

# Memorandum

TO: Gary Barczak, Chair, Board of Public Works  
Michael Czaplewski, First District  
Martin Weigel, Second District  
Daniel Roadt, Fourth District  
James Sengstock, Fifth District

FROM: Michael Lewis, City Engineer

DATE: July 2, 2009

RE: **Communication from City Engineer Regarding Jurisdiction of the West Branch of the Root River**

One of the items that came out of Thursday night's town meeting about the recent flooding is jurisdiction of our rivers. The Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD), after a lengthy process and study, accepted jurisdiction of Hale Creek a couple of years ago.

Of course, MMSD has had jurisdiction of Root River for years. In order to minimize flood damage, MMSD has been buying out and razing a number of homes along Root River.

I talked to Dave Fowler from MMSD about the West Branch. MMSD is willing to look into the issue and determine if MMSD will take over jurisdiction.

My question to the Board is should staff pursue this matter with MMSD?