



MEMORANDUM

Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District

Date: February 15, 2024
To: CLFLWD Board of Managers
From: Mike Kinney, District Administrator
Subject: Laura Jane Musser Foundation Grant Application



District Wide

Background/Discussion

The purpose of this agenda item is for the Board to consider authorizing the Board President to sign the enclosed letter of endorsement for a grant application to the Laura Jane Musser Foundation. Staff are working with City of Forest Lake staff to develop a grant proposal to the Musser Foundation's Environmental Initiative Program to fund the North Shore Circle City Park Shoreline Restoration Project. This letter of endorsement is a required part of the application packet.

This project entails a native shoreline buffer restoration and creation of a public outreach demonstration site at the City of Forest Lake park, North Shore Circle Park. The District applied to the DNR's first round of Expedited Conservation Projects (ECP) grant program for this project in September but was unsuccessful. The DNR review team cited small site size and relatively large grant request as reasons for not being awarded. Staff scaled back the project scope, reduced the request from \$40k to \$26k, and re-submitted a grant application to the third round of the ECP grant program. The award decision will be announced February 16th.

A grant from the Musser Foundation would be beneficial whether the DNR grant is awarded or not. If the DNR grant is awarded, the Musser proposal can be scaled appropriately to provide the additional funding needed to implement the project at its originally proposed scale. If the DNR grant is not awarded, the Musser proposal can be scaled up to the max grant award of \$35,000.

This project provides an excellent opportunity to engage with a new grant program. Government partnerships and public accessibility/engagement are big priorities for this fund. The Musser Fund is likely to make a total of 5 to 7 grants in the Environmental Initiative this year. This is a very competitive granting initiative. Despite the highly competitive nature of this program, we hope to begin a relationship with this foundation, which may result in future funding allocations for future public partnership projects (e.g., other city parks, dead end street shoreline buffers, etc.).



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The staff is working on collecting letters of support from relevant partners to support this grant proposal. Partners include the City of Forest Lake, Forest Lake Lake Association, CLFLWD Citizen Advisory Committee, Washington Conservation District, and MN Lakes and Rivers.

Recommended Motion


Manager _____ moves to authorize the Board President to sign the enclosed endorsement letter for the Laura Jane Musser Fund grant proposal. Seconded by Manager _____.

Attached:

- Endorsement Letter




CLFLWD
WATERSHED DISTRICT

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44 Lake St. South, Suite A
Forest Lake, MN 55025 

Date: February 22, 2024

To: Laura Jane Musser Fund

Re: Endorsement Letter for the North Shore Circle Park Shoreline Restoration Project

To the Laura Jane Musser Fund Review Committee,

The Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District Board of Managers supports our proposed North Shore Circle Park Shoreline Restoration Project and the associated grant proposal to the Musser Fund.

This project is located on Forest Lake and represents a strong partnership between the Watershed District and the City of Forest Lake. The City owns the park on which the proposed project will be situated, and the City has a vested interest in protecting the lake which is of significant economic value. The Watershed District is committed to protecting and improving local water resources, like Forest Lake. The proposed shoreline restoration will prevent erosion, improve water quality, and serve as a key demonstration site to promote public stewardship such as natural shoreline buffers.

The Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District Board of Managers fully supports this project and hopes this proposal is well received.

Sincerely,

Steve Schmaltz, Board President
Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District

Board of Managers

Steve Schmaltz, President · Christopher Loth, Vice President
Jackie Anderson, Treasurer · Douglas Toavs, Assistant Treasurer · Dave Bakke, Secretary