



# HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

## STATE OF MICHIGAN

### Appropriations Requests for Legislatively Directed Spending Items

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1. The sponsoring representative's first name:  
Natalie
2. The sponsoring representative's last name:  
Price
3. The cosponsoring representatives' names. All cosponsors must be listed. If none, please type 'n/a.' A signed letter from the sponsor approving the co-sponsorship and a signed letter from the member wishing to co-sponsor are required. Attach letters at question #9 below.  
Representatives Schmaltz, Steele, Koleszar, Wilson, McKinney, Morgan, and Mentzer; letters are attached under question #9.
4. Name of the entity that the spending item is intended for:  
Huron River Watershed Council
5. Physical address of the entity that the spending item is intended for:  
117 N. First Street, Suite 100, Ann Arbor, MI 48104
6. If there is not a specific recipient, the intended location of the project or activity:  
Southeastern Michigan, including parts of Oakland, Washtenaw, Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, and Wayne Counties
7. Name of the representative and the district number where the legislatively directed spending item is located:  
The project site falls with southeastern Michigan which includes 54 state representative districts, of which the 6th (Rep. Natalie Price) is included.
8. Purpose of the legislatively directed spending item. Please include how it provides a public benefit and why it is an appropriate use of taxpayer funding. Please also demonstrate that the item does not violate Article IV, S 30 of the Michigan Constitution. Southeast Michigan (SE Michigan) is a diverse region populated by 4.8 million people that have recently experienced unprecedented flooding and infrastructure failure. Stormwater infrastructure in the region, which includes significant areas serviced by combined sewers, is aging and undersized to accommodate larger storms that are

occurring more frequently.

In 2024, four watershed groups launched the Rain Catchers Collective. The Rain Catchers Collective is a regional collaboration between four SE Michigan watershed groups poised to increase the region's resiliency and reduce risk. The four watersheds are:

Huron River Watershed Council  
Friends of the Rouge  
Clinton River Watershed Council  
Friends of the Detroit River

An initial grant investment will seed a transformational movement to make Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) standard practice across SE Michigan that will make the region resilient to future storms.

Already, the Collective is teaching close to 100 residents per year how to build their own rain gardens and we are working with residents to install GSI. With seed funding, the Collective will expand to jointly run programs and advertise GSI products and services through a single hub, creating "Rain Catchers" throughout southeast Michigan.

HRWC will serve as the fiduciary and provide overall coordination of the Collective. Each watershed group will lead aspects of the Collective based on expertise and capacity. A governance structure including a community-based Advisory Committee will be established.

The Rain Catchers will rely on Community Engagement strategies to build relationships; Marketing and Communications strategies to reach the public; and a Workforce to meet the new demand. A more resilient future is possible.

#### BENEFITS:

- Expand a residential GSI program providing education, plant materials, and design, construction and technical services to over 100 residents a year
- Coordinate a Resilience Fund to support municipalities and community groups to implement dozens of high impact GSI projects
- Build and train a new workforce to meet the growing demand for GSI services including planning, installing and maintaining GSI
- Develop a network of native plant suppliers to meet the growing demand for their products
- Develop shared resources and marketing to educate the public about GSI and accelerate demand

The Rain Catchers Collective is designed to be self-funding and sustainable. The business plan indicates latent demand exists for the services the Collective will provide. However, it needs seed funding to build capacity and facilitate the demand.

The Rain Catchers estimate the need for \$12.5 million to effectively launch all aspects of

the program. Funds would be applied to increase capacity, engage communities, recruit and train a new workforce, broadly market the program, and provide start-up funds for initial GSI projects. The Rain Catchers Collective will be self-sustaining in 3-5 years.

9. Attach documents here if needed:

Attachments added to the end of this file.

10. The amount of state funding requested for the legislatively directed spending item.

12500000

11. Has the legislatively directed spending item previously received any of the following types of funding? Check all that apply.

["None"]

12. Please select one of the following groups that describes the entity requesting the legislatively directed spending item:

Non-profit organization

13. For a non-profit organization, has the organization been operating within Michigan for the preceding 36 months?

Yes

14. For a non-profit organization, has the entity had a physical office within Michigan for the preceding 12 months?

Yes

15. For a non-profit organization, does the organization have a board of directors?

Yes

16. For a non-profit organization, list all the active members on the organization's board of directors and any other officers. If this question is not applicable, please type 'n/a.'

Matt LaFleur Exec/Fin & Committee Chair; Diane O'Connell, Exec Committee Vice Chair; Belinda Friis, Exec/Fin Committee & Treasurer; Mary Bajcz, Exec Committee; Dick Norton, Exec Committee; Peter Schappach, Exec Committee; Janis Bobrin, Exec. Committee; Charles DeGryse, Alternate; Steve Sherman, Alternate; Kirsten Mowrey, Alternate; Christin Colling, Alternate; Yousef Rabhi, Alternate; Debbie Swanson, Alternate; Mark Teicher, Alternate; Suzann Martin, Alternate; Sanam Aldag; Kathleen Aselyte; Suzanne Bade; Scott Barb; Sue Bejin; Amber Bismack; Dave Bowman; Bree Brouwer; Cheryl Darnton; Mitch Dempsey; Matt Doss; Susan Gardner; Alexander Hansen; Robert Hyde; Brian Lassaline; Molly Maciejewski; James Martin; Philip Peters; Andrea Pierce; Marissa Prizgint; Kay Stremler; Matt Stuk; Evan Sweet; Kelly Trombley; Theresa Tupacz; Bill VanRiper; Curt Wolf; Lisa Disch

17. "I certify that neither the sponsoring representative nor the sponsoring representative's staff or immediate family has a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in the legislatively directed spending item."

Yes, this is correct

18. Anticipated start and end dates for the legislatively directed spending item:

Start: October 1, 2025; End: Sept 30, 2030

19. "I hereby certify that all information provided in this request is true and accurate."

Yes