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COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

June 18, 2012

Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street, 4th Floor
Buffalo, NY 14202

Re: Western New York Stormwater Coalition: Rainwater Harvesting Installation Project Budget Establishment

Dear Honorable Members:

Enclosed please find a memorandum and proposed resolution from the Department of Environment and Planning (DEP) detailing the budget for the Western New York Stormwater Coalition: Rainwater Harvesting Installation Project.

The New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation has awarded the DEP $626,000 through the Green Innovation Grant Program to coordinate the Western New York Stormwater Coalition: Rainwater Harvesting Cistern Installation Project. The DEP will coordinate this grant as lead agency of the Western New York Stormwater Coalition.

Should your honorable body require further information, I encourage you to contact Thomas R. Hersey, Jr. at the Department of Environment and Planning. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

By: Richard M. Tobe
Deputy County Executive

MCP/cw
Enclosure

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Department of Environment and Planning
Re: Western New York Stormwater Coalition: Rainwater Harvesting Installation Project Budget Establishment
Date: May 24, 2012

SUMMARY

It is recommended that the Legislature approve the attached resolution prepared by the Department of Environment and Planning (DEP) establishing the budget for the $626,000 in grant funding from the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation (NYSEFC) for the Western New York Stormwater Coalition: Rainwater Harvesting Installation Project. It is necessary to create a budget according to the workplan and the contractual requirements of the NYSEFC. This new grant will provide for installation of five (5) municipal rainwater cisterns at the following locations:

- Erie County Aurora Highway Garage
- Erie County Botanical Gardens
- Tonawanda Highway Garage
- Tonawanda Senior Center
- Village of Orchard Park Highway Garage

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The NYSEFC grant will provide $626,000 (90%) of the funding for the Western New York Stormwater Coalition: Rainwater Harvesting Installation Project. The remaining 10% will be provided through in-kind services from the grant partners (Erie County Departments of Public Works and Environment and Planning, Town of Tonawanda, and Village of Orchard Park) in the form of engineering and construction services.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

Approval of this resolution will enable Erie County to access the $626,000 in State funding to install the five cisterns. It will reduce the need for these municipalities to pay for approximately two million (2,000,000) gallons of potable water per year, which is used for activities such as asphalt operations, street sweeping, and vegetation watering. It will also decrease the amount of stormwater discharged to the downstream system reducing flooding, erosion, sedimentation, and pollutant loading.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

New York State has made the implementation of green infrastructure a priority. The New York State Stormwater Management Design Manual update, released in August 2010, specifies increased use of green infrastructure as a way to manage stormwater flows. By reducing the amount of Stormwater entering the systems, this will reduce contaminated overflows into local water bodies.

The Western New York Stormwater Coalition's 42 municipalities have worked collaboratively to comply with state and federal stormwater management requirements since 2002. This project will create five (5) demonstration sites for rainwater harvesting and will serve as a case study for other regulated municipalities in both Western New York and statewide.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

Without approval of the attached resolution, Erie County will be unable to access the $626,000 in State grant funding earmarked for green infrastructure projects. Municipalities will continue to pay for and use potable water in municipal operations where it is not required. Additionally, there will be no reduction in the stormwater flows in these communities.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The grant budget will be established as indicated.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING

RE: Western New York Stormwater Coalition:
Rainwater Harvesting Installation Project
Budget Establishment

WHEREAS, the Western New York Stormwater Coalition (WNYSC) has decided to lead by example by constructing five (5) stormwater cisterns to capture rainwater for reuse and to reduce the need for potable water in municipal operations; and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Department of Environment and Planning (DEP) coordinates the activities of the WNYSC; and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Legislature authorized the County Executive to enter into an agreement with the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation in a resolution passed on November 3, 2011 (Comm. 22E-8 (2011)) to accept funding for the WNY Stormwater Coalition: Rainwater Harvesting Installation Project; and

WHEREAS, the required in-kind match for this award, in the form of engineering and construction services, will be provided by the following municipal partners: the Town of Tonawanda, the Village of Orchard Park as well as by the Erie County Department of Public Works and the Erie County Department of Environment and Planning; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to establish the budget in accordance with the current project workplan and contractual requirements set forth by the granting agency.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the revenue from the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation is hereby appropriated in a grant account in the Department of Environment and Planning (Business Area 162, Fund 281) as follows:

WNY Stormwater Coalition: Rainwater Harvesting Installation Project
(Grant Period: 3/28/12 – 3/28/14)
SAP Grant Account #162WNYSCRHI1214

REVENUE:

Account	Description	Budget
409000	State Aid Revenue – New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation	($626,000)
TOTAL REVENUE		($626,000)

APPROPRIATIONS:

Account	Description	Budget
516020	Professional Services Contracts and Fees	$626,000
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS		$626,000

and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Director of the Division of Budget and Management is hereby authorized to implement any budget adjustments as required to comply with State and local funding requirements; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Legislature send certified copies of this resolution to the County Executive's Office; the Comptroller's Office; the Director of the Division of Budget and Management; the County Attorney; the GIGP Project Coordinator (address: Katie M. Syron, Project Coordinator, New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation, 625 Broadway, Albany, New York 12207-2997), and the Commissioner of the Department of Environment and Planning, Rath Building, 10th Floor.