



## MEMORANDUM

**To:** MCWD Board of Managers

**From:** Tom Langer

**Date:** November 7, 2019

**Re:** 12.1 Fishing Contract with Commercial Fisherman

---

**Purpose:** To provide a summary of past efforts to reduce common carp densities within the Six Mile Creek-Halsted Bay Subwatershed, describe how staff are adaptively adjusting techniques to improve removal success, and outline the next steps in coordinating this work.

### Background:

In September of 2017, the Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council recommended the Six Mile Creek-Halsted Bay (SMCHB) Habitat Restoration Project for \$567,000 to the Minnesota State Legislature. The funding bill was approved by the legislature and funds were made available July 1, 2018 for project implementation.

The program takes a holistic and comprehensive approach to managing common carp in the SMCHB Subwatershed, consisting primarily of three management strategies:

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

Consistent with the accomplishment plan approved by the Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council, the grant funds will be used to pay for the capital cost of barrier installation, utility installation for aeration, and the fish removal contracts. The Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) match includes equipment for removal and monitoring, the aeration units, and design services for barriers.

In 2018 and 2019, staff have implemented each of the carp management strategies and are nearing completion of barrier construction and aeration infrastructure installation. Therefore, the only remaining implementation strategy for 2020 and 2021 is adult carp biomass removal. Currently, four techniques exist to remove carp, which include:

- Winter seining
- Open water seining
- Box netting
- Stream trapping

Each of these four techniques has strengths and weaknesses and is limited to different times of the year. MCWD has primarily pursued stream trapping and box netting with considerable effort and variable success. Limited winter seining or open water seining efforts have been pursued by MCWD to date. To

determine the effectiveness and long term use of seining methods as a removal technique, MCWD has developed a Fall 2019/ Winter 2020 pilot program that is intended to remove common carp from SMCHB lakes and determine the effectiveness of seining methods as another removal technique. Lakes will be seined as shown in Table 1.

Table 1. List of lakes and programmed activities.

Lake	Fall 2019	Winter 2020
Parley		Winter seining
Piersons	Open water seining	
Steiger	Open water seining	
Zumbra		Winter seining

This pilot program has focused efforts to four lakes within SMCHB that currently have different densities and abundances of common carp shown in Table 2. To maximize effectiveness, these lakes were selected based on carp migration and schooling behaviors and the effectiveness of other methods previously pursued to remove carp from these lakes.

Table 2. Lake density, individual carp, and total biomass per lake.

Lake	*Density (kg/ha)	Carp (individuals)	Carp (kg)
Parley	547	32,774	61,300
Piersons	69	2,364	7,400
Steiger	128	2,328	8,496
Zumbra	188	5,116	16,832

\* 2019 estimated densities

MCWD staff also reviewed factors that have historically limited the success of seining methods and are pursuing activities to minimize them from occurring. Specifically, we are pursuing activities with a commercial fisherman to remove debris that can tear seine nets. Other issues with the use of commercial fishing for carp removal include the difficulty of structuring contracts and the ability to solicit commercial fishing in lakes with unknown carp densities or with carp abundances too low for commercial profit. To minimize these foreseeable concerns, MCWD is developing a scope of services with a commercial fisherman (Exhibit A) with terms and conditions that provide step-wise compensation for commercial fishing services. The services and compensation are structured in a way that maximizes capture success while providing volume incentives for capturing carp. This contract is intended to ensure clear expectations of services while providing fair compensation for commercial seining efforts.

#### Next Steps:

Staff will coordinate with the commercial fisherman for these lakes to conduct targeted removal of tree debris in lakes to prevent damage to the seine nets.

Staff are currently working to develop a contract with the commercial fisherman to conduct both open water seining to occur this fall and under-ice seining to occur this winter. Authorization to execute this contract will be before the Board of Managers on November 21.

If there are any questions in advance of this meeting, please contact: Tom Langer at 952.471.7873 or [tlanger@minnehahacreek.org](mailto:tlanger@minnehahacreek.org).

**EXHIBIT A**  
**SCOPE OF SERVICES**  
**COMMON CARP COMMERCIAL FISHING**

Commercial fishing services for removal and disposal of common carp on four lakes within the Six Mile Creek – Halsted Bay Subwatershed: Parley Lake, Lake Zumbra, Piersons Lake, and Steiger Lake. Services to include open water seining, capture, and disposal and winter seining, capture, and disposal. The prescribed delivery of these services is intended to maximize seine haul attempt success and remove and dispose of common carp.

Task 1. Project Coordination and Kick-off Meeting

Prior to mobilization, Contractor will attend one meeting at Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) offices to discuss preferred and desired seine location(s), to determine a communication plan for the notification of MCWD staff regarding seining activities, and to identify seine attempt information to be recorded by the commercial fisherman for transmittal to MCWD staff. This information may include details about the catch and observations made during the haul process.

Task 2. Mobilization

Mobilization includes all preparation needed to conduct all potential seine haul attempts. Winter seine haul attempts are to be conducted with 16+ inches of ice. In addition to ice conditions, winter removals may occur from December 1, 2019 to April 30, 2020. Open water seine attempts are to be conducted before the onset of significant ice across the entire lake (~0.5 inches). Work may include, but not be limited to, acquiring required permits, preparing and maintaining equipment, moving fish traps, disposal containers, or any other necessary gear or equipment to and from the lake, winter pre-lining the seine haul attempts, and coordination and communications with MCWD staff. Mobilization for each lake is to be approved by MCWD staff.

Task 3. Snow Plowing

Snow plowing includes all activities to remove snow from the surface of the ice where needed to prepare for each winter seine attempt. To limit disturbance to fish, each individual plowing event requires approval by MCWD staff. A maximum of eight snow plow events will be compensated on Parley Lake and Lake Zumbra.

Task 4. Winter Seine Attempt

Winter seine attempt includes, but is not limited to, drilling holes in ice to deploy seine, deploying seine net, seining, and all activities associated with disposal of seined carp. All activities must occur where directed and approved of by MCWD. A maximum of three winter seine attempts will be permitted for Parley Lake and Lake Zumbra. Additional seine attempts not approved by MCWD staff will not be compensated. Contractor will be required to coordinate with MCWD staff on site to allow staff to collect additional data on a subset of captured carp.

Task 5. Open Water Seine Attempt

Open water seine attempt includes, but is not limited to, deploying seine net, seining, and all activities associated with disposal of seined carp. All activities must occur where directed and approved of by MCWD. A maximum of three open water seine attempts will be permitted for Piersons Lake and Steiger Lake. Additional, seine attempts not approved by MCWD staff will not be compensated. Contractor will be required to coordinate with MCWD staff on site to allow staff to collect additional data on a subset of captured carp.

### Task 6. Bounty

MCWD will provide a per pound bounty for all captured common carp that are removed and disposed of by the contractor off-site. MCWD is not responsible for coordinating any aspect of removing and disposing of captured carp. All non-carp fish captured that can be removed under the license and permit of the commercial fisherman may be kept, sold, and/or disposed of by the commercial fisherman, however, MCWD will not provide any form of bounty for non-carp species.

### Compensation

Compensation is provided on a per task, per lake basis as shown in Table 1 below. Each lake has a specific per pound bounty also listed in Table 1 below. A summary of the maximum compensation by task and lake is provided in Table 2.

Table 1. Compensation per task per lake.

	Mobilization	Snow Plowing/ event	Seine #1	Seine #2	Seine #3	Bounty per pound of carp
Parley	\$1,500	\$250	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$0.25 up to \$10,000/ seine
Zumbra	\$1,500	\$250	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$0.50 up to \$10,000/ seine
Piersons	\$1,000		\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0.75 up to \$10,000/ seine
Steiger	\$1,000		\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0.75 up to \$10,000/ seine

Table 2. Maximum compensation per task per lake.

	Mobilization	Snow Plowing	All Seines	Bounty	Total/ Lake
Parley	\$1,500	\$2,000	\$7,500	\$30,000	\$41,000
Zumbra	\$1,500	\$2,000	\$7,500	\$30,000	\$41,000
Piersons	\$1,000		\$3,000	\$20,000	\$24,000
Steiger	\$1,000		\$3,000	\$20,000	\$24,000