# Committee Report

Environment Committee

**Committee meeting date:** November 10, 2026 **For the Metropolitan Council:** November 18, 2026

## Business Item: 2026-190

Joint Powers Agreement, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency for Watershed Outlet Monitoring Program, Contract 26G004

### Proposed action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute contract 26G004 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

The Watershed Outlet Monitoring Program is a longstanding partnership between the Metropolitan Council and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), dating back to 1998. The program supports regional and statewide water quality monitoring through five monitoring stations that track conditions in local rivers and streams. The partnership also provides funding to three local watershed organizations to support monitoring activities. The data collected helps identify pollution trends, inform watershed management decisions, evaluate water quality improvement efforts, and support the long-term sustainability of regional water resources.

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

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| **District(s), member(s):** | All |
| **Policy/legal reference:** | MN Statutes 471.59; 473.505, and Council Policies FM 15-1 Income/ Grants, FM 14-1 Procurement |
| **Staff prepared/presented:** | Daniel Henely, Manager, Monitoring & Assessment, 651-602-8085 |
| **Division/department:** | ES Water Resources Planning/Water Resources |

## Proposed action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute contract 26G004 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

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 payments from the Council to the local watershed partners annually to cover expenses by the partners through December 31, 2028. 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.

This new 2-year agreement allows Metropolitan Council's Environmental Services division ("Met Council") to continue the monitoring of five tributary stream and river segments in the Council's Watershed Outlet Monitoring Program ("WOMP") as well as pollutant load modeling at several large river locations.

## Rationale

Minnesota Statute § 471.59 and Council Procurement Policy FM 14-1 requires that all Joint Powers Agreements be authorized by the Council. MCES has been partnering with local governments and watershed management organizations to monitor the water quality of local streams since 1995. This request will continue funding for this program through 2028.

## 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.