



CITY OF MARSHALL AGENDA ITEM REPORT

Presenter:	Scott Truedson
Meeting Date:	Tuesday, February 27, 2024
Category:	NEW BUSINESS
Type:	INFO/ACTION
Subject:	Wastewater Items – 1) Wastewater NPDES Permit Update; 2) Consider Authorization to Utilize Wastewater Funds to Continue the Water Softener Rebate Program (Project WW-002)
Background Information:	<p>The EPA has approved the City of Marshall’s request for a chloride variance on February 1. The MPCA is now working on issuing our new NPDES permit which should be in place by March 1.</p> <p>To meet new wastewater NPDES chloride discharge limits the City of Marshall has been participating in a water softener optimization/rebate program since July 2022. This has been possible due to an MPCA grant along with funding from the wastewater budget.</p> <p>The rebate grant program will be ending on June 30, 2024, or when funds are depleted. Wastewater has budgeted for the rebate program in 2024 to cover matching and engineering fees.</p> <p>Staff would like to use any remaining wastewater budgeted funds to continue the rebate program after the grant has expired for the rest of 2024 or until funds run out. Further, City staff is requesting to continue funding a water softener rebate program in future years with Wastewater Department funds. Continuing to fund a water softener rebate program will help ensure that the Wastewater Treatment Facility remains in compliance with its NPDES discharge permit. Included in the packet is a Resolution for City Council consideration of continual funding for a local water softener rebate program.</p>
Fiscal Impact:	Wastewater has remaining budgeted funds in 602-49500-58180 Refunds & Reimbursements.
Alternative/ Variations:	None
Recommendations:	that the City Council authorize City staff to utilize any remaining funds to continue the water softener rebate program for 2024 or until those funds are depleted.

RESOLUTION NUMBER 24-025

RESOLUTION CREATING WATER SOFTENER REBATE PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the City of Marshall's Municipal Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) is required by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) to reduce the discharge of chlorides into the Redwood River by 2024; and

WHEREAS, a large portion of chloride discharge comes from water softener salt that is sent into the sanitary sewer collection system which flows to the WWTF and is discharged into the Redwood River; and

WHEREAS, chlorides cannot be removed through conventional mechanical treatment systems, so the City of Marshall and Marshall Municipal Utilities (MMU) worked together and upgraded MMU's Water Treatment Plant to produce a softer water to help attain compliance with the required limits set by the MPCA; and

WHEREAS, the City of Marshall WWTF will be issued a new National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit PERMIT# MN0022179 for wastewater effluent discharged into the Redwood River; and

WHEREAS, the new NPDES PERMIT# MN0022179 will take effect on March 1, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the new NPDES permit includes a variance for chloride reduction that includes an interim chloride limit of 468 mg/l; and

WHEREAS, the city will need to meet a final limit of 261 mg/l beginning March 1, 2034 once the variance term expires; and

WHEREAS, water softening units have a useful lifespan that varies from 10-20 years and property owner's are not likely to replace their water softening units frequently enough; and

WHEREAS, studies support a finding that replacing water softening units will decrease chloride concentration levels at the WWTF; and

WHEREAS, reduction of chloride concentration levels promotes health, welfare and safety of the community, and furthers a public purpose; and

WHEREAS, Council has authorization through Section 7.01 of the City Code to adopt this type of program; and

WHEREAS, it is deemed prudent by the City of Marshall to offer a rebate program to help offset the cost of replacing water softening units to incentivize the replacement of water softeners to help meet chloride concentration limits at the WWTF; and

WHEREAS, the WWTF will budget annually for funding the water softener removal and replacement rebates to serve the greater good of the community and the environment and to help the WWTF meet MPCA-required chloride concentration limits at the WWTF; and

WHEREAS, to be considered for a rebate water softeners must be programmed for a minimum 4,000 grains/lb of salt efficiency; and

WHEREAS, the City of Marshall City Council shall have oversight and review of all budgeted dollars for the rebate program annually during city budget preparation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of Marshall as follows:

1. The City shall establish a water softener removal or replacement rebate program.
2. The rebate program shall be effective upon approval of this Resolution.
3. The rebate amount shall be \$500 to remove a water softener or \$500 to replace a water softener with a new, efficient water softener.
4. Rebate amounts shall be reviewed annually and approved with the current City Fee Schedule.

Passed and adopted by the City Council this 27th day of February 2024.

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Mayor