



March 6, 2018

Ms. Sherry Davis White
Minnehaha Creek Watershed District – President
15320 Minnetonka Boulevard
Minnetonka, MN 55345

Dear Ms. Davis White:

Thank you for your letter dated February 8, 2018 regarding the Watershed-based Funding Pilot Program. We appreciate the concerns and ideas you have expressed and will take them into consideration as we evaluate the Watershed-Based Funding Pilot Program and develop the long-term approach to watershed-based funding for the future.

The Watershed-based Funding Pilot Program is truly a pilot program. BWSR fully intends to use what we learn through this pilot program to develop a watershed-based funding program that results in a more stable and predictable funding process.

The Watershed-based Funding Pilot Program was developed over the course of 10 months and was designed using information and input received from four input sessions in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area, the Local Government Roundtable Advisory Group, and two BWSR Board Committees. While the process may not have been perfect, there was a tremendous amount of thought and guidance put into the design of the Watershed-based Funding Pilot Program.

BWSR staff have been attending meetings and providing guidance to the local units of government (LGU) within each county as they work collaboratively to develop their funding requests. As the Watershed-based Funding Pilot Program moves forward, BWSR will be re-engaging with the LGU partners to evaluate the process. Additionally, BWSR will be convening a metro-focused Local Government Roundtable group to assist in the development of a long-term approach to watershed-based funding in the Seven County Metropolitan Area.

BWSR is committed working with our local government partners to develop a grant program that will result in stable and predictable funding for the implementation of comprehensive watershed management plans. We understand your concerns and appreciate your recommendations. We look forward to working with you and the staff of the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District along with our other local government partners to develop the future approach to watershed-based funding.

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Please feel free to contact me at any time with any additional thought or questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. D. Bigalke', written in a cursive style.

Kevin D. Bigalke
Central Region Manager

c: James Wisker, Minnehaha Creek Watershed District
Becky Christopher, Minnehaha Creek Watershed District
Marcey Westrick, Board of Water and Soil Resources
Steve Christopher, Board of Water and Soil Resources
Doug Thomas, Board of Water and Soil Resources
John Jaschke, Board of Water and Soil Resources
Emily Javens, MN Association of Watershed Districts