REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF APPROPRIATION AVAILABILITY

Controlling the Movement of Invasive Fish Species
M.L. 2009, Chp. 143, Sec. 2, Subd. 6d – $300,000
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Appropriation Language
$300,000 is from the trust fund to the Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota to develop and test sonic barriers that could be effective in preventing and controlling the movement of invasive carp in Minnesota's waterways. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2012, at which time the project must be completed and final products delivered, unless an earlier date is specified in the work program.

Project Overview
Common carp, introduced from eastern Europe over a century ago, are an invasive species in Minnesota that adversely affect water quality and aquatic communities, particularly in shallow lakes and wetlands. While solutions for suppressing common carp reproduction and abundance are emerging, controlling the movement of common carp, and therefore preventing reinfestation, has so far proved difficult. However, initial tests of a class of barriers that uses sonics and air bubble "curtains" has shown initial promise and they have the advantage of being inexpensive, portable, and safer than other barrier technologies that might also be used for this purpose. The University of Minnesota's St. Anthony Falls Laboratory is using this appropriation to develop and test the effectiveness of these sonics and air bubble based barrier technologies for preventing and controlling the movement of common carp. If a method proves effective it may also have application with control of Asian carp, another invasive species that is currently moving up through the Mississippi River toward Minnesota.

Current Completion Date: 6/30/2012

Amendment Request to Extend Availability to 06/30/2013
Up to this point our bubble barrier development has been very successful. By the current projected end date (June 30, 2012) we fully expect to have met our main research objective of developing the technology with relevant and laboratory and initial field (OSL) testing. Our work has stimulated a wide interest among watershed managers to the point where the Ramsey Watershed is proposing to partner with us in designing and undertaking a more significant practical field test of our barrier technology in Kholman Creek near Maplewood. This would represent a significant value added to our field trials outlined in Result 3 of the work plan. Completion of such a test, however, will require additional time. As such, we would like to request an extension on the end date of the work plan until June 30, 2013. This extension will require a re-allocation of funds assigned within the Result 3 Budget. Since this will involve less testing at the SAFL OSL site there will be a reduction in budget items associated with the lab personnel and "lab-fees" line items. This saving, however, will be re-allocated to equipment costs—see revised budget.