



Nine Mile Creek Discovery Point
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MEMO

TO: Nine Mile Creek Watershed District Board of Managers

FROM: Randy Anhorn

DATE: June 10, 2020

RE: Lake Cornelia and Lake Edina Feasibility Study/Preliminary Engineering Report

Background

Staff presented the draft Lake Cornelia and Lake Edina User Attainability Analysis (UAA) study report (at the Board's June 19, 2019 regular Board meeting. As a result, the board directed staff to finalize the study and to authorize the engineer to complete a feasibility study for a fall 2019 alum treatment on Lake Cornelia (ultimately undertaken in the early-summer of 2020), and to bring both back to the Board's July 17, 2019 regular Board meeting to act on.

At the July 17, 2019 Board meeting the managers accepted the final UAA report for Lake Cornelia and Lake Edina, contingent upon staff reaching out to State agencies to obtain ideas that could enhance the process and seek advice on other potential projects (e.g., a lake drawdown for curly-leaf pondweed control and looking at the system more holistically by including potential management efforts of the upstream lakes/ponds [i.e., Lake Nancy and Lake Otto]). Staff did reach out for comments/suggestions to the State agencies and received no comments or suggestions beyond what was presented in the report.

In addition, the managers accepted the feasibility study of one of the components in the report, implementation of an in-lake alum treatment on Lake Cornelia and scheduled a public hearing for the alum project.

At the September 18, 2019 Board meeting, the managers approved a scope of work for Barr to complete a preliminary engineering/feasibility study to further evaluate the other water quality improvement practices recommended in the UAA study for Lake Cornelia and Lake Edina. Since that time, staff has been working on the feasibility report/preliminary engineering report for the other identified projects from the UAA and additional projects suggested by the managers. The emphasis has been on the Rosland Park Stormwater BMP Project (most recently presented to the Board at its May 20, 2020 Board meeting). Staff has also had multiple meetings with the City of Edina engineering, parks and public works staff as well as presenting the project to the Edina Parks & Recreation Commission. To date, all are in favor of the project. Next steps will be going before the Edina Parks & Recreation Commission again and then the Edina City Council, as well as working on a term sheet and cooperative agreement with the City of Edina.

The draft Lake Cornelia and Lake Edina Water Quality Improvement Project Water Quality Improvement Project Feasibility Study/Preliminary Engineering Report is attached.

Request

Accept the feasibility study and request that staff proceed with plans to implement the Rosland Park Stormwater BMP Project recommended in the feasibility study, to include working with legal counsel on the associated term sheet and cooperative agreement with the City of Edina, presenting to the Edina Parks and Recreation Commission and City Council, working with the City of Edina to engage other project stakeholders and affected property owners, further communication with permitting entities, and scheduling a public hearing for the project and authorizing the administrator to publish notice of the public hearing once each week for two successive weeks before the date of the hearing in NMCWD's legal newspaper.

In addition, staff is looking for direction on continuation of the other projects presented in the feasibility study/preliminary engineering report:

- Stormwater retrofit opportunities in the Lake Edina watershed
- Curly-leaf pondweed management options for Lake Cornelia and Lake Edina including:
 - Herbicide treatments (City of Edina is currently conducting)
 - Lake drawdown of Lake Cornelia
- Fishery management in Lake Cornelia and upstream lakes/ponds (a goldfish/carp population and interbody movement assessment is currently underway) including:
 - Winter aeration of Lake Cornelia to prevent winterkill of predator fish
 - Fish removal
 - Fish stocking
- Opportunities of treatment for ponds upstream of Lake Cornelia