



MEMORANDUM

To: MCWD Board of Managers

From: Janna Jonely

Date: October 7, 2019

Re: Operations & Programs Committee Item 4.3: Boardwalk Maintenance Update

Purpose:

This memo provides summary information regarding the condition of the Minnehaha Creek Preserve Boardwalk prior to a facilitated discussion at the October 10, 2019 Operations & Programs Committee (OPC) meeting.

Background:

The Minnehaha Creek Preserve Boardwalk was constructed in 2014 as part of the Minnehaha Creek Reach 20 Restoration capital project. As outlined in the Minnehaha Creek Preserve Operations and Maintenance Plan, Project Maintenance and Land Management (PMLM) staff inspect the boardwalk bi-annually, and our contractor Landbridge Ecological inspects after storm events. In addition, city of St. Louis Park staff regularly utilize the boardwalk and report conditional observations to MCWD staff.

Beginning in June 2018, a PMLM staff inspection revealed that several boards were warped, split, or developing holes. In July 2018, Blackstone Contractors replaced approximately 235 boards at a cost of \$9000 in labor and materials.

Throughout 2019, PMLM and city of St. Louis Park staff inspections have determined that a higher degree of material failure is occurring. Boardwalk decking and handrails are rotting and forming holes at a seemingly accelerated rate. Blackstone Contractors has performed “emergency” board replacement four times since April 2019 and will be conducting a bulk replacement this fall. Preliminary estimates of replacement for the 2019 season are upwards of 400 deck boards and handrails.

Next Steps:

Staff is actively investigating the material failure with the lumber supplier and Blackstone Contracting to assess the selected wood treatment and installation methods. At the October 10, 2019, staff will guide a discussion on the boardwalk inspection frequency, maintenance response, and material failure investigation.

If there are questions in advance of the meeting, please contact Janna Jonely at 952.641.4523 or jjonely@minnehahacreek.org.

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