Date: February 25, 2014

To: Marina Dimitrijevic, Chairwoman, County Board of Supervisors

From: John Dargle, Jr., Director, Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture

### Subject: Authorization to Apply for, Accept, and Implement One or More Fund for Lake Michigan Grants – ACTION

**Policy**

The Director of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture (DPRC) is seeking authorization to apply for, accept, and implement one or more Fund for Lake Michigan (FLM) Program grant applications.

**Background**

The mission of the Fund for Lake Michigan is to support efforts, and in particular those in southeastern Wisconsin, that enhance the health of Lake Michigan, and its shoreline and tributary river systems, for the benefit of the people, plants and animals that depend upon the system for water, recreation and commerce.

Grant making in 2014 will focus on southeastern Wisconsin, with a preference for projects that:

• Enhance the ecological health of near shore and coastal areas and the rivers of southeastern Wisconsin through habitat preservation and restoration.

• Improve the quality of the water flowing into Lake Michigan by reducing pollutants including toxins and nutrients such as phosphorus.

Priority will be given to on-the-ground projects that have near-term (1-2 years), direct and quantifiable impacts on the priorities listed above, including protecting critical natural habitats and making water resources more swimmable, fishable and drinkable. Special consideration will be given to projects that leverage the significant public and private investments of other key Lake Michigan and Great Lakes donors.

Geographically, Fund for Lake Michigan grants are targeted to the Lake Michigan shoreline, near shore areas and watersheds of Southeastern Wisconsin.

The Fund employs a two-step grant-making process –a Request for Letters of Inquiry (LOI) followed by invitations to submit full proposals from prospective grantees that are best suited to help achieve the Fund’s goals. Invitations to submit full proposals will be sent out in March. The Fund will make final grant decisions by late spring.

No match is required for FLM grants, although sponsors and project partners are encouraged to demonstrate commitment to a proposal through contributions of funds and/or in-kind resources.

**Recommendation**

The Parks Director recommends that the Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture be authorized to apply for one or more FLM Program grant applications and to undertake all actions and activities necessary to accept and implement FLM Program grant awards offered to Milwaukee County.

Prepared by: Bill Waldron, Natural Resources Specialist

**Recommended by: Approved by:**

Laura Schloesser, Chief of John Dargle, Jr., Director

Administration & External Affairs

cc: County Executive Chris Abele

Amber Moreen, Chief of Staff, County Executive’s Office

Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board

Sup. Gerry Broderick, Chairman, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee

Sup. Khalif Rainey, Vice-Chair, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee

Dan Laurila, Fiscal Mgt. Analyst, Admin & Fiscal Affairs/DAS

Scott Manske, Comptroller, Office of the Comptroller

Alexis Gassenhuber, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee Clerk

Jessica Janz-McKnight, Research Analyst, Office of the Comptroller