

## Environment Committee

Meeting date: July 8, 2014

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of July 23, 2014

**Subject:** Authorization to Award and Execute an Interagency Agreement with the U.S. Geological Survey to Investigate Groundwater and Surface Water Interaction In and Around White Bear Lake and Surrounding Northeast Metropolitan Lakes

**District(s), Member(s):** District 11, Sandy Rummel; District 12, Harry Melander

**Policy/Legal Reference:** Council Policy 3-3 Expenditure, Minnesota Statue 473.1565, M.L. 2013 Chp. 137, Art. 2, Sec. 9

**Staff Prepared/Presented:** Ali Elhassan, Manager, Water Supply Planning

**Division/Department:** Environmental Services/Water Supply Planning

### Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes, its Regional Administrator to award and execute an interagency agreement with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) totaling \$530,000 to investigate groundwater and surface water interaction in and around White Bear Lake and surrounding northeast metropolitan lakes.

### Background

The 2013 Minnesota Legislature (Chp. 137, Art. 2, Sec. 9) awarded Metropolitan Council an appropriation from the Clean Water Fund “for an agreement with USGS to investigate groundwater and surface water interaction in and around White Bear Lake and surrounding northeast metropolitan lakes, including seepage rate determinations, water quality of groundwater and surface water, isotope analyses, lake level analyses, water balance determination, and creation of a calibrated groundwater flow model, including a comparison of water levels with lakes bordering the study area.”

Metropolitan Council staff worked with U.S. Geological Survey on the scope of the project and coordinated with the Council’s ongoing work in the northeast metro. The Council will use the results to prepare guidance for other areas to use in addressing groundwater and surface water interaction issues.

### Rationale

This interagency agreement fulfills the statutory requirements of Minnesota Law 2013 Chapter 137, Article 2, Section 9.

### Funding

Funds provided by the State from the Clean Water Fund are available in the Water Supply Planning units’ operating budget

Currently Authorized: \$0

Unencumbered Funds: \$530,000

Requested Amount: \$530,000

### Known Support / Opposition

None