

ANOKA 2014 STATE BONDING/CAPITAL INVESTMENT FUNDING REQUEST

Improving Rum River Dam as a Barrier to Asian Carp

There is strong citizen support for immediate action to stop Asian carp from reaching Mille Lacs Lake in Minnesota.

The following coalition partners within the Rum River Watershed have expressed full support for this project to improve the Rum River Dam as a barrier to Asian carp:

- Anoka Conservation District
- Benton Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD)
- City of Andover
- City of Anoka
- Isanti SWCD
- Lower Rum River Watershed Management Organization (WMO)
- Mille Lacs SWCD
- Morrison SWCD
- Sherburne SWCD
- Upper Rum River WMO



Asian carp jumping on the Illinois River creating hazard for boat operators.

Photo credit: Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee

A recent poll funded by the McKnight Foundation found that “93% of Minnesota voters would be concerned if the Asian carp got into lakes and rivers throughout Minnesota.” Approval of this project now will help prevent the Asian carp from entering this important fishery.

Once established, Asian carp can devastate native fish populations, as they already have in Illinois and Iowa.

Asian carp have been making their way up the Mississippi River system over the past several decades. They are invasive and cause serious damage to native fish populations by dominating native fish species for food and habitat. Asian carp have established populations in Illinois and Iowa. Recent catches in Lake Pepin and discovery of an Asian carp at Lock and Dam 5 (110 miles from St. Paul) indicate they are moving into Minnesota via the Mississippi River.

Sport fishing in the State of Minnesota is a \$2.8 billion industry. If Asian carp establish a foothold in Minnesota’s rivers and lakes, they will adversely impair associated recreational and commercial activities. Efforts are underway on the Mississippi River to stop Asian carp including a potential bubble/sound barrier at Lock and Dam No. 1 (in St. Paul) and a physical barrier created by the Coon Rapids Dam, neither of which are 100% effective.

Mille Lacs Lake, one of Minnesota’s premier fisheries, is connected to the Mississippi River by the Rum River. Similar to Coon Rapids Dam, the Rum River Dam in Anoka has potential to serve as a redundant barrier to Asian carp. ***This investment in the Rum River Dam would help protect one of the defining assets of the Minnesota fishing industry – Mille Lacs Lake.***

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Rum River Dam can provide a redundant barrier for the entire Rum River Watershed.

The Rum River Dam in Anoka is located a half mile upstream of the Rum River's confluence with the Mississippi River. Coon Rapids Dam is located approximately six miles downstream of the Rum River Dam on the Mississippi River.

The goal is to protect the watershed upstream of the Rum River Dam in Anoka, which includes:

- 1,600 square miles of watershed area.
- 1,780 miles of rivers and streams.
- Over 200 smaller lakes.
- Mille Lacs Lake.



Rum River Watershed
North of Minneapolis in Central Minnesota

Anoka requests \$5 million in 2014 state bonding/capital investment funding to improve Rum River Dam as a redundant barrier to Asian carp.

The Rum River Dam needs funding for design and construction of the following modifications to improve barrier effectiveness during higher river flows:

- Replace bottom discharge flood gate with top discharge flood gate.
- Replace flashboard pool control with adjustable crest gate pool control.
- Alter operating plan to maintain summer pool for longer periods of the year.
- Modify spillway to block jumping fish.



For more information contact:

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