



STORMWATER MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

MEMORANDUM

February 15, 2019

To: Stormwater Management Commission
From: Mike Warner, Director
Kurt Woolford, Chief Engineer
Re: SMC Wetland Restoration Fund – Lake Michigan Watershed, 1-year Extension for Fund Use

ACTION REQUESTED: APPROVAL OF 1-YEAR EXTENSION FOR FUND USE

The Wetland Restoration Fund's (WRF) Lake Michigan (LM) Watershed account currently contains \$240,392 to provide a minimum of 2.13 acres of mitigation credit for permitted projects that have impacted isolated wetlands in Lake County.

- There are no wetland mitigation banks in that watershed to satisfy the acreage requirement, and an RFP effort did not yield any proposals that satisfied the selection criteria.
- SMC regulatory and planning staff used a draft version of SMC's Wetland Restoration and Preservation Plan (WRAPP) tool to identify several sites with wetland restoration potential.
- SMC subsequently contracted the services of Hey & Associates, Inc. to take an on-the-ground look at these potential wetland restoration sites, and other opportunities, to refine the selection and assess restoration feasibility.

The SMC-approved *WRF Implementation Guidance Document* allows for a 1-year extension if no bank credits are available for purchase. We propose a "reset" of the 1-year extension, to February 1, 2020, to evaluate and pursue one or more potential LM Watershed sites for development into a WRF wetland mitigation project that will provide at least 2.13 acres of mitigation credit.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Kurt at 847-377-7720 or kwoolford@lakecountyil.gov.