



STORMWATER MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

Date: June 3, 2016

To: Certified Wetland Specialists, Enforcement Officers and Other Interested Parties
From: Kurt Woolford, Chief Engineer
Subject: SMC Wetland Restoration Fund – Updated Fees

The Lake County Stormwater Management Commission (SMC) approved the SMC Wetland Restoration Fund (WRF) program on November 3, 2005. SMC created the WRF as an in-lieu fee alternative for wetland mitigation in watersheds that do not have available wetland mitigation bank credits. **At this time, the fund only compensates for impacts to *Isolated Waters of Lake County (IWLC)*.** For more information on the use of the fund for mitigation purposes, please refer to Section 1007.03B.4. of the Lake County Watershed Development Ordinance (WDO).

Fund Fee Amounts: On June 2, 2016, the SMC approved the following *updated* in-lieu mitigation fund fees for each of the four major watersheds in Lake County, which became effective on that date:

- North Branch-Chicago River Watershed \$149,800 per acre
- Lake Michigan Watershed \$144,600 per acre
- Des Plaines River Watershed \$ 99,900 per acre
- Fox River Watershed \$ 94,100 per acre

Mitigation Ratios: The required mitigation replacement ratios are specified in WDO Section 1007.02. For example: 1-acre IWLC impact in North Branch Chicago River Watershed:

Non HQAR¹ - 1 acre impact x 1.5:1 mitigation ratio x \$149,800 = \$224,700 fee payment
HQAR¹ - 1 acre impact x 3:1 mitigation ratio x \$149,800 = \$449,400 fee payment

WDO Review Process:

For Non IWLC-Certified Communities: SMC will verify the final IWLC impact acreage and inform the applicant of the required mitigation and in-lieu fee amount. All required fees, including the applicable permit review fees and mitigation in-lieu fee, must be received by SMC prior to issuance of the IWLC impacts approval for the development.

For IWLC-Certified Communities: The IWLC-Certified community will verify the final IWLC impact acreage and inform the applicant of the required mitigation and in-lieu fee amount. The IWLC-Certified Community will provide SMC with the final IWLC impact acreage, mitigation fee amount due and applicant contact information. SMC will notify the IWLC-Certified community and applicant in writing once SMC receives the in-lieu fee. The IWLC-Certified community can then issue the IWLC impacts approval for the development.

Note: In both review scenarios above, the permit applicant shall provide SMC or the IWLC-Certified Community with correspondence (letter or e-mail) from the mitigation bank administrator(s) confirming there are no available mitigation credits at their bank(s) in the watershed where the IWLC impacts will occur.

Acceptable Forms of Payment: SMC requests payment via certified check, money order, or direct account transfer (i.e., wire transfer). Make payable to "**Lake County SMC – Wetland Restoration Fund**".

For questions, please contact SMC Principal Wetland Specialists Glenn Westman at 847/377-7718 or gwestman@lakecountyil.gov or Juli Crane at 847/377-7708 or jcrane@lakecountyil.gov.

¹ HQAR = high quality aquatic resource