



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
to establish a  
REGIONAL STORMWATER PROTECTION TEAM (Feb 2004)

**A. INTRODUCTION**

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) formalizes coordination of the Regional Stormwater Protection Team (RSPT), an information networking task force of agencies and jurisdictions including, but not limited to the signatory entities listed on page three.

The RSPT mission is to protect and enhance the region's shared water resources through stormwater pollution prevention by providing coordinated educational programs and technical assistance. Team members are committed to preventing and resolving issues of mutual concern for environmental protection on a regional watershed scale. This commitment is reinforced by policies internal to each agency. To sustain long-term commitment, the signatories agree to establish and implement the Interagency Stormwater Pollution Prevention Initiative described herein.

The goals of this initiative are to foster stormwater pollution prevention as the preferred environmental protection strategy within local and state agencies and to support and promote similar efforts within the private sector and at the community level. Benefits of working together include offering a focal point for pollution prevention, reducing expenses by sharing knowledge and resources, minimizing duplication of effort and increasing grant application success, all of which will help significantly enhance the protection of Lake Superior, the Duluth-Superior Harbor and all their tributaries.

In the spirit of these objectives, the agencies represented by the signatories on this document agree to maintain a cooperative working relationship to promote stormwater pollution prevention.

This MOU does not create enforceable legal obligations, but rather is an expression of intent by the signatories to work with one another as partners to reduce stormwater pollution.

Nothing in this agreement is intended, nor shall it act in any way to alter, impede, or interfere with the authorities and procedures of the agencies involved in carrying out their regulatory and law enforcement responsibilities or their individual missions.

**B. PURPOSE**

Through this document, the members of the Regional Stormwater Protection Team establish a common agenda to work together on pollution prevention objectives and specific goals in a cost effective and consistent manner. Successful implementation of this collaboration effort will help to:

- Incorporate stormwater pollution prevention measures into local jurisdiction and agency programs and planning;



- Avoid a piecemeal approach to stormwater pollution prevention and program development;
- Share resources for stormwater pollution prevention projects;
- Enhance efficiency in the delivery of prevention services;
- Provide consistent regional environmental messages;
- Improve communication and interrelationships between agencies and local jurisdictions;
- Support existing agency missions and partnership agreements;
- Reduce stormwater peak flows and pollutant loads within the Western Lake Superior Watershed.

### **C. AREAS OF AGREEMENT:**

The signatories agree to promote stormwater pollution prevention and pursue issues of mutual concern. In particular, the parties will strive to:

1. Seek opportunities to collaborate on stormwater pollution prevention projects of mutual interest, to demonstrate pollution prevention technologies and techniques.
  - a) Stage periodic environmental show and tell events,
  - b) Develop educational materials and co-sponsor workshops focused toward specific audiences,
  - c) Develop an information clearinghouse,
  - d) Identify areas where policies conflict and may need to be revised to achieve goals,
  - e) Develop collaborative grant proposals.
2. Share, exchange and learn stormwater pollution prevention technologies and techniques through periodic meetings and joint training programs.
  - a) Share strategies and progress in implementation,
  - b) Provide relevant technology updates,
  - c) Participate in environmental roundtable discussions,
  - d) Share innovative ideas.
3. Demonstrate watershed-wide environmental leadership in stormwater pollution prevention.
  - a) Promote stormwater pollution prevention through press releases and other interpretive programs conducted by participating agencies,
  - b) Enhance watershed-wide efforts to increase communications and education about the importance of stormwater pollution prevention.
4. Seek opportunities to eliminate or reduce stormwater pollution and encourage use of efficient pollution prevention technologies and techniques.
  - a) Identify root causes of stormwater pollution and take steps to reduce or eliminate wastes through stormwater pollution prevention techniques,
  - b) Identify and overcome barriers to adoption of stormwater pollution prevention practices,
  - c) Educate the general citizenry about stormwater pollution prevention through formal and informal education.
5. Cooperate in evaluating stormwater pollution prevention.
  - a) Evaluate needs and goals of participating agencies,
  - b) Determine what information is required to meet goals and needs,



- c) Measure progress in reducing stormwater pollution.
- 6. Develop and demonstrate environmentally benign and beneficial alternatives to current non-sustainable practices.

**D. ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE** (see Attachment A)

Each participant shall designate at least one contact to monitor pollution prevention coordination activities within their singular jurisdiction. These individuals shall provide input to the RSPT on the initiative. The RSPT will oversee the development and implementation of the interagency initiative to facilitate communication and coordination on stormwater pollution prevention.

The RSPT meets regularly. All ideas are encouraged and welcome. Appropriate projects, workgroup formations, and courses of action are determined by a consensus of the members.

**E. CHANGES TO THE AGREEMENT:**

Amendments or additional appendices may be developed and implemented by mutual written agreement of the signatories at any time without renegotiating the entire MOU. A party may also terminate its participation in this agreement after providing 30 days written notice to the other parties.

**F. EFFECTIVE DATE OF AGREEMENT:**

This agreement is effective April 1, 2004 and will remain in effect for all parties unless and until they choose to formally terminate.

**G. SIGNATORIES**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Herb Bergson, City of Duluth Date

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Richard Kieren, City of Proctor Date

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David Allen, City of Hermantown Date

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Dave Ross, City of Superior Date



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Marcus Hall,  
Public Works Director

St. Louis County

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Date

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George Sundstrom,  
Chairperson

Duluth Township

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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Earl Elde,  
Chairperson

Midway Township

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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George Andrews,  
Chairperson

Rice Lake Township

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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Todd Campbell,  
District Hydraulics Engineer

MN Dept. of Transportation

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Date

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Suzanne Hanson,  
Duluth Manager

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

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Date

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Sue O'Halloran,  
Water Quality Specialist

Lake Superior Research Institute  
University of WI, Superior

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Date

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Greg Fox,  
Vice Chancellor Finance & Operations

University of MN-Duluth

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Date

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R.C. Boheim,  
Manager

South St. Louis Soil and Water  
Conservation District

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Date



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Kurt N.W. Soderberg, Western Lake Superior Sanitary Dist.  
Executive Director

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Date

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Robert B. Peacock, Fond du Lac Reservation Business  
Chairman Committee

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Date

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Carl Richards, University of MN Sea Grant  
Director

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Date

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Lucinda Johnson, Center for Water and the Environment  
Associate Director Natural Resources Research Institute  
University of Minnesota-Duluth

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Date

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Duane Lahti Wisconsin Department of Natural  
Resources

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Date

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Lynelle Hanson St. Louis River Citizens Action  
Committee

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Date



## **Attachment A**

### **BY-LAWS**

#### **Regional Stormwater Protection Team Operational Structure**

The Regional Stormwater Protection Team shall work in the following areas:

- I. Data collection and analysis
  - A. Develop and maintain regional audiences' mailing lists and list of groups, organizations and trade associations.
  - B. Develop and maintain a measurement system that analysis and assays outreach and communication efforts.
- II. Outreach
  - A. Develop a joint stormwater pollution prevention message and share it with companies, organizations, associations and the general citizenry.
  - B. Develop and maintain educational materials to achieve awareness and compliance on a cooperative basis from citizens and businesses.
- III. Communication
  - A. Meet monthly to discuss stormwater pollution prevention issues facing the region.
  - B. Communicate status of local, regional, state or national activities.
  - C. Communicate on the status of specific regulatory decisions to the extent such decisions affect development of a regional stormwater pollution prevention management system.
  - D. Develop technical assistance roundtable discussion groups.
  - E. Share information about current and planned written materials.
  - F. Develop additional relationships with related groups and organizations.
- IV. Organization
  - A. Chairperson: This position will serve no less than 12 months and is responsible for organizing and leading meetings.
  - B. Vice Chair: This position will serve no less than 12 months and will prepare to serve as chair for the following 12 months.
  - C. Fiscal Agents: Fiscal Agents identified in each successful grant application will prepare and present periodic fiscal statements to the Team.  
finances.
  - D. Note taker: This position will serve on a monthly basis and is responsible for keeping and distributing meeting minutes.