

## Agenda Item Summary

**To:** Policy Board

**From:** Matt Hart, Executive Director

**CC:** Pauline Yoder, Chief Operating Officer

**Meeting Date:** May 22, 2024

**Subject:** Resolution to Accept a Climate Resilience Fund Grant of \$250,000 for the CRCOG Region Stormwater Authority Feasibility Study

**Background:** All 38 CRCOG municipalities are facing challenges related to stormwater due to more frequent heavy rain events and increasing impervious surface coverage. Furthermore, many municipalities have areas with poorly drained soils, stormwater lines connected to sanitary sewers, and aging and/or undersized infrastructure. Thirty-four CRCOG municipalities are subject to the CT DEEP-issued MS4 General Permit, which requires municipalities to undertake efforts to improve stormwater quality, with funding falling on the municipality.

Legislation was passed in 2021 to allow Connecticut municipalities to create “Stormwater Utilities,” which can provide a funding mechanism to implement stormwater management measures. Recognizing opportunities for a regional approach to stormwater utilities, CRCOG applied for funding through the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection’s (DEEP) Climate Resilience Fund Grant. CRCOG has been awarded \$250,000 and is currently working with DEEP to finalize the budget and scope of work. This grant allows CRCOG to conduct a stormwater authority (utility) feasibility study.

**Benefit to Member Towns/CRCOG:** If a stormwater utility is feasible for a subset or subsets of CRCOG towns, it would create a dedicated source of income to help finance and maintain stormwater infrastructure. This revenue stream could fund infrastructure and improvements that would reduce the damage and negative health, economic, and social impacts of flooding and stormwater runoff. Municipalities that wish to pursue a stormwater utility independently of this regional effort would benefit by using the findings, products, and lessons-learned generated during the study.

**Financial/Operational Impact:** The grant would cover project administration and funding to retain a consultant. It will also cover a portion of the participation of Regional Planning & Development staff.

**Project Schedule:** DEEP is currently finalizing the project budget and scope of work. We anticipate the project will commence in early fall of 2024.

**Recommendation:** In order to receive the grant funds for this important project, I

recommend approval of the attached Resolution to Accept a Climate Resilience Fund Grant of \$250,000 for the CRCOG Region Stormwater Authority Feasibility Study.

**Attachments:** Resolution approving the acceptance of the Climate Resilience Fund Grant.

## **RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT THE CLIMATE RESILIENCE FUND GRANT FOR THE CRCOG REGION STORMWATER AUTHORITY STUDY**

**WHEREAS**, there is currently a lack of funding for implementing stormwater management services and infrastructure within the region served by the Capitol Region Council of Governments; and

**WHEREAS**, legislation was passed in 2021 to allow Connecticut municipalities to create “Stormwater Utilities” (authorities), which can provide a funding mechanism to implement stormwater management measures; and

**WHEREAS**, creating a regional stormwater utility may be a feasible mechanism to provide a dedicated source of funding and coordination of services within the CRCOG region; and

**WHEREAS**, CRCOG has been awarded \$250,000 through the Climate Resilience Fund Grant to conduct the CRCOG Region Stormwater Authority Feasibility Study.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the CRCOG Policy Board authorizes Matthew W. Hart, the Executive Director, to execute on behalf of CRCOG an agreement with the CT Department of Energy and Environment Protection and any addendums thereto and to accept grant funds for the purposes outlined above.

### **CERTIFICATE**

I certify the above is a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Policy Board at its meeting held on May 22, 2024.

BY: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jason Bowsza, Secretary