



MEMORANDUM

January 25, 2019

To: Stormwater Management Commission
From: Glenn Westman & Juli Crane, Principal Wetland Specialists
Re: Isolated Wetlands Program Update through 2018

FOR INFORMATION ONLY – NO ACTION REQUIRED

Table 1 provides a summary of SMC's isolated wetland permit database from August 14, 2001 (program inception) through December 31, 2018. The data shows **the isolated wetland provisions in the WDO are working effectively to meet Goal #2 of the Lake County Comprehensive Management Plan (1990, updated 2002):** *"Protect existing water resources, including lakes, streams, floodplains, and wetlands, from detrimental and unnecessary modification so that their beneficial functions are maintained and public expenditures and damages are minimized."*

Key points:

- 424 developments with *Isolated Waters of Lake County* (IWLC) impacts reviewed by SMC since 2001
- Total IWLC impacts = 135.9 ac.; mitigation provided = 188.7 ac.; net wetland gain in County = 52.8 ac.
- **About 53 million gallons of additional flood water storage in Lake County** provided by net wetland gain (USEPA estimates each acre of wetland can store about 1 million gallons of flood water¹)
- Since 2006, SMC Wetland Restoration Fund (WRF) used by 20 developers to purchase 19.2 ac. of "in-watershed" mitigation credit (WRF is an in-lieu fee option when no mitigation bank credits are available in watershed where impacts occur)
- 723.5 ac. of preserved IWLC on development sites (about 1.1 square miles)

If you have any questions regarding the isolated wetlands program, please do not hesitate to call us at (847)377-7700 or e-mail Glenn at gwestman@lakecountyil.gov or Juli at jcrane@lakecountyil.gov.

¹ *Wetlands: Protecting Life and Property from Flooding, Publication EPA843-F-06-001, May 2006.*

Table 1
SMC Isolated Wetland Permit Summary by Major Watershed
As of December 31, 2018

Watershed	# Projects Reviewed	# Projects with <0.1 Acre IWLC Impacts (Acres) No Mitigation Required per WDO	# Projects with ≥0.10 Acre Impacts (Total Acres) Mitigation Required per WDO	Total Acres of IWLC Impacts	Total Acres of Mitigation Provided (In Watershed/ Out of Watershed)	Net Wetland Acres In Watershed/ Out of Watershed	Preserved Wetland Acres⁵
Des Plaines River	202	96 (2.2)	106 (66.3)	68.5	87.9 (87.9¹ / 0)	+19.4 / 0	411.4
Fox River	123	58 (1.0)	65 (42.8)	43.8	66.1 (66.1² / 0)	+22.3 / 0	259.3
N. Branch Chicago River	62	29 (0.9)	33 (17.2)	18.1	27.5 (19.7³ / 7.8)	+1.6 / +7.8	44.2
Lake Michigan	37	20 (0.5)	17 (5.0)	5.5	7.2 (2.1⁴ / 5.1)	-3.4 / +5.1	8.6
Totals	424	203 (4.6)	221 (131.3)	135.9	188.7 (175.8 / 12.9)	+39.9 / +12.9 (TOTAL NET GAIN = 52.8)	723.5

NOTES

- 1 Includes 3.6 acres of “in watershed” mitigation purchased through SMC Wetland Restoration Fund (WRF) in-lieu fee program.**
- 2 Includes 5.8 acres of “in watershed” mitigation purchased through WRF.**
- 3 Includes 7.7 acres of “in watershed” mitigation purchased through WRF.**
- 4 Includes 2.1 acres of “in watershed” mitigation purchased through WRF.**
- 5 Undisturbed IWLC remaining on development sites.**