



Memorandum

To: Mayor Nelson and Members of the City Council

From: Daniel R. Buchholtz, MMC, Administrator, Clerk/Treasurer

Date: October 28, 2022

Subject: Submittal of Joint List for Rice Creek Watershed District Manager Opening

The City of Spring Lake Park has been asked to support a joint list being submitted by Fridley, Columbia Heights, Lino Lakes, Centerville, Blaine, Circle Pines and Lexington presenting three candidates to the Anoka County Board for possible appointment to the Rice Creek Watershed District Board.

The Rice Creek Watershed District is governed by a Board of Managers comprised of 5 members appointed by the commissioners of Anoka, Ramsey and Washington Counties. Of the five members, two are appointed from Anoka County, two from Ramsey County and one from Washington County. The term of each appointment is three years, with managers eligible to be reappointed. To be eligible for appointment, a nominee must reside within the watershed district boundaries, be eligible to vote in the district, and not be a public officer of the county, state or federal government.

Pursuant to M.S. §103B.227, Anoka County has published a notice detailing a vacancy will occur on the Rice Creek Watershed District Board of Managers due to the expiration of the term of Patricia Preiner, City of Columbus. Persons interested in being appointed to serve on the Board of Managers may submit their names for consideration to the Anoka County Board.

In appointing a manager to the Rice Creek Watershed District, M.S. §103D.311 is also applicable. This statute requires a county board, upon the expiration of a term, to appoint managers for a watershed district from a list of persons nominated jointly or severally by the towns and municipalities within the district if a list(s) is (are) submitted 60 days before the managers term expires or the county board may appoint any manager from towns and municipalities that fail to submit a list. In order for the county to accept nominations for the expiring term, they must be received by November 18, 2022.

The opening is in Hydrologic Area 4, which covers all or parts of Blaine, Lino Lakes, and Circle Pines. The City of Spring Lake Park is in Hydrologic Area 5, which covers the southwest portion of the RCWD District. That manager position is appointed by the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners and is currently not up for appointment. While not required, it is preferred that the representative live in Hydrologic Area 4.

The four nominees proposed for the joint list are:

Jess Robertson, Blaine
Jan Kreminski, Circle Pines
Scott Robinson, Lino Lakes
Heidi Ferris, Fridley

All four nominees have been vetted by the City Council in the city in which they reside and were recommended for inclusion on the joint list. Three of the four nominees are the same nominees as last year. The City of Fridley added a nomination.

Staff is recommending the City Council approve a resolution that states that the City is part of the jointly submitted list from Fridley, Columbia Heights, Blaine, Centerville, Circle Pines, Lino Lakes, and Lexington. This will strengthen the case for an appointment from this jointly provided list.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at 763-784-6491.