



MEMORANDUM

To: MCWD Board of Managers
From: Eric Fieldseth
Date: March 22, 2018 Policy and Planning Committee
Re: Long Lake Creek Subwatershed Partnership

Purpose:

To provide an update on the Long Lake Creek Subwatershed Partnership, and MCWD's potential role in a proposed carp assessment in Long Lake.

Background:

In 2016, three cities in the subwatershed, Medina, Long Lake and Orono, all passed resolutions agreeing to a larger system-wide partnership to begin pursuing and showing support of water quality improvement grant funding in the Long Lake Creek Subwatershed. During that same timeframe, a citizen-led group formed called the Long Lake Waters Association that is composed of residents scattered across all three cities and across the subwatershed. With MCWD recently completing its watershed management plan, the District has been working to coordinate with the cities and newly-formed association groups to ensure all of our short-term plans and long-range goals are in sync. The partnership among the cities outlined potential projects to pursue, which include regional infiltration projects, wetland/stream restoration, and carp management.

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

In 2017, Hennepin County Natural Resource Opportunity Grant funds were targeted by the group as a potential funding source for a 3-year comprehensive carp assessment, similar to what the District completed in the Six Mile Creek – Halsted Bay Subwatershed. Total project cost was estimated at \$205,000. MCWD was asked to contribute, with the Board ultimately passing resolution 17-019 providing an in-kind contribution of \$10,000 to purchase trap-nets, and utilize District staff to complete the trap-net survey portion of the work. The District's contribution effectively reduced the total project cost to \$159,000, with the three cities proposing to cost-share \$59,000 over three years and a grant request to Hennepin County for \$100,000. The grant request was not successful, as Hennepin County staff informed the group the funding requests are typically ranked higher if more implementation is proposed, rather than assessment.

Current Request

A new smaller scope to begin assessing carp has emerged, coordinated by the Long Lake Waters Association. This scope would estimate the carp population in Long Lake and compare to known

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population levels in literature that have been found to provide ecological damage. Additionally, several carp would be implanted with radio tags to track movement. Finally, debris removal in Long Lake is proposed to occur to improve winter seining success, and one removal attempt with winter seining would occur. The District has been approached by the Long Lake Waters Association to participate in the assessment. At the PPC meeting, staff will provide an overview of the scope, proposed levels of contribution from the partners, and a possible contribution from MCWD to the project.

If there are questions in advance of the meeting, please contact Eric Fieldseth at efieldseth@minnehahacreek.org or 952.471.7873.

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