Lake Winona committee documents

Cal R. Fremling
Winona State University

Follow this and additional works at: https://openriver.winona.edu/calfremlingpapers

Part of the Aquaculture and Fisheries Commons, and the Terrestrial and Aquatic Ecology Commons

Recommended Citation
https://openriver.winona.edu/calfremlingpapers/82

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Cal Fremling Archive at OpenRiver. It has been accepted for inclusion in Cal Fremling Papers by an authorized administrator of OpenRiver. For more information, please contact klarson@winona.edu.
Funding plan needed for dredging Lake Winona

By Renee Berg
Winona Daily News

With a DNR permit in hand, city officials are looking at themselves, the Minnesota Legislature and the public for a definite funding plan to dredge Lake Winona.

The hurdles behind

The DNR has granted Winona a permit for the dredging and the MPCA is taking public input until Feb. 14 before making a decision about its dredging permit.

Director of Public Works, Bob Bollant said the MPCA should receive few anti-dredging remarks, considering public backing of the plan.

City Manager Eric Sorensen also expects opposition to be minimal.

"It's improving the whole quality of the lake," Sorensen said. "It's better fishing. It's better boating. It's better recreating."

The hurdles ahead

At its next meeting, the council will consider Sorensen's proposal to institute a ½ cent city sales tax to fund the $3.5 million dredging.

The proposal also requires special state legislation, which makes the Minnesota Legislature the next stop after the City Council for approval.

Sorensen said Rep. Gene Pelowski helped draft the proposed legislation for the sales tax, which will go before the council Feb. 3. If the council approves sending the legislation forward, Sorensen estimates the Legislature would take until May to make a decision about the tax.

Then it comes back to the people.

"What's clear is that Winonans consider Lake Winona as synonymous to the city," Sorensen said. "Every experience indicates that Lake Winona is the jewel of Winona and people want it maintained."

Other choices

Another possible funding source is property taxes. Sorensen said it's not a popular choice.

"They're not too interested in looking at property taxes," he said of Winona residents. "Intuitively, it's got to be preferable for the region to pay for a regional facility."

With approval from the City Council and the Legislature, residents would vote next fall on adopting the sales tax.

Sorensen said the city would borrow $3.5 million through a public bond sale, with a defined repayment schedule. He said it would probably take 8 years to repay the bonds.

"We have to have the money up front to start the project," he said. "We don't have the ability to add $3.5 million to our budget. If the people say no, then we won't do it."

Meanwhile, the city still needs approval from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to dredge the lake.

Bollant said the Corps ques-
He also criticized the plaintiffs.
tioned the testing procedures used last summer when the city took sediment samples from the lake.

Since, as Bollant says, "We tested for everything under the sun," he hopes to get the Corps' dredging OK within a month.

The plan

Dredging Lake Winona is toted as having dual benefits.

One, dredging will deepen the lake and clear out the excessive weeds. About half of the 200-acre east basin would be 16 feet deep, which is deep enough to prevent weed growth.

Two, the sand and muck dredged from 65 acres of East Lake Winona will be piped over to Riverbend Industrial Park east of the incoming Target store. After settling, 90 acres of industrial land will be ready for development.

For Winona, that's land galore.

Director of Economic Development Judy Bodway said there are currently 20 acres of industrial land available in Winona. Bodway recognizes all the "ifs" left in the dredging scenario, but says three years is the earliest the 90 acres could be ready for sale.
dumping, which was 70,000 gallons per hour, for 7.5 hours. The volume (750,000 gallons) reported prior to this revised value was based on an estimate of 100,000 gallons per hour, which gave a total estimated sewage volume of 750,000 gallons over 7.5 hours.

A continuing issue is the city's breach of the state sewage discharge permit when they failed to sample the sewage during the bypass.

The report states that a sample was taken Jan. 6 in hopes that it would be representative of the sewage dumped seven days earlier.

In the sample, biological oxygen demand was 212 parts per million, more than five times the allowable level of 40 required by the permit.

And total suspended solids was 146 parts per million, more than three times the limit of 45.

Providing a reason for the lack of sampling during the bypass, the report said, "We were so taken up with trying to place the lift station back into operation in as
Stage set for winter bill

Call from Dan Dieterman
Dec 31, 1991

B. Intertech - post-track record
Missouri lab - OK - would have to pass some chem tests on blanks provided by EPA
afraid of summer bill

Permit application
Huber still thinks permit will be granted
Corps

Called Bollier re: all of this
Jan 20, 96
City Council Meeting
Ad hoc, sales
Advisory, if need be
Get Henry's bill to get legislative approval
Referendum in fall

B. Intertech is prime contractor will answer all questions (Missouri, NC) in 2 weeks

Braun. Intertech fails tests - shoddy lab work
TO: LAKE WINONA COMMITTEE

FROM: BRUCE FULLER, SUPT. PARKS & FORESTRY

SUBJECT: 1996 LAKE WINONA WEED HARVEST

During 1996 the Park Department harvested weeds from Lake Winona for 23 days. Starting date was May 29 through June 28. We averaged 9 loads per day during 1996. As a result, 300.15 tons of weeds were harvested from the lake during 1996.

Our priority areas were fishing piers, boat access points, and shoreline fishing areas on the East and West Lakes. In addition, access channels from the boat landings out into the lake were established by cutting 4-foot deep and 6 swathes wide lines out into the lake. The wide swathes were created to prevent drift and wind from plugging the weeds back into the access lanes.

The repair work done on the weed harvester and cold tar treatment from Winona Sandblasting worked well. The breakdowns during 1996 were minimal and the central staff expedited the few minor repairs that were necessary.

During 1997 we anticipate good performance from the weed harvester. The priority areas will remain the same unless the Lake Winona Committee would like to see modifications.
MEETING NOTICE

DATE: Wednesday, February 12, 1997
PLACE: Wenonah Room, 3rd Floor, City Hall
TIME: 7:00 p.m.

AGENDA

1. Call to order - Neal Mundahl, President
2. Approval of the minutes of April 10, 1996
3. Treasurer's report - Bob Welch
4. Report by MN DNR Fisheries Biologist on present and future management of Lake Winona fisheries
5. Report on status of the Lake Winona dredging project - Cal Fremling
6. Report on wood duck house project - Neal Mundahl
7. Election of officers for 1997
8. Miscellaneous
9. Set date for future meeting
10. Adjournment

NOTE: 1997 dues of $5.00 may be paid at the meeting, or you may send the $5.00 dues to:

Bob Welch, Sec’y/Treas.
677 E. 7th Street
Winona MN 55987