

State of Wisconsin

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Joint Committee on Finance

MEMORANDUM

To: Members
Joint Committee on Finance

From: Senator Alberta Darling
Representative John Nygren

Date: April 20, 2017

Re: 14-Day Passive Review Approval – DNR

Pursuant to s. 23.0917(6m), Stats., attached is a 14-day passive review request from the Department of Natural Resources, received on April 20, 2017.

Please review the material and notify **Senator Darling** or **Representative Nygren** no later than **Tuesday, May 9, 2017**, if you have any concerns about the request or if you would like the Committee to meet formally to consider it.

Also, please contact us if you need further information.

Attachments

AD:JN:jm

State of Wisconsin
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
101 S. Webster Street
Box 7921
Madison WI 53707-7921

Scott Walker, Governor
Cathy Stepp, Secretary
Telephone 608-266-2621
FAX 608-267-3579
TTY Access via relay - 711



April 20, 2017

The Honorable Alberta Darling, Co-Chair
Committee on Joint Finance
Room 317 East
State Capitol
PO Box 7882
Madison WI 53707

The Honorable John Nygren, Co-Chair
Committee on Joint Finance
Room 309 East
State Capitol
PO Box 8953
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Senator Darling and Representative Nygren:

Pursuant to s. 23.0917(6m), Wis. Stats., the Department is notifying you as co-chairs of the Joint Committee on Finance of a proposed development grant to the City of Oshkosh for the South Shore Riverwalk project.

The City requested grant assistance to construct a paved multi-use trail, trail amenities, shoreline stabilization structures, and fishing access points on the shore of the Fox River downtown Oshkosh. The Riverwalk is an interconnected set of multi-use trails along the Fox River between the Wisconsin Street bridge and Lake Winnebago. Upon project completion, the public will be able to hike, bike, picnic, observe the Fox River, and fish from the property. Through a public-private partnership, this project complements ongoing economic redevelopment efforts in downtown Oshkosh.

The proposed grant award of \$753,923.00 is from the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program. The award amount represents 47% of the estimated total project costs. The City has secured their required matching funds.

As provided in s. 23.0917(6m)(a), Wis. Stats., if the Department does not receive notification of the scheduling of a hearing from either of the Joint Committee on Finance co-chairpersons within 14 working days from today, the Department will award this grant.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Cathy Stepp
Secretary

Cc: Doug Haag – Administrator, Division of Internal Services
Terry Bay – Director, Bureau of Facilities & Lands

Enclosure

DATE: April 20, 2017

TO: Members of the Joint Committee on Finance

FROM: Cathy Stepp, Secretary

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF STEWARDSHIP DEVELOPMENT GRANT FOR FUNDING GREATER THAN \$250,000: SOUTH SHORE RIVERWALK, CITY OF OSHKOSH

Pursuant to s.s. 23.0917(6m)(a) and (c), Wis. Stats., the Department is notifying you of a proposed Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program grant in the amount of \$753,923.00 to the City of Oshkosh for construction of the next segment of South Shore Riverwalk. The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship program is funded under s. 20.866(2)(ta), Wis. Stats.

I. PROJECT DETAILS:

Project Sponsor: City of Oshkosh

Grant sub-programs: Acquisition and Development of Local Parks; Urban Rivers

County: Winnebago County

Location: The project is located downtown Oshkosh and follows along the south shore of the Fox River from Oregon Street west through the former Jeld-Wen industrial site.

Project Description: The South Shore Riverwalk project includes construction of a 12' paved multi-use trail, associated trail amenities, shoreline stabilization structures, and fishing access points. Morgan District LLC, owner of the private property on which the project will be built, granted a permanent easement to the City for construction and ongoing management. Via a public-private partnership, this project will provide access to the Fox River in an area that has never been open to the public.

The Oshkosh Riverwalk is an extensive set of multi-use trails along the north and south sides of the Fox River between the Wisconsin Street bridge and Lake Winnebago. The Riverwalk trail system was adopted in the City's Comprehensive Plan in 1993 and readopted in 2005. The City completed significant trail segments in 2009, 2012, 2013, and 2015. The City completed the north side in 2013 and began the south side in 2012. The City is currently constructing a trail segment along the river east of Oregon Street, which would connect to the proposed project. The proposed project is the next phase of the Oshkosh Riverwalk. The City's goal is to complete the south shore loop in 2021. The location and timing of this project supports the City's current and future downtown redevelopment activities, including Riverside Park, the Leach Amphitheater, and residential/commercial development along the river.

The City of Oshkosh received Stewardship grants in 2012 (\$542,300.00), 2013 (\$774,100.00), and 2014 (\$444,600.00) for construction of the first segments of the South Side Riverwalk. These grants were submitted to the Joint Committee on Finance in April 2012, April 2013, and May 2014 for passive review. No objections were raised.

Project Goals: The South Shore Riverwalk project implements goals of the Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan and the following local/regional plans:

- City of Oshkosh Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
- City of Oshkosh Comprehensive Plan
- East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission – Goals, Strategies, and a Plan for Action
- Fox River Corridor Riverwalk Plan
- WIOUWASH State Trail Master Plan
- Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway Plan

In addition, redevelopment of brownfields for public outdoor recreation purposes is a Stewardship grant program priority per s. 23.09(19)(cm) Wis. Stats. and ch. NR 51.935 Wis. Admin. Code. The subject property meets the definition of a brownfield under s. 23.09(19)(a)1 and received a Certification of Completion via the Voluntary Party Liability Exemption Program (s. 292.15 Wis. Stats.). This project directly supports brownfields redevelopment goals of the Stewardship grant program.

Public Uses: The Riverwalk will be available to the public seven days per week, 365 days per year. Users will be able to hike, bike, picnic, observe the Fox River, and fish from the property.

Property Management: The Riverwalk will be operated and maintained by the City of Oshkosh Parks Department, consistent with their management policy.

Timetable: The City is ready to begin the project immediately upon receipt of all grant contracts, with construction anticipated to begin in summer 2017. The project will be fully open to the public by spring of 2018.

Partnerships:

- City of Oshkosh: Design, engineering, construction, operation, and maintenance of the project.
- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources: Grant assistance for engineering and construction.
- Morgan District LLC (private): Permanent easement to allow construction and ongoing maintenance of the project.
- Federal Recreational Trails Program: Grant assistance for engineering and construction.

II. PROJECT FINANCES:

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| City Funds | \$ 798,924.00 (50%) |
| DNR Stewardship Grant | \$ 753,923.00 (47%) |
| Federal Recreational Trails Program Grant | \$ 45,000.00 (3%) |
| Total Project Cost | \$ 1,597,847.00 |

The Federal Recreational Trails Program grant was approved by the Federal Highway Administration in November, 2016, and verified by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation in January, 2017. The City's matching funds for the state and federal grant awards were approved in the City's 2017 Capital Improvement Plan.

III. RECOMMENDED:

Terry H. Bay 4/14/17
Terry Bay, Director Date
Bureau of Facilities and Lands

Doug Haag 4-17-17
Doug Haag, Administrator Date
Division of Internal Services

IV. ATTACHMENTS:

- A: Project location map
- B: Site development plan



Proposed Knowles-Nelson Local Units of Government Stewardship Grant Award
South Shore Riverwalk: City of Oshkosh, Winnebago County

Attachment A
Project Location
Map



1: 63,360



2.0 0 1.00 2.0 Miles

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Proposed Knowles-Nelson Local Units of Government Stewardship Grant Award
South Shore Riverwalk: City of Oshkosh, Winnebago County

Attachment B
Site Development
Plan

