

Rock River Stormwater Group Agreement

Intergovernmental Agreement for Establishing a Stormwater Education Program to Fulfill WDNR MS4 Permit Requirements and Promote Sustainable Stormwater Practices

This Agreement is initially made by the City of Beloit, City of Beaver Dam, City of Fort Atkinson, City of Janesville, City of Jefferson, City of Milton, County of Rock, City of Watertown, City of Whitewater, Town of Beloit; each of which is a municipal corporation, and the University of Wisconsin – Whitewater for the creation and operation of a Stormwater Education Program to fulfill the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources MS4 permit requirements and to promote sustainable storm water practices in the Rock River Basin. This agreement is not limited to communities which are required to obtain MS4 Permit requirements, or communities located in the Rock River Basin. Furthermore other Wisconsin governmental entities may join in this agreement, as may be amended from time to time, by executing the resolution called for in Paragraph 5 below and attaching a current copy of this agreement thereto.

WHEREAS, MS4 Permit requires the creation of a Public Outreach and Education Program, and

WHEREAS, educating, encouraging, and motivating individuals to adopt sustainable storm water practices is seen as necessary to better water quality and to fulfill obligations of the MS4 permit, and

WHEREAS, the Members could achieve new efficiencies through the Rock River Stormwater Group (RRSG) through regionally coordinating public outreach and education programs, and

WHEREAS, Section 66.0301(2) of the Wisconsin Statutes authorizes cooperation between municipalities and allows municipalities to contract with each other for the receipt or furnishing of services or the joint exercise of any power or duty required or authorized by law,

IT IS THEREFORE AGREED THAT:

1. **The Organization.** RRSG membership is open to any organization. There are three tiers of membership.

- **Full Members** are any organization who must hold an MS4 Permit.
- **Associate Members** are municipalities and agencies that do not have to meet MS4 permit requirements, but undertake responsibility to abide by permit requirements.
- **Partners** are any organization that would like to work with the RRSG in promoting water quality and/or helping with the education and outreach program.

Membership commitment requires a 24 month initial commitment and 12 month renewals thereafter. In order to terminate participation herein Full and Associate Members must serve a 12 month non-renewal notice by January 1 of the final year of commitment.

2. Membership Coordination. The Members shall be jointly responsible for the coordination of the Membership, on the basis of equal voting rights for majority rule where each Full Member has one vote. Members shall recommend such further agreements or contracts as may be necessary or advisable for the proper functioning of the Organization. The President, Vice President, and Secretary shall be elected on an annual basis by vote of the official Representatives from each voting Member. The Treasurer shall not be subject to a term limit, and the government entity where the Treasurer is employed shall serve as the Trustee of RRSF funds, until replaced by a vote of a majority of RRSF voting Members. The President, Vice President and Treasurer will act as the authorizing signators for any legally binding agreement except that checks may be signed by the Treasurer alone. The RRSF may apply for grants through a municipality which will be designated by a simple majority vote of voting members. All monetary decisions must be approved by a simple majority of the entire RRSF Full Members present or not. Voting Members may cast an absentee vote by contacting the President and Secretary with directions in writing.

3. Proportionate Payments. Each Full and Associate Member will pay dues. Municipalities who are Full Members and whose population meets or exceeds 10,000 residents according to the most recent final U.S. census shall pay an annual membership fee of \$5,000. Counties and Municipalities who are Full Members and whose population is below 10,000 residents and universities and colleges shall pay an annual membership fee of \$2,000. Each Associate member will pay a membership fee of \$1,000 per year, which may be waived for work in lieu of payment if approved by a simple majority vote of the entire RRSF full members present or not. Each Partner will not be subject to any payment, but are expected to provide non monetary contributions. All funds are payable directly to the trustee who will develop a fund specifically for this purpose and administer it accordingly. All membership dues shall be paid by March 1st for that calendar year. If an organization becomes a Full or Associate Member in mid-year they shall be prorated for membership dues that are payable upon joining.

The Trustee may receive credit, if approved by a simple majority vote of the entire RRSF full members present or not, towards their membership costs for services in lieu of payment.

Any Municipality may receive credit, if approved by a simple majority vote of the entire RRSF full members present or not, towards their membership costs for providing adequate work space and resources to anyone employed by the RRSF.

4. Liability and Indemnification. Any and all liabilities, claims, violations, fines, penalties, forfeitures and suits, and all reasonable costs and expenses related thereto, including the cost of defense, settlement and reasonable attorney fees, which in any manner result from this Agreement or the operation of the Membership (collectively, "Liabilities") shall be borne by the Members according to the Proportionate Share for each Member; except to the extent that any such Liabilities may in any manner result from or arise out of the sole act(s) or omission(s) of any such Members, its officers, agents, employees or authorized users of the Membership, whether by negligence or otherwise, in which case such responsible Member agrees to indemnify, hold harmless and defend the other Members from and against any and all such Liabilities.

5. Evidence of Authorization by Governing Body. Each full and associate member, who is entering into this Agreement and participating in the Membership shall provide an authorizing resolution from its governing body of elected officials or members having the power to authorize such resolution, which resolution shall specifically authorize a representative and/or their designee of the governing body to vote or attend on their behalf.

6. Amendments. This agreement may not be amended except by a written agreement approved by resolutions pursuant to Paragraph 5 herein by all governing bodies of full and associate members.

Agency

Address

City, State, Zip Code

Contact

Phone Number

Email address

Fax Number

Authorize signatory:

Executive officer (print)

Executive officer (signature)

Date