

COMMISSION FILE NO: 16-140-10 **DATE INTRODUCED:** October 10, 2016

INTRODUCED BY: Executive Director (Signature on File in the Office of the Commission)

REFERRED BY COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON TO: Policy, Finance, and Personnel Committee

RELATING TO: Approval of the Milwaukee River Watercourse Management Plan

SUMMARY:

The Commission is requested to approve the Milwaukee River Watercourse Management Plan. The Plan consists of staff recommendations to alleviate structural flooding as described below and which are based on a Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) Report entitled, "Watercourse System Plan for the Milwaukee River in Milwaukee County Upstream of the Milwaukee Harbor Estuary" (SEWRPC Report No. 172, dated 2010), and a staff recommendation to remove the Estabrook Dam based on the Commission's May 2015 resolution supporting removal of the Estabrook Dam to reduce flood risk, improve water quality, habitat, fish passage, and river aesthetics, and reduce sediment accumulation.

The District has jurisdiction for flood management purposes over the Milwaukee River between County Line Road and the previous North Avenue Dam. According to Commission Policy, 1-01.15, Watercourse Policy, the District may fund structural and nonstructural flood risk reduction measures where the District has assumed watercourse jurisdiction for flood abatement purposes. The District undertook jurisdiction of the Milwaukee River in March 2003. This segment of the Milwaukee River is located in Villages of Brown Deer, River Hills, and Shorewood and the Cities of Glendale and Milwaukee.

ATTACHMENTS: **BACKGROUND** ☐ **KEY ISSUES** ☐ **RESOLUTION** ☒
FISCAL NOTE ☐ **S/W/MBE** ☐ **OTHER** ☒ Map

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COMMITTEE ACTION: _____ **DATE:** _____

COMMISSION ACTION: _____ **DATE:** _____

SUMMARY (Cont'd)

Approval of the Milwaukee River Watercourse Management Plan

Recommendations to Alleviate Structural Flooding

The Milwaukee River Watercourse Management Plan identifies 387 structures located within the one percent annual probability floodplain (existing Federal Emergency Management Agency 100-year floodplain) along the Milwaukee River within the District's jurisdictional watercourse. The structures are located within the municipalities as follows:

Municipality	Number of Structures in Floodplain
Glendale	378
Milwaukee	3
Brown Deer	3
River Hills	3
TOTAL	387

District staff, in conjunction with SEWRPC, developed and evaluated multiple alternatives to alleviate structural flooding in the one percent probability floodplain. These alternatives were evaluated based on cost, implementation ability, effectiveness of protection, and local preferences. Based on these factors, District staff's recommended plan is as follows:

- Voluntary property acquisition for 13 structures/properties located on the Sunny Point Peninsula in the City of Glendale.
- After the District develops, adopts, and implements overall program guidelines and rules, either perform voluntary structural floodproofing or elevate structures of the remaining properties. Voluntary property acquisition may also be an option. Staff will further develop these options in conjunction with each municipality.
- Any open space created in areas where structures are removed would remain in public ownership and will be prohibited from future development.

Implementation of these recommendations by the District, in cooperation with the effected municipalities, would be strictly voluntary and in consensus with the property owner. Implementation is also contingent upon District budget approval.

SUMMARY (Cont'd)

Approval of the Milwaukee River Watercourse Management Plan

The Estabrook Dam (Dam) is located 1,500 feet downstream of the Port Washington Road Bridge. It creates an impoundment of approximately 100 acres stretching two miles upstream. The Dam is currently in a deteriorated condition and is under orders to be either repaired or removed. As such, SEWRPC and Milwaukee County have performed alternatives analysis and hydraulics analysis regarding the long-term fate of the Dam. Based on the hydraulic analysis and other information included in the alternatives analysis, removal of the Dam provides a flood risk reduction for at least 53 structures located within one percent annual probability floodplain. Dam removal will also improve water quality, habitat, fish passage, and river aesthetics and will reduce sediment accumulation. Dam removal is the lowest cost alternative of the five alternatives analyzed. The Commission adopted a resolution in May 2015 supporting dam removal as soon as practicable (Commission Resolution No. 15-035-5).

Staff recommends removing the Dam as part of the Milwaukee River Watercourse Management Plan.

RESOLUTION

Approval of the Milwaukee River Watercourse Management Plan

RESOLVED, by the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage Commission, that the Milwaukee River Watercourse Management Plan is approved.

FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage Commission, that the Executive Director is authorized to implement the Milwaukee River Watercourse Management Plan, subject to Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage Commission budget approval.