

September 30, 2024

Phil Belfiori
Vadnais Lake Area Water
Management Organization

VIA EMAIL

RE: Response to Request for Letter of Interest Proposal for Legal Services (2025-2026)

Dear Phil:


Please accept this letter as the proposal by Troy Gilchrist of the Town Law Center, PLLP to continue to provide legal services to the Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization (“VLAWMO”).

- Experience.** I have worked exclusively with local governments for more than 32 years. Jason Hill and I recently formed the Town Law Center to further focus our attention on the needs of smaller local units of governments, including water management organizations. I currently represent several water management organizations including VLAWMO, the Lower Rum River Watershed Management Organization, the Upper Rum River Watershed Management Organization, the Shingle Creek Watershed Management Commission, the Middle St. Croix Watershed Management Organization, the West Mississippi Watershed Management Commission, the Sunrise River Watershed Management Organization, and the Rum River Watershed Partnership. I previously represented the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission and the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization, but I transitioned those watersheds to others in the firm before leaving Kennedy & Graven, Chartered. I am familiar with the unique needs and issues of water management organizations and have worked through a variety of novel issues from disputes among member communities to county funding issues.
- Rates:** We propose the following hourly rates: \$225 for 2025, and \$230 for 2026. We keep time in 1/10th of an hour increments and time is billed monthly. The hourly rate applies to travel time if in-person attendance at a meeting is requested. The firm also charges for certain hard costs such as mileage, postage, etc.
- Conflicts.** We are not aware of any conflicts created by our representation of VLAWMO.
- Insurance.** The firm maintains professional liability insurance.
- Conclusion.** I have represented VLAWMO for approximately eight years, and assisted with its representation before then, and look forward to having an opportunity to continue my representation. I work well with VLAWMO staff and have had the opportunity to work with them to update the joint powers agreement as well as on the issues and complications associated with the ditch system transferred to VLAWMO and the wide range of projects VLAWMO has undertaken for the benefit of its members.

Please let me know if there are any questions or if any additional information is needed as part of our proposal to continue to represent VLAWMO.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Troy Gilchrist', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left and then curves back under the name.

Troy Gilchrist