

ORDINANCE

Ordinance Amending the Wetland Restoration Fund (10)

WHEREAS, the McHenry County Stormwater Management Ordinance provides for the mitigation of impacts to Isolated Waters of McHenry County by a fee-in-lieu payment into a Wetland Restoration Fund; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to adopt an ordinance for the collection of fees for and the dispersal of funds from the Wetland Restoration Funds; and

WHEREAS, the McHenry County Stormwater Management Commission is recommending approval and adoption by the County Board of the Wetland Restoration Fund attached as "Exhibit A": and

WHEREAS, the Natural and Environmental Resource Committee and the Finance & Audit Committee are recommending approval and adoption by the County Board of the Wetland Restoration Fund attached as "Exhibit A": and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, by this County Board of McHenry County, Illinois, that it hereby authorizes the adoption of the Wetland Restoration Fund as presented on the attached document labeled "Exhibit A"

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that the County Clerk is hereby authorized to distribute a certified copy of this Ordinance to the Director of Planning & Development, the County Auditor, the County Treasurer, Chief Financial Officer, and the County Administrator.

DATED at Woodstock, Illinois, this 17th day of June, A.D., 2025.

Michael Buehler, Chairman
McHenry County Board

ATTEST:

Joseph J. Tirio, County Clerk

ORDINANCE

SUBJECT: Ordinance Amending the Wetland Restoration Fund (10)

Board / Committee Action Requested:

To approve an update to the Wetland Restoration Fund ordinance

Background and Discussion:

The Wetland Restoration Fund (WRF) was developed to provide an option for permittees fee-in-lieu of mitigation option for permittees to meet the wetland mitigation requirements of the McHenry County Stormwater Management Ordinance for permitted impacts to wetlands. The WRF plays a vital role in the implementation of the McHenry County Stormwater Management Ordinance by helping property owners complete projects while fulfilling the County's goal of no net loss of wetlands that mitigate flooding, enhance water quality, and maintain environmental health in McHenry County.

The last update to the WRF was implemented in 2010. The fee structure needs to be updated to reflect current property values, realign with costs for mitigation credits from privately funded wetland mitigation banks, and to align with the construction cost escalations for wetland creation realized over the last 15 years.

Impact on Human Resources:

None; the fee-in-lieu of mitigation is a program that exists and is managed by current staff.

Impact on Budget (Revenue; Expenses, Fringe Benefits):

The update would have a positive impact on revenue as the project costs associated with wetland mitigation has increased since the last adjustment in 2010. With that in mind, the revenue is sporadic as it is only associated with projects that impact wetlands.

Impact on Capital Expenditures:

None.

Impact on Physical Space:

None.

Impact on Other County Departments or Outside Agencies:

The impacts are positive for conservation areas, reserves, and the like as the program promotes for improvements to wetlands and the associated natural habitats within prescribed wetland banks.

Conformity to Board Ordinances, Policies and Strategic Plan:

The ordinance strengthens its support of Strategic Plan Goals 1B and 2C under Environmental Sustainability.