



CHRIS ABELE, MILWAUKEE COUNTY EXECUTIVE  
JOHN DARGLE, JR., DIRECTOR OF PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE

Date: October 13, 2015

To: Theodore Lipscomb, Sr., Chairman, County Board of Supervisors

From: John Dargle, Jr., Director, Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture

Subject: **Revised: Estabrook Park Dam Alternative for Environmental Impact Statement – ACTION**

**POLICY**

The Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture (DPRC) presenting three alternatives based on the findings of the Estabrook Dam Draft Environmental Assessment and of which one will be included in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) submitted to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR).

**BACKGROUND**

In the 2009 Adopted Capital Improvements Budget, \$1,904,400 in debt obligation was approved for dam rehabilitation. In 2014, the DPRC retained AECOM to complete an environmental assessment compliant with State and Federal regulations as required by the Bureau of Land Management and the WDNR and evaluate and present alternatives for the dam. In September of that same year, the DPRC submitted an action item in File No. 14-682 recommending removal of the dam as the preferred alternative of six proposed actions presented to the Board in prior meetings. The item was laid over to the call of the Chair. The Board removed funding for dam removal from the County Executive's recommended 2015 budget.

Currently, the estimated costs for dam repair and removal are:

- Alternative 1: \$2,287,000 for repair without fish passage plus \$160,000 annually for operation and maintenance
- Alternative 1A: \$3,394,000 for repair with fish passage plus \$160,000 annually for operation and maintenance
- Alternative 2: \$1,700,000 for dam removal with no annual operation and maintenance costs

Based on current bonding authority available and awarded grants Alternative 1 can be funded. Alternative 1A is underfunded. The DPRC has a US Fish & Wildlife Service



grant for fish passage or dam removal pending for \$220,000 leaving \$887,000 required to implement fish passage. The DPRC has identified two potential 2016 grant opportunities to support fish passage or dam removal and, if awarded, may fully fund the improvement. If neither grant is awarded, a funding source for fish passage will need to be identified.

In addition, operation and maintenance costs for dam repair are estimated at \$160,000 per year. The DPRC receives \$51,000 per year from tower rental that has been restricted for use for maintenance and operation of the dam. The remaining \$109,000 per year required remains unfunded and will need to be requested annually through the budget process.

The DPRC has finalized the EIS and has submitted it to the WDNR for their review and the public process required to approve the dam Operational Order and Chapter 31 permit prior to authorizing dam repair. Milwaukee County will be required to submit a statement of the Board's selection from this action and, if repair is selected, a dam operation plan. The operation plan includes maintaining a summer impoundment and a partial impoundment for the balance of the year to mitigate environmental impacts to aquatic life.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Parks Director is seeking direction from the County Board of Supervisors on which of the three alternatives presented is to be included in the Environmental Impact Statement submitted to the WDNR.

copy: County Executive Chris Abele  
Raisa Koltun, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office  
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board  
Gerry Broderick, Sr., Chairman, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee  
Sup. Khalif Rainey, Vice-Chair, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee  
Jeremy Lucas, Fiscal Mgt. Analyst, Admin & Fiscal Affairs/DAS  
Allyson Smith, Committee Coordinator, Office of the County Clerk  
Jessica Janz-McKnight, Research and Policy Analyst, Office of the Comptroller