



Item 6Ai.
BCWMC 7-20-17

June 27, 2017

Laura Jester
BCWMC
16145 Hillcrest Lane
Eden Prairie, MN 55346

Dear Ms. Jester:

BWSR is in the initial phases of creating a pilot performance based watershed implementation funding program aka "Fund the Plan" for FY2018-19. This initiative is due largely to support from both the Local Government Water Roundtable (LGWR) and The Clean Water Council wanting to see a shift from hyper-competitive grant funding for local implementation of projects and program to one which is more predictable and systematic. Creating stable and predictable funding for local governments to implement coordinated watershed management activities which are prioritized, targeted, and capable of achieving measureable results, is critical for Minnesota to reach its clean water goals. As local water planning across the state begins shifting to a watershed based framework, a watershed based funding approach has gained momentum.

As part of this process, BWSR has committed to continue working with Local Governments across the state through the involvement of the Local Government Water Roundtable (AMC, MASWCD, and MAWD). BWSR recognizes that Watershed Management Organizations in the metro area may be affected by a shift away from strictly competitive funding. I am reaching out to you, with the support from the LGWR, to see if you would like to join the LGWR Workgroup assisting BWSR in developing this pilot program. The workgroup will be meeting up to 3 times over the course of next 6 months. We currently have a meeting date set for July 24th and we are anticipating 1 or 2 more meetings in late summer or fall. If you have any questions regarding this effort, please feel free to contact me or any of the following metro area Workgroup members.

Brian Watson, Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District

Diane Lynch, Prior Lake Spring Lake Watershed District

Matt Moore, South Washington Watershed District

Sincerely,

Kevin D. Bigalke
Central Region Manager