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15-00020
RECEIVED

JAN 02 2015

Dept. of Public Works

To: Local Government Leaders
From: Jerry Deschane, Executive Director, League of Wisconsin Municipalities
Date: December 23, 2014
Re: Re-creation of a Local Government Stormwater Group

In 2009 the League created a Local Government Stormwater Group and hired water law specialist Paul Kent to lobby DNR on making changes to NR 151 and other stormwater issues. The group has been dormant the last several years, but we believe there is a need to resurrect it at this time. Stormwater management issues are being driven by new regulatory developments such as total maximum daily load (TMDL) requirements as well as by changes in storm intensities.

Stormwater issues that will need to be addressed in the next five years include:

- Advocacy on behalf of municipalities so that stormwater fees remain manageable and proportionate.
- Working with DNR to adopt policies and guidance regarding when on-line ponds and pond treatment options may be an appropriate mechanism to address water quality issues.
- Engaging DNR in a cross-program watershed approach to stormwater projects.
- Developing solutions to stormwater management that can address multiple issues including flooding and infiltration and inflow issues for POTWs.
- Resolving issues associated with stormwater utilities including credits and exemptions associated with permeable areas.
- Developing ways in which stormwater management and associated sediment management might serve as trades for POTWs needing phosphorus reductions.
- Efficiently managing stormwater sediment from ponds under the NR 528 criteria.
- Defending local authority for stormwater management against state preemption efforts.
- The integration of TMDL requirements in new MS4 permits.

Currently there are 254 Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System permits (MS4 permits) issued in Wisconsin. We believe the group of communities involved in stormwater issues could benefit from coordinated advocacy on their behalf. That is why the League is reviving the Local Government Stormwater Group.

We invite you to join with other municipalities and counties in the re-creation of the Local Government Storm Water Group. The purpose of the group is to advocate on stormwater issues before the DNR, the Governor's office and the Wisconsin Legislature. The group will also sponsor educational seminars on stormwater issues. The League will contract with Paul Kent to serve as technical advisor and lead negotiator with DNR on behalf of the group. League staff will provide administrative services to the group, including handling its bookkeeping, organizing meetings, and maintaining a web page.

STRONG COMMUNITIES MAKE WISCONSIN WORK

Membership in the Municipal Storm Water Group is open to any MS4 community, including counties and towns. The annual cost varies by population size. The fee is \$600 annually for communities over 20,000 in population; \$400 for communities with populations between 10,000 and 20,000; and \$200 for communities with populations below 10,000.

If you are interested in participating, please complete the following form and submit it and a check for the correct amount to the League of Wisconsin Municipalities.

We hope you will accept our invitation. We look forward to working with you on this issue.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please give me or Curt Witynski a call at 1-800-991-5502.

Local Government Storm Water Group

Membership Form

Yes, the _____ (*name of municipality/county*) agrees to join the Local Government Storm Water Group.

I've enclosed a check for the following amount covering our community's 2015 membership dues:

- \$600 for municipalities/counties with populations over 20,000.
- \$400 for municipalities with populations between 10,000 and 20,000.
- \$200 for municipalities with populations under 10,000.

The primary contact in our community regarding the Local Government Storm Water Group shall be:

Name: _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-mail: _____

Return this form with a check to: League of Wisconsin Municipalities
131 West Wilson Street, Suite 505
Madison, WI 53703