



Sunrise River Watershed Management Organization

November 16, 2022

Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership Policy Committee
C/O Angie Hong, Washington Conservation District

Transmitted by email

Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership Policy Committee,

We are writing to inform you of the unanimous November 2, 2022 vote of the Sunrise River Water Management Organization (SRWMO) Board to leave the Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership. We are disappointed to have arrived at this decision, however we feel this move is in the best interests of our organization and our member communities.

The reason for our departure, as stated in a September 16, 2022 memo and discussions at that September Policy Committee meeting, is our concerns of liability when operating in a collaborative (the liability flows down to the participating JPC entities, not to the Collaborative). Our liability concerns were heightened as the Partnership voted to obligate future dollars to projects proposed at the July 25th meeting without having an established policy to do so; changed the agreed upon workplan and allocation methodology to enable committing this future funding; and did not require conflicted members of the Policy Committee to abstain from voting to fund their own organization's projects. We understand that staff were directed to propose new policies for discussion at the January meeting, but we feel the Policy Committee should have a much larger role in that policy development. Without Policy Committee leadership of robust operating policies, liability and risk concerns are above our tolerance level, particularly in a collaborative structure.

We remain supportive of implementation of the Lower St. Croix Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. We will continue to adopt it as a guidance document. We hope to work with the counties, watershed organizations, and soil and water conservation districts throughout the basin in the future.

Per the joint powers agreement, our departure from the Partnership is effective 90 days from notice to the Policy Committee. This letter is being transmitted by email, and we anticipate our exit to be final 90 days thereafter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Candice Kantor".

Candice Kantor, SRWMO Board Chair

Resolution to Leave the Joint Powers Agreement for the Implementation of the Lower St. Croix Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan

WHEREAS, the Sunrise River Watershed Management Organization (SRWMO) Board adopted the Lower St. Croix Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan as a guidance document to the 4th Generation SRWMO Watershed Management Plan on November 30, 2020.

WHEREAS, the SRWMO entered into the Joint Powers Agreement for the Implementation of the Lower St. Croix Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan on November 30, 2020.

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Joint Powers Agreement is to establish a joint powers collaborative entitled the Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership.

WHEREAS, the SRWMO has expressed concerns to the Partnership regarding operations, procedures, and liability when operating as a joint powers collaborative.

WHEREAS, the Joint Powers Agreement for the Implementation of the Lower St. Croix Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan sets forth procedures for a party to leave the Partnership, including indicating that intent in writing to the Policy Committee by Board resolution is required 90 days in advance of exit.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the SRWMO Board hereby gives notice of its intent to leave the Lower St. Croix Partnership effective 90 days after receipt of this notice by the Partnership Policy Committee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the SRWMO Board supports the implementation of the Lower St. Croix Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan and continues to adopt the Plan as a guidance document.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the SRWMO Board authorizes and directs its contracted administrative service provider to take all steps necessary to terminate and wind down the rights and obligations of the SRWMO under the Joint Powers Agreement for the Implementation of the Lower St. Croix Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan.

CERTIFICATION

SUNRISE RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

I do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is a true and correct copy of a resolution presented to and adopted by the SRWMO at a duly authorized meeting thereof held on the 3rd of November, 2022.



Candice Kantor, SRWMO Board Chair

11/16/2022

Date