

# Committee Report

Environment Committee



**Committee Meeting Date:** October 22, 2024

**For the Metropolitan Council:** November 13, 2024

## Business Item: 2024-282

Joint Powers Agreement Amendment with Minnesota Pollution Control Agency for the Watershed Outlet Monitoring Program, Contract 22G002

That the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute an amendment to contract 22G002 Joint Powers Agreement with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and accept Clean Water Funds from the Minnesota Legislature via MPCA in the amount not to exceed \$350,000.

### Summary of Environment Committee Discussion/Questions

Presentation provided by Council scientists covering the history of the stream program and its partnerships through the Watershed Outlet Monitoring Program (WOMP). This amendment provides funding for 2 more years for a portion of the Council's stream monitoring program that includes Council staff monitoring locations as well as partnership locations where some sites are partially funded by this Joint Powers Agreement (WOMP2) and others by Council funds (WOMP1).

Motion by CM Wulff, seconded by CM Osman. Motion carried.



# Business Item

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Joint Powers Agreement Amendment with Minnesota Pollution Control Agency for the Watershed Outlet Monitoring Program, Contract 22G002

<b>District(s), Member(s):</b>	All
<b>Policy/Legal Reference:</b>	Minn. Stat. § 471.59; FM 14-1 Procurement Policy; Minn. Stat. § 473.505
<b>Staff Prepared/Presented:</b>	Daniel Henely, Assistant Manager Water Resources, 651-602-8085 Cassie Champion, Principal Environmental Scientist, 651-602-8745
<b>Division/Department:</b>	Environmental Services: Planning Department: Water Resources

### Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute an amendment to contract 22G002 Joint Powers Agreement with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and accept Clean Water Funds from the Minnesota Legislature via MPCA in the amount not to exceed \$350,000.

### Background

Original agreement covered work from 2023-2024 with \$225,644 in funding from the MPCA. This program and partnership with the MPCA goes back to 1998 which expanded our Watershed Outlet Monitoring Program (WOMP) that was started in 1995. Currently, this agreement covers partial funding of 5 monitoring stations that support the MPCA's state-wide Watershed Pollutant Load Monitoring Network.

These 5 stations make up part of our stream monitoring program which consists of additional watershed partnership stations (4) and Council staff monitored stations (6). These WOMP stations include a payment from the Council to the local watershed partner of at least \$5,000 annually to cover expenses by the partner, totaling \$52,000 for this two year amendment through December 31, 2026. Local partners included in this agreement are Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District, Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission, and Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District.

### Rationale

Minnesota Statute § 471.59 and Council Procurement Policy FM 14-1 requires that all Joint Powers Agreements be authorized by the Council.

### Thrive Lens Analysis

This program and funding from the MPCA support work to keep our water resources sustainable for future generations and improve the livability and attractiveness of our region. Local watershed and community partners use information generated from these stations to target and improve water management practices on the ground and measure the success of their projects.

## **Funding**

The source of the funding is the Clean Water Funds passed through the MPCA to the Council. The eligibility of reimbursements is based on a workplan that outlines tasks negotiated by the MPCA and the Metropolitan Council.

## **Small Business Inclusion**

There is no direct impact to small businesses with the proposed action.

