

Stormwater Reuse Grant Program

Business Item 2026-160 SW



August 25, 2026 Steve Christopher metro council.org

Purpose: Stormwater Reuse Grant Program



Purpose of presentation today

- Provide funding background
- Share guidelines created for program
- Provide overview of criteria



Clean Water Fund

MN Legislature 2025 Regular Session



- Met Council received funding to support communities implementing projects that address emerging drinking water supply threats and overall water sustainability, provide cost-effective regional solutions, leverage interjurisdictional coordination, support local implementation of wellhead protection plans, and prevent degradation of groundwater and surface water resources.
- Activities include ways to reduce impacts on the groundwater system through stormwater reuse grants that assist communities in reducing water use



Minneapolis Sculpture Garden. Photo courtesy of MWMO

Grant program goal



Increased sustainability of the region's source water

Support the construction of stormwater reuse systems - including the treatment of stormwater for beneficial reuse - to reduce the burden on source waters within the seven-county metropolitan area.

- Consistent with Conservation and Sustainability Policy from the 2050 Water Policy Plan
 - Work together to ensure the region's water is conserved and used efficiently to optimize current water infrastructure and treatment investments, safeguard the sustainability of water sources, and ensure the reliability of water utility services.
 - Action: Work with water supply service providers and agency partners to prioritize work with significant water users that may reduce water use, promote conservation, and implement reuse where applicable.



Grant funding



- This program is funded by the Met Council with pass-through funds from the Clean Water Land & Legacy Amendment. The Met Council will provide up to 75% of the project cost. The grantee must provide the remaining 25%.
- Grants will be made available in amounts with a minimum of \$100,000 and a maximum of \$250,000.
- Grantees will be required to provide estimated water savings achieved through this program for Clean Water, Land & Legacy Amendment reporting purposes.



Eligibility

• Entities

- Cities and townships
- Counties
- Watershed management organizations (WMOs)
- Soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs)

Practices

- The project must involve stormwater or rainwater intended for beneficial reuse.
- Construction, or expansion of a stormwater reuse system for beneficial use. Funded systems typically include some combination of a collection system, storage unit, treatment system, and distribution system, consistent with the Minnesota Stormwater Manual.

Regulations

- Must meet local, state, and federal regulations.
- Projects must meet State guidance for stormwater reuse.
 - Minnesota Stormwater Manual
 - Minnesota Department of Health



Grant application scoring



Proposal Selection Criteria

- Technical merit
- Water supply & environmental benefits
- Community impact
- Economic and financial strength
- Project readiness
- Reporting & monitoring plan
- Risk management



Proposed action

That the Metropolitan Council approves Business Item 2026-160 SW on the process for the 2026-2028 Stormwater Reuse Grant Program described in Attachment A and authorizes staff to advertise the availability of grant funding and solicit applications.



Questions?

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