



Title:	Authorization to Execute a Contract with WSB for Winter Carp Removal
Resolution number:	26-004
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 26-005 – Authorizing execution of a contract with WSB for winter carp removal
Schedule:	January 2026-March 2026: Winter seine on Parley Lake January 2026-July 2026: 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: \$30,911
Past Board action:	Res # 17-036 Authorization to request funds from Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Background:

In September 2017, the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) recommended \$567,000 in funding to the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District for the SMCHB Habitat Restoration Project, which was subsequently approved by the Minnesota State Legislature with the grant period beginning July 1, 2018. MCWD took a comprehensive approach to managing common carp in the SMCHB Subwatershed, informed by the University of Minnesota's 2014–2017 carp assessment.

MCWD successfully executed the LSOHC grant between 2018 and 2022 by implementing a three-pronged management strategy in the SMCHB Subwatershed that addressed carp migration and recruitment to reduce carp biomass. Now in the maintenance phase, the project focuses on three primary objectives:

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; and
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 24,859 carp in Parley Lake over the past seven 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 400-600 kg/ha and requires the removal of roughly 6,000-10,000 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. MCWD will contract with WSB, which in turn will subcontract with Don Geyer, the commercial fisherman holding the DNR license for the area that encompasses the Six Mile Creek-Halsted subwatershed. The carp aggregation will be identified through sonar scanning by WSB and tracking of the existing radio tags by MCWD. WSB 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 \$29,045. This includes lump sum fees and a not-to-exceed payment per -pound for harvested carp for the commercial fisherman and hourly non-to-exceed fees for WSB.

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. During the winter seine in January 2025, the initial phase of a mark-recapture estimate was completed.

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. During the last seine, 250 carp were marked with PIT tags and released back to the lake. Upon recapture, this method will provide a more accurate population estimate for the system and will be helpful in planning future removal events to meet the 100 kg/ha density goal in Mud and Parley Lakes. WSB will complete the mark-recapture estimation and additionally analyze the long-term population trends to model future removal strategies.

The total cost for this refined population estimate consists of hourly fees for WSB not-to-exceed \$1,863.

The total cost for both tasks is not-to-exceed \$30,911.

Adopted Board of Managers policy is that competitive procurement is to be used for professional services contracts exceeding \$25,000. Though this contract exceeds that amount, the professional services portion is slightly more than \$11,000. Further, this work is an extension of prior WSB carp work within Mud-Parley Lakes and the continuity is important. Accordingly, MCWD staff have not sought competitive quotes for the work. MCWD staff are comfortable from experience that the contract price is competitive.

Supporting documents (list attachments):

- Parley/Mud Lake Removal and Population Estimate Scope of Work



**MINNEHAHA CREEK
WATERSHED DISTRICT
QUALITY OF WATER, QUALITY OF LIFE**

RESOLUTION

Resolution number: 26-004

Title: Authorization to Execute a Contract with WSB for Winter Carp Removal

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 funding to the District in the amount of \$567,000 for the SMCHB Habitat Restoration project, 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, pursuant to Board direction, the District now focuses 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 has 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 submitted a scope of work to remove carp and develop a refined carp population estimate on Parley Lake, that District staff finds responsive to the 2025-2026 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 the District has worked productively with WSB & Associates in implementing the first phase of the population assessment work under this project; continuity in the work is important; the contract price principally is for the subcontracted work of the commercial fisherman and the carp removal bounty; and, from staff experience, the contract price is competitive.

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 and refine the population estimate of carp in Parley Lake within the Six Mile Creek-Halsted Bay Subwatershed, in an amount not to exceed \$30,911.

Resolution Number 26-004 was moved by Manager _____, seconded by Manager _____. Motion to adopt the resolution ____ ayes, ____ nays, ____ abstentions. Date: 1/8/2026

Secretary

Date: _____



MCWD Parley Lake Carp Removal – Winter 2026

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 2025 catch per unit effort carp biomass estimate for Parley Lake and connected Mud Lake approximates 400-500 kg/ha (~12,000-16,000 carp) (MCWD, 2025). Based on this estimate, to reach the goal threshold value of 100 kg/ha (89.9 lbs/acre) a reduction of approximately 75,000 lbs of carp biomass is required. In the 2025 seine event, 22,839 pounds of carp biomass was removed from Parley Lake, nearly 250 carp were marked with a uniquely numbered PIT tag, and five (5) carp were marked with a radio-tag. In 2026 the ratio of marked to unmarked carp can be used to calculate an update to the population estimate using a mark-recapture estimate of the population.

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. Also covered under this SOW is time for WSB scientists to deliver an updated mark-recapture estimate of the population using data collected in the seine event and to deliver a model explanation of the expected population decline using recent removal rates and recruitment history that was collected as part of the 2025 aging study. The model may need additional inputs and WSB will provide guidance to MCWD on what may be needed once data has been looked at initially.

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 by telemetry data collected by MCWD and side

scan sonar data collected by WSB and Don Geyer. If telemetry and sonar data shows sufficient aggregation MCWD will give approval to proceed with the seine netting attempt. This information will be communicated to Don Geyer (by WSB) to schedule the day of netting based on telemetry and 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.

In 2025, five radiotags were implanted into Parley Lake carp that can be used in 2026 to help identify aggregations that are then confirmed via side scan sonar. 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. Starting in January of 2026, WSB staff will communicate with MCWD staff on tag locations. When tag locations begin to indicate an aggregation has formed, WSB will then coordinate with Don Geyer to complete site visits to confirm relative size and tightness of an aggregation via side-scan sonar. Site visit findings will be communicated with MCWD to advise whether to pursue a seine event and then to consult on availability of both the commercial fishing crew and staff to schedule this event.

WSB staff will be present the day of the seine haul to oversee commercial fishing activity. This oversite will involve confirming side scan sonar interpretation and observe if any issues arise with netting to report these issues to MCWD staff. Up to two WSB staff will also be on-site when fish are loaded off the lake and assist with collecting data and processing netted carp on up to two occasions. It is understood under this statement of work that MCWD staff will be present on load-out date to obtain data and scan for radio and PIT tags, and WSB is not solely responsible for processing netted carp. This task budget includes time for a second seine event if time conditions allow.

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.

Task 3: Population Assessment & Population Modeling

In 2025, uniquely numbered PIT tags were implanted into nearly 250 carp. These newly implanted tags can be used in a mark-recapture estimate of the population. Under this task, WSB staff will work with MCWD staff to use data collected on captured carp in 2026 to run this mark-recapture estimate of the population.

As a part of this task, WSB will provide a model of the expected population decline using recent removal rates and recruitment history. The removal rates will compile winter seine data and summer box netting that has been ongoing since 2019 and the aging data that was collected in 2025 will be used to help describe recruitment rates. This model will help managers to better predict the effort needed to reduce the population in Parley Lake and to sustain these gains.

Schedule

Task	January	February	March	April
2026				
Task 1				
Task 2				
Task 3				

This project is anticipated to begin in January 2026 and conclude April 2026. Exact dates will ultimately be dictated by weather and ice thickness, fish aggregations and behavior, suitability of the aggregation area to be netted, and in coordination with MCWD and the commercial fishermen.

Project Budget

Task/Activity	Cost
WSB	
Task 1. Project Management	\$ 483.00
Task 2. Removal Coordination	\$ 9,162.00
Task 3. Population Estimate & Population Modeling	\$ 1,863.00
Commercial Fishing	
Crew Mobilization	\$ 1,700.00
Seine Haul Attempt & Demobilization	\$ 2,700.00
Carp Bounty	Not to exceed - \$15,000
Project Total	\$ 30,911.00

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, or coordinated visits to the site to check fish aggregations, disposal of seined carp, and coordination and communications before a seine haul attempt. 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 a seine haul attempt include drilling holes in ice to deploy seine, deploying seine net, and seine netting, and demobilization or moving fish and/or equipment off the lake. At any time, the parties may consult and determine that the seine attempt should not proceed. However, if the seine event has begun, the seine haul attempt fee will be paid to the commercial fishing crew.

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. If any PIT tagged or radio tagged fish are to be returned to the lake, as directed by MCWD, they will be included in the bounty payment.

2026 Rate Schedule



	Billing Rate/Hour
ASSOCIATE SR. ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL SR. PRINCIPAL	\$202 - \$291
SR. PROJECT ENGINEER SR. PROJECT MANAGER	\$202 - \$263
PROJECT MANAGER	\$178 - \$199
GRADUATE ENGINEER PROJECT ENGINEER	\$120 - \$198
PROJECT MANAGER ASSISTANT	\$98 - \$161
ENGINEERING TECHNICIAN ENGINEERING SPECIALIST	\$79 - \$197
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT SR. LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT	\$89 - \$189
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTIST SR. ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTIST	\$80 - \$187
PLANNER SR. PLANNER	\$92 - \$195
GIS SPECIALIST SR. GIS SPECIALIST	\$89 - \$195
CONSTRUCTION OBSERVER	\$121 - \$158
SURVEY	
Survey Office Technician	\$141 - \$176
Drone Pilot	\$204
One-Person Crew	\$204
Two-Person Crew	\$275
OFFICE TECHNICIAN	\$70 - \$152

Costs associated with word processing, cell phones, reproduction of common correspondence, and mailing are included in the above hourly rates. Vehicle mileage is included in our billing rates [excluding geotechnical and construction materials testing (CMT) service rates]. Mileage can be charged separately, if specifically outlined by contract. | Reimbursable expenses include costs associated with plan, specification, and report reproduction; permit fees; delivery costs; etc. | Multiple rates illustrate the varying levels of experience within each category. | Rate Schedule is adjusted annually.