



4141 Douglas Drive North • Crystal, Minnesota 55422-1696

Item 5B. Part 3  
BCWMC 7-18-13

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May 8, 2013

Mr. Tom Burt  
City Manager  
City of Golden Valley  
7800 Golden Valley Road  
Golden Valley, MN 55427

Dear Tom:

At its May 7 work session, the Crystal City Council discussed the proposed DeCola Ponds/Winnetka & Medicine Lake Road study. The City Council appreciates and values our relationships with our neighbors and wants to maintain our effective working relationship. However, the Council is concerned about:


- The overall cost of the proposed study and proposed scope – could the study be scaled down to be less expensive;
- The true burden that should be attributed to Crystal in that the DeCola ponds issue appears to be a design issue that could have been prevented whereas the Winnetka/Medicine Lake Road intersection issue is a greater community and public safety issue; and
- If Crystal participates, the obligation that creates for Crystal to participate in future remediation.

Additionally, the Crystal City Council is committed to long-term improvements which will address storm water run-off to this area. When the Crystal streets contributing water to this area are reconstructed (not anticipated for 20+ years), it is the intention to include rain garden options as well as other design considerations.

Based on these concerns and in recognition of Crystal's commitment to future storm water management work in future street reconstruction projects, the Crystal City Council is prepared to participate in the study with a contribution of \$11,000 towards the total cost of the proposed study.

Thanks for your patience and consideration and as always, please call or email with any questions.

Yours truly,

  
Anne L. Norris  
City Manager

Cc: Tom Mathisen, Public Works Director  
Crystal Mayor and City Council  
Kirk McDonald, New Hope City Manager



## Memorandum

DATE: April 26, 2013

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Anne Norris, City Manager  
Tom Mathisen, Public Works Director

SUBJECT: Study Regarding DeCola Ponds/Winnetka Avenue and Medicine Lake Road Flooding

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There are flooding issues in the DeCola Ponds and Winnetka Avenue/Medicine Lake Road area in Golden Valley and New Hope. Several years ago Golden Valley hired Barr Engineering to complete a study of possible engineering/public works solutions to reduce or temper flooding in that area. The study report contained several public works solutions which are cost-prohibitive and so, not realistic. Further discussions between Golden Valley and Barr Engineering led to the conclusion the flooding issues needed to be approached as a land use issue which would involve working with neighbors Crystal and New Hope.

Barr Engineering is prepared to do a study of the land use issues, the cost of which would be shared among the three cities (Crystal, Golden Valley and New Hope). Allocation of study costs would be based on the amount of property each city has in the watershed area to be studied:

Crystal	22.5% of area
Golden Valley	50.1% of area
New Hope	27.4% of area

Since Crystal is at the proverbial top of the hill, we do contribute water to this area. In the mid-1990's when the Crystal storm sewer work was done as part of those street reconstruction projects, the idea was primarily to get storm water off roads and driveways as quickly as possible. This doesn't necessarily address managing large amounts of storm water that go to Golden Valley (or anywhere else) with such tools as retention ponds. The only retention pond that Crystal built in this area as is the small ponding area that was created in Yunkers Park.

According to Barr, there are 620 acres contributing to the DeCola ponds flooding issue and the contributors, by land area, are:

Crystal:	22.5%	139 acres
New Hope:	27.4%	170 acres
Golden Valley	50.1%	311 acres

The proposed study would evaluate:

- Reducing impervious surfaces;
- Options for absorbing more water before it gets to Medicine Lake Road and DeCola Ponds area;
- Long term land uses;
- More green space;
- Reduced road widths and parking areas; and
- Acquiring properties that may currently be impacted by flooding.

By participating in the proposed study, there is absolutely no commitment by any of the cities for implementation of any of the recommendations. The proposed study is estimated to cost \$120,000 - \$140,000; Crystal's share would be \$26,000 - \$30,000 and would be paid out of the storm drain utility fund. Attached is the proposed cooperative agreement for the proposed study and a map showing the watershed for the DeCola Ponds area.

Golden Valley and New Hope would like to proceed with the study, including Crystal as a willing participant. If Crystal isn't a willing participant, Golden Valley and New Hope are prepared to request mediation of the issue as provided for in the Bassett Creek Watershed Joint Powers Agreement.

The Council should discuss participation in this project at its May 7 work session.