
TO: Kate Thunstrom, City Administrator
FROM: Paul Carpenter, Public Works Director
SUBJECT: **URRWMO Joint Powers Agreement Update**
DATE: September 16, 2024

OVERVIEW:

The JPA is the forming document of the Upper Rum River WMO. It is a legal agreement between the six-member cities. It sets the authorities and limits of authorities. It specifies each city's role to have representatives on the URRWMO board. The original JPA dates to the mid-1980's. Since that time there was one minor update to the agreement in 2011. That update was to simplify processes for payment of bills. The current JPA is so outdated and had so many organizational issues that it necessary to completely "unwind" the document and re-organize it. The URRWMO joint powers agreement (JPA) is 30+years old and in need of update. The URRWMO board has developed a recommended revised JPA.

Please note that the URRWMO cannot levy tax. The member cities must approve the URRWMO's budget and levy their own tax to pay a contribution to the URRWMO. Cities contribute funding by the same formula that has been used for 3+ decades. Operating (administrative) costs are equally split six ways. Non-operating (projects) costs are shared by a formula that equally weights land area and market valuations of each city.

Although there were significant language changes and the format has been updated, the practical effect of the changes is housekeeping in nature. The alterations do not change the operations of the organization, nor the funding authority, which remains with the St. Francis City Council.

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED:

Council to review and approve the updated URRWMO JPA.

BUDGET IMPLICATION:

None

Attachments:

- Upper Rum River Watershed Management Organization JPA