



Title:	Authorization to Execute a Contract with WSB for Winter Carp Removal and a Carp Population Estimate
Resolution number:	25-010
Prepared by:	Name: Jill Sweet Phone: (952) 930-1976 jsweet@minnehahacreek.org
Reviewed by:	Name/Title: Brian Beck, R&M Program Manager
Recommended action:	Approve Resolution 25-010 – Authorizing execution of a contract with WSB for winter carp removal and a refined population estimate
Schedule:	January 2025-March 2025: Winter seine on Parley Lake January 2025-June 2025: Population estimate on Parley Lake
Budget considerations:	Fund name and code: SMCHB Monitoring – Contract Services - 5-5001-4320 Fund budget: \$140,230 Requested amount of funding: \$32,636
Past Board action:	Res # 17-036 Authorization to request funds from Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Background:

In September of 2017, the Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) recommended the SMCHB Habitat Restoration Project for \$567,000 to the Minnesota State Legislature. The funding bill was approved, and the grant period began on July 1, 2018.

The project took a comprehensive approach to managing common carp in the SMCHB Subwatershed, based on the University of Minnesota's SMCHB carp assessment (2014-2017). This assessment developed a carp population census for each waterbody, identified migration patterns, and located reproduction areas. Between 2018 and 2022, MCWD utilized the LSOHC grant funds to implement the three-pronged carp management strategy by:

- Adult biomass removal
- Aeration of shallow lakes to prevent successful carp reproduction
- Barriers to prevent carp movement between waterbodies and assist with removal

After successfully implementing the three management strategies, the SMCHB Habitat Restoration Project has concluded the LSOHC grant. Looking ahead, MCWD staff have identified three steps to ensure continued success of the efforts implemented between 2018 and 2022, including:

1. Assessing water quality and vegetation response to carp management through field data collection.
2. Maintaining infrastructure and continuing to control carp biomass to ensure continued success.
3. Communicating MCWD's carp story with project partners and other interested public agencies.

To meet our goal of continuing to control carp biomass in the SMCHB, further carp removals are necessary in Parley Lake and Mud Lake as we have not yet achieved the target density of 100 kg/ha.

Parley Lake Winter Seine

MCWD has removed a total of 21,730 carp in Parley Lake over the past five years through both baited box net trapping and winter seining. Currently the carp population biomass estimate is exhibiting a high degree of variability but is likely between 300-800 kg/ha and requires the removal of roughly 6,000-12,000 carp to achieve the target density of 100 kg/ha on the lake. The removal scope and contract will be configured as they have been in previous years for winter seining. WSB will contract with MCWD, and in turn subcontract with Don Geyer, the commercial fisherman holding the DNR license for the area that encompasses the Six Mile Creek-Halsted subwatershed. WSB will be responsible for sonar scanning to identify carp aggregation, will coordinate mobilization and seining with Don Geyer, and will be present during seining to oversee the work and to assist MCWD staff in inspection, inventory, and tagging of fish.

The total cost for this winter seine is not-to-exceed \$26,646. This includes lump sum fees for both WSB and the commercial fisherman, and a not-to-exceed per-pound or per-fish fees for harvested carp.

Refined Parley Lake Population Estimate

Additional assessment of Parley Lake would help refine the remaining carp population estimates and provide clearer insight into the management efforts still required. Carp move freely between Mud Lake and Parley Lake, so these lakes are typically grouped for both assessment and management purposes. However, from 2022-2024, we were unable to assess the carp population in Mud Lake following the recommended survey methodology due to low water conditions. This, and the normal limitations of the boat electrofishing method, have led to a greater than desired variability in the total carp population estimate for the Parley and Mud Lake system. An additional scope of work with WSB includes a task to complete the initial process of a mark-recapture study.

A mark-recapture study involves marking and releasing a subset of carp with PIT tags to be recaptured at a later date during electrofishing surveys or future removal events. This method will provide a more accurate population estimate for the system and will be helpful in setting future removal events to meet the 100 kg/ha density goal in Mud and Parley Lakes. MCWD currently has all the needed equipment to complete this work but the scope budget includes funds to pay the commercial fisherman the bounty price for the additional carp that are caught and released. MCWD staff will decide to pursue the mark-recapture based on the number of carp caught in the seining event. Additional line items in the scope have also been added to implant 5 radio tags to continue aiding future removal efforts and remove a subset of carp for an aging analysis. Completing an aging analysis will give us a better grasp of the population structure of the carp in Parley Lake and determine if new carp have spawned within the system.

The total cost for this refined population estimate is not-to-exceed \$5,990. This includes hourly fees for WSB, a not-to-exceed per-pound or per-fish fees for harvested carp, and direct costs for tag implants and surgical supplies. District staff obtained a quote for the aging analysis from another qualified firm (Carp Solutions), and it is equivalent to the WSB price. For reasons of administrative efficiency and ease of coordination, staff recommends that it is preferable for WSB to perform both work scopes.

Supporting documents (list attachments):

- Parley/Mud Lake Removal Scope
- Parley/Mud Lake Population Estimate Scope



RESOLUTION

Resolution number: 25-010

Title: Authorization to Execute a Contract with WSB for Winter Carp Removal and a Refined Carp Population Estimate

- WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution 14-047 the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (“District”) Board of Managers (“Board”) has identified the Six Mile Creek-Halsted Bay (SMCHB) subwatershed as a priority area for focusing District planning activities and coordination efforts with subwatershed partners;
- WHEREAS, in September 2017, the Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) recommended the SMCHB Habitat Restoration project for \$567,000 in funding, and the funding was approved by the MN Legislature in May 2018;
- WHEREAS, between 2018 and 2022 the District effectively utilized grant funds from the LSOHC to successfully implement a comprehensive carp management strategy on a three-pronged approach of adult carp biomass removal, aeration of shallow lakes to prevent successful carp reproduction, and installation of barriers to prevent carp movement between waterbodies and assist with removal;
- WHEREAS, in 2023 the District concluded the LSOHC grant;
- WHEREAS, the District will focus on assessing water quality and vegetation response to carp management, maintaining infrastructure and managing carp biomass for continued success, and communicating the District's carp story with project partners and other interested public agencies through field data collection and dissemination efforts.;
- WHEREAS, the District established a goal of achieving and maintaining carp biomass goals systemwide, and Parley-Mud Lakes remain above the target biomass of 100 kg/ha;
- WHEREAS, WSB & Associates has developed a proposal for carp removal and a refined population estimate on Parley Lake, that District staff finds responsive to the 2024-2025 program at a not-to-exceed fee that staff, in its experience, finds to be competitive;
- WHEREAS, adopted Board policy is that the District Administrator is to use a competitive method for professional services in excess of \$25,000, however the Board finds that WSB & Associates is the only consultant providing commercial fisherman coordination and open water seining services, that the District has worked productively with WSB & Associates in implementing similar work under this project, and that the contract price principally is for the work of the commercial fisherman and the carp removal bounty, and that staff has confirmed through a second quote that the WSB price for the aging analysis is competitive and cost-efficient.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the District Administrator is authorized, on advice of counsel, to execute a scope of work with WSB & Associates, for services to remove common carp in Parley Lake within the Six Mile Creek-Halsted Bay Subwatershed, in an amount not to exceed \$26,646.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the District Administrator is authorized, on advice of counsel, to execute a scope of work with WSB & Associates, for services to conduct a population estimate on the common carp in Parley Lake within the Six Mile Creek-Halsted Bay Subwatershed, in an amount not to exceed \$5,990.

Resolution Number 25-010 was moved by Manager _____, seconded by Manager _____. Motion to adopt the resolution ___ ayes, ___ nays, ___ abstentions. Date: 1/9/2025

Secretary Date: _____

DRAFT

MCWD Parley Lake Carp Removal – Winter 2023-24

Scope of Work:

This statement of work applies to Parley Lake and addresses carp biomass reduction in Parley Lake to meet Minnehaha Creek Watershed District's (MCWD) carp management goals (100 kg/ha) to improve water quality and ecological integrity within this waterbody and connected basins.

The 2023 catch per unit effort carp biomass estimate for Parley Lake and connected Mud Lake approximates 350-400 kg/ha (~14,000-17,000 carp) (MCWD, 2023). Based on this estimate, to reach the goal threshold value of 100 kg/ha (89.9 lbs/acre) a reduction of approximately 90,000 lbs of carp biomass is required.

Under this scope of work, WSB will work collaboratively with the commercial fisherman for MN inland commercial fishing area 20, Don Geyer Commercial Fishing** (Don Geyer), to complete winter carp removal on Parley Lake and to facilitate MCWD led data collection on carp captured during the event.

WSB operates using an hourly wage rate* while Don Geyer operates under a flat fee and bounty schedule. WSB has communicated with Don Geyer and MCWD that a coordination check-in will occur prior to commercial fishing operations to limit flat fee expensing. At these check-ins, MCWD staff will have final approval prior to executing the task. A detailed description of the tasks as well as a budget and project schedule are provided below.

**WSB staff time will be billed at an hourly rate according to the attached rate sheet and only under approval by MCWD.*

***Don Geyer is the licensed commercial fisherman for MN inland commercial fishing area 20, in which the Six Mile Creek-Halsted Subwatershed falls, and all proposed activities are covered under his permit.*

Task 1: Project Management

Project management includes reviewing and ensuring scope items are being completed, tracking budget, as well as miscellaneous administrative items that need to be addressed during the course of the project.

Task 2: Removal Coordination

Under ice winter seining for carp removal can be logistically challenging and requires good communication and planning between the fishing crews, project manager, and sponsoring entity. WSB staff will coordinate with Don Geyer to schedule mobilization and netting. This will be guided in part by side scan sonar data collected by WSB and Don Geyer. If sonar data shows a sufficient aggregation and is confirmed by WSB staff, MCWD will be notified and will give approval to proceed with the mobilization of the seine. This information will be communicated to Don Geyer (by WSB) to schedule the day of netting based on sonar data as well as weather and ice

condition, fish behavior, tightness of the aggregation, and suitability of the lake bottom to netting in the area of the aggregation.

Currently, no radiotags are “live” in Parley Lake so aggregations will be detected via side scan sonar. Under this Scope of Work, WSB proposes to visit the lake up to three times to sonar for an aggregation in Parley Lake. Up to three areas of the lake have been historically identified as potential aggregation sites and confirmed with Don Geyer that his crew could pursue seining in these areas. These historical seine areas will be targeted for sonar operations. Starting in January of 2024, WSB staff will visit the lake to complete sonar and report readings to both Don Geyer and MCWD. Under this task, WSB will also visit the lake with Geyer’s crew to confirm sonar readings and to advise MCWD on seine operation.

WSB staff will be present the day of the seine haul to oversee commercial fishing activity. This oversight will involve confirming side scan sonar interpretation and observe if any issues arise with netting to report these issues to MCWD staff. If fish are captured in this event in low numbers, it may be necessary to process netted carp and scan for radio-tag and PIT tags that day. WSB staff will also be on-site the day fish are loaded off the lake and assist with collecting biological data and processing netted carp, likely 1-4 days after the capture event. It is understood under this statement of work that MCWD staff will be present on load-out date to obtain biological data and scan for radio and PIT tags, and WSB is not solely responsible for obtaining biological data and processing netted carp. This task includes time for WSB staff, which may be used during the day of removal, load-out date and for additional site visits if necessary, before or after removal, to facilitate the project.

WSB will coordinate with MCWD and the commercial fisherman over three phases as outlined here:

- 1) Phase 1 Mobilization: Sonar readings, snow plowing, site visit, preparation for pre-lining. Pre-lining and preparation for seine haul attempt.
- 2) Phase 2 Seine Haul Attempt.
- 3) Phase 3 Demobilization: Loading Carp (if captured during seine attempt). Equipment removal and safety sign posting.

Schedule

Task	January	February	March
	2025		
Task 1			
Task 2			

This project is anticipated to begin in January 2025 and conclude March 2025. Exact dates will ultimately be dictated by weather and ice thickness, fish aggregations and behavior, suitability of the aggregation area to be netted in coordination with MCWD and the commercial fishermen.

Project Budget

Task/Activity	Cost
WSB	
Task 1. Project Management	\$ 574.00
Task 2. Removal Coordination	\$ 6,672.00
Commercial Fishing	
Crew Mobilization	\$ 1,700.00
Seine Haul Attempt	\$ 2,700.00
Carp Bounty	Not to exceed - \$15,000
Project Total	\$ 26,646.00

Don Geyer Commercial Fishing operates under a lump sum fee schedule. Mobilization may include preparing and maintaining equipment, plowing, moving fish traps, disposal containers, or any other necessary gear or equipment to and from the lake, winter pre-lining the seine haul, visits to the site to check fish aggregations, disposal of seined carp, and coordination and communications. If further mobilization activities occur outside of the proposed schedule they will be covered by the proposed fee schedule (permit reporting, removal of thin ice signs, net patching). At any time prior to confirming the mobilization phase, WSB and MCWD may consult and determine that mobilization should not occur. In that circumstance, MCWD would not be responsible for any commercial fishing fees.

The contractual fees from Don Geyer for netting includes activities associated with seining and includes drilling holes in ice to deploy seine, deploying seine net, and seining. At any time during the premobilization phase, the parties may consult and determine that the seine attempt should not proceed. In that circumstance, MCWD will only be responsible for fees incurred to date.

Don Geyer Commercial Fishing implements a bounty for carp captured. The carp bounty is calculated at \$0.25/pound of carp removed not to exceed \$15,000 (60,000 pounds of carp). Any carp captured above the maximum bounty reward are expected to be removed from the lake. It is also understood that MCWD maintains a number of PIT and radio tags in fish in Parley Lake. Any PIT tagged or radio tagged fish will be returned to the lake after being identified and these carp will not be included in the bounty payment.

MCWD Parley Lake Carp Population Estimate –2025

Scope of Work:

This statement of work applies to Parley Lake and addresses assessing the carp population in Parley Lake to meet Minnehaha Creek Watershed District's (MCWD) carp management goals (100 kg/ha) to improve water quality and ecological integrity within this waterbody and connected basins.

WSB will assist MCWD in collecting data on carp that are captured as a part of the Parley Lake seine event to better understand the population. This will be done through measuring a subset of carp, collecting a subsample of carp for aging analysis, radiotagging up to five carp, and marking a subset of the population to begin a mark-recapture estimate of the population. This data will help to inform future management actions and help to understand how past management actions have impacted the system.

MCWD and WSB will coordinate throughout the seining effort on the timing and application of research efforts. MCWD staff will have final approval prior to executing a task. A detailed description of the tasks as well as a budget and project schedule are provided below. WSB operates using an hourly wage rate*.

**WSB staff time will be billed at an hourly rate according to the attached rate sheet and only under approval by MCWD.*

Task 1: Project Management

Project management includes reviewing and ensuring scope items are being completed, tracking budget, as well as miscellaneous administrative items that need to be addressed during the course of the project.

Task 2: Collection of Carp for Aging Analysis

WSB will assist MCWD in collecting data on carp that are captured as a part of the Parley Lake seine event. MCWD will obtain a permit from the MN DNR that covers all data collection that includes the collection of up to 75 carp. WSB will be responsible for the otolith extraction and disposal of carp carcasses. A bounty of 25 cents per pound will be paid to the commercial fishermen for the carp.

Task 3: Aging Analysis

WSB scientists will prepare and analyze otoliths to deliver a size and age distribution of the current population of carp in Parley Lake. The study is designed to age a year class that has

been identified by MCWD scientists through length data collected in 2024 electrofishing sampling events noting an average length of 13 inches. Up to 75 carp will be collected as a part of task 2 and preparation and analysis of the otoliths will be covered under task 3.

Task 4: Radiotag Implants

WSB will assist MCWD in collecting data on carp that are captured as a part of the Parley Lake seine event. MCWD will obtain a permit from the MN DNR that covers all data collection that includes the implantation of radiotags into up to five (5) common carp. WSB will be responsible for the surgical implantation of radiotags on the day of the seine. Radiotags will be supplied by MCWD while surgical supplies will be provided by WSB. The budget for this task includes surgical supplies and some additional WSB staff time.

Task 5: Marking for population estimate

MCWD is interested in better defining the population estimate in Parley Lake and may pursue a mark-recapture estimate of the population. If pursued, it would be advantageous to mark carp as a part of the winter 2024-2025 seine event so that an estimate can be made after a subsequent winter seine event. MCWD has 300 PIT tags left from previous projects in the district that could be used in a marking effort. This task line item sets aside a bounty for up to three hundred carp that would be tagged and released by MCWD staff if a mark-recapture estimate is scheduled for Parley Lake. The bounty amount would be 0.25 cents per pound and we are estimating a 10 pound average (2.50/carp). The money set aside for this optional task would be a not to exceed amount of \$750.00 to mark up to 300 carp.

Schedule

Task	January	February	March	April - May	June
	2025				
Task 1					
Task 2					
Task 3					
Task 4					
Task 5					

This project is anticipated to begin in January 2025 and conclude June 2025. Exact dates will ultimately be dictated by weather and ice thickness, fish aggregations and behavior, suitability of the aggregation area to be netted in coordination with MCWD and the commercial fishermen.

Project Budget

Task/Activity	Cost
WSB	
Task 1. Project Management	\$ 574.00
Task 2. Collection of Carp Age Structures	\$ 2,142.00
Carp Bounty	\$ 187.50 (75 carp)
Task 3. Aging Analysis	\$ 1,217.50
Supplies	\$ 50.00
Task 4. Radiotag Implants	\$ 278.00
Supplies	\$ 50.00
Carp Bounty	\$ 12.50 (5 carp)
Task 5. Marking for M/R study	\$ 278.00
Carp Bounty	\$ 750.00 (300 carp)
Project Total	\$ 5,990.00