



Nine Mile Creek Discovery Point
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MEMO

TO: Nine Mile Creek Watershed District Board of Managers

FROM: Randy Anhorn

DATE: February 26, 2020

RE: WSB Goldfish and Carp Population and Inter-Body Movement Assessment

Background

Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District conducted initial fish surveys on North and South Cornelia lakes as well as upstream nursery lakes/ponds in 2018. The 2018 fish survey identified an infestation of goldfish in the Lake Cornelia system, which is surrounded by potential nursery lakes. Unlike the common carp, there is currently little known about the detailed life history and reproductive patterns of feral goldfish and goldfish-carp hybrids found in the Lake Cornelia system. One of the objectives of this assessment is to track movement of the goldfish to better understand their mobility, spawning patterns and likelihood to travel/spread within a system. To track their movement, antennas will be installed at crossways from the main lake to connected bodies and goldfish will be implanted with passive integrated transponder (PIT) tags. Antennas will be installed at crossways from Lake Cornelia to monitor goldfish movements in either direction. In addition, an age structure of a goldfish sample will be analyzed to learn the environmental conditions that drive goldfish movements to connected water bodies. Finally, a possible goldfish removal method (through baited box net traps) will be tested to determine effectiveness of stopping goldfish spread.

In addition to a large goldfish population, the 2018 survey also showed carp populations at levels where management was recommended. In the process capturing goldfish to install PIT tags on the goldfish to track their movement, carp will also be captured to install PIT tags to track carp movement to better identify locations for future management.

At the Board September 18, 2019 Board meeting the managers approved a scope for work for a feasibility study on potential water quality projects for Lake Cornelia. A need identified in the scope of work was to identify management options for the lake's goldfish population,

The proposed cost for this work is \$36,304 (proposal attached). The cost for the goldfish portion is \$30,967, while the cost for the carp portion is \$5,337.

Goldfish have recently been added to the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center's priority list for investigations. As a result, the District put in for a Hennepin County AIS grant and has been informed that the review committee is recommending that the District receive \$20,000 towards implementing the goldfish population and interbody movement assessment portion of this study.

The Hennepin County Board must still formally approve the recommendation, at which point the District would become fully eligible for the grant and may begin incurring expenses. This recommendation is expected to be under Hennepin County Board consideration in early April.

Request

Authorize the Administrator to enter into an agreement with WSB to complete the scope of work at an amount not to exceed \$36,500.