



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING AGENDA
September 17, 2018
5:30 – 6:30pm

- 1) Call to Order**
- 2) Highland Road Bridge Rough Fish Barrier (Anna Brown, MCWD)**
- 3) Jerry Forster Utility Bill Discussion**
- 4) Adjourn**

CITY OF MINNETRISTA



WORK SESSION ITEM

Subject: Highland Road Bridge Rough Fish Barrier

Prepared By: David Abel, Cmty. Dev. Director

Meeting Date: September 17, 2018

Background:

Anna Brown from Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) will present to discuss their proposal to install a rough fish barrier at the Highland Road Bridge in Six Mile Creek.

MCWD has been recommended for a grant from the Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council to restore 2,488 acres of deep shallow lake habit, and provide water quality improvements, by controlling carp in the Six Mile Creek Halsted Bay Sub watershed. The project will involve multiple strategies to sustainably control the carp population in this large system, which will include winter aeration in shallow lakes to promote bluegill sunfish survival (natural predator on carp eggs), barriers to prevent access to other carp nurseries and adult carp removal through a variety of methods. MCWD began implementation of these management activities on July 1 2018.

One key piece of MCWD's strategy involves a barrier and carp trap in between Mud Lake and Halsted Bay, which is a very heavily used carp migration corridor. With Halsted Bay having over 600,000 pounds of carp, requiring the largest number of carp for removal in the whole subwatershed, within the most degraded bay on Lake Minnetonka, this fish barrier/trap becomes the center piece of their carp management strategy.

Below is a link to MCWD's website with more detailed information about this project.

<https://www.minnehahacreek.org/project/six-mile-creek-halsted-bay-habitat-restoration>

Discussion:

If the City Council is ok with the concept of this proposal staff will work with MCWD on an Agreement for the barrier near the Highland Road Bridge and bring back for Council's review.

Mission Statement:

The City of Minnetrista will deliver quality services in a cost effective and innovative manner and provide opportunities for a high quality of life while protecting natural resources and maintaining a rural character.



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May 25, 2017

Members of the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council,

As a member of the Six Mile-Halsted Bay Subwatershed Partnership, The City of Minnetrista is pleased to offer support for the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District's (MCWD or District) habitat restoration program for the Six Mile-Halsted Bay subwatershed, one of the largest habitat-corridor improvement projects in the metropolitan area.

The City of Minnetrista is a rural residential and lakeshore community situated on the western edge of Lake Minnetonka. The City includes Halsted Bay and its tributary wetland complex, Six Mile Marsh. Over the years, the City has seen the active fisheries of Halsted Bay give way to high carp populations that have degraded the shoreline and impacted our residents' ability to enjoy this resource. The issues in Halsted Bay are made worse by a degraded upstream system, parts of which also fall in the City's jurisdiction, including wetland that have altered hydrology and limited vegetative diversity.

The scale of restoration in Halsted Bay, Six Mile Marsh, and the upland lake complex is greater than the City can implement, and we value the District's leadership in creating a programmatic solution to enhance the ecology of the whole system, providing benefit to our human and non-human residents. We understand that carp are a principal driver of the declining ecological condition within Halsted Bay and its upstream lakes, and are encouraged by this opportunity to aggressively manage carp to make way for other in lake and watershed restoration strategies and increase their effectiveness.

The District has proven its leadership in identify and implementing solutions to enhance the ecological integrity within this area. In 2013, the District purchased 209 acres in the City of Minnetrista to restore it from tiled agriculture to a mixture of native prairie and savanna and oak woodland. The City and District also partnered on a to provide technical and regulatory assistance on a wetland banking project on a private farm just outside of the Six Mile-Halsted bay Subwatershed, protecting and restoring 42 acres of wetland and buffer. This effort to manage carp system wide will be complementary to these and upcoming wetland and upland restoration strategies.

The City of Minnetrista is a committed and active participant in the Six Mile-Halsted Bay restoration strategy. We appreciate your consideration of this program which will greatly enhance this unique metro resource.

Sincerely,

David Abel,
Community Development Director