

**STATE OF MINNESOTA
NORTH FORK CROW RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT**

**In Re: Establishment of Aquatic Invasive
Species project on Koronis**

Project Petition

TO: THE NORTH FORK CROW RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT BOARD OF MANAGERS

The undersigned Petitioners are the Koronis Lake Association and riparian property owners around Koronis Lake (together, “Petitioners”), and state and allege the following:

WHEREAS, this Project Petition is filed pursuant to and in compliance with Minnesota Statute §103D.705 requesting consideration by the North Fork Crow River Watershed District (“the District”) Board of Managers (“Board”) for the establishment of a new Aquatic Invasive Species project as set forth and described herein; and

WHEREAS, Lake Koronis (“the Lake”) is approximately 3,014 acres, with a littoral area of 1,176 acres, situated in Sections 20, 21, 27, 28, 29, 31, 32, 33, 34, and 35, all in Paynesville Township, Stearns County, and Section 3, Union Grove Township, Meeker County; and

WHEREAS, the Lake consists of privately- and publicly- owned riparian property owners owning property directly abutting the Lake or having deeded access to the Lake; and

WHEREAS, Petitioners have an interest in the basic water management function of the District and relies, in varying degrees, on the water resources of the District as source water and a significant natural amenity; and

WHEREAS, Petitioners recognize the need to manage water quality within the District, including the management of Aquatic Invasive Species (“AIS”), in order to balance future economic and social growth with the water and other natural resources found within the District; and

WHEREAS, the Koronis Lake Association (“the Association”) is a non-profit association established in 1971, and was formed to promote the protection and

improvement of the water quality of the Lake, and the management and treatment of AIS affecting the Lake; and

WHEREAS, the Association consists of volunteer citizen-members owning riparian property rights, including citizen-owners with deeded access to the Lake, and friends of Lake Koronis; and

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WHEREAS, the Association has implemented projects in the past for the treatment, control, prevention, and management of AIS, including, but not limited to, mechanical weed harvesting and chemical/herbicide treatment since 2016 to deal with problems created by nuisance levels of AIS, and the Association has invested considerable human (volunteer) and economic resources to control the spread of AIS.

WHEREAS, the majority of funding the Association has obtained for projects to treat, control, prevent, and manage AIS has been in the form of grants and private donations; and

WHEREAS, said grants are, however, due to expire in 2020, and said private donations will not be sustainable for ongoing AIS treatment, control, prevention, and management programs; and

WHEREAS, securing and establishing a new source of funding is necessary for the continued treatment, control, prevention and management of AIS in Koronis Lake; and

WHEREAS, Petitioners seek to work cooperatively with the District, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and other interested parties to implement AIS treatment, control, prevention, and management projects, consisting of, but not limited to, continued mechanical harvesting and chemical/herbicide treatment (“Proposed Project”).

WHEREAS, Petitioners intend to implement the Proposed Project in a manner that is consistent with the District’s mission to promote, preserve, and protect water resources within the boundaries of the District, and to maintain the biological integrity as indicated in its Watershed Management Plan; and

in its Watershed Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Proposed Project is intended to benefit all riparian properties adjacent to the Lake, as well as all properties with deeded access to the Lake; and

WHEREAS, Petitioners believe the Proposed Project will be conducive to public health, convenience, and welfare by reducing the degree and severity of AIS infestation which is vital to the protection of the Lake’s ecological integrity and health, as well as for the preservation of the local economy and the protection of other public and private waters within the District; and

WHEREAS, it is the Association’s intent to manage all aspects of the projects, including payments to contractors; and

WHEREAS, it is also the Association’s intent that the role of the District be to collect reimbursement through property assessments from riparian property owners and reimburse the Association for expenses incurred, said assessments being necessary to assure all benefited properties are paying for its respective benefit received from the AIS treatment, control, prevention and management; and

WHEREAS, t

his Project Petition is signed by at least 25 percent of the property owners or owners of more than 25 percent of the property within the limits of the area proposed to be improved around the Lake; and

WHEREAS, the actions petitioned as part of this project are consistent with Minnesota Statutes Chapter 103D, the District’s Watershed Management Plan, and the policies and bylaws of the Association; and

WHEREAS, Petitioners acknowledge and agree that the cost of the project, including the preliminary costs of project establishment, will be paid according to Minnesota Statutes Chapter 103D and the Petitioners agree to be bound by the provisions of the statute; and

WHEREAS, Petitioners further acknowledge and agree that Petitioners will

WHEREAS, Petitioners further acknowledge and agree that Petitioners will pay all costs and expenses incurred by the District if the proceedings are dismissed or if a contract is not awarded for the Proposed Project; and

WHEREAS, Petitioners request that the North Fork Crow River Watershed District follow the procedures of Minnesota Statutes Section 103D.705 in establishing the Project; and

WHEREAS, this Project Petition may be signed in counterparts, which shall be deemed a complete and conforming petition, and said Petitioners are specifically identified by their execution of individual signature pages which are attached hereto and incorporated herein.

NOW, THEREFORE, Petitioners present this Project Petition to the North Fork Crow River Watershed District Board of Managers for the establishment of a new Aquatic Invasive Species watershed district project on Koronis Lake as set forth and described herein

The signature of the Koronis Lake Association is supported by duly adopted resolution of the Koronis Lake Association governing body, a copy of which is attached to this petition.

Dated _____

Koronis Lake Association

By _____

Its: _____

By _____

Its: _____