Liquid Assets

A Regional Water Quality Investment Fund

Metropolitan Water Pollution Abatement Advisory Committee
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Background

• King County Code allows for establishment of a water quality program funded up to 1.5% of Wastewater Treatment Division operating budget.

• This proposal was developed by a working group composed of MWPAAC members and WTD staff.
Purpose

To improve water quality in the WTD service area in a way that enhances or complements the current efforts of our regional wastewater system.
Criteria

Funding applications and decisions made under this program must meet the following eligibility criteria:

• Create a benefit to the WTD service area and the WTD ratepayers.
• Be explicit regarding the water quality benefit related to regional wastewater issues.
In addition to meeting the eligibility criteria (on the previous slide), a proposal must respond to each of the three program elements below:

- *Service Enhancement*
- *Water Quality Benefit*
- *Strength of Implementation*
Overall Funding Distribution Structure

The program would be implemented through grants:

• The funding distributed through grants (*minus funding needed for staff administration of program*)
• Annual Request for Proposal released
• Criteria serve as guidance for applicants and selection
• All proposals reviewed, ranked, and a final list selected for funding
Eligibility for Funds

The following entities are eligible to be recipients of this funding:

- Non-Profits (including associations, community groups, educational institutions, 501c3, etc.)
- Cities, counties, special purpose districts
- Tribes

*Any other entity interested in providing projects that benefit service area would need to partner with an eligible entity.*
Project Selection Process

- A Grant Ranking Committee will review, rank and recommend projects for funding.
  - *Staffed by WTD.*
  - *Made up of six people:*
    - 3 MWPAAC representatives (at least one city, at least one special purpose district);
    - 2 WTD reps;
    - 1 King County Council rep.
- The Committee sends to WTD Management the proposals recommended for funding.
- WTD confirms and administers contracts, subject to King County Council approval of projects through supplemental budget process.
- On an annual basis WTD briefs MWPAAC and RWQC on status of program.
Future Changes to Selection Process

- For 2017 and beyond a revised version will be developed in coordination with the regional sewer contract negotiations
Staffing

• WTD would administer the program using a percentage of program funds.

• WTD will develop administrative details of the grants program including development of process, application materials, announcements, grant/contract distribution, tracking, financial accounting, reporting requirements, etc.

• It is the intent that in addition to improving water quality, this program be designed in a way that minimizes administrative burden and maximizes transparency of decision making.
Questions and Discussion