

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL
390 North Robert Street, St. Paul, MN 55101
Phone (651) 602-1000 TDD (651) 291-0904

DATE: March 30, 2010

TO: Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission

FROM: Arne Stefferud, Planning Analyst-Parks (651) 602-1360

SUBJECT: (2010-xxx) Request to reallocate balance of Grant SG-2008-037 from completed Central Anoka County Regional Trail project to Grant SG-2008-051 for Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve development project, Anoka County

INTRODUCTION

A grant to construct a portion of the Central Anoka County Regional Trail (SG-2008-031) has a balance of \$43,917.60. That grant expired on December 31, 2009. Anoka County would like to use this balance to cover unforeseen cost increases for development at Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve originally financed with a \$740,000 grant (Grant SG-2008-051). (See **Attachment 1**, letter from Karen Blaska, Anoka County).

This memorandum contains a review of this request under applicable terms of the grant agreement. Staff found that the request is consistent with section 6.06 of the grant agreement, which allows the grantee to request changes in the allocation of existing grant funds for cause. The Metropolitan Council must consider the request since it increases the amount of grant SG-2008-051.

AUTHORITY TO REVIEW

Minnesota Statute Section 473.315 authorizes the “Metropolitan Council with the advice of the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission to make grants from any funds available to it for recreation open space purposes to any municipality, park district or county located wholly or partially within the metropolitan area to cover the cost, or any portion of the cost, of acquiring or developing regional recreation open space in accordance with the [*Regional Recreation Open Space*] Policy Plan”.

ANALYSIS

Grant SG-2008-037 of \$125,000 was approved on May 28, 2008 to partially finance the construction of 2 miles of the Central Anoka County Regional Trail. The City of Centerville was providing a dollar for dollar match to this grant based on actual construction costs. The actual cost was \$162,164.80, which reduced the County’s share to \$81,082.40 and left a balance in the grant of \$43,917.60. This grant expired on December 31, 2009.

Grant SG-2008-051 of \$740,000 was also approved on May 28, 2008. It was proposed to fund the following items at Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve:

construction of a campground visitor center, access road and associated parking lot, plus 1 mile of trail, 1 picnic shelter, a playground, and associated landscaping, restoration, utilities and fees.

Both grants were part of Anoka County’s allocation in the 2008-09 Regional Parks Capital Improvement Program.

Due to unforeseen issues in constructing the campground visitor center, additional funds are needed. The County requests that the \$43,917.60 balance in expired grant SG-2008-037 be reallocated to grant SG-2008-051, which would increase the grant from \$740,000 to \$783,917.60.

The County submitted a map illustrating the location of these projects (see **Attachment 1**). Both projects are in close proximity to each other. Transferring the unspent funds in the completed trail project to help fund the campground visitor center nearby would enhance the overall recreational opportunities in Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve.

In order to consider this request, Section 6.06 of the grant agreement states:

6.06 Changes in the Development Project. If the Grantee [Anoka County], for any reason, determines that the Development Project or any portion of it should not be undertaken, or that there should be a change in the scope or costs of the Development Project or any portion of it, the Grantee shall submit to the Council's Regional Administrator a statement describing the situation and giving the reasons for the Grantee's determination. The Grantee may, simultaneously with the submission of the statement or within a reasonable time thereafter, recommend alternative projects, activities, uses, expenditures, or allocations of grant funds. ...

If the Regional Administrator determines that the Grantee's recommendations may not be immediately approved according to criteria established by the Council, the Grantee and the Council may execute a written amendment to this agreement only as provided in paragraph 6.07 of this article, following appropriate authorization by the Council and the Grantee.

... In determining whether to approve the Grantee's recommendations, the Council shall give full regard to legislative determinations concerning development funding and to the general position that the total grant award herein should ultimately be made available to the Grantee for development.

The County's request to reallocate the balance of the completed trail project from Grant SG-2008-037 to help finance the costs of the campground visitor center in Grant SG-2008-051 is consistent with the conditions of section 6.06 because:

1. Anoka County has notified the Council for a change to Grant SG-2008-051 in **Attachment 1**.
2. The use of the balance in expired Grant SG-2008-037 to help finance the campground visitor center in Grant SG-2008-051 does not change the County's share of the funded portion of the Metropolitan Council's 2008-09 Regional Parks CIP. Therefore the reallocation, "gives full regard to legislative determinations" of the Metropolitan Council, "and to the general position that the total grant award ... should ultimately be made available to the Grantee [Anoka County]".

CONCLUSION

Reallocating the \$43,917.60 balance in expired grant SG-2008-037 to grant SG-2008-051 to help fund unforeseen costs for the campground visitor center at Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve is consistent with the conditions in section 6.06 of grant agreement SG-2008-051.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes a reallocation of the \$43,917.60 balance in expired grant SG-2008-037 to grant SG-2008-051 to help finance unforeseen costs in constructing the campground visitor center at Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve, and directs Council staff to execute an amendment to grant SG-2008-051 that reflects this reallocation.

Attachment 1: Letter from Karen Blaska, Anoka County



Anoka County Parks and Recreation

550 Bunker Lake Boulevard NW, Andover, MN 55304

March 9, 2010

Mr. Arne Stefferud
Metropolitan Council
390 Robert St. N.
St. Paul, MN 55101

Re: Grant # SG-2008-037 and SG-2008-051

Dear Arne:

As you are aware, the Anoka County Parks and Recreation Department has recently requested reimbursement for construction of the Central Anoka County Regional Trail through the City of Centerville as per grant #SG-2008-037. The total grant amount was \$125,000. The total cost for construction of the Central Anoka County Regional Trail was \$162,164.80, making our reimbursement request one half of the total cost or \$81,082.40. The City of Centerville provided the funding for the other half of the total cost. This reimbursement request leaves a balance on the grant of \$43,917.60, which expired on December 31, 2009.

Due to a few unforeseen construction issues, there have been some increases in costs to the building at Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve covered under grant agreement #SG-2008-051. To help offset those costs, the Parks and Recreation Department would like to request that the balance on Grant Agreement #SG-2008-037 (\$43,917.60) be re-appropriated to Grant Agreement #SG-2008-051 increasing that grant amount from \$740,000 to \$783,917.60

I am enclosing a map that shows the location of the grant projects in relation to one another. Since the projects are in close proximity to each other, the County feels that the request to amend these grant agreements is valid and will enhance the overall recreational opportunities in the area.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 763-767-2865 or 612-845-8391, or via e-mail at karen.blaska@co.anoka.mn.us.

Thank you and regards,

Karen Blaska
Park Planner

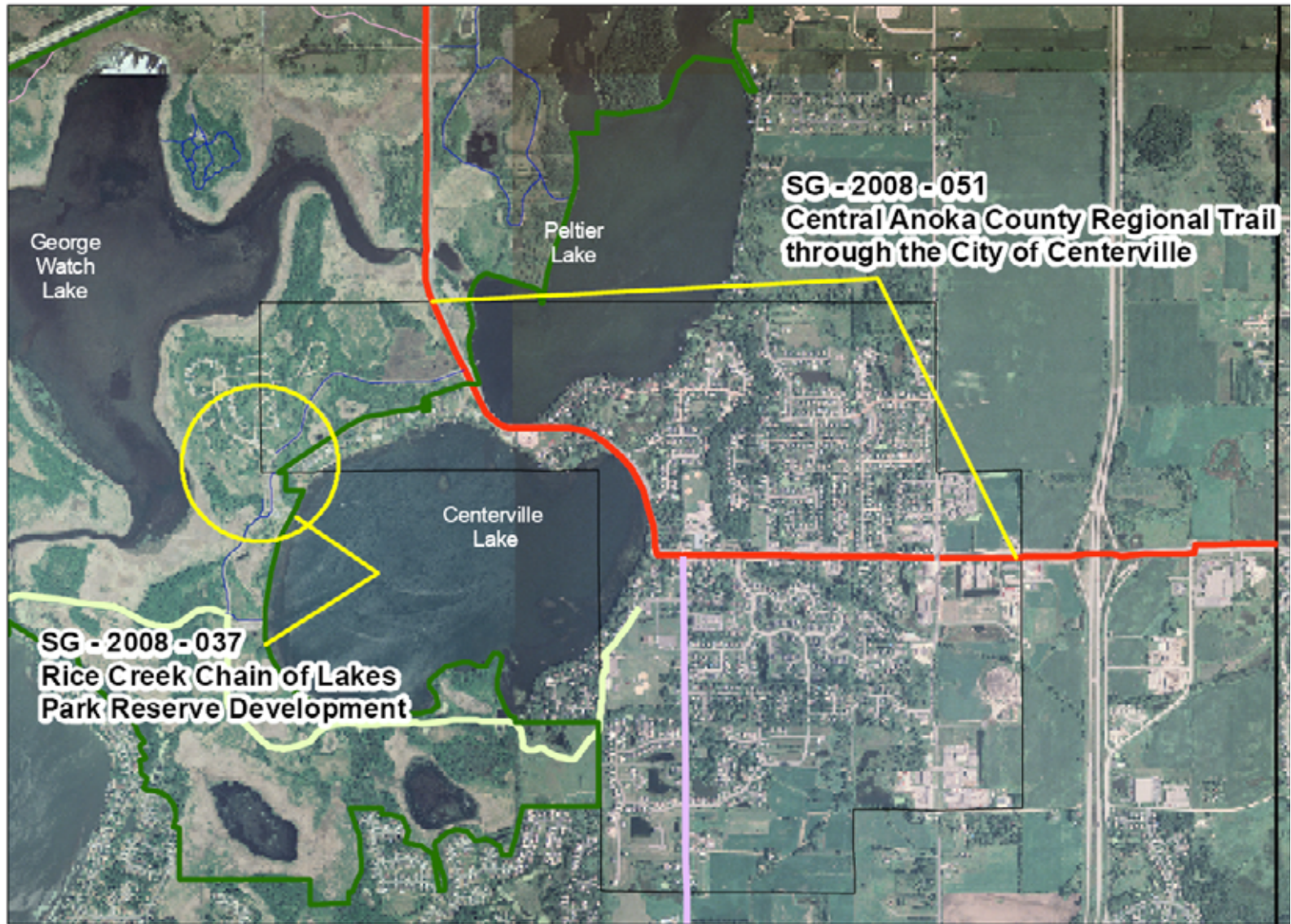
Enclosure(s)

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Fax: 763.755.0230



Met Council Grant Agreements
 SG - 2008 - 037 & SG - 2008 - 051

