



DATE: July 31, 2023

MEMO TO: Paras Parekh, Chair
Planning Committee

FROM: Pati Vitt
Director of Natural Resources

REQUEST: Provide policy direction regarding a request from the Village of Third Lake (the “Village”) and Lake County Stormwater Management Commission (“SMC”) to: 1) consider potential restoration efforts at Rollins Savanna Forest Preserve to improve water quality in Mill Creek entering Third Lake and, 2) provide compensatory storage for proposed wetland impacts that are anticipated from a neighboring road construction project.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS SUPPORTED: Public Access and Connections, Leadership, Conservation, Organizational Sustainability, Communication, Education and Outreach

FINANCIAL DATA: There is no financial impact at this time.

BACKGROUND: Mill Creek joins Third Lake on Forest Preserve property (Rollins Savanna Forest Preserve). In March, 2023, staff were approached by Commissioner Wasik and the Village Mayor regarding the possibility of investigating sediment entering Third Lake from Mill Creek. Staff responded that an engineering study is required to: a) better identify the issue, b) prepare alternative concepts for addressing the issues and c) provide costs estimates for the implementation of the improvements. Staff further advised the Village that the District does not have funding for such a study. Subsequently, the Village met with SMC to discuss potential funding opportunities, at which point, SMC indicated the ability to fund the study. An initial meeting was held on June 1, 2023, between the Village, SMC, Hey and Associates, Inc. (SMC’s engineering consultant), and District staff.

At the June 1 meeting, it was revealed that a proposed road improvement project at Linden Avenue would require compensatory storage for wetland impacts resulting from such project. SMC is collaborating with Avon Township, the agency proposing the road project, and saw an opportunity to potentially combine this road project with the Village’s request to both address compensatory stormwater storage needs from the road project and provide other wetland restoration activities that would reduce sedimentation in Mill Creek, thereby improving water quality in Mill Creek and Third Lake.

Staff is seeking policy direction from the Committee whether to (i) continue discussions with the Village and SMC, including providing input to engineering consultants to explore potential project elements/outcomes and develop concept plans and (ii) to negotiate an intergovernmental agreement and any other necessary documentation, including applications for grant opportunities to fund proposed concepts. Any negotiated agreements and/or grant applications will be brought back to the Committee and Board for review and approval at future meetings.

REVIEW BY OTHERS: Executive Director, Chief Operations Officer, Director of Finance, Manager of Board Operations, Corporate Counsel.