Information Item:
Water Resources Section Overview

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Environment Committee: August 27, 2019
Purpose
Provide leadership and information to empower Council and local actions that ensure clean, healthy and sustainable water resources for the region.

Vision
Our region’s waters fully support public and ecosystem health, economic growth, and all recreational uses for current and future generations.
Water Sustainability:
Protect, conserve and utilize the region’s groundwater and surface water in ways that protect public health, support economical growth and development, maintain habitat and ecosystem health, and provide for recreational opportunities, all of which are essential to our region’s quality of life.

Watershed Approach:
The Council will work with our partners to develop and implement a regional watershed-based approach that addresses both watershed restoration (improving impaired waters) and protection (maintaining water quality unimpaired waters).

Assessing and Protecting Regional Water Resources:
The Council will continue to assess the condition of the region’s lakes, rivers, streams, and aquifers to evaluate impacts on regional water resources and measure success in achieving regional water goals.
Regional Surface Water Planning and Policy

Be a leader for the region

Provide direction and support in surface water planning and management to ensure management policies, programs, and best practices are implemented to protect and restore water quality in the region.

Stewardship  Prosperity  Equity  Livability  Sustainability
Stormwater

Monitor stormwater practices and their effectiveness at Empire

Share information and research about practice effectiveness
Stormwater Grant Locations

2015 Awards: $800,000
2016 Awards: $1,000,000
2017 Awards: $1,000,000
Policy Outreach and Collaboration

Watershed Outlet Monitoring Program (WOMP)

Citizen Assisted Monitoring Program (CAMP)

Twin Cities – Water Monitoring and Data Assessment Group

Governor’s “One Minnesota” and climate change themes
Youth & General Public Education

Children’s Water Festival

Teaching Externship

University of St. Thomas Sustainable Communities Partnership

Pollution Prevention Days
Sharing Knowledge

Environmental Information Management System (EIMS)
River and Stream Program Overview

Permit compliance and regulatory strategy

Baseline data to inform planning and management efforts

NPDES requirements and technical support

Data to support informed decisions and effectiveness of watershed improvements

Monitor and assess regionally significant streams and build local expertise
Rivers and Streams Continued
Lake Program Overview

Water data for use in effectively managing region’s lakes

Regional coverage

Engage citizen scientists
Questions

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