

**MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Agenda Item Summary Sheet**

**Name:** Finance and Facilities Committee

**Date:** January 28, 2015

**Title:** Minnesota State University Moorhead Approval for Athletic Field Improvement Contract Exceeding \$1 Million

**Purpose (check one):**

Proposed  
New Policy or  
Amendment to  
Existing Policy

Approvals  
Required by  
Policy

Other  
Approvals

Monitoring /  
Compliance

Information

**Brief Description:**

To obtain board approval of a contract not to exceed \$2 million for purposes of replacing of Minnesota State University Moorhead's athletic field lighting and artificial turf on the newly renamed Scheel's Field.

**Scheduled Presenter(s):**

Brian Yolitz, Associate Vice Chancellor - Facilities

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES**

**BOARD ACTION**

**Minnesota State University Moorhead Approval for Athletic Field  
Improvement Contract Exceeding \$1 Million**

**PURPOSE**

To obtain Board of Trustees approval of a contract in excess of \$1 million, consistent with Policy 5.14, *Contracts and Procurement*.

**BACKGROUND**

Minnesota State University Moorhead was the recipient of a \$1 million gift from Scheel's Sports for purposes of improving the athletic field on campus. See **Exhibit A** for a site map. Specifically, the project includes the installation of artificial turf and replacement of the 1958-vintage field lighting (which previously had been a replacement candidate on the university's Higher Education Asset Preservation and Replacement (HEAPR) list). The existing lighting is in extremely poor condition and the 13,000 volt power supplying it could only be turned on by an electrician wearing safety gear. The gift from Scheel's Sports was designated for artificial turf and was also contingent on the campus securing funding to replace the lighting. The university intends to name the field Scheel's Field in honor of the generous contribution.

The total project cost is approximately \$1.9 million, which includes a construction contract in excess of \$1 million. The university will be using a combination of the \$1 million gift and campus repair and replacement funds to cover the total cost of the project. The university anticipates greater use and revenue potential with the replacement of the lights and installation of artificial turf. The lighting is designed to meet the NCAA lighting standard of 100 footcandles (FC), which is appropriate for national television broadcast. The new lights can be turned on via a simple switch or a secure smartphone application. Artificial turf does not require rest, as does natural turf so it can be scheduled daily and for more intensive use than natural grass. The useful life of artificial turf installation is 8-12 years and a replacement cost is estimated at \$435,000. Current natural turf maintenance costs for mowing, irrigation (about 2 million gallons annually), herbicide, pesticide, fertilizer, soil conditioning, and labor is approximately \$17,000 annually.

If approved, the project would be bid in February with an award in March and construction commencing shortly after students leave at the end of the spring term. The construction work is expected to be complete before fall term starts this year.

This project is anticipated to expand access to students for activities outside of football and women's soccer. Various intramural and club sports have a shortage of green space for their

activities. Participation has been limited and a waiting list is in place when additional field time is available from this improvement project.

The Finance and Facilities Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees adopt the following motion:

**RECOMMENDED COMMITTEE ACTION:**

The Board authorizes the chancellor or his designee to enter into a construction contract not to exceed \$2 million for purposes of replacing of Minnesota State University Moorhead's athletic field lighting and artificial turf on the newly renamed Scheel's Field.

**RECOMMENDED BOARD OF TRUSTEES MOTION:**

The Board authorizes the chancellor or his designee to enter into a construction contract not to exceed \$2 million for purposes of replacing of Minnesota State University Moorhead's athletic field lighting and artificial turf on the newly renamed Scheel's Field.

*Date Presented to Board of Trustees: January 28, 2015*

Minnesota State University Moorhead Approval for Athletic Field  
Improvement Contract Exceeding \$1 Million

**EXHIBIT A**

