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MEMO

TO: Nine Mile Creek Watershed District Board of Managers
FROM: Randy Anhorn
DATE: October 29, 2018
RE: Minnesota Stormwater Research Council (MSRC)

Background

During the development of our 2018 budget, the board discussed a request we had received in 2017 from the Minnesota Stormwater Research Council (MSRC) for future contributions to their collaborative applied research fund. While we were unable to contribute to the collaborative research fund in 2017, the consensus at the time was that we should put funds in our 2018 budget to contribute during the next round. The MSRC is again seeking contributions to help fund the collaborative research

Attached you will find documents detailing the framework of the MSRC, a 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.

Request

Staff recommends contributing \$15,000 to the MSRC to assist in the collaborative applied research to address priority stormwater management needs in Minnesota.