



Title: Carp Barrier Construction Update

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Purpose:

At the February 13, 2020 Board Meeting, staff will provide an update on the results of the quote solicitation process for barrier construction at the outlet of West Auburn Lake, and proposed next steps.

Background:

In September 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 the grant period began on July 1, 2018.

The program takes a holistic and comprehensive approach to managing common carp in the SMCHB Subwatershed based on the University of Minnesota's SMCHB carp assessment (2014-2017), which developed a carp population census for each waterbody, identified migration patterns between waterbodies, and identified likely reproduction areas. To address the carp population holistically, the University researchers worked with District staff to develop a management approach, consisting primarily of three management strategies:

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

In March 2018, the MCWD Board of Managers awarded a contract with Wenck Associates to design barriers at four locations. The first three barriers – Wassermann, Crown College, and Highland Road – were designed in 2018 and constructed in winter 2019. The Board approved the design for the fourth barrier, at the outlet of West Auburn Lake, in December 2019, and authorized staff to solicit quotes for barrier construction.

Staff solicited quotes from three qualified contractors and received one response. The quote was higher than the \$30,000 allocated in the program budget, and staff do not recommend awarding a contract at this time. Rather, staff will explore options including relocation, redesign, and/or requesting a budget amendment through Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council.

At the February 13, 2020 meeting, staff will outline next steps in construction of the fourth barrier, as well as temporary measures to deploy in the interim.