



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
LANSING



KEITH CREAGH
DIRECTOR

February 1, 2016

TO: All Interested Citizens, Organizations, and Government Agencies

SUBJECT: FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
Wayne County Department of Public Services
Priority 1B – Milk River Facility Upgrades
State Revolving Fund Project No. 5446-01

The purpose of this notice is to seek public input and comment on a preliminary decision by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required to implement recommendations discussed in the attached Environmental Assessment of a wastewater project plan submitted by the applicant mentioned above.

HOW WERE ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES CONSIDERED?

Part 53, Clean Water Assistance, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, being Sections 324.5301 to 324.5316 of the Michigan Compiled Laws Annotated, requires the DEQ to evaluate all environmental implications of a proposed wastewater project. The DEQ has done this by incorporating a detailed analysis of the environmental effects of the proposed alternatives in its review and approval process. A project plan containing information on environmental impacts was prepared by the municipality and reviewed by the State. The DEQ has prepared the attached Environmental Assessment and found that the proposed project does not require the preparation of an EIS.

WHY IS AN EIS NOT REQUIRED?

Our environmental review concluded that no significant environmental impacts would result from the proposed action. Any adverse impacts have either been eliminated by changes in the project plan or will be reduced by the implementation of the mitigative measures discussed in the attached Environmental Assessment.

HOW DO I GET MORE INFORMATION?

A map depicting the location of the proposed project is attached. This information is also available on our website at www.michigan.gov/cleanwaterrevolvingfund under "Related Links." The Environmental Assessment presents additional information on the project, alternatives that were considered, impacts of the proposed action, and the basis for our decision. Further information can be obtained by calling or writing one of the contact people listed below.

HOW DO I SUBMIT COMMENTS?

Any comments supporting or disagreeing with this preliminary decision should be submitted to me at DEQ, Office of Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance, Revolving Loan Section, Constitution Hall, P.O. Box 30241, Lansing, Michigan 48909-7741. We will not take any action on this project plan for 30 calendar days from the date of this notice in order to receive and consider any comments.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

In the absence of substantive comments during this period, our preliminary decision will become final. The applicant will then be eligible to receive loan assistance from this Agency to construct the proposed project.

Any information you feel should be considered by the DEQ should be brought to our attention. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Karen Nickols, the project manager, at 517-284-5414, or you may contact me. Your interest in this process and the environment is appreciated.

Sincerely,



Sonya T. Butler, Chief
Revolving Loan Section
Office of Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance
517-284-5433

Attachments

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
Wayne County Department of Public Services
Priority 1B Milk River Facility Upgrades
State Revolving Fund (SRF)
Environmental Assessment
February 2016**

PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Applicant Name: Milk River Intercounty Drain Drainage District,
Wayne County Department of Public Services –
Engineering Services Group, Wayne County

Authorized Representative: Mr. Kenneth M. Kucel, P.E., Deputy Director

Applicant Address: 400 Monroe, Suite 400, Detroit, Michigan 48226

SRF Project No: 5446-01

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Milk River Intercounty Drain Drainage District (MRIDDD) is operated by the Wayne County Department of Public Services (WCDPS) – Engineering Services Group and is located in northeastern Wayne and southern Macomb Counties. The communities served by the MRIDDD include the cities of St. Clair Shores (southern fringe of city only), Harper Woods, and Grosse Pointe Woods (see Figure 1). The existing land use is completely developed residential areas with limited retail businesses concentrated along four main arterial highways located within the service area. The service area also contains a private golf course (Lochmoor Country Club), a large retail business area (Eastland Shopping Center), several small schools, and municipal parks. Any significant changes to the area would likely consist of commercial and residential redevelopment.

The projects addressed in this Environmental Assessment are upgrades to the Milk River Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Retention Treatment Basin (RTB), the Milk River Pump Station (MRPS), and the Recirculation Facility.

The total project cost is estimated to be \$28,245,000. The project design, in the amount of \$1,575,000, was paid through the Stormwater, Asset Management, and Wastewater (SAW) grant program, and \$100,000 is expected to be provided as principal forgiveness due to energy saving components of the project. The MRIDDD has applied for a low-interest loan through the state of Michigan's SRF loan program at a 2.5-percent interest rate. The cost of the project will be shared by all users located within the MRIDDD service area. Table 1 provides the estimated annual increase per community.

**Table 1
Estimated Annual User Charge**

| Community | Estimated Annual User Charge Increase |
|-----------------------------|--|
| City of St. Clair Shores | \$0.21 |
| City of Harper Woods | \$74.88 |
| City of Grosse Pointe Woods | \$113.88 |

PROJECT SETTING AND POPULATION

The MRIDDD service area comprises of two communities located in northern Wayne County, Grosse Pointe Woods and Harper Woods, and one community located in southern Macomb County, St. Clair Shores. According to the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, the population of the MRIDDD service area in 2010 was approximately 90,086 and is expected to increase to 90,492 by 2035 (see Table 2).

**Table 2
Population Projections**

| Year | MRIDDD Service Area |
|-------------|----------------------------|
| 2015* | 90,144 |
| 2020 | 90,202 |
| 2030 | 90,413 |
| 2035 | 90,492 |

**Interpolated value between 2010 and 2020*

The Milk River is an open waterway located primarily in southeast Macomb County. As development occurred within the Milk River watershed, the majority of the natural channel was enclosed, leaving only a half mile of the original system as open channel. Its total length is about 6,500 feet, beginning at the Milk River CSO RTB and emptying into Lake St. Clair (see Figure 2). There is still some stormwater input into the river from St. Clair Shores within Macomb County. However, the majority of the annual stormwater input is from the CSO events from Harper Woods and Grosse Pointe Woods within Wayne County. As these flows are infrequent and intermittent, the primary Milk River flows are provided by a recirculation of water pumped from Lake St. Clair to a location downstream of the Milk River CSO RTB.

The MRPS serves an area of slightly less than 4,000 acres consisting primarily of the cities of Grosse Pointe Woods and Harper Woods. The interceptors tributary to the MRPS are combined sewers, carrying both stormwater and sanitary flows in one pipe. The sewers tributary to the interceptors are also combined sewers in Grosse Pointe Woods. Harper Woods is served by separate storm and sanitary sewers, but these separate sewers outlet to the combined sewers.

The MRPS was designed in 1958 and constructed in 1960 to serve the combined sewer systems of Harper Woods and Grosse Pointe Woods. There are dry weather sanitary pumps that collect sanitary sewage and discharge it to the Grosse Pointe Interceptor for transport to the Detroit Wastewater Treatment Facility (DWTF) in Detroit. During wet weather, larger storm pumps discharge the combined sewage to a 19-million-gallon CSO RTB. The CSO RTB was constructed between 1991 and 1994.

PROJECT NEED

Since the 1960 and 1994 construction dates, many components of the system have aged and require improvements to remain in working order. Additionally, technology has changed and has made some working features at the facilities outdated. To address these needs at the Milk River CSO RTB, MRPS, and Recirculation Facility, project plans were developed identifying the needed upgrades in 2010 and 2012.

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has monitored Milk River's discharges closely since the mid-1990s construction. The DEQ would like to see the recirculation intake extend further into Lake St. Clair, and the MRIDDD Board believes the water quality standards can be met at the current intake location. The last series of regulatory communication regarding the basin's performance happened between 2002 and 2011. The DEQ identified violations in water quality, record keeping, and maintenance at the Milk River facilities. The MRIDDD and DEQ entered into an Administrative Consent Order (ACO) in February 2014, outlining numerous actions to be undertaken at the MRIDDD facilities out to January 2022 to rehabilitate the basin and monitor its performance.

The improvements to the Milk River facility include: improving operator controls, rehabilitating aging equipment, rehabilitating the storm water pumps, improving basin cleaning so that the effluent biochemical oxygen demand removal is enhanced, and improving the recirculation pumping system so the Milk River dissolved oxygen meets DEQ's expectations.

PROJECT ALTERNATIVES

No Action

The improvements associated with the project are necessary to maintain the facilities in order to meet the terms and conditions of the issued ACO, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) limitations, comply with the Ten State Standards (recommended standards for wastewater facilities), and minimize operation costs. Selecting a "no-action" alternative would result in increased maintenance and further deterioration of the facilities until they are no longer functional. This would lead to NPDES violations and non-compliance with the issued ACO. Therefore, a no-action alternative was not further evaluated.

Regional Alternatives

The capacity of the Detroit Water and Sewage Disposal System's current sewer collection system and the DWTF are sufficient to satisfy the projected future needs of the service area. The option to construct a new regional wastewater treatment facility or to connect to another existing sewage disposal system is not feasible due to the size of this system and was not considered further.

Optimal Performance of Existing Facilities

The ACO issued in February 2014 identified deficiencies within the Milk River CSO RTB, MRPS, and the Recirculation Facility. Upgrades to the Milk River CSO RTB, MRPS, and Recirculation Facility are required to comply with the identified ACO deficiencies and to upgrade equipment that is past its useful life. A list of the major improvements to all the facilities can be found in Attachment A.

SELECTED ALTERNATIVE

The selected alternative is to conduct improvements to the CSO RTB, MRPS, and the Recirculation System to achieve optimal performance of existing facilities. These improvements will increase the reliability and overall performance of the MRIDDD treatment facilities.

**Table 3
Estimate Project Cost**

| Description | Estimated Costs |
|--|------------------------|
| Construction Costs | \$25,846,000 |
| Engineering, Legal, Financial, Administrative, and Contingencies | \$4,074,000 |
| Less SAW Grant and Principal Forgiveness | (\$1,675,000) |
| Total Estimate Project Cost | \$28,245,000 |

RELEVANT ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES AND POTENTIAL IMPACTS

Water Quality Benefits

The upgrades to the Milk River CSO RTB, MRPS, and Recirculation Facility will allow the facility to work optimally when discharging into the Milk River after a large storm event. These upgrades will minimize the effects of low dissolved oxygen being released into the Milk River causing unintended negative consequences to the river ecosystem and ultimately to Lake St. Clair.

Short-term Construction Impacts

The construction of the project will result in typical short-term construction impacts such as noise, dust, and increased (medium to heavy) vehicle traffic to the project site. The construction will be primarily within existing facilities and should not significantly impact the surrounding residential and commercial properties.

Due to the age of the structures and equipment, hazardous material such as lead paint and asbestos may be encountered during construction. Should hazardous materials be encountered during construction, it will be appropriately addressed by applying industry standards to minimize any impacts to those working within the facility or to the general public.

Endangered Species

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service website indicates there are six recognized species that are either listed as endangered, threatened, or proposed as threatened within the project area. Those species are the Indiana bat (endangered), Northern long-eared bat (threatened), rufa red knot (threatened), Eastern massasauga rattlesnake (proposed as threatened), Northern riffleshell (endangered), and the Eastern prairie fringed orchid (threatened). Since the proposed project is located in an urbanized area that does not contain suitable habitats for the aforementioned species, the project should not have any impact on the federally recognized threatened or endangered species.

The Michigan Natural Features Inventory (MNFI) was contacted to verify if any state recognized, threatened, or endangered species would be impacted by the proposed project. The response from the MNFI identified three animal species that are legally protected, the round hickorynut, pugnose shiner, and peregrine falcon, and one plant species that is a special concern species, the winged monkey flower, located within 1.5 miles of the project area. The MNFI response letter indicated the occurrences have been historic and/or well away from the project footprint. The proposed project should not have any adverse impact to state legally protected or special concern species.

Historic Preservation

Both the Michigan State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) and the federally recognized tribes have been contacted in regards to any historical impact that might be related to this project. The SHPO has indicated that no historical properties are affected as a result of the project. In addition, 14 tribes were contacted regarding the project. At the time of this Environmental Assessment, one response had been received indicating there are no known historical or cultural artifacts located within the identified project area. Should either historical or cultural artifacts be encountered during the project, work will cease immediately and the SHPO and tribes will be contacted.

Secondary Impacts

No secondary impacts are anticipated to occur as a result of the project. The goal of this project is to improve the water quality by increasing the operational efficiency of the Milk River CSO RTB, MRPS, and the Recirculation Facility by replacing and upgrading equipment that has served its useful life or has been subjected to excessive downtime for maintenance.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A public hearing was held on June 12, 2012, at the Grosse Pointe Woods Community Center. The notice of the public hearing was published in the *Grosse Pointe News* 32 days prior to the public hearing. The proposed project was also available for viewing at five locations during the public comment period. Those locations were at the WCDPS offices in Detroit and at the city offices of St. Clair Shores, Harper Woods, and Grosse Pointe Woods. The public hearing resulted in 15 attendees, with only one attendee being from the general public. The discussion presented the proposed project, the estimated user charge costs, and received comments and views of interested persons. All questions during the public hearing were fully addressed. A resolution was unanimously passed by the MRIDDD Board adopting the project plan and the selected alternative on June 12, 2012.

THE REASONS FOR FINDING NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The proposed project is expected to have a positive impact for the WCDPS/MRIDDD because it will allow the CSO RTB, MRPS, and Recirculation System to work optimally. The improvements to these facilities will also minimize the chances of malfunctioning, causing violations to the MRIDDD NPDES permit, or unnecessary overflows into Lake St. Clair upstream. The improvements to the facilities will allow the CSO RTB, MRPS, and Recirculation System to work efficiently so that reliable wastewater service continues to be provided to the MRIDDD residents

and businesses into the future, and to ensure that the facilities are in compliance with current and future regulatory requirements. No adverse impacts are expected to result from the project. Therefore, a Finding of No Significant Impact has been made.

Questions regarding this Environmental Assessment should be directed to:

Ms. Sonya T. Butler, Chief
Revolving Loan Section
Office of Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 30241
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7741
Telephone: 517-284-5433
E-mail: butlers2@michigan.gov

Figure 1
Project Service Area

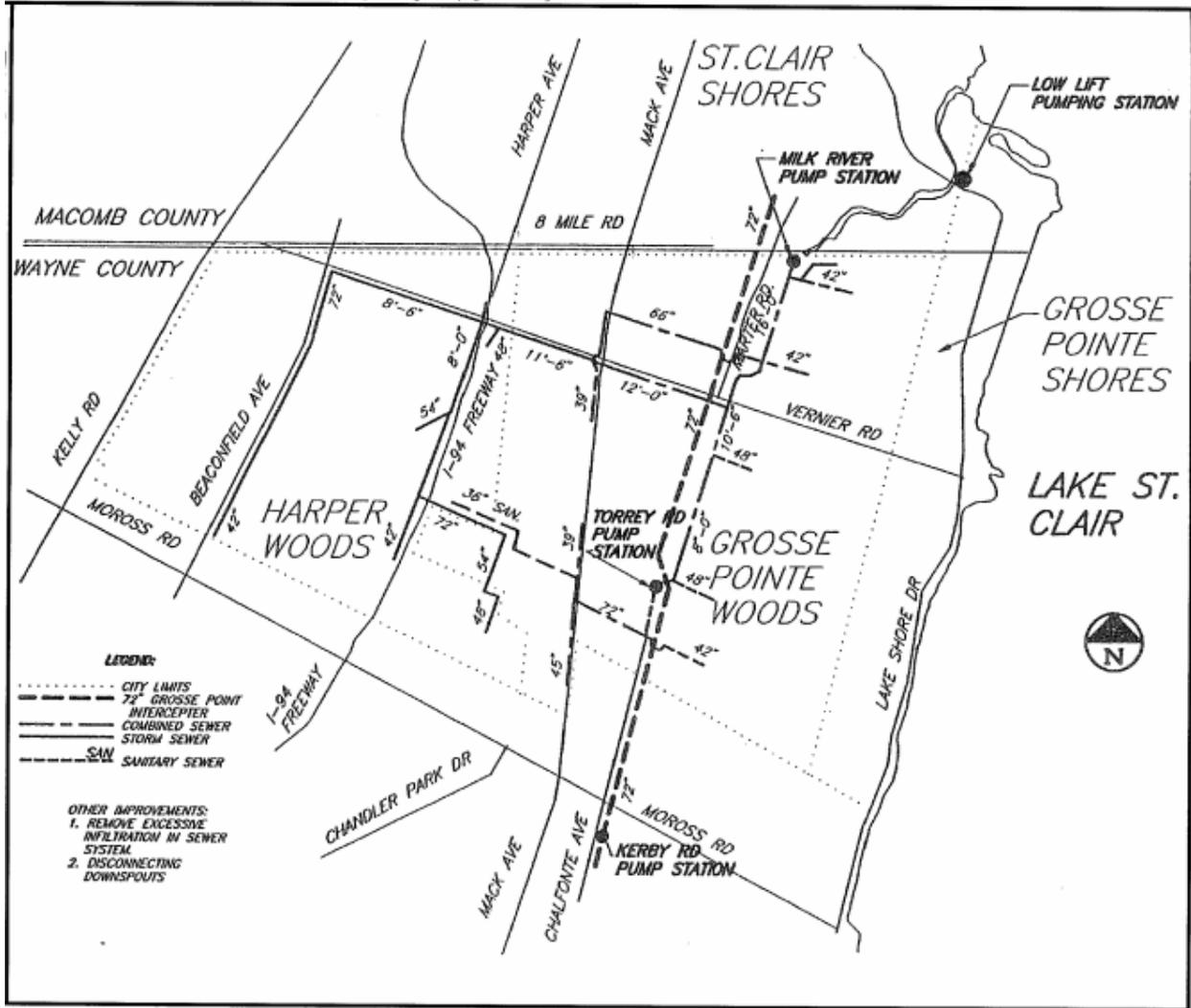


Figure 2
Milk River Course from Retention Treatment Basin to Lake St. Clair



Google Maps – 2016

Attachment A
List of Improvements to the Milk River Facilities

Improvements at the Milk River CSO RTB and Pump Station Location:

- Replace and upgrade the CSO RTB flushing system, install new flushing gates, and replace existing flushing hose bibbs and water piping;
- Refurbish Stormwater Pumps 1 through 6 and replace seven existing grease lubrication units;
- Replace two CSO RTB dewatering pumps and upgrade the CSO RTB dewatering system;
- Improve the CSO RTB disinfection system by installing new pumps, a new chemical tank, and new chemical feed piping;
- Improve the sampling system at the CSO RTB;
- Improve the operation and maintenance of the facility by allowing for the isolation of the sanitary pumps by installing slide gates and a stop log system;
- Repair the architectural and structural components of all of the buildings located at the Milk River CSO RTB and Pump Station location including roof replacement on all buildings and replacement of the elevator;
- Upgrade the electrical system in the Milk River CSO RTB, Pump Station, and at the Blower Building;
- Upgrade the lighting system in the Control Building, Milk River CSO RTB Pump Station, Blower Building, Chemical Disinfection Building, and Maintenance Garage;
- Upgrade the heating and ventilation systems in the Blower Building, Control Building, Chemical Disinfection Building, and Maintenance Garage; and
- Repair and upgrade the aeration system for treated discharges from the CSO RTB into the Milk River.

Improvements at the Milk River Recirculation Facility:

- Expand the Recirculation Pump Station Building to house the new zebra mussel control system;
- Implement a mussel (quagga and zebra) control system for the recirculation system; and
- Upgrade and improve the recirculation system by replacing three valves and actuators, repairing the leaking existing 42-inch recirculation piping under Milk River, removing sediment from a 72-inch intake pipe, and replacing of tidewater gates and actuators.

Improvements to all Milk River Facilities:

- Upgrade the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system including the replacement of instrumentation devices for all MRIDDD facilities and integration of the MRIDDD SCADA system into the overall SCADA system for Wayne County owned and operated wastewater facilities.