

Minnehaha Creek Watershed District

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

MEETING DATE: December 20, 2018

TITLE: Authorization to support MAISRC Research to Improve Carp Removal Efficiency in the Six Mile Creek – Halsted Bay Subwatershed

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 18-133

PREPARED BY: Eric Fieldseth

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REVIEWED BY: Administrator Counsel Program Mgr.: Brian Beck
 Board Committee Engineer Other: Anna Brown

WORKSHOP ACTION:

<input type="checkbox"/> Advance to Board mtg. Consent Agenda.	<input type="checkbox"/> Advance to Board meeting for discussion prior to action.
<input type="checkbox"/> Refer to a future workshop (date):_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Refer to taskforce or committee (date):_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Return to staff for additional work.	<input type="checkbox"/> No further action requested.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): Approval at December 20, 2018 Board Meeting	

PURPOSE or ACTION REQUESTED:

Authorization to provide a letter of support to Dr. Przemek Bajer with the University of Minnesota to partner on research that aims to improve carp removal efficiency through baited box-netting, a method MCWD is utilizing in its carp removal efforts in SMCHB funded through the Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council.

PROJECT/PROGRAM LOCATION:

Six Mile Creek Halsted Bay Subwatershed

PROJECT TIMELINE:

July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2021

PROJECT/PROGRAM COST:

Fund name and number: LSOHC Grant – SMCHB Habitat Restoration Project

LSOHC Grant Amount: \$567,000

Expenditures to date: \$43,471.50

Requested amount of funding: \$0

PAST BOARD ACTION:

March 27, 2014	Authorization to enter into contract for the SMCHB carp assessment (14-025)
May 11, 2017	Authorization to request funding from Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (17-036)
June 28, 2018	Authorization to execute contracts for carp removal in Six Mile Creek – Halsted Bay Subwatershed (18-060)

SUMMARY:

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 was approved by the legislature and funds became 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
- Aeration of shallow lakes to prevent successful carp reproduction
- Barriers to prevent carp movement between waterbodies and assist with removal

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 District match includes equipment for removal and monitoring, the aeration units, and design services for barriers.

Research Opportunity to Improve Carp Removal Efficiency

Dr. Przemek Bajer, a researcher at the University of Minnesota, outlined a study that could improve the efficiency of adult carp biomass removal and conduct the experiments concurrently with planned removal efforts by MCWD in 2019. Initially, Dr. Bajer was going to leverage a non-competitive funding pool from the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC) to support the study. However, Dr. Bajer's study exceeds the threshold to qualify for non-competitive MAISRC funding and needs to go through a competitive pre-proposal process for a continuation of his current research. This pre-proposal is due Friday, December 21, 2018.

Dr. Bajer has requested a letter of support for the pre-proposal demonstrating the District's willingness to partner and provide an estimate of in-kind match to support the research project. Dr. Bajer's work would leverage the existing carp removal that MCWD plans to conduct on two lakes in 2019 as part of the LSOHC program implementation. In utilizing already planned carp management activities as match, this opportunity effectively leverages an additional \$170,000 in MAISRC research funds towards the carp management program without additional cost to the District.

The outcome of Dr. Bajer's research should identify methods to increase the efficiency of carp removal, which will benefit MCWD and other local agencies seeking to increase the efficiency of common carp removal from impacted lakes.

Dr. Bajer is requesting \$170,000 from MAISRC for the research project. MCWD's estimated in-kind match totals \$90,671, as follows:

- Carp removal through baited box-netting in two lakes: \$83,000 (authorization for contract will come before the Board in January)
- Electrofishing assistance for implanting carp tracking tags: in-kind staff time estimated at \$7,670

Recommendation

Staff recommends the District Board of Managers approve the District Administrator to provide a letter of support and use existing LSOHC funds as in-kind match to support research that will directly improve carp removal efforts in the SMCHB watershed.

Attachments

- Letter of Support for MAISRC research in the SMCHB watershed

