

Ecological and Water Resources Division

500 Lafayette Road,

St. Paul, MN 55155

May 21, 2019

Becca Nash, Director

Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources

65 State Office Building

100 Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.,

St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

RE: Sauk River Dam Removal and Rock Rapids Replacement project

Ms Nash,

As requested, I am responding to three questions I received from Megan Lennon via email related to the Sauk River Dam Removal project:

1. Can you please summarize your interaction and collaboration with the City of Melrose and WSB since the March 4th LCCMR meeting?
 - a. After the March 4th LCCMR meeting, DNR met on March 13th with staff from the City, and WSB their consultants on this project.
 - i. The March 13th meeting outlined the nature of the DNR's concerns, the DNR's data request, and the need for the data, our assessment of the full-pool rock rapids project from an environmental/ecological perspective, the risks and uncertainty involved in the full-pool rock rapids proposal, and alternative projects and their benefits. The City and WSB also presented project status and their perspective, and called for a compromise with the DNR. The City and WSB restated, that from the Melrose community's view, the full pool rock rapids project was the only acceptable alternative. Dialogue also revealed that the City was hesitant to invest in data collection and analysis costs until they obtained the LCCMR funds. The DNR requested the following data and analysis:
 1. the headwater/tailwater (stage/flow) relationship,
 2. the shear stress associated with these stages/flows,
 3. the rock sizes needed to maintain rock rapids design stability, and,
 4. the estimated costs associated with this size and volume of rock.
2. Who has the DNR met with, when, and what were the outcomes of the meeting?
 - a. There have not been any additional meetings since March 13th meeting described above.
3. Has the City of Melrose provided the DNR the dam site hydraulic data and associated analysis necessary to evaluation feasibility and design options?
 - a. DNR has not received the requested data or analysis.

Hopefully the above clarifies the DNR River Ecology Unit's interactions with the City of Melrose and WSB related to the Sauk River Dam Removal and Rock Rapids Replacement project. We look forward to working with the City of Melrose towards an ecologically sound approach to reconnect the Sauk River. Please contact me if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

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DNR, LCCMR Liason, Jason Tidemann
DNR, Assistant Commissioner, Jess Richards