



MEMORANDUM

TO: Public Works, Planning & Transportation Committee
FROM: Mike Prusila, Planning Supervisor
DATE: October 26, 2020
RE: Wetland Restoration and Preservation Plan – Adoption

Action: Wetland Restoration and Preservation Plan Adoption

Development of a Countywide Wetland Plan is identified as an action item in the Lake County Comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan (2002). Additionally, Lake County has adopted a “no net loss” wetland policy and established an objective of a “net gain” of wetland function. The Wetland Restoration and Preservation Plan (WRAPP) is intended to guide the selection of wetland sites for restoration and/or preservation in a non-regulatory context. The PWPT Committee and County Board are asked to adopt the WRAPP as an amendment to the Lake County Comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan.

The Wetland Restoration and Preservation Plan and Decision Support Tool identify approximately 15,000 acres of *Potentially Restorable Wetlands* in Lake County. This represents about one-third of the total estimated wetland acres that have been converted or lost in Lake County. The WRAPP also estimates the level at which existing and potentially restorable wetlands provide 13 wetland functions, or services, including flood control, water quality enhancement, and ecological benefits. Finally, several action strategies are identified for both SMC and other end users to use information from the WRAPP to restore, enhance and preserve wetlands. The WRAPP and Decision Support Tool are resources that can be used by a wide audience of end users, including SMC, to mitigate wetland loss and achieve a net gain in wetland function.

In March 2020, SMC opened a 60-day public comment period, which was extended due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A public information meeting was held in July 2020 and a public hearing was held in August 2020. Sixty-three (63) comments were received. Staff reviewed and provided responses, which can be viewed in the attached summary document. Several revisions were made to the draft products in response to comments. The revised drafts have been posted on the SMC website (<https://www.lakecountyil.gov/2531/Wetland-Restoration-Preservation-Plan>).