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Memo

Date: 9/27/25

To: Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council Staff and Members

From: Gabriele Menomin, Director of Land and Environment at Wakan Tipi Awanyankapi

RE: One Year Extension Request, ML2022 Daylighting Phalen Creek

Summary of Request

Current appropriation language: ML 2022, Ch. 77, Art. 1, Sec. 2, subd. 5(u)

\$3,312,000 the second year is to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the Lower Phalen Creek Project (DBA Wakan Tipi Awanyankapi) to restore and enhance priority aquatic and riparian habitats associated with Phalen Creek in St. Paul. A list of proposed restorations must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

Reason for Request

- Our team is requesting an extension due to continued delays in our project schedule during the design phase of this project.
- During the design phase of the first quarter mile (Phase 1) of Daylighting Phalen Creek, we discovered a number of different design considerations with our major stakeholders that have caused significant timeline delays to the overall project. Our major stakeholders include the Metropolitan Council, DNR, City of Saint Paul Parks & Recreation, City of Saint Paul Public Works, Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed District, Ramsey County, and Saint Paul Board of Water Commissioners. It is more challenging than anticipated to obtain the necessary support and approvals.
- Additionally, conversations with major stakeholders around long-term maintenance, to ensure the sustainability of this project, conversations have only added to further project timeline delays.
- With the current project timeline, we would not be able to complete construction during the time period of the grant.
- An extension would ensure that our project has adequate time to both complete conversations with our stakeholders and complete the design phase, as well as have enough time to complete construction of this project.

Requested Change

- The Lower Phalen Creek Project (DBA Wakan Tipi Awanyankapi) team are requesting a one-year extension on this appropriation to accommodate for delays in the overall project timeline due to

conversations with stakeholders around design and long-term maintenance, so that the project can successfully complete design phase and construction. This extension will ensure that we have adequate time to complete the goals and tasks outlined in our proposal.