



Nine Mile Creek Discovery Point

12800 Gerard Drive

Eden Prairie, MN 55346

(952) 835-2078

www.ninemilecreek.org

MEMO

TO: Nine Mile Creek Watershed District Board of Managers
FROM: Randy Anhorn
DATE: September 29, 2021
RE: Minnesota Stormwater Research Council

Background

Over the past few years, Nine Mile Creek Watershed District (NMCWD) has found value and has supported the University of Minnesota Water Resources Center (WRC) and their collaborative stormwater management research. The Minnesota Stormwater Research Council (Council) in partnership with the WRC is again seeking our support for their ongoing urban stormwater research. The work completed and underway provides professionals, practitioners and policymakers such as NMCWD, the necessary information to make practice and policy decisions and improvements in stormwater management. Ultimately, these efforts will prevent, minimize and mitigate the impacts to local lakes, streams, rivers, wetlands and groundwater resources and they can improve the efficiency and cost effectiveness of our systems.

As a reminder, as a public entity, NMCWD cannot simply "contribute" funds, and that instead the managers need to find that there is a value to the watershed district's purposes to support an expenditure. As such, the managers have found that this research provides value to NMCWD's mission.

As a result, in 2019 and 2020, managers authorized the Administrator to enter into a contract with the WRC for an amount not to exceed \$15,000 to support the Council's collaborative stormwater management research.

John Bilotta, Senior Research and Extension Coordinator at the WRC, will be at the October 7, 2021 workshop to discuss the Council and highlight some of the past and ongoing research stemming from the collaborative funding.

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

The Council is an independent non-profit organization of stormwater professionals, practitioners, managers, engineers, researchers and others currently operating as an unincorporated association with the WRC. The Council 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 Council 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 Minnesota Stormwater Research Council again, to assist in the collaborative applied research to address priority stormwater management needs in Minnesota. If the Managers find value in the continued involvement in this research, a suggested motion could be:

- **to authorize the Administrator to enter into a contract with the University of Minnesota Water Resources Center for an amount not to exceed \$15,000 to support stormwater management research.**