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TO: Middle Huron Stormwater Advisory Group  
representatives  
FROM: Ric Lawson, Watershed Planner  
RE: Shoreline demonstration opportunity  
DATE: February 11, 2010

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I have been presented with an opportunity for the SAG that I believe will provide great benefits at little cost. The Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership (MNSP) is moving quickly to develop a number of tools to promote natural shoreline bioengineering practices to protect shorelines from erosion and reduce nearshore runoff. They have developed a training program to certify contractors and have selected a location on Ford Lake for a demonstration site and field training. Please see the attached project summary and a more detailed presentation on the SAG website: [www.hrwc.org/our-work/middle-huron/middle-huron-sag/](http://www.hrwc.org/our-work/middle-huron/middle-huron-sag/) under “Ford Lake Natural Shoreline Demonstration.”

MNSP and other project partners, including Ypsilanti Township, have invited SAG partners to participate as a project partner and are requesting SAG support to help cover some of the costs. There are a number of benefits from engaging in this project that will directly help SAG partners address stormwater permit requirements:

- Workshop(s) on natural shoreline restoration will address the need for public education on the benefits of using native vegetation and methods for managing riparian lands to protect water quality (topics and outreach that is required under the Watershed Municipal Stormwater PEP);
- The professional certification training could also address training requirements for municipal employees managing shorelines under the “Good Housekeeping” section of the SWPPI;
- The demonstration project is within direct drainage to Ford Lake and can serve as a best management practice to help address the Ford Lake TMDL;
- The location of the demonstration project presents an opportunity to develop future education and demonstration for other target groups, such as riparian homeowners (required within the public education plan), landscapers, and the general public; and
- The project will be a regional model and show the Middle Huron SAG to be leaders in promoting innovative stormwater management technologies.

Funding is requested to cover plants, construction materials and permit fees for the demonstration project and will not exceed \$5,350. A detailed cost estimate is included at the website along with a summary of other project partner contributions. Due to the successful TMDL Implementation grant application with the Washtenaw County Water Resource Commission, some monitoring costs that were included in HRWC’s contract with the SAG will be covered by the grant. I propose that these funds pay for the demonstration project costs being requested. **On behalf of your MS4 agency, please let me know if you support or object to using contract funds in this way, by contacting me directly by phone (734-769-5123 ext. 609) or e-mail ([rlawson@hrwc.org](mailto:rlawson@hrwc.org)).** If you believe we need to discuss as a full group, I will schedule a special meeting ASAP to decide. Either way, I need to hear from you by **February 18** so that the project partners can begin the permit application process.