

RESOLUTION NO. XXXX

RESOLUTION ENDORSING EFFORTS TO CREATE AN OAK CREEK WATERSHED RESTORATION PLAN

WHEREAS, the Oak Creek watershed is 28 square miles and located in parts of six Milwaukee County communities (Oak Creek, South Milwaukee, Cudahy, Franklin, Greenfield and Milwaukee) and two other governmental jurisdictions (Milwaukee County, Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District);

WHEREAS, the Oak Creek watershed is critical to the communities within its boundaries environmentally, ecologically, recreationally and historically;

WHEREAS, the health of the watershed is in peril, including problems with water quality; debris and sediment accumulations in the Oak Creek channel; streambank erosion; a degraded fishery; flooding of low-lying areas; sanitary sewer backups into basements; the condition of the Mill Pond along the creek in the City of South Milwaukee, and Lake Michigan bluff stability;

WHEREAS, a comprehensive watershed study that aligns with requirements from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will help identify problems in the watershed around water quality, recreational access and use, habitat conditions and targeted stormwater drainage and flooding issues, and provide a guide for addressing the water quality impairments that have been identified in the watershed, with recommendations and cost estimates;

WHEREAS, such a study has not been done in almost 30 years, while other area watersheds have benefited from these studies in recent years;

WHEREAS, Milwaukee County, the City of South Milwaukee and MMSD, which represents all watershed communities outside of South Milwaukee, have agreed in principle to jointly pursue a watershed study to be undertaken by the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission;

WHEREAS, Milwaukee County has agreed to lead the study, with in-kind funding from SEWRPC and the remaining funding suggested to come from MMSD, Milwaukee County and the City of South Milwaukee, and potentially other sources like grants and private donations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, the Intergovernmental Cooperation Council supports the efforts to jointly study the watershed.

Introduced and adopted at a regular meeting of the ICC on July 13, 2015, by a vote of ____ in favor and ____ against.