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Milwaukee Riverkeeper applauds MMSD and the City of Milwaukee for their leadership in seeking removal of Estabrook Dam

MILWAUKEE (Monday, May 4, 2015) --- Today, both the Policy, Finance & Personnel Committee of MMSD and the Judiciary & Legislation Committee of the City of Milwaukee approved resolutions supporting removal of the Estabrook Dam, as soon as practicable. MMSD primarily supported dam removal because it will reduce the risk of flooding upstream within the Milwaukee River Watershed. Adoption of this resolution is consistent with the District's goal of reducing flood risk to structures within its service area, and dam removal will not result in any cost impacts to the District. Furthermore, dam removal is expected to improve water quality, habitat, fish passage, and river aesthetics. The City of Milwaukee primarily supported removal because removing the dam would yield the greatest positive impacts on river ecology, flood management, water quality, sediment management, fish and aquatic life, terrestrial wildlife, and recreation. The City's resolution also states that dam removal would support natural wetland hydrology; allow for unimpeded passage of both fish and boats; and offer greater ecological health and long-term value to the community than maintaining the present water body behind the dam. The City of Milwaukee through this resolution is urging Milwaukee County and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to pursue dam removal as soon as practicable.

Both resolutions passed unanimously. Each resolution will go before the respective full governing body later this month for final approval. We urge the City of Milwaukee and MMSD to do the right thing for our economy, our river, property owners at risk from flooding, taxpayers, and our community, and to pass this resolution supporting removal of Estabrook Dam.

Milwaukee Riverkeeper applauds MMSD's Policy, Finance & Personnel Committee and the City of Milwaukee's Judiciary & Legislation Common Council for providing needed leadership on this issue and for supporting the removal of the Estabrook Dam.

Additional information about Milwaukee Riverkeeper's fight to remove the Estabrook Dam can be found at www.savethemilwaukeeeriver.com

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About Milwaukee Riverkeeper

Milwaukee Riverkeeper is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting water quality and wildlife habitat in the Milwaukee, Menomonee and Kinnickinnic River watersheds. Milwaukee Riverkeeper advocates for compliance with environmental laws and is licensed by the Waterkeeper Alliance, a network with over 225 organizations worldwide dedicated to ensuring clean water and healthy communities.

For more information about Milwaukee Riverkeeper, visit www.milwaukeeeriverkeeper.org