

MEETING DATE: July 12, 2018

TITLE: Resolution of Support for the Long Lake Creek Subwatershed Partnership

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 18-066

PREPARED BY: Eric Fieldseth

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REVIEWED BY: Administrator Counsel Program Mgr. (Name): Brian Beck
 Board Committee Engineer Becky Christopher

WORKSHOP ACTION:

<input type="checkbox"/> Advance to Board mtg. Consent Agenda.	<input type="checkbox"/> Advance to Board meeting for discussion prior to action.
<input type="checkbox"/> Refer to a future workshop (date):_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Refer to taskforce or committee (date):_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Return to staff for additional work.	<input type="checkbox"/> No further action requested.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): Approval at July 12th Board Meeting	

PURPOSE or ACTION REQUESTED:

Execute a resolution of support for the Long Lake Creek Subwatershed Partnership, and define and direct MCWD's involvement in the partnership as follows:

- Continue existing subwatershed monitoring and diagnostic efforts
- Regularly convene partners
- Facilitate communications and project coordination
- Synthesize MCWD's data with carp data collected by the partners
- Assist in developing next steps and collaborate on implementation planning

PROJECT/PROGRAM LOCATION:

Long Lake Creek Subwatershed – including the Cities of Medina, Long Lake and Orono

PROJECT/PROGRAM COST:

Requested amount of funding: \$0

PAST BOARD ACTION:

March 9, 2017 – Res. 17-019: Authorization to partner with the Cities of Long Lake, Medina and Orono, and the Long Lake Waters Association, to pursue Hennepin County Natural Resource Opportunity Grant funds, and to provide an in-kind contribution to advance a Long Lake Creek Subwatershed Carp Assessment (*Note – Grant funds were not awarded*)

April 26, 2018 – Res. 18-043: Authorization to execute an agreement with the Cities of Long Lake, Medina and Orono, and the Long Lake Waters Association, to partner on a carp assessment in Long Lake. MCWD's participation is contingent upon all the partners contributing and partnering on the project.

SUMMARY:

Background

The Long Lake Creek Subwatershed has numerous natural resource issues, with several waterbodies on the state impaired waters list. In 2014, the Upper Watershed TMDL identified watershed phosphorus loading, internal phosphorus loading, and common carp as potential drivers for poor water quality and ecological integrity in Long Lake. In 2016, the three cities in the Long Lake Creek Subwatershed, Medina, Long Lake and Orono, passed resolutions agreeing to a system-wide partnership to pursue water quality improvement grant funding in the Long Lake Creek Subwatershed. The partnership outlined potential projects to pursue, which included regional infiltration projects, wetland/stream restoration, and carp management. During this timeframe the Long Lake Waters Association (LLWA) formed, which is composed of residents from all three cities and across the subwatershed.

Since then, Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (District or MCWD) completed its watershed management plan, which outlined a strategic model that uses water quality issues and land use drivers to identify cost effective best management practices (BMPs). Based on this model, the District coordinated with the cities and newly-formed association to ensure that short-term plans were aligned with long-range goals.

Recent Partnership Efforts

Carp management has been an initial target of the partners. Carp are listed in the Upper Watershed TMDL for several waterbodies in the Long Lake Creek subwatershed as a potential driver of poor water quality and ecological integrity, but little is understood about their impact relative to other water quality drivers and their contribution towards the degraded system.

LLWA, in coordination with the Cities and MCWD, developed a scope of work and cooperative agreement to explore carp population dynamics in Long Lake to evaluate carp impacts in the lake and inform potential management strategies. District staff presented this potential partnership to the Board on April 26, 2018. MCWD Board of Managers supported the partnership with the Cities of Long Lake, Medina and Orono, and the Long Lake Waters Association, and authorized MCWD to contribute up to \$7,000 towards the assessment. However, authorization from the MCWD Board of Managers was contingent upon all partners' party to the draft agreement being fully engaged and supportive before MCWD would execute the agreement.

Subsequently, the City of Orono discussed the partnership at their Council meeting, but no action was taken and the item was tabled. The Cities of Medina and Long Lake each approved their participation in the project, agreeing to contribute up to \$10,000 towards the work. LLWA, who offered to contribute up to \$5,530, indicated time was of the essence to get the project started, and decided to move forward on a scaled down carp assessment with the Cities of Long Lake and Medina to track radio tagged carp and establish a carp population estimate in Long Lake. The overarching goal of this current phase of work is to use this data to compare the carp population estimate to population densities in literature that have been shown to cause ecological damage in shallow lakes.

Following this decision, the participating partners continued to inquire as to whether the District would be willing to provide support for the current project or future phases. MCWD staff has evaluated how the District might best provide support for the partnership, also considering the diagnostic work that the District has already been doing in the subwatershed.

Ahead of the 2017 monitoring season, MCWD staff identified several water quality data gaps that made it difficult to assess the drivers of poor water quality in Long Lake. During 2017 and 2018, the District has been monitoring additional stream and lake sites to fill these data gaps. These diagnostic efforts represent an approximate contribution of \$13,000, in addition to the District's long-term monitoring.

MCWD staff reviewed the current carp assessment scope, and believes that this current phase is detailed enough to assess potential carp impacts in Long Lake, and that no further financial assistance is needed at this time. Therefore, staff has proposed to the partners that the District support the partnership by serving as a technical resource and convener that can bring the carp data and water quality data together to inform the group of the issues and drivers within the system, and help prioritize implementation strategies.

MCWD's Role in Partnership

The next step in this process is synthesizing water quality and carp data to diagnose specific issues and drivers within the Long Lake Creek Subwatershed, which is consistent with the MCWD's 2017 Watershed Management Plan. Staff believes the current carp scope is sufficient to evaluate carp's role in Long Lake, and that no further financial assistance is needed at this time. Staff proposes that MCWD lead the technical analysis of the recently collected water quality and carp data to identify and help prioritize future implementation efforts. MCWD will convene partners to facilitate project coordination, communications, and help assist collaboration on implementation planning.

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 18-066

TITLE: **Resolution of Support for the Long Lake Creek Subwatershed Partnership**

- WHEREAS, the District's mission is to collaborate with public and private partners to protect and improve land and water for current and future generations; and
- WHEREAS, a regional partnership has been forming between the Cities of Medina, Long Lake and Orono, and the Long Lake Waters Association, to pursue water quality improvements in the Long Lake Creek Subwatershed; and
- WHEREAS, the District's watershed management plan acknowledges this regional partnership that has been forming, with the partnership leveraging the skills and resources of each entity, by collaborating and identifying shared priorities for the implementation of projects and programs to improve water quality in the Long Lake Creek Subwatershed; and
- WHEREAS, Long Lake Creek Subwatershed has several waterbodies that are impaired for excess nutrients, and the Upper Minnehaha Creek Total Maximum Daily Load Study lists carp as providing an unknown level of impact on these waterbodies; and
- WHEREAS, carp assessment and management has been identified as an initial target of the group, with the Cities of Medina and Long Lake, and Long Lake Waters Association agreeing on a partnership to conduct a small scale carp assessment that will help fill data gaps to better inform management decisions in the subwatershed; and
- WHEREAS, the District has been collecting additional water quality data on lakes and streams within the Long Lake Creek Subwatershed, to better identify issues and drivers in the subwatershed to inform implementation; and
- WHEREAS, MCWD can serve an effective technical and coordinating role in this partnership as a regional unit of government with expertise in water resources and carp management; and
- NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers hereby provides this resolution of support for the Long Lake Creek Subwatershed Partnership and directs staff to act as a technical resource, to synthesize MCWD's water quality data with the carp data to more specifically diagnose issues and drivers within the subwatershed, and to regularly convene partners to identify, recommend and prioritize implementation efforts.

Resolution Number 18-066 was moved by Manager _____, seconded by Manager _____.
Motion to adopt the resolution ___ ayes, ___ nays, ___ abstentions. Date: _____.

Secretary Date: _____