

**Information Item:**  
**Interagency Cooperative Agreement for  
Surface Water Quality Monitoring**

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# Background

- State-wide coordination of surface water monitoring activities has been underway for many years with a goal of efficiency and avoiding duplication of efforts.
- This cooperative agreement outlines a joint approach for the state's state-wide and regional surface water monitoring organizations to:
  - Detail the various programs and their goals
  - Outline each organization's unique role in surface water monitoring
  - Highlight opportunities for collaborations going forward
- This agreement has no funding or contractors/vendors involved. However, it does reference other existing agreements between the organizations as examples of collaborating opportunities.

# Surface Water Monitoring Focus

- **Department of Agriculture:** Chemistry data pertaining to agricultural chemicals which includes pesticides and fertilizer.
- **Department of Health:** Water bodies that are current or potential drinking water sources, as well as recreational beaches on Lake Superior, to protect public health.
- **Department of Natural Resources:** Water quantity and sustainable use/appropriation of water resources without unacceptable social, economic, or environmental consequences.
- **Pollutant Control Agency:** Chemistry, biology, and physical data on lakes, wetlands, streams and large rivers evaluating impacts on aquatic life and recreational uses.
- **Metropolitan Council:** Metro Area lakes, large rivers, and tributary streams to provide information to empower Council and local actions that ensure clean, healthy, and sustainable water resources for the Metro Area.



# Metropolitan Council Authority

- Monitoring work supported by Minnesota Statute 473.157 “to achieve federal and state water quality standards, provide effective water pollution control, **and help reduce unnecessary investments in advanced wastewater treatment**, the council Adopts a water resource plan that includes management objectives for watersheds.”
  - Our monitoring programs and regional partnerships help implement the strategies outlined in the Water Resource Policy Plan
- Minnesota Statute 473.505 states “the Council may enter into agreements with other governmental bodies and agencies and spend funds to implement total watershed management.” with the goal to “**achieve the best water quality for waters of the state receiving effluent of the Metropolitan Disposal System (MDS) for the lowest total costs**, without regard to who will incur those costs.”
  - This interagency agreement as well as specific agency agreements like our Joint Powers Agreement with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency for them funding some of our tributary stream program are good examples.

# Rationale

- This agreement highlights the important role the Metropolitan Council plays in monitoring and evaluating the Metro Area's lakes, rivers, and streams within the state-wide system.
- It also addresses how our state has coordinated our surface water monitoring activities to:
  - Prevent what is often perceived as duplication of efforts
  - Highlight areas that our organizations plan to continue to collaborate.

# Questions

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