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# Minnesota Senate Bonding Tour 8/26/21

## City of St. Michael Reed Bed/Biosolids Facility Replacement Project Bond Request

**Project Need:** The City of St. Michael needs to replace its existing reed bed biosolids treatment and processing facility due to the State Department of Agriculture and MPCA recently designating the reeds as a prohibited invasive species.

**History:** With encouragement, endorsement, and approvals from the MPCA, St. Michael and 17 other Minnesota Wastewater Treatment Plants (WWTP) installed reed beds in the late '90s and early 2000s. These reed beds were a cost-effective way to dewater and treat biosolids primarily due to the effectiveness of the non-native invasive phragmites reed, which is now prohibited and designated by the state as a noxious weed.

**Cost:** Project Estimate: \$10 million

**Request:** Bonding Grant Request: \$5 million

**Bonding Precedent:** In 2020, the State Legislature Bonding Bill gave a PFA Direct Appropriation for \$2.5 million for a grant to the City of Albertville to design and construct wastewater infrastructure improvements related to non-native invasive species. (St. Michael's WWTP and MPCA permitted flow is 2.5 times that of Albertville's)

**Project Details:** The project includes the following biosolids treatment processes:

1. Headworks Improvements
2. Biosolids treatment handling facility
3. Biosolids thickener facility
4. Biosolids storage building

**Project Timeline:** If critical bond funds are received in this upcoming legislative session as requested, the project will be ready to bid and start construction in the Summer of 2022 with completion by the Summer of 2023.

**Thank you for your service, interest, and anticipated support for funding this critical State of Minnesota driven project.**

