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MEMO

TO: Nine Mile Creek Watershed District Board of Managers
FROM: Randy Anhorn
DATE: November 10, 2020
RE: Minnesota Stormwater Research Council (MSRC)

Background

During the District's recent budgeting process, the board discussed funding requests from the Minnesota Stormwater Research Council (MSRC) for contributions to their collaborative applied research fund. The Managers approved a \$15,000 contribution to the MSRC for the collaborative research as part 2019 and 2020 budgets. The MSRC is again seeking contributions to help fund the collaborative research. John Bilotta, Senior Research and Extension Coordinator at the University of Minnesota Water Resources Center, will be at the November 18, 2020 meeting to discuss the MSRC and highlight some of the past and ongoing research stemming from the collaborative funding.

Attached you will find documents detailing the framework of the MSRC, and request for funding support. As a reminder:

The MSRC is an independent non-profit organization of stormwater professionals, practitioners, managers, engineers, researchers and others currently operating as an unincorporated association with the University of Minnesota Water Resources Center. The MSRC was established in 2016 (replacing the disbanded Stormwater Steering Committee) to:

- *Facilitate the completion of needed applied research that enables more informed decisions about the use, management and protection of our water resources in urbanized areas.*
- *Periodically assess the status of research, identify consensus research priorities, and communicate these to Minnesota's public and private research agencies and organizations.*
- *Promote coordination of research goals, objectives and funding among the research agencies and organizations.*

The purpose of the MSRC is to facilitate relevant, applied stormwater research and connect surface water managers to actionable research that is responsive to their needs through the following efforts:

- *Coordinating and building partnerships at local, regional, state, and federal levels to leverage stormwater research resources (personnel and funding).*
- *Providing a clear process for identifying research needs, prioritizing, soliciting, submitting, approving and implementing stormwater-related research proposals.*
- *Finding solutions that improve the design, constructability, maintainability, cost effectiveness, hydraulic performance, and treatment efficiency of stormwater facilities, as well as stormwater management operations and maintenance practices.*
- *Improving the compilation, tracking, and dissemination of stormwater research findings.*
- *Facilitating a collaborative approach that ensures the involvement of stakeholders in identification, prioritization, and implementation of stormwater research.*
- *Providing a sustainable source of funding and a process that insures independent, unbiased, and objective research.*

A few examples of the research work that has been funded through this program include:

- Capture of gross solids and sediment by pretreatment practices for raingardens
- Establishing a GIS mapping standard for stormwater infrastructure (*i.e. universal mapping of stormwater systems from city to city*)

- Detecting phosphorus release from stormwater ponds to guide management and future design
- Developing a street sweeping credit for cities and their phosphorus reduction.
- Equipping cities with climate change data to inform stormwater management.

Request

Discuss, and potentially contribute \$15,000 to the MSRC again, to assist in the collaborative applied research to address priority stormwater management needs in Minnesota.