



LETTER OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Between Minnesota State Agencies Regarding Stormwater Capture and Use (SCU)

1. Parties

This letter acknowledges the relationship of the following state agencies (or entities) to Stormwater Capture and Reuse: the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry (DLI), the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA), and the Metropolitan Council. Collectively they are referred to as Agencies in this letter.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this letter is to establish a common understanding and clarify primary roles and responsibilities among the Agencies for advancing the development and implementation of safe and sustainable Stormwater Capture and Use (SCU) practices in Minnesota, based on the findings and recommendations of the January 30, 2025 report titled "Update on Developing a Clear Process for Implementing Stormwater Capture and Use in Minnesota" prepared by EOR for the Minnesota Department of Health (hereinafter referred to as "the Report").

3. Background

Minnesota has seen increasing interest in SCU as a water management strategy to conserve water resources and manage stormwater volumes. Legislative directives in 2015 and 2021 called for study, recommendations, and a road map for water reuse implementation. The Report summarizes the collaborative efforts undertaken by the Agencies and interested parties through the Interagency Work Group and Engagement Core, identifies progress made, highlights remaining challenges (including role clarity and consensus on risk management), and provides recommendations for next steps. Advancing SCU requires continued interagency collaboration and clear leadership.

4. Understandings and Agreements

The Agencies agree to this shared understanding:

- **Acceptance of Report:** The Agencies acknowledge receipt of the Report and accept its contents, findings, and recommendations as a foundational basis for guiding future collaborative efforts to develop and implement a clear process for SCU in Minnesota.

- **MPCA as Lead Agency for Guidance Development:** The MPCA shall serve in its existing capacity as the agency responsible for coordinating the overall development of the state's SCU guidance development and implementation strategies. MPCA will leverage its existing role as steward of the Minnesota Stormwater Manual to serve as the primary collaboration hub and repository for SCU information, guidance, training resources, and best practices. MPCA will continue to engage appropriate partner agencies and interested parties when content or policy needs to be developed.
- **MDH Role in Public Health Risk:** The MDH holds the primary responsibility for assessing public health risks associated with SCU, developing health-based water quality criteria for various source waters and end uses, providing related technical guidance, and evaluating potential exposure pathways. MDH will continue to participate actively in the Interagency Work Group to ensure public health considerations are integrated.
- **Roles of Other Agencies:** The Agencies recognize the essential roles of DNR (water appropriations, quantity impacts), BWSR (watershed management planning, grants), DLI (plumbing code enforcement, cross-connection prevention), MDA (agricultural perspectives), and the Metropolitan Council (regional planning, research, data and metro area grants) within their respective statutory authorities and areas of expertise related to SCU. The Agencies commit to continued collaboration to ensure these perspectives are integrated.
- **Future role of the SCU Interagency Workgroup:** Realizing that the science, risk management, and breadth of interested parties relevant to SCU spans across the roles, authorities, and responsibilities in the Executive Branch, the agencies named in this letter commit to meaningful participation in the Interagency Workgroup as essential to the promotion of safe water reuse in Minnesota. Each of the agencies has the ability to call a meeting of this group as new information or needs arise.
- **Need for External Engagement and Third-Party Facilitation:** The Agencies acknowledge the Report identifies areas requiring further clarity and the value of continued engagement of interested parties. The Agencies are committed to ensuring meaningful engagement continues and intend on using established methods of outreach and team structure. The Agencies will work to ensure products are trusted by the diverse interested parties and the process fosters consensus-building on outstanding technical and policy issues (e.g., risk benchmarks, restricted access definitions, cost-benefit analysis), and support the development of broadly accepted guidance. In the event additional facilitation is required, and contingent on availability of funding, third party facilitation may be considered.

5. Collaboration

The Agencies commit to continued active participation in the Interagency Work Group and support for the interested parties process to ensure a coordinated, collaborative, and transparent approach to developing and implementing SCU guidance and policy in Minnesota.

6. Implementation and Duration

This letter confirms the existing authorities, responsibilities and intentions of the Agencies to continue working together for safe, affordable and responsible stormwater capture and use in Minnesota. Signature by the authorized representatives of all participating Agencies demonstrates a shared understanding of the importance of this practice to water sustainability and signals the state's intention to continue making progress in this practice.

7. Signatures



Thomas P. Hogan, Director
Environmental Health Division
Minnesota Department of Health



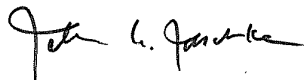
Joshua Stamper, Director
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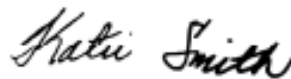
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Minnesota Pollution Control Agency



Todd Green, Director
Construction Codes and Licensing
Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry



John Jaschke, Executive Director
Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources



Katie Smith, Director
Ecological and Water Resources Division
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources



Sam Paske, Assistant General Manager
Water Planning Services
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