

December 21, 2020

Brenda M. Moore, Muskegon County Water Resources Commissioner
141 E Apple Ave
Muskegon, MI 49442

Ms. Moore,

On behalf of Muskegon Heights City Council, I would like to voice our city's support for the Mona Lake celery flats restoration feasibility grant you are seeking from the federal Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. Cleaning up these ponds and reconnecting them with Mona Lake should improve the quality of water we experience at Mona Lake Park, which is in close proximity to the mouth of Black Creek. We understand that much of the phosphorus loading into the lake is from the celery flats. Our beach has been closed repeatedly due to excessive blue green algae, which explode in phosphorus laden water. As this beach and the lake access are historical elements of the cultural foundation of our community, we believe this to be an opportunity to engage in resolving at least one of the sever environmental justice issues that have plagued our majority minority community over the decades.

Additionally, our park provides shore fishing access, as well as a boat ramp and dock that is used by area anglers. Thus, it stands to reason, that if the celery flats are opened up to provide healthy spawning areas for perch, Muskie and pan fish, it would both improve the local fishery and provide more access to the water in an urbanized area.

In light of our interest in pursuing funding and projects to address, enhance, and improve Little Black Creek (another tributary to Mona Lake), we see Mona Lake celery flats restoration feasibility grant as a critical necessary and important first step toward future projects to provide improved water quality, drainage, and recreational access on Mona Lake.

Please keep us apprised of your progress on this project.

Sincerely,

Troy Bell, MPA, MS, Finance

City of Muskegon Heights Manager