

Committee Report

Business Item No. 2014-173

Environment Committee

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

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.

Summary of Committee Discussion/Questions

Results of the USGS study will confirm seepage rates and further assist in providing information for implementation of best options for solving the Northeast water sustainability problem.

Recommendations regarding best options for Northeast water issues are anticipated in the next few weeks and will be paired with the USGS study results in order to complete phase II of the project.

Motion to approve the proposed action was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

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 Statute 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