



## Request for City Council Committee Action from the Department of Regulatory Services

**Date:** November 21, 2006

**To:** Honorable Sandy Colvin Roy, Chair, Transportation & Public Works Committee

**Referral to:** Honorable Paul Ostrow, Chair Ways & Means/Budget Committee

**Subject:** **Approval to enter into Agreement with and accept funds from the United States Environmental Protection Agency for Rain Barrel Neighborhood Partnership**

### Recommendation

- a) Adopt resolution authorizing the proper City officials to enter into a contract and accept such funds between City of Minneapolis and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) grant for an amount not to exceed \$100,000 and is to be completed by December 31, 2007. Authorize proper City officials to enter into subsequent contracts necessary to achieve goals of grant.
- b) Increase appropriations to 0600-835-8396 by \$100,000 and increase revenue budget 0600-835-8396 by \$100,000.

### Previous Directives

Prepared by: Daniel Huff, Environmental Services, 612-673-5863  
Rhonda Rae, P.E., Director, Engineering Services Division, 612-673-3627

Approved by:

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Rocco Forte, Assistant City Coordinator

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Steven A. Kotke, P.E., City Engineer, Director of Public Works

Permanent Review Committee (PRC) Approval \_\_\_\_\_ Not Applicable \_X\_

Policy Review Group (PRG) Approval \_\_\_\_\_ Not Applicable \_X\_

Presenters in Committee: Daniel Huff, Environmental Management and Safety  
Bo Spurrier, Engineering Services

**Financial Impact (Check those that apply)**

No financial impact (If checked, go directly to Background/Supporting Information).

Action requires an appropriation increase to the \_\_\_\_\_ Capital Budget or \_\_\_\_\_ Operating Budget.

Action provides increased revenue for appropriation increase.

Action requires use of contingency or reserves.

Business Plan:  Action is within the plan.  Action requires a change to plan.

Other financial impact (Explain):

Request provided to department's finance contact when provided to the Committee Coordinator.

**Community Impact (use any categories that apply)**

Neighborhood Notification

City Goals (related to Sustainability)

Comprehensive Plan (Sustainability Amendment)

Zoning Code

Other

**Background/Supporting Information**

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Region 5 established the Great Cities Partnership Program to collaborate with the Midwest's largest urban areas on environmental issues. The City of Minneapolis has received two previous grants under the program providing trees along Washington Ave. and solar panels on three City buildings. This USEPA Great Cities Partnership Grant is to actively engage residents through a rain barrel distribution project resulting in residents' adoption of river and lake – friendly lawn and garden practices. This grant is for up to \$100,000 with no City match requirements and will expire December 31, 2007.

Rain barrels function as a small cistern, trapping and storing water from rooftops during a rain storm. Usually the barrels are connected to the rain leader down spout of a house or garage. Barrels are equipped with a faucet that connects to a standard garden hose. The barrel can then be used as an irrigation source simply by turning on the faucet and draining the barrel through the hose. Barrels are equipped with an overflow, allowing excess rain water to bypass a full barrel. By trapping rain water and storing it for later use, rain barrels help protect our lakes, streams and the Mississippi River from stormwater runoff while providing irrigation water for yards and gardens. While rain barrels themselves can be an effective stormwater best management practice for homeowners, their impact is limited unless they are integrated into a lake and river – friendly yard.

The rain barrel distribution is part of a focused outreach and education strategy in which the City will promote lake and river – friendly yard practices -including reducing the use of pesticides and fertilizer, sweeping up grass clippings and leaves, and directing stormwater over permeable surfaces. The City and its partners will conduct a multi-media campaign to promote this project and the rain barrel distribution. City residents will be notified about the project and encouraged to register for a rain barrel through neighborhood newsletters, the City’s website, partnering organizations’ websites, a broad array of email list serves, and local newspapers.

Costs of Engineering Services staff time to manage this project are an estimated \$12,000. Minneapolis residents participating in this project will pay half the cost of the rain barrel for an additional \$80,000. Estimated cost for purchasing rain barrels is between \$60 -\$80 each with the resident covering half of that cost. The \$100,000 grant from EPA will cover the remaining costs of the project. Total cost of this project is \$192,000.

## **RESOLUTION 2006R-\_\_\_\_**

**By**

### **Authorizing Execution of an Agreement with the United States Environmental Protection Agency for Great Cities Partnership Grant Program to implement a Neighborhood Rain Barrel Partnership.**

Whereas, the City is committed to enhancing its natural environment and overall well being; and

Whereas, stormwater runoff from roofs, lawns and gardens often has a deleterious effect upon our lakes, streams and the Mississippi River; and

Whereas, the use of Rain Barrels in conjunction with the use of river and lake – friendly lawn and garden practices will mitigate the negative effects from stormwater runoff;

Whereas, the City submitted an application to the United States Environmental Protection Agency Great Cities Partnership Grant Program to implement a neighborhood rain barrel partnership.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the City Council authorizes the execution of a Great Cities Partnership Grant Agreement; and

Be It Further Resolved that as a condition to receive funds under this Grant Agreement the City agrees to implement a neighborhood rain barrel partnership program as committed to by its submission of the Grant Application.