



CITY OF CONCORD

REPORT TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Beth Fenstermacher, Senior Planner

DATE: February 23, 2016

SUBJECT: Resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into two grant agreements with the State of NH Department of Environmental Services for the Local Source Water Protection Program Grant and the Aquatic Resource Mitigation Fund Grant which the City has been awarded for the amounts of \$20,000 and \$300,000, respectively, to be used towards the purchase of two parcels totaling 116-acres within the Penacook Lake Watershed, located off of Lakeview Drive and West Parish Road.

Recommendation

Resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into two grant agreements with the State of NH Department of Environmental Services for the Local Source Water Protection Program Grant and the Aquatic Resource Mitigation Fund Grant which the City has been awarded for the amounts of \$20,000 and \$300,000, respectively, to be used towards the purchase of two parcels totaling 116-acres within the Penacook Lake Watershed, located off of Lakeview Drive and West Parish Road.

Background

The City Council granted the City Manager the authority to apply for the Aquatic Resource Mitigation (ARM) Fund Grant on August 10, 2015, and on November 19, 2015, the City was notified that were awarded the ARM grant. The City Council granted the City Manager the authority to apply for a Local Source Water Protection (SWP) Grant on December 14, 2015, and on February 10, 2016, the City was notified that we were awarded the SWP grant.

In 2013, the City of Concord approached the Haller Family regarding the possibility of the City purchasing two lots (lots 103-1-33 and 103-1-22) containing 116 acres located off of Lakeview Drive and West Parish Road. The project links other protected land in the area, adding to a block of conservation land totaling nearly 900 acres. The land located directly across Lakeview Drive is part of a 685-acre area owned and maintained by the City to protect the water supply.

Discussion

The Conservation Commission discussed the property acquisition at their meeting on March 11, 2015, and supported the submission of the grant applications to leverage the cost of the property. The appraised value of the property as of October 21, 2013 was \$600,000. The Commission is requesting \$300,000 from the ARM fund, \$20,000 from the SWP fund to cover transaction costs, and anticipates providing the

remainder of the purchase price from the City's Conservation Trust Fund, contingent on a public hearing and vote of the Conservation Commission.

A Certificate of Vote of Authorization from City Council and a signed grant agreement are required documentation to begin the Governor & Council grant approval. Therefore, to help ensure that the process begins expeditiously, a resolution has been submitted which will allow the City Manager to enter into an agreement with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) prior to appropriating the funds.

BAF