



Request For Board Action

Attachment 6.2

Agenda Item: Funding to Minnesota Stormwater Research Council

Presenter: K. Reich

Meeting Date: 12 September 2023 **Flexibility:** Yes No

Estimated Time: Consent Agenda 10 Min. 15 Min. 30 Min. 45 Min. 1 Hour

Action Request: Information/Review Motion to approve Budget Change Other

Board Action: Approved Denied Tabled Accepted Report Other

Date of Action: 12 September 2023

Background (See supporting attachment: ATT 6.2.1, 2023 Minnesota Stormwater Research Council Highlights)

The Minnesota Stormwater Research Council (MNRC) is a not-for-profit organization established in 2016 to:

1. 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;
2. Periodically assess the status of research, identify consensus research priorities, and communicate these to Minnesota’s public and private research agencies and organizations;
3. Promote coordination of research goals, objectives and funding among the research agencies and organizations; and
4. Facilitate technology transfer of stormwater research to practitioners, agencies, organizations and others. The Council, technology transfer includes support for and facilitation of education, outreach and training and translation of research results into related manuals and polices.

Purpose of the Minnesota Stormwater Research Council

The MSRC facilitates relevant, applied stormwater research and support education and technology transfer to connect surface water managers, practitioners, and other professionals to actionable research that is responsive to their needs and to benefit Minnesota and its public waters through the following efforts:

- Coordinate and build partnerships at local, regional, state, and federal levels to leverage stormwater research resources (personnel and funding).
- Provide a clear process for identifying research needs, prioritizing, soliciting, submitting, approving and implementing stormwater-related research proposals.
- Find 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.
- Improve the compilation, tracking, and dissemination of stormwater research findings.
- Facilitate a collaborative approach that ensures the involvement of stakeholders in identification, prioritization, and implementation of stormwater research.
- Provide a sustainable source of funding and a process that insures independent, unbiased, and objective research.

MWMO staff has participated in the development of this organization. Dr. Udai Singh, former MWMO Water Resources Director, was a member of the advisory board. MWMO has partnered with University of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minnesota and Natural Resources Research Institute (NRRI), University of Minnesota Duluth to work collaboratively to use the MWMO's outdoor media lab to test effectiveness of BioChar to treat urban stormwater runoff for nutrients, metals, chloride and *E. coli*. The University and NRRI together had secured a research grant from the Minnesota Stormwater Research Council to conduct research at MWMO's outdoor filter media laboratory.

This is the seventh year; Minnesota Stormwater Research Council has requested local funding from local partners. This local contribution makes it easier to secure state funding for the applied research the council undertakes. Staff is recommending the Board approves \$25,000 in funding to the Minnesota Stormwater Research Council for applied stormwater research from the Watershed Assessments (Research, Hydrologic and Hydraulic Studies) funds.

Mississippi Watershed Management Organization

RESOLUTION 2023-025

A RESOLUTION APPROVING \$25,000 FUNDING TO THE MINNESOTA STORMWATER RESEARCH COUNCIL FOR APPLIED STORMWATER RESEARCH

- WHEREAS, The MWMO has identified promoting unique and innovative solutions for stormwater management in highly developed urban areas in the Watershed Management Plan; and
- WHEREAS, The MWMO historically has promoted and partnered with partner watersheds, local and state agencies as well as academic and research institutions to conduct applied stormwater research; and
- WHEREAS, The Minnesota Stormwater Research Council is established to facilitate relevant applied stormwater research and connect surface water managers to actionable research that is responsive to their needs to benefit Minnesota and its public waters; and
- WHEREAS, The funding will be utilized for priority-based applied stormwater research; and
- WHEREAS, The funding will come from the MWMO's Watershed Assessment funds; and
- WHEREAS, Staff recommends approval to provide \$25,000 to the Minnesota Stormwater Research Council for applied stormwater research.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the MWMO Board of Commissioners approves \$25,000 in funding to the Minnesota Stormwater Research Council for applied stormwater research and authorizes MWMO staff to take all necessary administrative actions to implement the resolution.

Adopted this the 12th day of September 2023.

Review for the Board:

Stephen Eggert, Chair

Review for Administration:

Kevin Reich, Executive Director