

Meeting Date: Wednesday, March 4, 2026

Prepared By: Jess Hall, Natural Resource, Sustainability, & Environment Specialist

Subject: Review of Smart Salting Best Practices and Discussion

Background

Salt prematurely ages vehicles, roads, and bridges and degrades our freshwater lakes, streams, and drinking water. It is necessary, however, to maintain safe and open roads during snow and ice events. Just a teaspoon of salt permanently pollutes five gallons of water.

West St. Paul is working this winter to implement the following smart salting practices: staff training, calibrating equipment, and incorporating the use of salt brine to avoid the overapplication of salt. Staff provide resident education in accordance with our MS4 permit requirements.

This being said, there is room for improvement. Staff are seeking the input of the environmental committee to guide the future of the Smart Salting program in West St. Paul.

Requests

Environmental Committee should:

- Discuss current practices and suggest ways to improve, with special consideration for resident outreach