

memo



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Date	October 29, 2012 (Updated August 18, 2013)
То	Brian Tourtelotte (City of St. Paul)
	Bob Fossum (Capitol Region Watershed District)
From	Meghan Jacobson, PhD, and Cecilio Olivier, PE
Regarding	Swede Hollow Water Quality Monitoring Data Analysis

This memo summarizes results from a water quality and groundwater seepage assessment conducted in association with the Swede Hollow Daylighted Stream Analysis and Feasibility Study. We performed water quality monitoring of the groundwater seepage areas within the Swede Hollow study area on August 10 and September 4, 2012, under baseflow conditions at select sites along the creek for phosphorus, nitrogen ions, fluoride, and *Escherichia coli E (E. coli)*. The objective of this sampling was to identify a potential source of nutrients linked to algal blooms observed in the ponding areas of the Swede Hollow study area.

Key conclusions from this study were:

- 1. High *E. coli* and high total dissolved phosphorus (TDP) to total phosphorus (TP) ratios in the Upper Discharge and Stream sites indicate a potential source of dissolved nutrients and *E. coli* to the stream.
- 2. Low fluoride and phosphorus concentrations in the Upper Discharge and Stream suggest that potential wastewater contributions to the Upper Discharge site are very diluted with groundwater inputs.
- 3. Lower TDP/TP ratios and nitrate/nitrite levels below detection limit in the Lower Pond site suggests that these nutrients provided by the Upper Discharge are taken up for algal or other plant growth.
- 4. The TP concentration and dominance of duck weed in the Lower Pond indicate that the overall water quality of the Lower Pond was within the expected range for its size and depth.

All data considered, the harvesting of Quaternary groundwater to augment creek flows would not appear to have a detrimental effect on water quality. Nevertheless, further investigation of the groundwater seeping areas is recommended as part of an additional study not part of this project.

Water Quality Monitoring Sites

Water quality samples were collected from four sites on August 10 and from three sites on September 4, 2012 (Figure 1):

• Upper Pond:¹ Outlet of the Upper Pond

¹ The "Upper Pond" referred to in this memo is the "Middle Pond" referred to in the Final Report.

- Upper Discharge: Outlet of a pipe under the walking path at the base of the east hillside (groundwater seepage discharge)
- Creek: Within the Creek near a gravel path leading off the paved walking path
- Lower Pond

No samples were collected from the Lower Pond on September 4. The last major rainfall event prior to the sampling dates occurred on August 4 with 0.68 inches of rainfall recorded at a Metropolitan Mosquito Control District precipitation station located approximately 2 miles from Swede Hollow. All monitoring samples were taken under baseflow conditions. There was no surface water entering the Upper Pond, indicating that the main source of water to the Upper Pond is groundwater seepage. In addition, water was flowing through the pipe underneath the walking path on both sample dates. This water appeared to originate from groundwater seepage that collected at the base of the east hillside in a ditch and drained through the pipe to the Creek. The depth of the Creek at the "Creek" location on both sample dates was approximately 8 inches. A large algal bloom was not observed in the Lower Pond on the date of sample collection (August 10). Rather, the surface of the Lower Pond was covered in duck weed, a small floating aquatic plant which can be mistaken for an algal bloom.

Water Quality Monitoring Results

The following parameters were analyzed for water samples collected at all sites:

- Fluoride
- Total dissolved phosphorus (TDP)
- Total phosphorus (TP)
- Nitrate and nitrite
- Escherichia coli (E. coli)

Individual summaries of the spatial and temporal trends of each parameter are included below, and in Table 1 and Figure 2 through Figure 6.

Fluoride

Fluoride was measured as a potential indicator of municipal wastewater in the Creek. Fluoride is naturally found in the environment from igneous rock weathering. The overall median concentration of fluoride in Minnesota aquifers was 0.30 mg/L (range 0.27 - 0.45 mg/L; Minnesota Pollution Control Agency May 1999 Environmental Outcomes Division Factsheet: *Chloride and Fluoride in Minnesota's Ground Water*). None of the fluoride concentrations measured as part of this study was greater than natural background concentrations typically found in Minnesota groundwater (Table 1). Additional fluoride is added to the water supply system during water treatment to prevent tooth decay. Average concentrations of fluoride in Saint Paul drinking water are 1.08 mg/L (range 1.0 - 1.1 mg/L), with a federal drinking water quality standard of 4.0 mg/L (Saint Paul Regional Water Services *Water Quality Report 2012*).

E. coli

E. coli was measured as another potential indicator of municipal wastewater in the creek. High *E. coli* concentrations in surface waters are typically associated with sources of human or animal waste. The *E. coli* levels in the Upper Discharge and Creek sites were higher than either pond

site, and exceeded the State surface water quality standard (126 organisms/ 100 mL) on a single occasion in August for the Upper Discharge site and on a single occasion in September for the Creek site (Table 1). However, a minimum of 5 samples in the same month should be taken to determine an accurate geometric mean *E. coli* level.²

Phosphorus

Total dissolved phosphorus (TDP) and total phosphorus (TP) were measured as potential nutrient sources for the observed algal blooms in the creek. TP includes both dissolved and particulate (phosphorus incorporated into living tissue or adsorbed to sediments) forms. TDP typically comprises a greater fraction of the TP in municipal wastewater, due to leaching of dissolved nutrients from human waste, than the TP in surface waters, where P is found in plant or algae tissues or bound to sediment. Typical TP concentrations in Minnesota wastewater are 5.86 mg/L (range 1.17 mg/L – 25.05 mg/L; MPCA report wq-qqtp9-06a Appendix A: Phosphorus Removal by Minnesota Municipal Wastewater Treatment Facilities), compared to 0.07 mg/L in Minnesota groundwater (Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, May 1999, Environmental Outcomes Division Factsheet: Phosphorus in Minnesota's Ground Water). TDP comprised nearly all of the TP found in the groundwater seepage discharge and creek sites, however at concentrations much lower than typical raw municipal wastewater and similar to typical groundwater. The TP concentrations in the Upper Discharge and Creek were similar to the overall median concentration of TP in Minnesota wells (0.07 mg/L). TP concentrations were higher in the Pond sites with smaller fractions of TDP indicating that more TP may be found in algal tissues. However, the TP concentration in the lower pond (0.065 mg/L) was near the Minnesota shallow lake water quality standard of 0.06 mg/L, indicating that the overall water quality of the Lower Pond was within the expected range for its size and depth. Moreover, the pond surface was covered in duck weed, a small floating aquatic plant, which can be mistaken for an algal bloom.

Nitrate and Nitrite

Nitrate and nitrite were measured as other potential nutrient sources for the observed algal blooms in the creek. Nitrate and nitrite are dissolved forms of nitrogen that can be taken up directly by plants and algae for growth. Nitrate and nitrite concentrations were highest in the groundwater seepage Discharge and Creek site. Nitrate and nitrite concentrations were below detection limit at both Pond sites suggesting that these forms of nitrogen were being taken up quickly from surface waters for algal growth.

Conclusions

High *E. coli* and high TDP/TP ratios in the Upper Discharge and Creek sites indicate a potential source of dissolved nutrients and *E. coli* to the creek. However, low fluoride and phosphorus concentrations in the Upper Discharge and Creek suggest that potential wastewater contributions to the Upper Discharge site are very diluted with groundwater inputs. In addition, lower TDP/TP ratios and nitrate/nitrite levels below detection limit in the Lower Pond site suggest that these nutrients were taken up for algal or other plant growth. But the TP concentration and dominance of duck weed in the Lower Pond indicate that the overall water quality of the lower pond was within the expected range for its size and depth.

All data considered, the harvesting of Quaternary groundwater to augment creek flows would not appear to have a detrimental effect on water quality. Nevertheless, further investigation of the groundwater seeping areas is recommended as part of an additional study not part of this project.

	Upper	Pond	Upper Di	ischarge	Cre	ek	Lower Pond	
Parameter	10-Aug	4-Sep	10-Aug	4-Sep	10-Aug	4-Sep	10-Aug	4-Sep
Fluoride (mg/L)	0.14	0.16	0.076	0.079	0.083	0.093	0.14	
TDP (mg/L)	0.029	0.067	0.028	0.034	0.054	0.055	0.029	-
TP (mg/L)	0.065	0.1	0.026	0.034	0.057	0.054	0.065	
TDP:TP	0.45	0.67	~1	~1	0.95	~1	0.45	
Nitrate-nitrite (mg/L)	<dl< td=""><td><dl< td=""><td>1.3</td><td>1.4</td><td>0.63</td><td>0.67</td><td><dl< td=""><td></td></dl<></td></dl<></td></dl<>	<dl< td=""><td>1.3</td><td>1.4</td><td>0.63</td><td>0.67</td><td><dl< td=""><td></td></dl<></td></dl<>	1.3	1.4	0.63	0.67	<dl< td=""><td></td></dl<>	
<i>E. coli</i> (MPN/ 100mL) ²	3	11	240	115	32	225	3	

 Table 1. Summary of water quality monitoring in the Swede Hollow study area, 2012

<DL = below detection limit

² Minnesota Rules Chapter 7050.0222 Specific Water Quality Standards for Class 2 Waters of the State: Aquatic Life and Recreation; Subpart 2. Class 2A Waters: Not to exceed 126 organisms per 100 milliliters as a geometric mean of not less than five samples representative of conditions within any calendar month, nor shall more than ten percent of all samples taken during any calendar month individually exceed 1,260 organisms per 100 milliliters. The standard applies only between April 1 and October 31. (Geometric mean is used in place of arithmetic mean in order to measure the central tendency of the data, dampening the effect that very high or very low values have on arithmetic means. Since bacteria data sets often contain a few very high values, the geometric mean more appropriately characterizes the central tendency of the data.)





Figure 2. Bar graphs of fluoride concentrations in the Swede Hollow study area, 2012



Figure 3. Bar graphs of total dissolved phosphorus (TDP) concentrations in the Swede Hollow study area, 2012



Figure 4. Bar graphs of total phosphorus (TP) concentrations in the Swede Hollow study area, 2012



Figure 5. Bar graphs of nitrate and nitrite concentrations in the Swede Hollow study area, 2012



Figure 6. Bar graphs of *Escherichia coli* (E. coli) concentrations in the Swede Hollow study area, 2012





Swede Hollow Water Resource Improvements: Water Source Options ecology

community 10jan13 - Stakeholder Engagement











CCTV



249.0 MSA Survey Abandoned



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ССТV

	Upstream MH	Downstream MH	
	90" MH	JUNCTION BOX	
Date	Time	Location (Street)	Job Number
11/7/2012	8:54 AM	EASMT SWEDE HOLLOW	12316 M01



MGO - General Observation @ 60.0 ft. LOOKING UP LINE THAT GOES UP HILL



MGO - General Observation @ 98.0 ft. LOOKING UP 36"



MGO - General Observation @ 103.0 ft. LOOKING UP DROP INLET

isu-Sewer Inspect. Maintain. Rehabilitate.

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Ftg. Code Description

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•0.0 AMH Access Point - Manhole

Position Cont.

Comment DS SLUCE GATE

17.3 AMH Access Point - Manhole •0.5 MWL Water Level

Figure 9. Televising Investigation Photos - Pipe Network 2 (108" and Clearwater Diversion)



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C C T V

	Upstream N	IH Downstream MH	
	DROP HOL	.E SLUCE GATE	
Date	Time	Location (Street)	Job Number
11/7/2012	7:46 AM	EASMT SWEDE HOLLOW	12316 M01



AMH - Access Point - Manhole @ 0.0 ft. DS SLUCE GATE



AMH - Access Point - Manhole @ 17.3 ft. DROP GATE





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Downstream MH

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Figure 10C. Televising Investigation Diagram - Pipe Network 3 (48")



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0.0 MWL Water Level 0.0 AMH Access Point - Manhole

Starting Manhole: 3





Figure 12. Duration of Flow for L-creek1.1



















- 1. Location, Topographic and Utility Survey for St. Paul Parks and Recreation; Sheets 1 through 3; Prepared by Sunde Land Surveying; January 9, 2012; PDF File by City of Saint Paul.
- Location, Topographic and Utility Survey for St. Paul Parks and Recreation; Sheets 1 through 3; Prepared by Sunde Land Surveying; January 9, 2012; AutoCAD DWG File by City of Saint Paul.
- 4. Detail Sheet for Construction of Clearwater Diversion Structure Commission 8996; Sheet 2 of 2; Prepared by TKDA; October 28, 1987; PDF File by City of Saint Paul
- 5. Scheme "A" Plan & Profile Sheet for Construction of Clearwater Diversion Commission 8996; Sheet X of X; Prepared by TKDA; Receipt Date of September 29, 1987; PDF File by City of Saint Paul.
- 6. Numerous Historic Sewer Plan & Profile Sheets for Pipes In and Around Swede Hollow; Dated: Late 1800's to Early 2000's; Public Works On-line Data Portal by City of Saint Paul.
- 7. Storm Sewer Data; Undated; GIS File by City of Saint Paul via Capitol Region Watershed District.
- 8. Watershed Drainage Areas Data; May 21, 2012; GIS File by Capitol Region Watershed District.
- 9. Soil Survey Data; August 2, 2006; United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service.
- 10. Elevation and Contour Data; September 6, 2003; United State Geological Survey.
- 11. Water Quality Report 2012; Undated; Saint Paul Regional Water Services; 2 sided pamphlet.
- 12. Chloride and Fluoride in Minnesota's Ground Water; May 1999; Minnesota Pollution Control Agency; 2 page FAQ.
- 13. Phosphorus Removal by Minnesota Municipal Wastewater Treatment Facilities, Appendix A of report: wq-qqtp9-06a; April 13, 2011; Minnesota Pollution Control Agency; 15 page report.
- 14. 2010 Monitoring Report; April 13, 2011; Capitol Region Watershed District; Pages 53 56; Overview of Phalen Creek Subwatershed.

Table 2. Swede Hollow Water Resource Improvement Options - Qualitative and Quantitative Assessment

- No or Minor Benefit Degrade
- Moderate Benefit Significant Benefit ⊗ ○ ● ●

QUALITATIVE AND

QUANTITATIVE ASSESSMENT

	WATER SOURCE OPTIONS		RECREAT	ION & ECOLO	β	STO MAN	AGEMER	ER ⊿T⁺		C	ST .
₽	Description	Riparian health	Duration of flow	Lower pond aesthetics	Corridor aesthetics	Volume	Rate	Water quality	OTHER KEY PROS OR CONS	Construction	20-yr. O&M & inspection
1 A	Existing low-flow diversion with size increase of the existing outlet pond	0	0	0	8	0	0	o	Provides enough periodic flow to keep upper	\$29,000	\$36,500
1 B	Existing low-flow diversion with underground dynamic separator	o	0	o	0	0	0	•	channel open from vegetation growth	\$133,000	\$45,500
2	Underground storage tank (from 108" or 90" pipe) & slow- flow release	o	ο	ο	ο	ο	•	•		\$519,000	\$36,500
3A	90" pipe low-flow diversion & size increase of the existing outlet pond	8	0	0	8	0	0	0	Very short and flushy flows will be added to the system	\$92,000	\$20,000
3B	90" pipe low-flow diversion & underground dynamic separator	8	0	0	0	0	0	•	Very short and flushy flows will be added to the system	\$190,000	\$29,000
4A	48" pipe low-flow diversion & existing middle, in-creek pond improvements	•	*●	ο	8	ο	ο	0	Water not accessible until "Middle Pond".	\$153,000	\$20,000
4B	48" pipe low-flow diversion & underground dynamic separator	•	*●	0	0	0	0	0	bignificant uncertainty regarging the availability of continuous flows exceeding 0.5 cfs	\$214,000	\$35,500
ы	Groundwater harvesting & discharge into the second half of the lower channel	0	ο	0	0	0	0	0	Water only accessible below "Middle Pond", midway into the lower channel	\$51,000	\$20,000
6A	Water recirculation – from the middle pond to the upper outlet pond	0	ο	ο	0	0	0	ο	Circulation not provided below "Middle Pond". Water aeration is considered a moderate benefit	\$104,000	\$45,000
6B	Water recirculation – from the lower pond to the upper outlet pond	ο	•	•	ο	ο	0	ο	Water aeration is considered a moderate benefit	\$208,000	\$55,000
	OTHER CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS	Ŀ	RECREATIO	N & ECOLOG	٨	STO MAN	3MWAT AGEMEr	LT ⁺T		O	ST
₽	Description	Riparian health	Duration of flow	Lower pond aesthetics	Corridor aesthetics	Volume	Rate	Water quality	OTHER KEY PROS OR CONS	Construction	20-yr. O&M & increation

All costs have been estimated using 2014 values and assume a 30% contingency for construction. Operations and Maintenance (O&M) and inspection costs are amortized over a 20-year period, assuming an average annual rate of inflation equal to 2.00%. Note:

SWEDE HOLLOW WATER RESOURCE IMPROVEMENT OPTIONS

	OTHER CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS
Q	Description
٢	Modifying existing grate at the downstream end of the lower channel
8	Channel improvements – upper reach
6	Channel improvements – lower reach
10	Reconstruct lower pond outlet structure & raise outlet
	elevation

inspection

\$15,000 \$18,500

\$58,000

\$122,500

¢9,000

\$30,000

\$5,000

\$15,500

Not an additional water source option, but does prevent flows from bypassing the lower pond

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Option ID	Description
Existing Conditions	108" pipe partially obstructing 21" clearwater diversion pipes; shear gate completely open; minor debris and sediment in 21" pipe. 0.25 cfs added to each of the following: Middle Pond, Downstream of Middle Pond, and Lower Pond to simulate groundwater flow.
Existing Conditions w/Minor Adjustments	Obstruction within clearwater diversion removed; fully cleaned and maintained 21" pipe. 0.25 cfs added to each of the following: Middle Pond, Downstream of Middle Pond, and Lower Pond to simulate groundwater flow.
New Water Source (4A/4B)	Clearwater diversion left as is; add 0.75 cfs in Pond 1 to simulate 48" connection (total of 1 cfs when combined with existing groundwater flow). 0.25 cfs added to each of the following: Downstream of Middle Pond and Lower Pond to simulate groundwater flow.
Redirected Water Source (5)	Clearwater diversion left as is; add 0.5 cfs downstream of Middle Pond (for total of 0.75 cfs); 0.25 cfs added to each of the following: Middle Pond and Lower Pond to simulate groundwater flow.

Table 4. Estimated Costs for Preferred Water Resource Improvements

		Costs			
Option ID	Description	Design	Construction	20-Year O&M and Inspection	
4A	48" pipe low-flow diversion & existing middle, in creek pond improvements	\$45,900	\$153,000	\$20,000	
4B	48" pipe low-flow diversion & underground dynamic separator	\$64,200	\$214,000	\$35,500	
5	Ground water harvesting & discharge into the second half of the lower channel	\$15,300	\$51,000	\$20,000	
7A	Modifying existing grate at the downstream end of the lower channel	\$4,650	\$15,500	\$5,000	
7B	Modifying existing flared end section near the northeast corner of the lower pond	\$4,650	\$15,500	\$5,000	
9	Channel improvements (lower reach)	\$36,750	\$122,500	\$18,500	
10	Reconstruct lower pond outlet structure & raise outlet elevation	\$9,000	\$30,000	\$9,000	

Note:

All costs have been estimated using 2014 values and assume a 30% contingency for construction, with design fees assumed as 30% of construction costs. Operations and Maintenance (O&M) and inspection costs are amortized over a 20-year period, assuming an average annual rate of inflation equal to 2.00%.