Date: May 30, 2014

To: Marina Dimitrijevic, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

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

### Subject: Authorization to apply for one or more Wisconsin Citizen-based Monitoring Partnership Program grants – ACTION

**Policy**

The Director of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture (DPRC) is seeking authorization to apply for one or more Wisconsin Citizen-based Monitoring Partnership Program (WCBMPP) grants.

**Background**

WCBMPP grants are made available through a partnership between the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Wisconsin Citizen-based Monitoring Network. The DPRC Natural Areas Program is seeking authorization to apply for $5,000 in grant funding from the WCBMPP in order to implement a citizen-based ephemeral wetland monitoring program within the Milwaukee County Parks portions of the Root River Watershed.

If awarded, funds will be used to purchase approximately 20 monitoring "kits" which will include hip waders, thermometers, rulers, aquatic invertebrate sampling tools, identification guides, polarized sunglasses, dip nets, wildlife callback boxes, and aquatic funnel traps. Volunteers will attend trainings held by DPRC Natural Areas Staff at which they will learn the proper sampling techniques for conducting ephemeral pond inventories, aquatic invertebrate sampling, secretive marshbird surveys, amphibian egg mass surveys, and aquatic funnel trapping for salamanders and crayfish. After attending training, volunteers will be given a monitoring kit and assigned a particular natural area within the Root River Watershed to monitor ephemeral wetlands in using the aforementioned survey techniques.

Data collected by volunteers will be directly incorporated into DPRC Ecological Restoration and Management Plans and will be used to guide current and future land management practices regarding ephemeral wetlands in the Park System. WCBMPP grants require no match.

**Recommendation**

The Parks Director recommends that the Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture be authorized to apply for one or more Wisconsin Citizen-based Monitoring Partnership Program grants.

Prepared by: Julia Robson, Assistant Natural Areas Coordinator

**Recommended by: Approved by:**

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

Administration & External Affairs

copy: 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

Sup. Willie Johnson, Jr., Co-Chair, Finance, Personnel and Audit Committee

Sup. David Cullen, Co-Chair, Finance, Personnel and Audit Committee

Sup. Jason Haas, Vice Chair, Finance, Personnel and Audit Committee

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

Steve Cady, Research Services Director, Office of the Comptroller

Alexis Gassenhuber, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee Clerk

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

Janelle Jensen, Finance, Personnel and Audit Committee Clerk