



MEMORANDUM

To: MCWD Board of Managers
From: Tiffany Schaufler
Date: July 25, 2016
Re: Preliminary Design for the Jennings Bay Wetland Restoration Project

Purpose:

At the July 28, 2016 Board Meeting, staff will update the Board of Managers on the preliminary design developed for the Jennings Bay Wetland Restoration Project.

Background:

At the July 14, 2016 Board Workshop, staff presented the preliminary design for the Highway 101 Causeway Shoreline Reconstruction Project. As discussed, the Highway 101 Causeway Shoreline Reconstruction Project includes both the causeway shoreline restoration work (“Causeway shoreline element”) and the independent but associated flood storage replacement work (“flood storage element”) to mitigate the floodplain fill associated with the Causeway shoreline element.

District staff, in cooperation with the City of Minnetrista, identified the Sun Valley Tax Forfeit parcel located near Jennings Bay to be a suitable site to provide the flood storage element for the project. In October 2014, the Board of Managers authorized execution of a cooperative agreement with the City of Minnetrista. The District’s cooperative agreement with the City of Minnetrista provided for the City to transfer the fee interest in the project parcel to the District. This, however, requires legislative action because the parcel is former tax-forfeit land subject to a reverter interest in the State of Minnesota. This legislative action has not been secured, however the agreement further provides that absent such a transfer, the District may enter the parcel to construct and maintain the flood storage element indefinitely.

On June 9, 2016, the Board of Managers authorized a design and construction oversight service contract for the flood storage element of the project, known as the Jennings Bay Wetland Restoration Project. The Jennings Bay Wetland Restoration Project will create floodplain storage to mitigate the Causeway shoreline element and enhance vegetation of the existing floodplain forest through invasive species removal and planting enhancements.

Next Steps:

At the July 28, 2016 Board Meeting, staff will present preliminary design plans for the Jennings Bay Wetland Restoration Project. The presentation will include overall site design plans, vegetation restoration plans, construction cost estimate, and a project schedule.

We collaborate with public and private partners to protect and improve land and water for current and future generations.

Based on input from the Board of Managers, staff will work with the design engineer to consider all feedback and make revisions to the project for final design. Staff will then return at the August 25, 2016 Board Meeting to seek approval on final project design and authorization to solicit bids for construction of the project.

If there are questions in advance of the meeting, please contact Tiffany Schaufler at 952-641-4513 or tschaufler@minnehahacreek.org.

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