



MEMORANDUM

January 22, 2020

To: Stormwater Management Commission
From: Glenn Westman & Juli Crane, Principal Wetland Specialists
Re: Isolated Wetlands Program Update through 2019

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:

- 432 developments with *Isolated Waters of Lake County* (IWLC) impacts reviewed by SMC since 2001
- Total IWLC impacts = 136.9 ac.; mitigation provided = 189.9 ac.; net wetland gain in County = 53.0 ac.
- **About 53 million gallons of additional flood water storage** provided by net wetland gain (USEPA estimates each acre of wetland can store about 1 million gallons of flood water¹)
- **About 726 million gallons of retained flood water storage** provided by 725.9 ac. of preserved IWLC on development sites (about 1.1 square miles)
- 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)

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, 2019

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	207	99 (2.3)	108 (67.1)	69.4	89.1 (89.1¹ / 0)	+19.7 / 0	412.2
Fox River	126	61 (1.1)	65 (42.8)	43.9	66.1 (66.1² / 0)	+22.2 / 0	260.9
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	432	209 (4.8)	223 (132.1)	136.9	189.9 (177.0/ 12.9)	+40.1 / +12.9 (TOTAL NET GAIN = 53.0)	725.9

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.**