



STORMWATER MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

February 13, 2023

MEMORANDUM

To: Stormwater Management Commission

From: Ashley Strelcheck, Water Resource Professional
Mike Prusila, Planning Supervisor

RE: North Branch Chicago River and Lake Michigan Watershed-Based Plans Public Comment Period

ACTION REQUESTED: OPEN 30-DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR EACH PLAN

Staff requests that the Lake County Stormwater Management Commission open a 30-day public comment period for the North Branch Chicago River Watershed-Based Plan and for the Lake Michigan Watershed-Based Plan. SMC has worked since 2018 to develop draft watershed-based plans for each planning area. Numerous public agencies and units of government played a key role, including Lake County departments; the Forest Preserve District; dozens of municipalities and townships, North Shore Water Reclamation District, drainage districts, Illinois DNR, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) and the North Branch Chicago River Watershed Workgroup. SMC held public meetings as well as targeted focus discussions with local units of government and land management organizations in each watershed to inform the plans.

The draft plans and link to the action plan webmap applications are posted on the SMC website at:

North Branch: <https://www.lakecountyil.gov/2433/North-Branch-Chicago-River-Watershed>

Lake Michigan: <https://www.lakecountyil.gov/2418/Lake-Michigan-Watershed>

The anticipated watershed-based plan adoption schedule is as follows:

March 6 th	Public comment period begins, draft watershed-based plan posted on SMC website
March 8 th	North Branch Chicago River Watershed Plan public information meeting (Patty Turner Center, Deerfield)
March 9 th	Lake Michigan Watershed Plan public information meeting (Waukegan Public Library)
March 15 th	Public Hearing at County Seat (County Building, Waukegan)
April 6 th	Public review period ends
May/June	Request adoption by the SMC
June-August	County Board Committees and Adoption

Staff welcomes your comments during the 30-day public review period.

Please contact Ashley Strelcheck (astrelcheck@lakecountyil.gov; 847-377-7710) or Mike Prusila (mprusila@lakecountyil.gov; 847-377-7713) with questions or comments. Thank you.