

Board Action Request (14-0212)

(05/19/2014 - Forwarded from County Administration by Rachelle, Tait with a status of Communication)

County Administrators Recommendation: Recommend Approval	Request Type: Board Action Request
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Originating Department: Environmental Services

Immediate Approval? No

Item:

Authorize the County Administrator to implement all duties and authorities transferred from the Hennepin Conservation District

Board Action Request

WHEREAS, the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners discontinued funding the Hennepin Conservation District and authorized the delivery of conservation services under county auspices in 2003; and

WHEREAS, the Hennepin Conservation District continued to provide services regarding the district's statutory responsibilities concerning the state cost-share program, Reinvest in Minnesota program and the Wetland Conservation Act; and

WHEREAS, upon the request of the Hennepin Conservation District Board of Supervisors, the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners authorized county staff to provide technical support for the remaining district programs and administrative support for the district board pursuant to a cooperative agreement in 2006 and as amended in 2012; and

WHEREAS, the state legislature enacted legislation, Minnesota Statutes, section 383B.761, in 2013 that provided a process for discontinuing the Hennepin Conservation District and transferring its duties and authorities to the county; and

WHEREAS, the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners submitted a petition to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources for the discontinuance of the Hennepin Conservation District and transfer of duties and authorities pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 383B.761 in 2013; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources approved the county's petition in December 2013 and issued an order for the discontinuance of the Hennepin Conservation District; and

WHEREAS, the Hennepin Conservation District pursuant to the order, transferred its remaining assets to the county and ceased operations in February 2014;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the County Administrator is authorized to implement the duties and authorities transferred from the Hennepin Conservation District pursuant to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources order dated December 18, 2013 and Minnesota Statutes, section 383B.761; and that the County Administrator can approve and submit all reports required by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources and approve contracts for the disbursement of state cost-share funds consistent with county policies.

Background:

History: In February 2003, the county board discontinued funding for the Hennepin Conservation District (HCD) and authorized the delivery of conservation services under county auspices. The HCD continued to provide services regarding the district's statutory responsibilities concerning the state cost-share program, Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) program, and the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA).

Representatives of the HCD met with county staff in 2006 to discuss alternatives for delivering the remaining HCD programs and

services. The outcome of these discussions was a cooperative agreement with HCD for county staff to provide technical support for HCD programs and services and administrative support to the HCD board. In return, HCD agreed to transfer to the county all funds it received from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) and other agencies.

In 2012, the cooperative agreement was amended to continue technical support through 2013 but eliminate administrative support for the HCD board.

In 2013, the state legislature enacted legislation that provided a process for discontinuing HCD and transferring its duties and authorities to the county. Pursuant to M.S. § 383B.761, the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners submitted a petition to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources for the discontinuance of the HCD and transfer of duties and authorities. The BWSR Board approved the county's petition in December 2013 and issued an order for the discontinuance of the HCD. The HCD, pursuant to the order, transferred its remaining assets to the county and ceased operations in February 2014.

Current Request: This request authorizes the County Administrator to implement all duties and authorities transferred from the HCD. Specifically, the County Administrator is authorized to approve and submit all reports required by the BWSR and approve contracts for the disbursement of state cost-share funds consistent with county policies.

Impact/Outcomes: Authorizing the County Administrator to implement the duties and authorities transferred from the HCD completes the process of discontinuing the HCD. County residents will continue to have access to the state cost-share program, the benefits associated with the RIM conservation easement program, and the wetland protection activities pursuant to the WCA without the unnecessary administrative costs associated with maintaining an elected HCD board or negotiating additional amendments to a cooperative agreement. These programs and services will complement the county's conservation programs initiated in 2003.

Contact: Rosemary Lavin

Contact Phone: 612-348-8596

Created Date: **System Date**

Board Agenda Number:

County Admin Disposition:

Communication Date:

Committee Name:

Committee Date:

Committee Meeting Section:

Additional Readers: Lavin, Rosemary (FR8915)

Are Certified Copies Required?: No	Quantity: 0
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History

05/19/2014 - Forwarded from County Administration by Rachele, Tait with a status of Communication

05/19/2014 - Assigned to County Administrator

05/19/2014 - BAR forwarded to County Administrator by Rachele, Tait with a status of Communication

05/12/2014 - Assigned to County Coordinator

05/12/2014 - Request Approved/Forwarded for Approval from Deputy/Assistant Administrator by Brisk, Debra

05/12/2014 - Assigned to Deputy Assistant Administrator

05/12/2014 - Request Approved/Forwarded for Approval from Department Head by Michaud, Carl

05/12/2014 - Assigned to Department Head

05/12/2014 - Submitted for Approval by Roering, Amy S

05/12/2014 - Request created for Environmental Services by Roering, Amy S