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To: **Mayor and City Council**

From: **Ryan Schroeder, City Manager**

Date: **August 31, 2020**

## **Pond Treatment**

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### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

On December 11, 2017, Council had an OCWS discussion regarding pond treatment. The agenda memo is enclosed. At issue was/is that we have a number of ponds within the community and we had been providing algae treatment for some but not others. The request of Council at that time was to provide direction on continuing treatment.

The outcome of the 2017 discussion was that we offer residents abutting ponds the opportunity to cost share pond treatments. This recognized that, while there might be a generalized community benefit of pond treatment, there was also a unique benefit to abutting properties exceeding that of the generalized community benefit. Further, those properties receiving that unique benefit should contribute toward pond treatment costs rather than the taxpayer bearing the entire cost. Enclosed is the template letter that was distributed to abutting pond properties in 2018.

Currently, there are two ponds within the community being treated under this cost share formula. The two ponds being treated are:

- Duck Pond – total treatment cost is \$1700  
(\$850 by WSP and \$94.45 for each of the nine surrounding residents)
- Richard Circle Dr Pond – total treatment cost is \$1490  
(\$745 by WSP and \$149 for each of the five surrounding residents)

A single neighborhood resident, similar to a block captain, who acts as the representative/responsible contact person, coordinates payments under this program. That person is responsible for contacting and collecting from each resident around the pond. We send that resident the invoice and receive payment back from that neighborhood representative. For the above two ponds, this system seems to have worked smoothly to date.

More recently, some members of Council have received contacts from persons interested in a review of Mud Lake. For Mud Lake, we treat for cattails (\$567.50 including DNR permit fee) but have never treated for duckweed or algae, as that is considered an aesthetic issue rather than one of pond health. The Assistant Parks Director recently received word from the DNR that homeowners would not be able to apply for removal permits of any type, given that the entire shoreline is City property. The City, on the other hand, could submit a \$35 permit request to chemically control a small percentage of lily pads on the lake each year along with the cattails. The cost would be an additional \$500-600. Mechanical removal is also possible but would probably be two to three times more expensive. In the past, residents have requested dredging; however, the DNR has not allowed that to occur, as the water

body is classified as a wetland. The DNR claims there is little evidence of recreation on the lake but will still grant a permit to provide reasonable access.

In the mid-1960's, concurrent with residential development, Mud Lake was dredged and reshaped to accommodate the new residential lots and additional storm water capacity. When finished and restored, the lake was clean and had sloped turf banks to the shore. It was easily accessible and very user-friendly for all water recreation. Over the years, the lake has begun to revert to its original wetland form. In the late 1990's, the City and residents came up with a shoreline restoration plan and replanted the east shoreline with native wetland vegetation. The maintenance of this plan was not fully followed, due to the difficulty in performing prescribed burns in a residential neighborhood.

With pond treatments, again coming forward Staff intent is to provide a holistic view of the entire inventory of water bodies within the community. It is thought that there may be differing water body categories from which several ponds may have similarities, which would suggest addressing issues such as pond treatment, or lack thereof, similarly. This review will take time. Our thought has been that, upon project completion, any change in policy would not affect 2020, as pond treatments generally terminate in October of each year.

Coincidentally, with the reconstruction of Moreland in 2021, we have intended to ask Council if trail paving around Mud Lake should occur at the same time, given that roadway construction occurs essentially adjacent to this pond. If so, this trail would be a Park Fund expense.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

		<b>Amount</b>
<b>Fund:</b>		
<b>Department:</b>		
<b>Account:</b>		

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Based on discussion.