



MEMORANDUM

To: MCWD Board of Managers

From: Anna Brown

Date: May 11, 2017

Re: Halsted Bay Acquisition

Purpose:

Discuss, in closed session, an acquisition opportunity in Minnestrista, MN in partnership with Three Rivers Park District for the potential siting of an alum treatment system for Halsted Bay.

Background:

In 2014, the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District adopted the Six Mile-Halsted Bay subwatershed as a priority focal geography due to its abundant natural resources, growth and development pressure, and connection to Halsted Bay. The Six Mile-Halsted Bay Subwatershed partnership has convened over the course of the last year to identify opportunities to address the complex natural resource issues while adding value to non-water public initiatives such as parks and open space and economic development. The Subwatershed Partnership has established the following to be principal water resources management strategies:

- Manage carp below aquatic resource damaging thresholds
- Restore wetland and landscape system for water quality and biodiversity benefit
- Apply alum treatment in shallow lake ecosystems to reduce phosphorus loading

Halsted Bay is impaired for nutrients and requires the largest phosphorus load reduction of any waterbody in the District. In 2013, the District completed a feasibility study to evaluate the drivers of phosphorus pollution Halsted Bay and identify potential implementation activities. The feasibility study found that approximately half of the phosphorus load in Halsted comes from the upstream shallow lake system, Parley and Mud Lakes. These lakes export particulate bound phosphorus, which as it moves through Six Mile Marsh, is transformed into dissolved phosphorus, which is more challenging to remove. The study identified an opportunity to implement an alum treatment facility to remove dissolved phosphorus before it enters Halsted

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Bay. The facility could operate for 20-30 years concurrent with upstream shallow lake strategies to reduce upstream watershed loading.

Partnership Opportunity

In April of this year, Three Rivers Park District (TRPD) presented the District with an opportunity to partner on the acquisition of land on Six Mile Marsh located at 3910 and 3940 Farmhill Cir, which could potentially site the alum treatment system for Halsted Bay. TRPD has executed a purchase agreement for the property to facilitate a regional trail corridor master planned in 2015 to connect Carver and Baker parks. TRPD is interested in working with the District to subdivide the parcel so that they retain a portion for regional trail and the District acquires a portion for the potential siting of an alum treatment facility.

May 11, 2017 Board Meeting

At the May 11, 2017 Board Meeting, staff will present the potential acquisition framework in closed session.

Next Steps:

With MCWD Board concurrence, staff will develop a cooperative agreement with TRPD, which will be brought back on May 25, 2017.

If there are questions in advance of the meeting, please contact: Anna Brown, Planner-Project Manager (952) 641-4522.

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