

**COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION**

DATE: April 23, 2013

TO: Marina Dimitrijevic, Chairperson, County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Greg High, Director of AE&ES Section, Department of Administrative Services

SUBJECT: **Urban Non-Point Source & Storm Water (UNPS&SW) Program Planning Grants**

POLICY

The DAS Director is requesting authorization to have the Department of Administrative Services—Architecture, Engineering and Environmental Services Section apply for and accept UNPS&SW Program Planning grants offered by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in fiscal year 2014.

BACKGROUND

Milwaukee County was issued a storm water permit from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WIDNR) in 2006. The permit requires that the County develop and implement a public involvement and participation program intended to increase awareness of storm water pollution impacts on surface waters and to encourage changes in citizen behavior to reduce impacts.

Other municipalities in the region have similar requirements, and some have banded together to improve the effectiveness of their limited resources. Certain non-profit organizations in the region also share similar goals of improving awareness about the adverse impacts from storm water, such as the Southeastern Wisconsin Watershed Trust, Inc. (SWWT). Milwaukee County Department of Administrative Services and County Parks Department staff have worked cooperatively with SWWT in coordinating water pollution control efforts in the region. County staff have also been active in working with the Menomonee River Group (MRG), a partnership of municipal governments active in that watershed. SWWT and MRG are working together with the WIDNR in efforts to increase water quality improvements in the region, including efforts to better coordinate storm water education efforts like those potentially supported by this WIDNR initiative.

WIDNR is making available planning grant funds that can be used for public education and awareness. The WIDNR Urban Non-Point Source & Stormwater Program Planning Grants are offered to Wisconsin counties, cities, towns, and villages as competitive grant process to improve urban water quality by limiting or ending sources of urban nonpoint source pollution, also known as storm water or run-off pollution. As storm water accounts for more than 90% of the pollutant loadings in the rivers and streams of greater Milwaukee, additional improvements in water quality must include work to reduce this category of pollutants. Among the eligible activities allowed by the grant are “Public participation, education, and outreach activities.”

As noted, the Urban Non-Point Source & Storm Water Planning Grant funding is available to government entities, but not to non-governmental organizations such as SWWT and MRG. In 2011, Milwaukee County applied for and was awarded a similar grant. This application will seek to continue the public education efforts started during the previous grant.

As an eligible entity, Milwaukee County can apply for this grant and SWWT can perform the public education activities outlined in the proposal scope and strategy, working on behalf of its municipal partners. The cost share required by the WIDNR would be provided by SWWT, using both its own resources, funds raised through SWWT's fundraising efforts, and with funding offered by the other municipal partners working with SWWT. Should SWWT be unable to provide the required cost share, DAS will not accept the grant.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the DAS Director be authorized to have the Department of Administrative Services—Architecture, Engineering and Environmental Services Section apply for and accept an Urban Non-Point Source & Storm Water Planning Grant for the purposes of public education and outreach on storm water impacts.

Prepared by: Stevan Keith, P.E., Sustainability & Environmental Engineer

Approved by:



Greg High, Director, AE&ES Section
Department of Administrative Services

cc: Chris Abele, County Executive
Supervisor Gerry Broderick, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee
Chairman
Amber Moreen, Chief of Staff
Scott Manske, Comptroller
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Dan Laurila, Budget Analyst, DAS
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Josh Fudge, Interim Fiscal & Budget Administrator
Don Tyler, Director, Department of Administrative Services