Date: March 6, 2024

To: Urban Stormwater Workgroup Members and Interested Parties

From: David Wood, USWG Coordinator

Re: Urban Nutrient Management Expert Panel Review Plan

Proposed Timeline:

- Revised Scope Developed by April 16
- Panel Membership Finalized: End of May
- Kick-off Meeting: July/Aug
- Panel Completed by: December 2025

Basic Scope:

- Crediting State Fertilizer Legislation
    - Re-evaluate how urban fertilizer sales data are used to inform baseline N and P loads to urban turfgrass, and determine if the methods are accurately capturing trends in fertilizer use.
    - Re-approach fertilizer industry to try to obtain updated sales and trends in relation to state fertilizer laws
    - Determine if there are there other data sources that can inform urban nutrient application rates
        - We now have state data from four states (MD, VA, DE, PA) that aligns well with AAPFCO that extends out to more recent years.
    - If sales data trends are not picking up significant changes due to legislation, investigate possible explanations and either develop alternative crediting mechanism, or provide justification for maintaining or making minor modifications to current approach.

- Crediting Non-fertilized Urban Land
    - Evaluate options for reducing nutrient loads to un-fertilized turfgrass acres. This could include the feasibility of a unique land use, an efficiency BMP, etc.
    - Establish streamlined methods of tracking and reporting that would allow this type of credit without undue burden on the local and state agencies
    - Work with the MWG and WWTWG to determine if there are there other sources of urban nutrients that can be quantified and accounted for, that are not currently part of the modeling system, that help to explain and account for unfertilized lands (organic inputs, gray infrastructure discharges, etc).
    - Determine how remaining nutrients get distributed when acres are reported as un-fertilized

- Streamlined Tracking, Reporting and Verification
    - Do any of the above entities have data on long-term compliance with individual UNM plans? Citizen Science Data?
    - Options for UNM verification sub-sampling procedures

- Updated characterization of UNM trends and behaviors
    - Update extent of turf cover, risk level, trends in turf cover over time, and turf projections
    - Aside from industry data, review other research conducted by academia, NGOs, or regulators, on compliance with state fertilizer laws and urban nutrient management plans
    - Review updated literature on fertilization rates and timing and if they have changed over time

- Phase 7 Watershed Model
    - What improvements in both urban nutrient application and physical process simulation can we recommend for Phase 7
        - P export pathways
        - P sensitivities
    - The Phase 1 Task Force remained firm that that the solution they developed* should be reevaluated for Phase 7, including going back and revising the history (pre-2012) with new data/methods.

Other Notes:

*The UNM Task Force recommends to the Urban Stormwater Workgroup that they replace NAWQA data with the entire record of AAPFCO data (up through 2016). They also recommend a data smoothing method that removes outliers at the county-scale, then takes a 3-year rolling average. If a state has data after 2016, those data will be used instead of holding the 2016 rate constant. If a state does not have more recent data, the 2016 rate will be locked in and carried forward through time.