP
- Project Scope/Cost: Invasive herbaceous weed and brush removal as well as plug installation and seeding on approximately two acres of lakeshore surrounding Thompson Lake for a total project cost of $400,000
- Grant Request/Local Match: The grant request is $280,000 with a 30 percent local cash and in-kind match of $120,000; and

WHEREAS, subject to DNR award, the County Board at a future meeting will consider acceptance of the grant funds and amendment of the Parks Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Adopted Budget; and

WHEREAS, local cash match funds are available from the Parks CIP Adopted Budget within the grant match line item.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Physical Development Director to submit the following Conservation Partners Legacy Grant application for the 2020 program year for Thompson Lake Shoreline Restoration on approximately two acres with a total project cost (grant plus local match) of $400,000.

5.12 Authorization To Execute Contract Amendment With MCC Industries, Inc., For Countywide As- Needed Duct Cleaning Services

WHEREAS, on July 22, 2019, a number of staff at the Western Service Center noticed a distinct musty odor in their work areas; and
WHEREAS, an investigation of the ventilation system identified areas on the south side of the building that had fungal growth inside the ductwork; and

WHEREAS, Facilities Management staff worked with our existing emergency cleanup contractor on recommendations of contractors providing duct cleaning and mold remediation services; and

WHEREAS, the recommendation was MCC Industries, Inc., dba KMS Duct Cleaning (KMS), and due to the urgent nature of the situation, Facilities Management staff directed KMS to begin remediation work on August 2, 2019; and

WHEREAS, after the first weekend of work, Facilities Management staff issued Request for Quotes (RFQ) for as-needed services to local duct cleaning companies in addition to posting on the Dakota County website; and

WHEREAS, KMS along with two other local vendors responded to the RFQ and contracts have been issued with all three vendors; and

WHEREAS, Facilities Management has a contract in the amount of $99,000 with KMS for as-needed Countywide duct cleaning services; and

WHEREAS, because the ventilation systems in the building must be shut down for cleaning, all work on the systems have been done after hours and on weekends by KMS; and

WHEREAS, KMS has performed duct cleaning and mold remediation services over six weekends starting August 2, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the expenditures to date on this effort total approximately $100,000 with upward of $150,000 to $200,000 of work remaining; and

WHEREAS, staff has focused on the highest priority areas first and will continue through the remainder of the ductwork in the building before the end of 2019; and

WHEREAS, due to the urgent need to address this issue, staff recommends execution of a contract amendment with MCC Industries, Inc., in an amount not to exceed $200,000.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Parks, Facilities, and Fleet Management Director to execute an amendment to the contract with MCC Industries, Inc., dba KMS Duct Cleaning for additional as-needed duct cleaning services based on current contract labor and material rates in the amount of $200,000, subject to approval by the County Attorney’s Office as to form.

Regular Agenda

6.1 Consideration Of Alternative Trail Alignments For Mississippi Regional Greenway Along Pine Bend Trail Road

Taud Hoopingarner; Parks, Facilities, and Fleet Director, presented this item and responded to questions. Mark Krebsbach, Transportation Director; and Scott Dohmen, Mosaic Plant Manager, were in the audience and also spoke to this item.

On a motion by Commissioner Mike Slavik, seconded by Commissioner Mary Liz Holberg, the following resolution, with the requested changes, was unanimously recommended to the County Board:

WHEREAS, the Mississippi River Greenway (MRG): Rosemount East segment is the last remaining segment of regional trail to be secured, designed, and constructed in order to connect the national Mississippi River Regional
Trail (MRRT) from Hastings to South St. Paul; and

WHEREAS, the MRG: Rosemount East project includes construction of 2.7 miles of trail from its connection with MRG West to Spring Lake Park Reserve; and

WHEREAS, in the fall of 2017, based upon project cost and land control concerns with the current alignment along Highway 55, staff contacted representatives from CF Industries (CFI), Flint Hills Resources (FHR), Union Pacific (UP), and the City of Rosemount to consider an alternative design option for MRRT East along Pine Bend Trail Road; and

WHEREAS, in follow up meetings with FHR, CFI, and UP, all expressed an interest in and willingness to seek corporate approval to transfer ownership of additional road right of way needed to allow the County to work with the City of Rosemount to realign Pine Bend Trail to allow for an on-road trail option; and

WHEREAS, the opportunity to secure a less costly design with fewer land acquisition challenges, which would provide a safe and better recreational experience than the Brown Alignment design, was deemed by the County Board to be worth the risks associated with delaying the current project in order to fully vet this opportunity; and

WHEREAS, multiple design options have been developed over the past two years to provide for a safe and better recreational trail experience along Pine Bend Trail, including options that can be completed within the prescriptive right of way of Pine Bend Trail Road at the same or lower cost than the Brown Alignment; and

WHEREAS, FHR and the City of Rosemount continue to support moving development of an option involving the redesign and improvement to Pine Bend Trail Road to provide for a barrier-separated road and recreational trail.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby directs staff to seek a joint powers agreement with the City of Rosemount to advance design and construction of the new road and connect the remaining section of the Mississippi River Greenway in Rosemount.

6.2 Discussion Of Performance And Options For Transit Service Pilot To Dakota County Technical College

Gina Mitteco, Regional and Multi-Modal Transportation Manager, presented this item and responded to questions. Luther Wynder, Minnesota Valley Transit Authority Executive Director; and Anne Johnson, Dakota County Technical College Associate Vice President of Student Affairs, were also in the audience and spoke to this item.

This item was on the agenda for informational purposes only; however, the Committee recommended a resolution to go to the County Board meeting on September 24, 2019. This item was forwarded to the meeting with the following title and resolution:

Authorization To Provide Notice Of Termination To Minnesota Valley Transit Authority Of Agreement For Transit Service Pilot To Dakota County Technical College

On a motion by Commissioner Mary Liz Holberg, seconded by Commissioner Kathleen A. Gaylord, the following resolution was unanimously recommended to the County Board:

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 18-272 (May 22, 2018), Dakota County entered into a joint powers agreement (JPA) with the Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA) to create and operate a two-year transit service pilot to Dakota County Technical College (DCTC) that includes the Apple Valley Transit Station and Rosemount Transit Station along existing MVTA Route 420; and

WHEREAS, Dakota County funds an annual amount of up to $165,000 for a portion of the costs incurred by the
MVTA to establish and operate the transit route; and

WHEREAS, the transit service began operation on August 20, 2018; and

WHEREAS, ridership data for the first year of service showed a low return on investment; and

WHEREAS, either party may terminate the JPA without cause at any time after MVTA has operated the transit service for one year; and

WHEREAS, the JPA requires that a party must provide at least ninety (90) day’s written notice of its intent to terminate the JPA with no cause; and

WHEREAS, if ridership numbers do not improve during the 2019 fall semester, termination of the JPA after the conclusion of the fall semester at DCTC in December 2019 may be appropriate; and

WHEREAS, the JPA requires providing written notice of termination now to terminate the JPA in December 2019; and

WHEREAS, the Dakota County Board of Commissioners requests updated transit ridership numbers be provided in approximately 60 days for reconsideration of termination of the JPA if ridership numbers have improved.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the County Manager or his designee shall provide ninety (90) day’s written notice of its intent to terminate the joint powers agreement with no cause to the Minnesota Valley Transit Authority.

6.3 Approval Of Schematic Design And Authorization To Execute Easement Agreements With Northern States Power And Fort Snelling State Park And Right Of Way License With Minnesota Department Of Transportation For Minnesota River Greenway Cedar Nicols Project

Josh Kinney, Senior Project Manager, presented this item and responded to questions.

On a motion by Commissioner Chris Gerlach, seconded by Commissioner Mike Slavik, the following resolution was recommended to the County Board:

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 11-516 (October 18, 2011), the Minnesota River Greenway (MNRGW) Master Plan was adopted which identifies the trailhead at the Cedar Avenue Bridge as a priority improvement project (Project); and

WHEREAS, recently Dakota County opened the four-mile MNRGW Black Dog Trail between I-35W and Trunk Highway 77 (Cedar Avenue Bridge) along the Minnesota River; and

WHEREAS, the completion of the trail has increased demand for parking and trail support facilities along the Minnesota River; and

WHEREAS, the Project resides on property owned by Northern States Power (NSP), the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), and Fort Snelling State Park (FSSP), adjacent to the existing Minnesota Department of Natural Resources boat launch facility and the Minnesota River National Wildlife Refuge; and

WHEREAS, the trailhead will provide access for regional greenway users connecting south along the river and west across the river to the recently restored Old Cedar Avenue Bridge; and

WHEREAS, the Project includes parking for 20 vehicles, portable restroom, picnicking, an overlook of the river, natural surface trails along the Minnesota River, paved trail connections to the MNRGW, and interpretation...
elements; and

WHEREAS, the trailhead facilities are located within the 100-year floodplain; and

WHEREAS, all project elements are being designed to withstand or easily recover from high-water events; and

WHEREAS, the project is located on NSP, MnDOT, and FSSP property and requires land control agreements to complete the project; and

WHEREAS, public engagement included meetings with Native American Tribal representatives, on-site intercept surveys, an online project questionnaire, and an open house held on December 6, 2018; and

WHEREAS, the project is anticipated to be bid in January 2020 and completed by November 2020 with the City of Eagan concurrently reconstructing Nicols Road.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby approves schematic design and authorizes the Dakota County Board Chair to execute the easement with Northern States Power for natural surface paths and river overlook features, Right of way license with the Minnesota Department of Transportation for the project parking lot and greenway trail connection to Fort Snelling State Park, and Permanent and Temporary Easements with Fort Snelling State Park for greenway trail construction and parking lot restoration for the Minnesota River Greenway Cedar Nicols Trailhead Project as substantially presented and directed September 17, 2019, subject to approval by the County Attorney’s Office as to form.

Ayes: 4     Nays: 1 (Commissioner Holberg)     Absent: 2 (Commissioner Workman, Commissioner Atkins)

6.4 Overview Of Preliminary 2020 Draft Capital Improvement Program

Erin Stwora, Physical Development Deputy Director, presented this item and responded to questions. The following staff were also in the audience and spoke to this item:

- Taud Hoopingarner (Parks, Facilities, and Fleet Director)
- Mark Krebsbach (Transportation Director)
- Georg Fischer (Environmental Resources Director)
- Dan Cater (Information Technology Director)

This item was on the agenda for informational purposes only.

Division Director Update

Steve Mielke, Physical Development Director, provided the Committee with a Division update.

Adjournment

On a motion by Commissioner Mike Slavik, seconded by Commissioner Mary Liz Holberg, the meeting was adjourned at 12:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jessica Johnson
Administrative Coordinator
Physical Development Division