



Board Summary Report

To: Board of Directors
From: Lanae Raymond, WQ Program & Special Projects Program Manager
Date: December 13, 2011
Re: 2011 Cherry Creek Stewardship Partners Statement of Purpose
Board Meeting Date: December 28, 2011

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Purpose and Recommendation

The Cherry Creek Stewardship Partners (Partners) watershed group is requesting SEMSWA, as one of the major regional partners who are active participants in promoting water quality in the watershed, consider signing a *Statement of Purpose* document that recognizes the benefits of regional cooperation in the protection and improvement of the Cherry Creek watershed. Staff has reviewed the document and recommends SEMSWA as a signatory.

Background & Discussion

In 2003, the Partners executed a Memorandum of Understanding among the jurisdictions in the Cherry Creek Watershed as part of the EPA's *Smart Growth for Water Quality Initiative* as a basis for regional cooperation in water quality enhancement. Since that time, a new Cherry Creek group was formed, the Cherry Creek Basin Working Group (CCBWG), in response to Arapahoe County's \$3 million in seed money to leverage recreation opportunities in Cherry Creek. Additional regional partners have also been identified since 2003 as important stakeholders that were not part of the original MOU.

Ongoing discussions between the Partners and the CCBWG identified the benefit of a new issuance of a revised MOU document that 1) recognizes the value of continued cooperation and consensus for the overall benefit of the Cherry Creek Watershed, including water quality enhancements, and 2) provides a quasi-formal signed agreement that highlights the regional watershed emphasis and cooperation that is often necessary in securing investments in the watershed, including those to promote water quality.

Staff was part of this MOU revision process that resulted in the 2011 Cherry Creek *Statement of Purpose*. The Statement of Purpose has no legal or financial implications, liabilities, or obligations; it merely recognizes the benefit of regional cooperation that can elevate leveraging efforts in the basin and promote water quality and recreational enhancements that make the Cherry Creek basin a remarkable place for all to enjoy.

Alternative

The SEMSWA Board could decide that it is not necessary for SEMSWA to be a part of the agreement.

Fiscal Impacts

There are no fiscal impacts of the agreement.

Concurrence

Discussion with John McCarty, Executive Director, indicates a support of the premise of the agreement to serve as a basis for regional cooperation in the Cherry Creek watershed without obligation.