



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 27, 2024

TO: Forest Preserve District Finance & Administration Committee

FROM: Benjamin Haberthur, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Presentation and Approval of Authorization to Apply for and Enter into Grant Agreements

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the Committee with information to consider allowing broader authority for senior staff to expedite the grant application process and better position the District for success.

BACKGROUND:

The District has a long history of successfully leveraging capital funds as match for large state and federal grant programs. This practice has allowed us to install more miles of trail, create more acres of habitat, and build more interactive nature exhibits than we could have managed without the assistance of these programs.

However, Requests for Proposals (RFP) are often only posted for short time durations and deadlines for applications often require quick turnaround for full project consideration. Additionally, most applications are not considered complete without a board resolution from the applying organization. These short postings and quick turnarounds often do not sync with the District's commission cycle. This results in either missed opportunities or the need for retroactive ratification by the board after a grant's deadline has passed.

In order to ensure future grant deadlines are not missed, and to minimize the amount of ratification asked of the board, broader authorization is being sought for senior District staff to apply for any grant (private, state, federal or other) that will help offset the cost of any upcoming capital project. These projects are enumerated in the 2024 Update to the Comprehensive Master Plan (available upon Commission approval at www.kaneforest.com).

Large grant applications (i.e. OSLAD, LWCF etc.) will still be presented to the board; however, this broader annual authorization and associated resolution will obviate the need for individual resolution requests and convert these presentations to simple communications.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Capital projects that have the potential for grant funding will be identified in the 2024/2025 fiscal year budget. The competitive nature of grants prevents the prediction of exact award amounts, however typical grant splits vary from 50:50, 80:20 or even 100% (DCEO) of total project cost.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Committee approve the grant application authority as detailed above effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

ATTACHMENTS: *None.*