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TO: Goodhue County Parks, Trails, and Recreation Advisory Board

FROM: Jess Greenwood, Public Works Director

RE: 15 Aug 25 Park Board Meeting
Byllesby Park Fish Cleaning Station

Date: 28 Jul 25

Summary

It is requested that the Park Board determine if pursuing a fish cleaning station project is still preferable based on the information gathered below.

Background

The Park Board has previously prioritized a fish cleaning station at Byllesby Park as a capital improvement project. This project would help to reduce the amount of fish being cleaned in the new restrooms or on picnic tables, and the amount of fish waste that creates unpleasant odors in garbage cans.

Staff has looked into some different fish cleaning station options and found the most highly recommended to be the:

- Barracuda Fish Cleaning Station sold by Quality Machine & Manufacturing out of Des Moines, IA; and the
- Monster Fish Cleaning Station sold by JWC Environmental out of Costa Mesa, CA

Both stations use the same grinder and have HDPE replaceable cutting boards. The main difference is that the Monster Station has copper and brass plumbing fittings (vs. PVC) and a thicker stainless steel enclosure.

Many customers recommended these stations because the grinder is able to handle larger fish. It is also durable enough to not jam or break due to man-made objects that may end up in the grinder such as knives, fishing lures, etc.

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As staff looked further into the project, they determined that the cost of the project is well over the amount that was previously budgeted in the County's Capital Improvement Plan.

Costs are anticipated to be:

\$75,000 – 85,000	Fish Cleaning Station
\$15,000	Overhead Open-Air Shelter
\$8,000	Concrete Pad
\$3,500	Electrical
\$3,500	Plumbing
\$12,000	Septic – 3,000g tank
\$127,000	Estimated Total

Additional options we have not priced are available and recommended:

- Winter lockable cover
- 2- or 4-unit overhead sprayers

Additional Considerations:

- When this project was originally presented to Stanton Township, we had proposed an enclosed type of fish cleaning station (block base with a roof and screens at the top for ventilation). Upon further discussions with other facilities and the DNR, staff has discovered that an open-air type of station is often preferred. It simplifies cleaning as well as fishing violation enforcement.
- Goodhue County does not currently have staff that is able to maintain this type of unit mechanically. A contractor would need to be utilized for any required repairs.
- Goodhue County does not currently have staff that is able to go to the park on a daily basis to perform cleaning operations for bathrooms or a fish cleaning station.
- Fish cleaning stations are a bit messy to unravel as far as waste regulations are concerned. As long as there is no hand washing sink or floor drain with the fish cleaning station, the waste is technically considered a solid waste (vs. sewage). If we do decide to have a hand washing sink or floor drain, it may be best to have those items drain into a separate tank.
 - o Solid Waste could potentially be regulated by three different groups:
 - The MPCA's Solid Waste Program (general beneficial use oversight); and
 - The MPCA's Industrial By-Product Program, which is housed within the Industrial Wastewater Program and regulates land application of solid wastes that have an agronomic beneficial use (Adam Sekely).

- If it contains any sewage (hand washing sink or floor drain water), it would also be regulated by the MPCA's Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems (SSTS) Program (Steven Oscarson)
- One option would be to haul the waste and/or sewage to a Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP). Due to contamination risks, WWTPs are trending towards accepting less waste that is generated outside of own systems. Finding a WWTP that will accept it may be a challenge. They may also change their mind about accepting it at any point. All sewage would be required to be taken to a WWTP. Smaller WWTPs may be concerned about the BOD loading, but larger plants may be more willing if they accept outside waste. The disposal fee may be more expensive due to the location or type of waste.
- Finding a company to haul the waste/sewage may be an additional issue. Two septic haulers we spoke with were not interested, including our normal septic hauler. If we find a company to haul it, the cost may be higher as they will likely want to haul it as its own separate load.
- If there is no sewage in the waste, then it would be eligible to be land applied via injection. It could alternatively be transferred to an active liquid manure storage area if we found a willing feedlot owner.

Alternatives:

- Continue to pursue installation of a fish cleaning station as outlined above.
- Pursue installation of a different type of fish cleaning station.
- Delay installation of this project until additional staff would be available to help monitor a fish cleaning station.