Dear Neighbors,

Hopefully this finds you well—and warm! The Park Point Community Club Erosion and High Water Committee (EHWC), in cooperation with the City of Duluth and the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), would like to hear your thoughts about the recent and any future beach nourishment efforts.

Late this summer, as you are likely aware, the USACE, at the request of the City of Duluth, coordinated placement of approximately 52,000 cubic yards of dredged material on the Park Point beach, from the bridge to just past 9th street. Due to the initial narrowness of the beach and the depth of material required to buttress the eroded dune, nourishment efforts were not able to extend as far south as hoped.

It is the EHWC's recommendation, and has received verbal affirmation, that the section of City-owned beach between 9th and 12th streets be nourished in a similar process during the summer of 2021. Furthermore, the EHWC recommend this re-nourishment process be carried out every 5-6 years going forward, but this will require further future evaluation by the City of Duluth and USACE.

About this time of year, the USACE, shippers, and the Duluth Seaway Port Authority determine priority dredge locations in the harbor. The USACE will review sediment sampling data from prospective dredge areas to determine if the dredged material from these locations can be beneficially used for beach nourishment projects. In order to be beneficially used, the dredged material must meet stringent standards established by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and the USACE that are protective of human health and the environment. Following this review, volumes of dredge material are calculated for the shoaled priority dredge areas and the project delivery team begins engineering and design for the 2021 maintenance dredging project. While it has been proposed that Park Point beach nourishment continue in 2021 the quantity and suitability of available material has not been determined as priority dredge areas have not yet been identified.

Once the dredge areas have been determined, the USACE provides the sediment sampling data, human health risk assessment and supporting documentation to the MPCA for

their review. The MPCA will complete a technical review of the information and determine if the dredged material is suitable for the proposed placement site(s). Dredged materials that do not meet water quality standards or otherwise are not suitable for in-water placement are taken to the Erie Pier confined disposal facility for further processing. If the MPCA determines that the dredged material will meet water quality standards, is suitable for the proposed placement site (ie. beach nourishment), and is protective of human health and the environment, the MPCA will provide the USACE with approval and the beach nourishment can proceed. As noted above, this process begins around this time of year, however, the MPCA review and determination may not be available until late spring or early summer. In 2020 a final determination was not made until the end of June. The USACE will provide updates to the Park Point Community Club EHWC on the environmental review.

It should be noted that all materials beneficially used for beach nourishment have been screened and found to be protective of human health and the environment. Last year there were concerns about an unpleasant odor temporarily experienced during beach nourishment operations and some debris found on the beach following placement. This odor is completely natural, does not present a hazard to residents, and will dissipate over a short time. The dredged material transfer box has a metal grating which prevents large debris from entering the pump and pipeline, but it's possible that smaller debris from the dredge area is transported to the placement site. The USACE contractor will be cleaning up debris from the placement operation as the material is being graded.

Prior to commencing the beach nourishment project, the USACE project manager held a public webinar detailing the dredging, transport, and final distribution of material. This was incredibly beneficial; it provided public input, and we anticipate a similar service next year.

In light of this ongoing process and in an effort to maintain communication at a time when face-to-face gathering is discouraged, we request your feedback; positive, negative, or neutral. So that it may be received in a timely and socially distant manner, please email your comments by **Saturday, November 21st** to:

Hamilton Smith — hamiltonsmith4857@gmail.com