

COMMISSION FILE NO: 25-169-12 **DATE INTRODUCED:** December 1, 2025

INTRODUCED BY: Executive Director (Signature on File in the Office of the Commission)

REFERRED BY COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON TO: Policy, Finance, and Personnel Committee

RELATING TO: Approval of Contract W97005P16, Working Soils® Program Implementation for the Year 2026

SUMMARY:

The Commission is requested to authorize and to direct the Executive Director to negotiate and to execute Contract W97005P16, Working Soils® Program Implementation for the Year 2026, with the Conservation Fund (TCF) in an amount not to exceed \$179,150. TCF's proposed budget to carry out the program is \$149,760, with \$0 budgeted for subcontractors.

TCF has managed and overseen the Working Soils® Program since 2016 and MMSD's Greenseams® Program since 2001, when they were selected through a competitive proposal process. The duration of the contract is for one year, beginning January 1, 2026, and ending December 31, 2026. The District has ultimate oversight and decision making authority over this service. This proposed agreement represents a decrease of \$77,516, or 34 percent, from the 2025 contract due to budget cuts made to the Working Soils® Program.

TCF will continue to provide the following consulting services through the contract:

- Project management,
- Data collection and analysis,
- Grant writing,
- Landowner coordination, and
- Implementation planning, including real estate services.

ATTACHMENTS: **BACKGROUND** ☒ **KEY ISSUES** ☐ **RESOLUTION** ☒

FISCAL NOTE ☒ **S/W/MBE** ☒ **OTHER** ☐ _____

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COMMITTEE ACTION: _____ **DATE:** _____

COMMISSION ACTION: _____ **DATE:** _____

BACKGROUND

Approval of Contract W97005P16, Working Soils® Program Implementation for the Year 2026

The Working Soils® Program acquires voluntary, permanent easements on undeveloped, privately owned properties in areas expected to experience major growth in the next 20 years. Working Soils® easements protect privately owned farmland and do not accommodate public access to private working lands. Working Soils® easements prioritize protection of water absorbing hydric soils typically found along streams, shorelines, and wetlands to help protect MMSD's structural flood management projects – infrastructure investments worth hundreds of millions of dollars. The Working Soils® Program has leveraged more than \$3.7 million in grant funding from the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service toward the purchase of easements. To date, Working Soils® has purchased 22 easements totaling 2,332 acres.

RESOLUTION

Approval of Contract W97005P16, Working Soils® Program Implementation for the Year 2026

RESOLVED, by the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage Commission, that the Executive Director is authorized and directed to execute Contract W97005P16, Working Soils® Program Implementation for the Year 2026, with the Conservation Fund in an amount not to exceed \$179,150.