



Milwaukee County

Supervisor Theodore Lipscomb, 1st District

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COUNTY BOARD SEEKS STATE FUNDS FOR ESTABROOK DAM

Up to \$400,000 from DNR available to help Milwaukee County repair Dam

Milwaukee, WI –On a commanding 15-2 vote, the County Board today overrode County Executive Scott Walker’s veto of a resolution sponsored by Supervisor Lipscomb to apply for funding from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for repair of the Estabrook Dam.

The resolution, as amended in the Parks, Energy & Environment Committee, further states that it is the intent of Milwaukee County to pay a local cost share of up to \$800,000. The 2009-2011 State Budget includes \$3.5 million available for the dam safety aids programs, of which up to \$400,000 could be approved for the Estabrook Dam in Milwaukee County. The County was encouraged to apply for assistance under this program by the DNR, including DNR Secretary Matthew Frank.

“This is an opportunity for Milwaukee County to preserve the future of this important structure along the Milwaukee River with help from the State of Wisconsin,” Supervisor Lipscomb said. “I am pleased the County Board overwhelmingly approved seeking these funds on behalf of our constituents.”

The Estabrook Dam was constructed in 1938 as part of an extensive federal flood mitigation project. The Works Project Administration (WPA) constructed the dam as part of a massive civic effort involving thousands of laborers who blasted through rock lining the riverbed using dynamite, cut a new channel through Lincoln Park, and removed a rock ledge that served as a natural dam. When the dam is operated it provides access for all residents to the largest inland body of water in Milwaukee County and creates valuable recreational options while enhancing the beauty of four great County parks.

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