



## Memorandum

**To:** Steve Christopher, BWSR Board Conservationist  
Barb Peichel, BWSR Clean Water Specialist

**From:** Dakota SWCD and WMO/WD Partners

**Date:** June 30, 2018

**Re:** Dakota Collaborative Work Plan and Request for Watershed Based Funding

Per guidance provided on March 14, 2018, below is information on the Dakota Collaborative Work Plan and request for Watershed Based Funding.

### Description of Partnership and Decision Making Process

The Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) developed a presentation and provided background information on the watershed based funding program to the Boards and staff of watershed management authorities located within Dakota County. These included:

11/07/17	North Canon River Watershed Management Organization
12/05/18	Eagan-Inver Grove Heights Watershed Management Organization
12/07/18	Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization
12/07/18	Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District
12/13/18	Lower Mississippi River Watershed Management Organization
12/15/18	Eagan-Inver Grove Heights Watershed Management Organization
01/17/18	Black Dog Watershed Management Organization

Informal discussions also occurred with staff from Dakota County and the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District.

On February 7, 2018, the SWCD convened a meeting to discuss the two options available under the watershed based funding pilot program; collaborative approach or competitive approach. Each of the lead staff contacts for watershed management authorities under Minnesota Statute 103b, 103c and 103d were invited. City contacts within Dakota County were also invited to attend this meeting. Information on who attended the meeting and the results of the meeting can be found at the SWCD web home page at [www.dakotawcd.org](http://www.dakotawcd.org).

Individual townships were provided a brief background of the watershed based funding pilot program at their spring township officers meeting held on March 17.

The decision making process to prioritize projects and activities was left to each individual watershed management authority. Most watershed management authorities approved the submittal of projects identified within the Collaborative Work Plan through action by their respective Board.

### **Implementation Actions**

On May 24, 2018 a meeting with you was held to obtain preliminary feedback on the draft Collaborative Plan. Attached is a table showing projects and activities requested under the Dakota Collaborative Implementation Plan. The SWCD has organized the projects and activities by the four major watersheds as defined under BWSRs One Watershed One Plan Transition Plan.

As a result of our May 24<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Collaborative Plan has been updated to clarify activity descriptions, improve upon the measurable outcomes listed and combine projects when appropriate. Some additional updates to the Collaborative Plan since our meeting:

- Line 22 – the VRWJPO has changed their activity from a feasibility study to implementing BMPs on the Farmington Westview Acres/downtown Plaza project. This was needed as the feasibility will commence prior to execution of BWSR grant agreement.
- Line 10 – the E-IGHO has changed the Carlson Lake alum treatment project to an underground filtration system.
- Line 13 and 17 – the SWCD did not combine stormwater BMP retrofits as discussed on May 24 since there are two different major watershed involved. We can combine during work plan development.
- Line 12 – the LMRWD discussed changing their fen study management plan activity on May 24. However, the SWCD has not received any updates from the LMRWD since that time. The fen study management plan continues to be shown to meet submittal deadline.

### **Budget Requests/Work Plans**

Each watershed management authority listed to receive funding under the Collaborative Plan will serve as the fiscal agent and will be responsible for completing an e-LINK work plan no later than August 31, 2018. If funding requests by any of the water management authorities is not approved by BWSR, the Dakota County partnership is prepared to reallocate funds to those who have additional projects and activities.