



Title: Carp Barrier Construction Contract Update

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Purpose:

This memo provides an update to the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers regarding the plan to retrofit the Highland Road carp barrier.

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 program takes a holistic and adaptive approach to improving in-lake habitat through the management of common carp, consisting 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 October 2018, the Board of Managers awarded a contract to Blackstone Contractors for the construction of three carp barriers, located at the outlet of Wassermann Lake, on the campus of Crown College, and adjacent to Highland Road on Six Mile Creek, between Mud Lake and Halsted Bay. The Board approved a contract cost of \$125,690, and established a not to exceed budget of \$138,000.

The barrier construction was completed in April 2019. Since completion, staff have visited the barrier sites at least once a week to monitor debris accumulation. The Highland Road barrier has been particularly challenging from a debris management standpoint, due not only to the high flows and high levels of cattail debris moving through this site, but also because of the use of chain link fence, which is particularly hard to clean when debris does accumulate. In order to increase the efficiency of management of the barrier and decrease the occurrence of clogging, staff is proposing to retrofit the existing structure with an additional moveable gate and vertical slat fencing.

The proposal to retrofit the barrier is consistent with our adaptive management approach to addressing the common carp issue in the SMCHB subwatershed, in which we are continually developing new best management practices to achieve our subwatershed goals. The barrier retrofit was designed in coordination between staff, Wenck, and Blackstone. To date, total costs for barrier construction of the three sites has been \$116,558. The retrofit will cost an additional \$12,777, for a total contract cost of \$129,335. This fits within the not to exceed budget, and therefore can be accomplished through a change order with Blackstone. This cost is within the grant budget and is fully reimbursable.

Following the April 23, 2020 Board Meeting, staff will execute a change order with Blackstone Contractors. The retrofit work will be carefully coordinated with Research and Monitoring staff to ensure that the movement of carp during this work is minimized, and will likely take place in late May or early June.