Resolution 2015-247

Resolution to Approve a Professional Services Agreement with Applied Ecological Services, Inc., for $130,126.91 to Provide Hybrid and Narrow-Leaved Cattail Control, Re- Establish Emergent Vegetation, and Plant an Upland Buffer at Loring Pond at Loring Park from July 1, 2015 to December 31, 2018

Whereas, The mission of the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) is to permanently preserve, protect, maintain, improve, and enhance its natural resources, parkland, and recreational opportunities for current and future generations;

Whereas, The MPRB is the steward of and responsible for the management of Minneapolis lakes and ponds;

Whereas, The Minnesota State Senate passed Legislation in 2014 to authorize the MPRB to: "remove all hybrid and narrow-leaved cattails by mechanical removal and chemical control at Loring Lake in Hennepin County, and replant the shoreland with native species" (2014 Minnesota Session Laws, Chapter 290, Sec. 60);

Whereas, In September 2014 the MPRB amended a contract with Applied Ecological Services to include a project to cut cattails in Loring Pond during the fall and early winter of 2014/2015 in an effort to control as many cattails as possible through winter and early growing season suffocation of cattail rhizomes and reduction of cattail biomass in the pond;

Whereas, The MPRB Board of Commissioners approved $250,000 in its 2015 General Fund Budget for Loring Pond cattail management;

Whereas, It is important to perform cattail control in the North and South Bays of Loring Pond during the summer of 2015 so as not to lose progress made to date on cattail control;

Whereas, The MPRB solicited Requests for Proposals for Contractors to propose their professional strategies for cattail control and native plant re-vegetation of Loring Pond, from April 10, 2015 until April 27, 2015;

Whereas, A response to the Request for Proposal was submitted by Applied Ecological Services;

Whereas, AES has the expertise, staffing and capacity to implement hybrid and narrow-leaved cattail control, re-establish emergent vegetation and plant an upland buffer at Loring Pond;

RESOLVED, That the Board of Commissioners approve a Professional Services Agreement with Applied Ecological Services, Inc., for $130,126.91 to provide hybrid and narrow-leaved cattail

control, re-establish emergent vegetation, and plant an upland buffer at Loring Pond at Loring Park from July 1, 2015 to December 31, 2018; and

RESOLVED, That the President of the Board and Secretary to the Board are authorized to take all necessary actions to implement this resolution.

TO: Administration & Finance Committee

FROM: Justin Long, Assistant Superintendent for Environmental Steward

DATE: July 1, 2015

SUBJECT: Resolution to Approve a Professional Services Agreement with Applied Ecological Services, Inc., for $130,126.91 to Provide Hybrid and Narrow-Leaved Cattail Control, Re-Establish Emergent Vegetation, and Plant an Upland Buffer at Loring Pond at Loring Park from July 1, 2015 to December 31, 2018

BACKGROUND

This action considers entering into a Professional Services Agreement (PSA) for $130.126.91 with Applied Ecological Services, Inc., to provide hybrid and narrow-leaved cattail control, re-establish native emergent vegetation, and plant an upland buffer in Loring Pond (see *Attachment 1*).

In December 2014, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) Board of Commissioners designated $250,000 in the 2015 Annual Budget for Loring Pond cattail management. In 2015, the MPRB solicited responses to a Request for Proposals (RFP) for contractors to propose their professional strategies for cattail control and native plant re-vegetation of Loring Pond (*Attachment 2*). The RFP was posted on the MPRB website from April 10, 2015, through April 27, 2015.

On April 15, 2015, a mandatory meeting was held at the Loring Community Center for contractors interested in submitting proposals. Four contractors attended this meeting. Proposals were due on Monday, April 27, 2015. Applied Ecological Services (AES) was the only contractor who submitted a proposal for the project (*Attachment 3*).

The proposal that AES submitted on April 27, 2015, had a cost of $309,267 for the first year (2015) of the project and a total project cost of $532,113. The high cost of the 2015 work was due to the work involved with removal of a large cattail mat that comprises the majority of the emergent cattail vegetation in the North Bay.

MPRB staff exercised the right to create a project of lesser scope than described in the original RFP. This new PSA encompasses a reduced project scope with AES. This PSA will implement a cattail control project for the entire South Bay and portions of the North Bay that are not floating mat. Planting of native emergent vegetation and an upland shoreline buffer to deter Canada Geese is also part of the project. Native planting areas will be fenced to deter geese

and reduce vandalism of plantings. At present, MPRB staff are exploring other options to remove the extensive cattail mat that comprises a majority of the North Bay.

It is important to perform cattail control in the North and South Bays during the 2015 growing season so progress made with the project to date will not take a step backward. To this end, staff requested that AES develop costs for control activities to prevent the North Bay cattail mat from seeding and also costs for cutting and disposal of dead cattail stems resulting from control efforts in the North Bay. These costs are included in the current project scope.

Applied Ecological Services (AES) has worked with the MPRB on previous phases of cattail control in Loring Pond. From 2012 until 2014, AES worked under permits granted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR) to implement a cattail control project and emergent vegetation restoration in a 150 foot section of shoreline on the south side of Loring Pond's South Bay.

In September 2014, a PSA with Applied Ecological Services was amended to include a project to cut cattails during the fall and early winter 2014-2015. This work was initiated in an effort to control as many cattails as possible through winter and early growing season suffocation of cattail rhizomes and reduction of cattail biomass in the pond.

The Minnesota State Senate passed legislation in 2014 to authorize the MPRB to: "remove all hybrid and narrow-leaved cattails by mechanical removal and chemical control at Loring Lake in Hennepin County, and replant the shoreland with native species" (see *Attachment 4 - 2014 Minnesota Session Laws, Chapter 290, Sec. 60*).

Cattails will be starting to set seed in August and September, and prevention of seeding is a critical activity for Loring's cattail control program. A summary of selected literature on methods to control cattails is included as *Attachment 5*. Due to these time constraints, staff requests that this resolution be brought simultaneously before the Administration and Finance Committee and Full Board on July 1, 2015 to expedite implementation of the project and PSA.

PREVIOUS BOARD ACTIONS

September 17, 2014	Resolution 2014-292 amending the Professional Services Agreement with Applied Ecological Services, Inc., Contract #C-35787, to Provide Additional Hybrid and Narrow-Leaved Cattail Removal in Loring Pond, to Increase the Contract Amount from $21,000 to a New Total of $77,638.10, and to Extend the Contract from December 31, 2014, to December 31, 2015.
February 18, 2015	Resolution 2015-126 committing $56,638.10 of Commissioner Tabb's "District Commissioner Funds" to Pay for the Additional

Hybrid and Narrow-Leaved Cattail Removal in Loring Pond.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends, that the Board of Commissioners approve a Professional Services Agreement with Applied Ecological Services, Inc., for $130,126.91 to provide hybrid and narrow-leaved cattail control, re-establish native emergent vegetation, and plant an upland buffer at Loring Pond at Loring Park from July 1, 2015 to December 31, 2018.

This action is supported by the following vision and goal statement in the MPRB 2007-2020 Comprehensive Plan:

Vision Theme 1:	Urban Forests, Natural Areas, and Waters that Endure and Captivate
Goal:	Sound Management Techniques Provide Healthy, Diverse, and Sustainable Natural Resources

ATTACHMENTS:

- Attachment 1 - AES PSA for Loring Pond (PDF)
- Attachment 2 - Loring Pond RFP (PDF)
- Attachment 3 - AES Proposal (PDF)
- Attachment 5 - AES 2014 Cattail Control Technique Summary (PDF)
- Attachment 4 - 2014 Minnesota Session Laws, Chapter 290, Sec.60 (PDF)

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Review:

Debra Pilger	Completed	06/22/2015 11:49 AM
Justin Long	Completed	06/22/2015 11:54 AM
Jayne Miller	Completed	06/22/2015 4:20 PM
Administration & Finance Committee	Pending	07/01/2015 5:20 PM