

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF AUTHORIZING THE ) RESOLUTION NO. 16-4728  
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TO SUBMIT A )  
LETTER OF SUPPORT TO THE APPLICATION ) Introduced by Chief Operating Officer Martha  
FOR DESIGNATION OF THE TUALATIN Bennett in concurrence with Council  
RIVER WATER TRAIL AS A NATIONAL President Tom Hughes  
WATER TRAIL

WHEREAS, the Tualatin River Water Trail is an outstanding resource for recreation; and

WHEREAS, Washington County Visitors Association has made the Tualatin River Water Trail a keystone in their nature-based tourism target market and published “A Paddler’s Access Guide to the Lower Tualatin River”; and

WHEREAS, Tualatin Riverkeepers, with the support of Metro and local stakeholders, is completing an application to the U.S. Secretary of the Interior to designate the Tualatin River Water Trail as a National Water Trail (NWT); and

WHEREAS, the NWT designation is proposed from Rood Bridge Park in Hillsboro, downstream to the Willamette River; and

WHEREAS, the designation requires that the trail be open to the public, remain open for public use for at least the next 10 years, be designed, constructed and maintained according to best management practices, and comply with all applicable land use plans and environmental laws; and

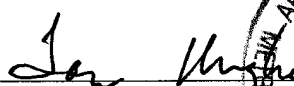
WHEREAS, the benefits of the NWT designation include increased visibility and prestige of being part of the National Trails System, use of the NWT logo, access to funding opportunities, training, and technical assistance, and inclusion in the online NWT database; and

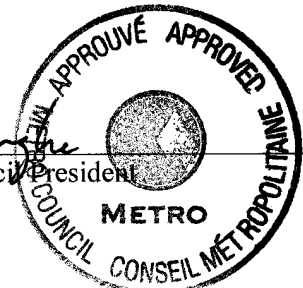
WHEREAS, Metro is developing and will manage the Farmington Natural Area for public access to the Tualatin River Water Trail; and

WHEREAS, the application requires letters of support; NOW THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED by the Metro Council that the Chief Operating Officer is hereby authorized and directed to execute a letter of support on behalf of the Metro for the national water trail application.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this 1<sup>st</sup> day of September, 2016

  
Tom Hughes, Council President



Approved as to Form:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alison R. Kean', written over a horizontal line.

Alison R. Kean, Metro Attorney

Exhibit A to Resolution No. 16-4728  
(Letter of Consent)

**LETTER OF CONSENT – NATIONAL WATER TRAIL DESIGNATION**

Metro, a municipal corporation, owns and maintains several properties along the Tualatin River Water Trail. One of these sites, located near the intersection of River Road and Farmington Road in Washington County, is currently under development and scheduled for completion in 2016. Planned and approved improvements include an access road, parking, restroom, and maintained walkways providing river access. On site habitat and the riparian corridor will also be improved.

Metro supports the designation of the Tualatin River Water Trail as a National Water Trail and gives its full consent to the application for that designation.

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME (Printed): \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

DEPARTMENT: \_\_\_\_\_

AGENCY: \_\_\_\_\_

## STAFF REPORT

IN CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 16- 4728, FOR THE PURPOSE OF AUTHORIZING THE CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TO SUBMIT A LETTER OF SUPPORT TO THE APPLICATION FOR DESIGNATION OF THE TUALATIN RIVER WATER TRAIL AS A NATIONAL WATER TRAIL

---

Date: September 1, 2016

Prepared by: Parks and Nature Planning

### BACKGROUND

Metro has been working with the Tualatin Riverkeepers and other jurisdictional partners and stakeholders to enhance the Tualatin River Water Trail as a recreational resource for residents and visitors to the region. The Tualatin River Water Trail runs nearly 40 miles through farm lands, cities, and the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge from Rood Bridge Park in Hillsboro to the confluence with the Willamette River. The vision for the Tualatin River Water Trail is to establish access points every five miles between these two locations with the intent of providing convenient public access to paddling, fishing and wildlife viewing. The most recent Metro led effort towards achieving this goal is the development of a paddle launch at the Farmington Natural Area.

Tualatin Riverkeepers is initiating an application to the Secretary of the Interior to designate the Tualatin River Water Trail as a National Water Trail (NWT). The National Water Trails System is a network of exceptional water trails that are accessible to the public and support a national community of water resource managers to sustain America's rivers, shorelines and waterways through collaboration. Upon designation, the Tualatin River will join a list of nationally treasured water trails on water bodies including the Puget Sound and the Willamette, Missouri and Mississippi Rivers. In order to meet the requirements of designation as a National Water Trail, all water trail access points must be open to the public and written owner consent for the application must be submitted to the Secretary of the Interior. In order to move forward, water trail access points must be open to the public and written support for the application must be submitted to the Secretary of the Interior.

### ANALYSIS/INFORMATION

#### 1. Known Opposition

None

#### 2. Legal Antecedents

None

#### 3. Anticipated Effects

The National Water Trails System is a distinctive national network of exemplary water trails that are cooperatively supported and sustained. More specifically, the National Water Trails System has been established to:

- Protect and restore America's rivers, shorelines, and waterways.
- Increase access to outdoor recreation on shorelines and waterways.

Benefits of designation into the National Water Trails System include:

- Designation by the Secretary of the Interior, including a letter and certificate announcing the designation as a national water trail.

- National promotion and visibility, including use by the management entity of the National Water Trails System logo in appropriate settings and trail publications.
- Mutual support and knowledge sharing as part of a national network.
- Opportunities to obtain technical assistance and funding for planning and implementing water trail projects.

#### 4. **Budget Impacts**

None

#### **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

It is recommended that Metro Council pass a resolution in support of the National Water Trail designation and, as owners and managers of a water trail access point, provide a letter of support for inclusion in Tualatin Riverkeepers' application to designate the Tualatin River Water Trail as a National Water Trail.