Elmer, Linda

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Sent: Sunday, October 30, 2016 11:09 PM
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Cc: Elmer, Linda; Hamilton, Ashanti; Lewis, Chantia; Johnson, Cavalier; Murphy, Michael (Alderman); Borkowski, Mark; Bauman, Robert; Perez, Jose; Witkowski, Terry; Zielinski, Tony; Donovan, Robert
Subject: Flooding will increase if Estabrook Dam is removed- File 160339
Attachments: Flooding will increase upon Estabrook Dam Removal.docx; 11A. wis state planning board excerpts highlighted.pdf; 1. civil works admin report_april 1934.pdf; 2. Proposed Dam, Estabrook Park, Milwaukee County. Circa. April, 1937..pdf; 3. 4 19 37 Field Tech comment attached to dam proposal indicates Natl Park service paying for part.pdf; 6. Dam permit 1937.pdf; 7. progress report WERA_aug 1935.pdf; 78. Historical documents from County expert report.pdf; 75. full MMSD resolution.pdf; 63. Kreuziger Hahn email 8 13 14.pdf; 76. Milw River debris flood and Blatz (2).pdf; 77. SEWRPC modeling info.pdf; 79. Pirrung Dorner email 6 17 15.pdf

Members of the Milwaukee Common Council:

On October 25 I testified at the meeting of the Zoning, Neighborhoods and Development Committee, with regard to file 160339 and opposing the proposed re-zoning of Milwaukee County Park land. At that meeting members of that committee requested more information from those who testified. I therefore submit the following statement and several supporting documents and request that this statement and all supporting documents be included in the file for item 160339.

Flooding in the City of Milwaukee and Glendale will increase if the Estabrook Dam is removed.

The Estabrook Dam was built as part of a large flood control undertaking between 1934 and 1940. It was recognized from the beginning of this project that the dam was required. The flooding was due to water and ice backups due to a natural dam effect created by a rock ledge in the river and because of the S-curve in the Milwaukee River in the vicinity of the confluence with Lincoln Creek. The S-curve was straightened. The course of Lincoln Creek was altered so that it entered the Milwaukee River at a different location. Five to seven feet of solid rock was blasted out of the river for a distance on one mile in the vicinity of Port Washington Road. The dam was built to allow for maintenance of the original water level and the lake like condition that was present while still allowing for rapid draining of the area in times of potential floods. Recent history shows that the dam also had another important function. By keeping the now altered river channels full of water, those channels did not fill in with trees, which would have defeated the purpose of the channel modifications. (11A, 1,2,3,6,7,78)

MMSD admits that not a single property will be removed from the 100 yr flood plain if the dam is removed. (75)

The SEWRPC hydraulic analysis of the effect of dam removal is flawed.

It is flawed because it predicts 100 yr flood elevations at the Estabrook GIS site that are approximately one foot higher than actual recorded elevations during 100 yr flood events that occurred in 1997 and 2010. (63)

It is flawed because it did not properly account for the rapid and continual infill of the impoundment because of the lack of water. Based on the evidence of what has already happened since the dam gates were opened in 2008, the limited adjustments that were made were not sufficient. No adjustments were made to account for the fact that the dam gates

sit in a man-made channel. Upon dam removal, either that channel will begin to fill in or the spillway channel will begin to fill in, or both. The dam removal estimate calls for filling in the man-made channel. The SEWRPC analysis assumes that the channel will not be filled in. (63, 76,77,79)

In summary, dam removal will ultimately lead to a return to the conditions that existed previous to the dam. Those conditions included frequent and widespread flooding to neighborhoods near Lincoln Creek and the Milwaukee River upstream of Lincoln Park.

Very Respectfully Yours,

Brian Kreuziger
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