

Memorandum

REPORT TO: City Commission

FROM: Jessica Ahlstrom, Water Conservation Program Manager
Shawn Kohtz, Utilities Director

SUBJECT: Authorize the City Manager to Approve a Purchase Agreement with the University of Montana for a Hydrometerological Station in the Sourdough Watershed

MEETING DATE: July 28, 2026

AGENDA ITEM TYPE: Agreement - Vendor/Contract

RECOMMENDATION: Authorize the City Manager to Approve a Purchase Agreement with the University of Montana for a Hydrometerological Station in the Sourdough Watershed.

STRATEGIC PLAN: 6.1 Clean Water Supplies: Ensure adequate supplies of clean water for today and tomorrow.

BACKGROUND: The City of Bozeman relies on snowpack for its water supply, with 40% of its supply coming from Sourdough Creek, originating in the Sourdough drainage in the Gallatin Range.

Municipal water resource planning and effective drought management requires that municipalities understand hydrology within municipal watersheds, and the impacts of climate change on hydrologic processes. This is necessary for maximizing the efficiency of daily operations, assessing and responding to drought conditions, and forecasting future available water supplies to ensure that adequate supplies are available to meet future demands.

The installation of a Hydrometerological Station (Station), as outlined in the attached purchase agreement with the University of Montana, will support Bozeman in implementing effective, data-informed water resource management. The installation of the Station is a partnership with the University of Montana Climate Office and Montana State University. The Montana Climate Office will support data access by including the Station data in the Montana Mesonet dashboard. Montana State University will use the data to advance research in the field of geospatial hydrologic processes.

This project (WC09) is included in the approved FY27-FY31 Capital Improvement Plan, with funding available in FY27.

UNRESOLVED ISSUES: None.

ALTERNATIVES: As suggested by the Commission.

FISCAL EFFECTS: Total costs for this project (WC09) are not to exceed \$23,608.00 and will be paid for from the approved Water Conservation Division budget.

Attachments:

[Purchase Agreement_University of Montana_Hydrometerological Station.pdf](#)

[Exhibit A_Purchase Agreement_University of Montana.pdf](#)

Report compiled on: July 16, 2026