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Background Information for Beach Nourishment Survey:

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) completed beach nourishment on the south end of Minnesota Point in 2019. The PPCC recommended in 2019, following serious flooding and erosion, that the City request the USACE provide beach nourishment on the lakeside between the bridge and 12th streets. In August 2020 the USACE added 48,000 cu. yards of dredge materials that the USACE and the MPCA claimed were safe. Unfortunately, the dredge materials were contaminated with aluminum cans/debris that were shredded and placed on the beach.

The USACE has developed a plan for cleaning up the metal cans and the shards. They have approval from the MPCA to apply 1,000,000 cu. yards of dredge materials for beach nourishment over a five year period. Following that approval, the City has requested and the USACE has approved plans to put 100,000 cu. yards of the MPCA approved dredge material on the beach between 8th and 12th streets in the summer of 2021.

The PPCC recommended approval for the use of dredge materials if it is in compliance with the Clean Water Act. The USACE and the MPCA have been challenged by a citizen's group, including some residents of Minnesota Point, with concerns that the dredge materials are not in compliance with Clean Water standards because they pose serious threats of contamination. The shredded aluminum and debris is a rare occurrence according to the USACE. The presence of other lake contaminants, the citizen's group claims, is integral to the dredge materials and should not be placed on Minnesota Point beaches where they quickly wash into the lake. The USACE and MPCA contend, with scientific evidence, the dredge materials are safe.