



Board Summary Report

To: Board of Directors

From: Lanae Raymond, WQ Program & Special Projects Program Manager

Date: May 20, 2010

Re: Credit Policy Grant Program for Retrofit of Stormwater Facilities -
Implementation Procedure Document

Board Meeting Date: June 16, 2010

Purpose and Recommendation

The purpose of the Credit Policy Grant Program is to fund the retrofit of existing stormwater facilities to provide water quality benefits. The *Implementation Procedure* document clarifies the process of requesting grant funds, including determination of eligibility, program standards, application process, funding criteria, and program administration. It is recommended that the Board authorize the Grant Program and accompanying *Implementation Procedure* document.

Background

The Southeast Metro Stormwater Authority (SEMSWA) Board has adopted a Credit Policy (*Resolution 09-22, adopted June 24, 2009*) that could reduce the Annual Fee and/or System Development Fee (SDF) some properties pay. One of the features of the Credit Policy is to provide a mechanism by which an existing property owner or other responsible party can apply for technical assistance and grant funds for retrofits of existing stormwater management facilities. Benefits of a retrofitted stormwater facility include improved functionality, reduced maintenance operations, and enhanced water quality.

The **Credit Policy - Grant Fund Program for Retrofit of Stormwater Facilities** (Grant Program) is defined as a technical assistance and funding program for retrofitting existing stormwater management facilities. The Grant Program will use budgeted funds each year to assist property owners or other responsible parties with the costs of upgrading stormwater facilities that have the potential to provide a benefit to SEMSWA ratepayers, including pre-treatment, treatment, overland conveyance, maintenance and landscaping enhancements to provide additional water quality controls. Altering or retrofitting an existing stormwater facility can provide better water quantity control and water quality treatment, which helps the entire stormwater system to function more effectively. The Grant Program will give property owners incentive to upgrade their existing stormwater facilities which may help to lessen flooding and channel degradation in the long term, and will enhance water quality and allow for easier maintenance over time.

The EPA has identified retrofits of existing stormwater controls to be a cornerstone of their proposed rulemaking to go into effect in 2012. It is anticipated that the Grant Program will allow staff to speak authoritatively on any new requirements by having actual projects in place that support SEMSWA's approach to retrofits via the Grant Program criteria and process.

Discussion

The *Implementation Procedures* document identifies eligibility, example scenarios, criteria, and the application process for implementing the Grant Program to retrofit existing facilities. Typical upgrades to existing facilities may include the installation of forebays at inflow points, low flow channels, integrated micropools at outlet structures, additional volume capacity and water quality outlet structure upgrades.

As an example, a fairly straightforward retrofit might be the modification of an existing flood control-only pond outlet structure to create a multi-stage outlet that incorporates water quality through restricting the outflow to encourage the extended detention of water and allowing sediments to settle out. This sediment is then removed during maintenance activities and disposed, mitigating the transport of pollutants associated with that sediment, and enhancing water quality.

Alternative

The Board may choose not to implement the Grant Program identified in the Credit Policy at this time. The Board may also choose to re-open the discussion of the Credit Policy and revise the Policy to reflect only two forms of Credit, the SDF Credit and Self-Maintenance Annual Credit, and omit the Grant Program as an option of the Credit Policy.

Fiscal Impacts

It remains the Board's choice to fund retrofit project improvements, or not, during the annual budgeting process. It is staff's opinion that it is likely in the best interests of SEMSWA to participate in and fund stormwater facility retrofits, so that SEMSWA can take full advantage of the water quality benefits identified for the retrofit projects. The direct fiscal impact from authorizing the Grant Program is the \$50,000 in funds set aside in the WQ Program budget for 2010, and funds set aside in subsequent budget years.

Concurrence

Discussions with the SEMSWA Budget Committee at their regularly scheduled meeting on May 13, 2010 indicate concurrence with the Credit Policy Grant Program and the *Implementation Procedures* document.

John A. McCarty, Executive Director

Date