



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

FROM:  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Executive Officer

DATE: June 6, 2018

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VI(b): Consideration of resolution assigning operations and funding of William O. Douglas Outdoor Classroom programs to Community Nature Connection per the reciprocal services agreement**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution assigning operations and funding of William O. Douglas Outdoor Classroom programs to Community Nature Connection per the reciprocal services agreement.

Background: On May 4th, 2016 the Governing Board approved a reciprocal services agreement with Community Nature Connection (CNC), a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. This agreement allows for the continuation of valuable education and interpretive services previously provided by MRCA's Division of Interpretation. At the same meeting, the Governing Board authorized assignment of funding received for education and interpretation programs to CNC for to continue funded programs. Counsel recommends that the Board reauthorize these provisions each fiscal year.

Funded by the National Park Service, the purpose of the operations of the William O. Douglas Outdoor Classroom (WODOC) is to provide education and public programming that encourage visitors to use park lands in a non-consumptive manner and help facilitate resources and visitor management of park lands. Specifically, educational programs for Title I school groups are provided as well as interpretive programs for the public and training for volunteers. Community Nature Connection also provides the operations of the public facility known as the Sooky Goldman Nature Center by keeping regular, open hours for the public. Coordination is provided by Community Nature Connection staff whose office location is within the Sooky Goldman Nature Center.

Consideration: Total funding from the National Park Service for the 2018-19 federal fiscal year is \$193,500.

Fiscal Impact: The funding will be included in the final 2018-19 budget.