

Business Item 2016-55 SW: Approval of 2016 Targeted Stormwater Grants Program

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Environment Committee: March 8, 2016



2015 Grant Program

- \$800,000 total available - 3 grants awarded
 - MN Zoo stormwater reuse - \$350,000
 - Waconia stormwater reuse/utility - \$400,000
 - Hugo stormwater reuse and city park irrigation - \$50,000

2016 Grant Program Overview

- \$1,000,000 available for 2016
- 5-15 targeted projects
- Projects must be :
 - Innovative
 - Serve as visible demonstration projects
 - Easy to replicate
 - Strong educational component

Proposed Process

- Solicitation process - All Metro Area Watershed Districts and Watershed Management Organizations eligible to apply
- Cities, counties, townships, and other local government units will be notified of availability and encouraged to work with watersheds to submit applications
- \$200,000 maximum grant amount with a 25% match

Proposed Process-continued

- 6 week application period
- Proposals reviewed and ranked by MCES internal staff
- Rankings reviewed by Metro Cities partner and MCES management
- Business item for proposed project funding to Environment Committee and full Council in late May
- Staff will encourage grantees to solicit MCUB firms for grant activities and report on their efforts

Primary Criteria - Required

- Innovative
- High Visibility
- Widely applicable
- Project will be completed by end of 2018
- Focus on multiple benefits such as:
 - Volume Reduction
 - Reuse
 - Difficult pollutants: chloride, nitrate, bacteria etc.
 - “Treatment Train”- provide higher level of removal
 - Difficult sites- small areas, redevelopment, compacted, contaminated
 - Neglected areas; maintenance, outreach, research

Secondary Criteria – Additional credit

- Supports Council authority to partner with local governments to implement total watershed management
- Will benefit impaired water and be identified as needed in one of several plans
- Has multiple partners
- Leverages other funds
- Includes long-term maintenance
- Integrates with other water issues
- Supports equity and sustainability principles of Thrive MSP 2040 and the Water Resources Policy Plan

Proposed Action

- That the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to approve the process outlined for the 2016 stormwater grant program and authorize staff to advertise the availability of funding and solicit applications for 2016 grants.

Questions

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