MEMORANDUM
Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District

To: Board of Managers                                           Date: March 15, 2018
From: Mike Kinney
Subject: Metro Area Watershed-Based Funding

Background/Discussion

As noted in the attached draft letter to our partner cities, Washington County, the Washington Conservation District (WCD), and the watershed organizations within Washington County held a convening meeting on March 7th with eligible entities to discuss the Metro Area Watershed-Based Funding. The purpose for meeting was in part to fulfill the requirement of deciding upon or determining a process for deciding upon how eligible organizations would develop a collaborative work request for these funds or if the participants preferred that these funds be returned to BWSR and accessed through a Metro CWF Competitive program.

Taking input from the March 7th meeting, the Workgroup representing Washington County, the WCD and the eight (8) watershed organizations within Washington County, are putting forth the recommendation that this pilot program equally distribute the $787,600 among these ten (10) organizations. This recommendation is going back to the respective ten boards of these organizations and if approved, a workplan and an agreement will be put together for this pilot funding.

As currently presented, the CLFLWD would receive $78,760 from BWSR and enter into an agreement with BWSR in a similar way as it has with other grant funding. A specific project will need to be identified within the Washington County portion of the District and submitted accordingly.

Recommended Motion

Manager ______________ moves to accept the recommendation from the Washington County Workgroup for equal distribution as it relates to the Metro Area Watershed-Based Funding of $787,600 and for staff to proceed with working with BWSR and local partners to finalize the requirements needed for this pilot.

Attached: DRAFT Metro Area Watershed-Based Funding letter to cities; Metro Area Watershed-Based Funding Process
Dear _____,

We’d like to follow up with you regarding the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) Watershed-Based Funding Pilot Program. You received an invitation letter in February 2018 to attend a convening meeting on March 7, 2018 at the Washington County Water Consortium, where information about this funding effort was discussed. As a reminder, Washington County, the Washington Conservation District, and the watershed organizations within Washington County have been meeting as a workgroup to discuss use of this funding among eligible entities. Cities and townships are also eligible entities, but only for projects that are also in a watershed management plan. The goal for use of these funds is to have funding come through the watershed organizations to partner, as applicable, with cities on eligible and timely projects/efforts.

The recommendation from the workgroup for funding allocation under this pilot program is to equally distribute the $787,600 among the 10 water planning entities within Washington County. This resulted from 1) the desire between all entities to get the money out efficiently and equitably with a very short (June 30) timeframe for discussion, 2) what we heard at the convening meeting discussion, and 3) additional discussion amongst the workgroup following the March 7th meeting. This recommendation will be brought forth to our respective boards for discussion and approval this spring.

It should be noted that while funding is provided on a pilot basis, we do expect watershed based funding to continue in the future in some manner. The workgroup intends to continue meet and discuss opportunities for more targeted, prioritized and measurable use of the funds, beyond just an equal split. This discussion will also be informed by the Lower St Croix One Watershed One Plan process and future funding decisions from BWSR. Like other activities funded with Clean Water Fund dollars, activities funded through this pilot program must protect, enhance, and restore surface water quality in lakes, rivers, and streams; protect groundwater from degradation; and protect drinking water sources. Projects and programs funded through the program should not supplant other funding, but rather supplement existing funding.

It is the full intent of the watersheds, as well as the WCD and County, to work collaboratively with cities and townships to utilize these funds for cost effective and high impact projects and programs that will protect and enhance our surface and groundwater resources.

If you have any concerns with this path forward, please contact me to discuss at 651-395-5850 or Michael.Kinney@clflwd.org. If your city has a potentially eligible project, please contact me to coordinate collaboration opportunities. We do expect to submit a workplan with projects to BWSR by July 2, 2018.

Sincerely,
Metro Area Watershed-Based Funding Pilot Program

For the Watershed-based Funding Pilot Program in the Seven-county Metropolitan Area (Metro), watershed management plans or county groundwater plans developed under the Metropolitan Surface Water Management Act or Metropolitan Groundwater Management Act will serve as the primary foundation to provide assurance to funders that actions are prioritized, targeted, and measurable so that limited resources are spent where they are needed most.

Metro Area Pilot Allocations – 2018-2019 Biennium

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Seven-County Metro Area</th>
<th>% of area (based on sq. mile of Metro)</th>
<th>Allocation (250K each plus distribution based on % area)</th>
<th>Number of local watershed management authorities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>WDs/WMOs Cities Townships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anoka</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>$826,000</td>
<td>7 20 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carver</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>$749,200</td>
<td>4 11 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dakota</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>$1,018,000</td>
<td>6 21 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hennepin</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>$1,018,000</td>
<td>11 45 0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ramsey</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>$442,000</td>
<td>7 19 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scott</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>$749,200</td>
<td>3 7 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>$787,600</td>
<td>8 27 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
<td><strong>$5,590,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>46 150 41</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Process

To receive Pilot Program funds, the local governments responsible for local water management within a county geographic area must complete the following by June 30, 2018:

- Convene an initial meeting to decide, or determine a process for deciding, if eligible organizations\(^1\) within a given county will develop a collaborative work request for these funds or if participants prefer

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\(^1\)Eligible organizations include Metro counties, watershed districts, watershed management organizations, and SWCDs, having a current state approved and locally adopted: watershed management plan required under Minnesota Statutes §103B.231, county groundwater plan authorized under §103B.255, or SWCD comprehensive plan under §103C.331, Subd. 11. Cities and townships are eligible if they have a local water plan that has been approved as provided under §103B.235.
to access these funds through a Metro Clean Water Fund Competitive approach. Additional
considerations for this step:
  o The convener of the initial meeting should invite all eligible organizations in the county and
    provide a reasonable deadline by which organizations must respond to be part of the decision-
    making process.
  o Participants should jointly identify a process for making decisions, and individually identify who
    their representative will be in these discussions.
  o Because the funding requires a 10% match, participants should have some discussion with their
    board regarding participation, following the organization’s policies and procedures for
    committing the organization to providing match.

• If the group decides to proceed with a collaborative work request\(^2\), they must jointly submit this
  collaborative request to the BWSR Board Conservationist via email (attach spreadsheets and/or word
  documents) by or before July 2, 2018. At a minimum, this collaborative request must contain:
  o A description of the partnership (who was invited, how participants were invited to participate,
    and who participated) and the decision-making process used to select projects and programs.
  o Identify implementation actions (activity title and short description), responsible party,
    watershed or groundwater plan reference, timeframe, and final costs and measurable outcomes
    for each activity (e.g. project/program) that will be implemented with the available Pilot Funds
    and, if applicable, any activities that have been prioritized by the group beyond available
    funding. This can be a simple spreadsheet.
  o Identify whether the eligible entities receiving funding will be completing multiple budget
    requests/work plans for individual activities or if the partners have identified a single fiscal
    agent. Once the collaborative request is approved by the Board Conservationist (by or before
    July 31, 2018), entities will be responsible for completing an eLINK Work Plan no later than
    August 31, 2018. See separate document that provides details needed for an eLINK Work Plan.
    Do not submit a budget request via eLINK.

If the group decides to proceed with the Metro Clean Water Fund Competitive process, this decision must be
submitted to the BWSR Board Conservationist via email by or before July 2, 2018. At a minimum, the decision
should be supported by information regarding who was invited and who participated in the decision.

\(^2\) Eligible activities in the collaborative work request must be identified in the state approved, locally adopted watershed management
plan required under Minnesota statutes §103B.231 or county groundwater plan authorized under §103B.255.