



Milwaukee County

Supervisor Theodore Lipscomb, 1st District

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ESTABROOK DAM REPAIR ON TRACK

Cost to repair aging structure is much lower than critics had predicted

Milwaukee, WI – The Milwaukee County Board’s Parks, Energy & Environment Committee this week received a positive report on the Estabrook Dam. The engineering report, which covers repairs and enhancements to the dam, projected a cost of \$1.5 million and an increased life expectancy of 20 years. The report validated the claims of advocates who had asserted that prior estimates, which were as high as \$12 million, were grossly overstated.

“Milwaukee County is proceeding on schedule to complete repair of the Estabrook Dam in a manner that is cost-effective and within the funding provided by the 2010 capital budget,” Supervisor Lipscomb said. “We now need to devise a plan to remove PCB contaminated sediment from the river in the area north of the dam to Lincoln Park, where PCB cleanup is planned by the EPA and Wisconsin DNR.”

The report, which included a detailed stability analysis, found that the dam is currently stable under normal conditions and operation, but requires additional strength to ensure stability in all weather conditions, including full-pool (high water level) ice-loading (winter condition). The \$1.5 million cost includes the additional structural reinforcement work, all recommended repairs, additional engineering, and a significant contingency reserve.

“We have an opportunity to use the remaining portion of the \$2.1 million allocated for the Estabrook Dam to leverage federal and state matching funds to remove toxic sediment from this area of the river,” Supervisor Lipscomb added. PCB and sediment cleanup is estimated to cost up to \$2 million, double the previous projections. “There is no debate about the need to remove PCB’s from this area of the river; we must proceed toward this next phase of cleanup. I am pleased that the County Board has come together to confront the long-term issues we face at the Estabrook Dam; this is real progress for the River.”

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