



STORMWATER MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

MEMORANDUM

July 11, 2024

To: Lake County Stormwater Management Commission (SMC)
From: Brian Frank, Chief Engineer
Re: SMC Wetland Restoration Fund Fees and Regulatory Fee Schedule

Action Requested: Approval of Revised Fees

The Commission approved the SMC Wetland Restoration Fund (“WRF”) program on November 3, 2005. The WRF is an in-lieu fee option for developers to provide wetland mitigation for impacts to *Isolated Waters of Lake County* when no mitigation bank credits are available in the watershed where the impacts occur.

The approved WRF program states that the fees will be revised by SMC on an annual basis due to increased costs of property, construction, and professional services. However, we have not increased the fees since August 2022. With significant inflationary increases since 2022 coupled with the increasing demand for wetland mitigation in Lake County, revising fees at this time is appropriate to more accurately reflect the current costs for mitigation. **The proposed fees are based on 2022-2024 comparative costs published by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, using the Consumer Price Index Inflation Calculator tool (same tool we used for the previous 2022 fee adjustments).** The table below shows the current fees and proposed revised fees for the WRF for each of the four major watersheds.

Watershed	Current Fees (per acre)	Proposed Fees (per acre)
North Branch-Chicago River Watershed	\$181,500	\$191,500
Lake Michigan Watershed	\$175,500	\$185,000
Des Plaines River Watershed	\$121,000	\$128,000
Fox River Watershed	\$114,000	\$120,500
Average	\$148,000	\$156,250

The WRF fees are included on SMC’s regulatory fee schedule; therefore, we are also proposing to update the fee schedule with the revised 2024 WRF fees. No other changes to the fee schedule are proposed at this time.

Please contact me at 847-377-7704 or bfrank@lakecountyil.gov if you have any questions.