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(ITEM) From the Director, Department of Parks, Recreation, and Culture, requesting retroactive authorization to apply for one or more Root-Pike Watershed Initiative Network grants, by recommending adoption of the following:

A RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Root-Pike Watershed Initiative Network’s (WIN’s) resource group is currently accepting applications for its 2014-15 grant cycle and community-based projects are considered and awards will be made in January 2015; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Culture (DPRC) would propose a project entitled “Root River Parkway Reforestation” and would request \$10,000; and

WHEREAS, this grant does not require a match by Milwaukee County but DPRC would propose a \$3,181 in-kind match to be competitive; and

WHEREAS, the project proposes to remove 6.9 acres of leased parkland from agricultural production and reforest the site to native hardwood trees as this site is the only non-forested gap in what would otherwise be a 122-acre block of contiguous forest directly adjacent to the Root River; and

WHEREAS, by planting the site to a diversity of native hardwood trees, the site will assist in buffering the short- and long-term degradation of adjacent Root River buffers dominated by green and black ash that are currently experiencing severe declines due to the spread of the emerald ash borer; and

WHEREAS, DPRC would partner with Franklin High School’s ECO Club and environmental science classes to implement the proposed project; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors hereby retroactively authorizes the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Culture to apply for one or more Root-Pike Watershed Initiative Network grants.