



City Administrator's Weekly Update

Week Ending June 19, 2015

MEETING SCHEDULE

June 23, 7:00 pm
Planning Commission
Meeting Cancelled

June 30, 4:15 pm
Library Board

July 3
City Offices Closed

July 4
Celebration and Fireworks

July 6, 4:30 pm
Parks Commission
City Hall

July 7, 5:30 pm
Council Work Session
City Hall

July 7, 7:00 pm
City Council Meeting
City Hall

July 14, 7:00 pm
Planning Commission
City Hall

July 15, 8:00 am
EDA
City Hall

July 21, 5:30 pm
Council Work Session
City Hall

July 21, 7:00 pm
City Council Meeting
City Hall

July 28, 4:15 pm
Library Board
Library

July 28 7:00 pm
Planning Commission
CANCELLED

ADMINISTRATION

ANNUAL REPORT

The 2014 annual report has been completed this week and will be posted to the City website next week.

SCANLON MERGER STUDY

Scanlon residents are looking to initiate a petition process that would request a more formalized request to the State of Minnesota to allow for the exploration of the merger concept between the City of Scanlon and Cloquet. I would anticipate that if the petition drive is successful, the City of Cloquet will be asked to provide a resolution of support that will be submitted along with the petition to the State. Obviously, more to come.

FACILITIES STUDIES

BKV has provided an electronic version of the final facilities study. The study can be found on Dropbox of which I forwarded the link to the Council. I am still awaiting the delivery of the hard copy report and will either mail or have the police department drop off the study to the Council as soon as they are received.

SAPPI PROPERTY VALUATION

The City received notice from Carlton County this week that Sappi has contested its proposed property valuation for the 2015 year. While the issue is not fully resolved, it appears that the valuation will be decreasing by at least \$6.5 million and as much as \$9.6 million. As the City continues developing the 2015 budget, everyone will need to be cognizant of the fact that when combined with the new School District referendum, the impact on tax statements in the fall will have potential to cause some significant changes for individual property owners.

CABLE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT

The City has received the first response from Mediacom in regards to the draft Franchise Agreement being discussed. More conversation to come.

PUBLIC WORKS / PARKS

RESERVATION ROAD

Staff met with the City Attorney this week to discuss the concept of deeding ownership of a portion of Reservation Road to the FDL Band. The Council may recall that a section of this roadway was destroyed during the 2012 flood. FDL gained access to Federal BIA monies and repaired the damaged area including the construction of a new bridge. Staff is evaluating the long term benefits of an ownership change and will be discussing with the Council in the near future.

SKATE PARK

In February the City had submitted a request to the Cloquet School District to consider the concept of locating the proposed skate park on property adjacent to the new middle school. The City has not received any formal response since the District said it would consider it, so we have reached out to see if a decision had been made.

STORM WATER ORDINANCE

The City's storm water ordinance is in the process of being amended due to further requirements being mandated by the State of Minnesota. Staff is looking to review the changes with the Council in July.

Other Information Attached

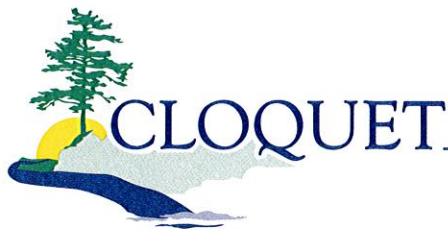
Attached the Council will find the following:

May Financial Report

June Press Release

Brian Fritsinger
1307 Cloquet Ave
Cloquet MN 55720
Ph: 218-879-3347
Fax: 218-879-6555
bfritsinger@ci.cloquet.mn.us





ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

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June 15, 2015

Dear Brian Fritsinger, City Administrator:

Enclosed is the monthly financial report and cash and investment analysis for May 2015.

Cash and Investments

Cash balances are 2% above May 2014 (same as last month). A narrative and several spreadsheets discussing this month's cash and investment activities, and balances are attached.

Budgets

Revenues/Transfers in – Most are in line with budget. City sales tax is \$91,100 above budget. SAPPI water sales are \$102,300 above budget.

Expenditures/Expenses – Selected department and fund expenditures/expenses are analyzed on the following worksheets.

Major Revenues and Expenditures/Expenses

Revenues:

State \$84,800 for City Sales Tax. FDL \$66,400 for White Pine Trail paving engineering.

Expenditures/Expenses:

Stepp Manufacturing \$19,300 for hot asphalt mixer/trailer. BKV \$7,400 for facilities study. Reliable Agency \$171,700 for general and worker's comp insurances. Wipfli \$8,000 for annual financial audit.

If you have questions, please feel free to let me know.

Respectfully,

Nancy M. Klassen, CPA, CPFO
Finance Director

City of Cloquet
Select Departmental and Funds Expenditure/Expense Budget Report for May
2015

Fund	2015 Budget	YTD Expend/Expense Budget	YTD Expenditures/ Expenses	Over (Under) Budget	Over (Under) %
General					
Administration	334,200	96,038	94,402	(1,636)	-2%
Finance	188,150	81,721	69,449	(12,272)	-15% 1
Law	95,000	39,583	30,346	(9,238)	-23%
Planning and Zoning	209,600	88,784	86,778	(2,005)	-2%
Police and training	2,332,400	1,017,917	972,725	(45,192)	-4%
Hwy, Streets & Rwy	926,000	434,892	482,986	48,094	11% 2
Library	501,450	212,146	224,942	12,796	6%
Park	556,450	207,897	187,838	(20,059)	-10% 5
Water - LSWL	3,597,250	1,615,043	1,035,554	(579,489)	-36% 3
Water - In Town	1,653,600	428,339	321,059	(107,280)	-25% 4
Sewer	1,677,800	596,834	582,263	(14,571)	-2%
Storm Water	300,050	62,146	51,847	(10,299)	-17% 6
Cable TV	137,325	58,327	55,275	(3,052)	-5%

Note: Does not include transfers.

Explanation of (over) budget \$10,000 & 10%.

- 1 - Part time staff person not hired to date.
- 2 - Gravel crushing for inventory of \$110,000. Lasts several years.
- 3 - Late invoices for electricity and automatic controls project not started.
- 4 - Distribution position unfilled for part of year and late electricity invoice.
- 5 - New employee not hired yet.
- 6 - Asst City Administrator not hired to date.

Filename: Expenditure-expense budget report

City of Cloquet
Select Departmental and Funds Payroll Expenditure/Expense Budget Report as of May
2015
Payroll Overtime

Fund	2013 Total	2014 Total	2015 Budget	YTD Expend/ Expense Budget	YTD Expenditures/ Expenses	Over (Under) Budget	(Over) Under %
General							
Police	145,850	138,357	63,000	26,250	62,549	36,299	138%
Hwy & St	34,050	51,578	21,500	8,958	5,448	(3,510)	-39%
Water - LSWL	37,473	49,245	30,500	12,708	13,110	402	3%
Water In Town	22,207	29,046	12,000	5,000	5,166	166	3%
Sewer	11,304	12,208	10,000	4,167	3,559	(607)	-15%
Storm Water	5,473	6,836	2,500	1,042	1,160	119	11%

1

Explanation of (over) budget

1 - Two new personnel and one replacement just hired, too soon to bring down OT. The City has received \$19,400 in OT reimbursement to date. Regular salaries are \$45,650 below budget.

Filename: Expenditure-expense budget report

*City of Cloquet
Cash and Investments
Management Summary
May 31, 2015*

Analysis of Portfolio

Attached is a “Cash and Investment Analysis” which shows the type of accounts and values that make up the City’s cash and investment portfolio.

Current Economics

The economy is still on the slow but steady pace. Minnesota has fared better than the US averages in the Great Recession. The State has a positive forecast for the future. The February updated forecast shows an increased surplus for FY 2016-2017 of \$1.869 billion. Unemployment is at 5.5% for May.

The City’s certified 2015 LGA is approximately \$44,000 more than 2014 and the City increased its levy by 2.98% for 2015. A special session is pending for 2015/2016 but it doesn’t look like increases in LGA will happen.

Cloquet’s .5% City sales tax actual receipts are coming in above budget. The City should be collecting approximately \$1 million a year.

Current Activity

During the month of May no investments matured or were called. The cash on hand was invested in a CD for \$185,000. Attached is an “Investment Portfolio Analysis” with the detail of investments.

Variance Analysis

Cash and investments are 2% above May 2014, same percentage as last month.

The federal benchmark interest rate is still 0% to .25%. The Federal Reserve increased the discount rate from .50% to .75% in February 2010. The federal benchmark rate is expected to stay the same through mid-2015. Attached is an “Interest Earnings Analysis” which details the average balances invested, rate of return, and prior year rates.

The budgeted interest earnings are \$282,800 for 2015, which is less than 2014. The City’s investment annualized yield is approximately \$191,000 or 1.47% for 2015. The 2015 budget is based on the economy and interest rates increasing. Yellen is expected to be less adverse to inflation if it helps increase the economy and interest rates. There is talk of rate increases for 2015.

Other

Goals for future – Yearly analysis report of cash balances, investments, and interest earnings (partially added to the annual report in 2007). More financial and cash flow planning in 2015 (as time permits).

City of Cloquet
Cash Balances
May
2015

Fund #	Fund	Amount
101	General	2,853,830.49
201	LDO Loan (EDA)	217,573.78
202	Federal CDBG Loan (EDA)	828,350.24
203	Economic Development Loan (City)	132,948.61
204	State SCDG/MIF (EDA)	127,557.76
206	Revolving SCGP (EDA)	3,321.25
206	Revolving SCGP - Committed (EDA)	-
207	Community Development Operating (City)	(26,993.60)
207	CD Operating - Committed (City)	-
211	Library	18,066.37
220	TIF - Daqota/Woodward	396.57
221	TIF - 14th Street Apartments	(1,184.88)
222	TIF - Oak Street Apartments	26,774.39
224	Building Facilities Planning	1,170,200.00
225	Permanent Improvement	477,622.69
226	Park	91,705.35
226	Park - Restricted - In Lieu	37,924.41
226	Park - Skate Park	2,640.85
228	Senior Center	(1,170.47)
231	Public Works Reserve	630,905.69
260	Landfill Host Fee - 25%	84,094.64
260	Landfill Host Fee - 75%	201,932.31
368	Business Park Bonds	1,645,593.61
370	Swimming Pond Bonds	17,633.06
403	Capital Projects - Revolving	(398,409.90)
405	City Sales Tax Capital Projects	1,924,667.94
600	Water - Lake Superior Waterline	1,298,798.81
600	Water - Lake Superior Waterline Debt	241,038.50
600	Water - Lake Superior Waterline Construction	385,790.33
601	Water	2,779,675.32
602	Sewer	1,316,024.83
605	Storm Water	144,961.23
614	Cable TV	259,049.73
701	Employee severance	656,151.05
905	Cloquet Area Fire District	794,226.90
	Total	17,941,697.86

City of Cloquet
Cash and Investment Analysis
May 31, 2015

	Tentative Goals	Current 5/31/2015	4/30/2015	3/31/2015	2/28/2015	Last Year 5/31/2014
DEMAND ACCOUNTS						
Checking & MM & Savings	10%-15%	\$4,911,746.84 27%	\$5,803,257.00 31%	\$5,042,087.54 27%	\$4,649,131.23 24%	\$3,755,474.76 21%
INVESTMENTS						
Invested less than one year						
Certificates of Deposit		\$1,414,033.23	\$1,414,033.23	\$1,414,033.23	\$2,394,033.23	\$2,950,000.00
Municipal bonds		\$525,175.56	\$525,175.56	\$1,083,096.67	\$1,083,096.67	\$1,703,046.59
Government Agencies		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total invested less than one year	50%-70%	\$1,939,208.79 11%	\$1,939,208.79 10%	\$2,497,129.90 13%	\$3,477,129.90 18%	\$4,653,046.59 27%
Invested one to three years						
Certificates of Deposit		\$3,188,000.00	\$3,043,000.00	\$3,043,000.00	\$2,833,000.00	\$1,684,000.00
Municipal bonds		\$2,516,067.34	\$2,516,067.34	\$2,516,067.34	\$2,516,067.34	\$1,674,105.34
Government Agencies		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500,000.00	\$500,000.00	\$0.00
Total invested one to three years	10%-20%	\$5,704,067.34 32%	\$5,559,067.34 30%	\$6,059,067.34 32%	\$5,849,067.34 31%	\$3,358,105.34 19%
Invested over three years						
Certificates of Deposit		\$2,017,000.00	\$1,977,000.00	\$1,737,000.00	\$1,947,000.00	\$1,979,000.00
Municipal bonds		\$772,844.56	\$772,844.56	\$772,844.56	\$772,844.56	\$1,973,845.12
Government Agencies *		\$2,596,830.33	\$2,596,830.33	\$2,771,830.33	\$2,476,830.33	\$1,827,126.17
Total invested over three years	10%-20%	\$5,386,674.89 30%	\$5,346,674.89 29%	\$5,281,674.89 28%	\$5,196,674.89 27%	\$5,779,971.29 33%
Total	100%	\$17,941,697.86	\$18,648,208.02	\$18,879,959.67	\$19,172,003.36	\$17,546,597.98
Current month variance			(\$706,510.16) -4%	(\$938,261.81) -5%	(\$1,230,305.50) -6%	\$395,099.88 2%

* - These investments have call dates less than one year.

Note:

The one to three years and over three year period exceeds the goals but several investments are priced to call and will not be held over one year.

City of Cloquet
Investment Portfolio Analysis
Detail of Investments May 31, 2015

Brokerage	Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Time Held	Description	Amount	YTM Rate	Annualized Yield	Market Value
Invested less than one year								
Certificates of Deposit								
Wells Fargo	12/16/2014	6/16/2015	6 months	First Niagara Bk	\$245,000.00	0.300%	\$735.00	\$245,012.99
Wells Fargo	12/19/2014	6/19/2015	6 months	Berkshire Bk	\$245,000.00	0.450%	\$1,102.50	\$245,032.10
Morgan Stanley	7/18/2012	7/20/2015	3 yrs	Ally Bank (form GMAC)	\$94,000.00	1.100%	\$1,034.00	\$94,110.92
UBS Financial	7/25/2012	7/27/2015	3 yrs	Sallie Mae Bank UT	\$240,000.00	1.200%	\$2,880.00	\$240,355.20
Wells Fargo	7/29/2013	7/29/2015	2 yrs	Medallion Bk	\$245,000.00	0.650%	\$1,592.50	\$245,181.55
Wells Fargo	12/31/2014	7/31/2015	7 months	Bank of Holland	\$245,033.23	0.450%	\$1,102.65	\$245,201.15
Morgan Stanley	8/31/2011	8/31/2015	4 yrs	CIT Bk UT	\$100,000.00	1.450%	\$1,450.00	\$100,291.00
					\$1,414,033.23		\$9,896.65	\$1,415,184.91
Municipals								
Wells Fargo	8/29/2012	7/1/2015	3 yrs	Philadelphia PA ISD	\$274,040.56	1.500%	\$4,110.61	\$250,670.00
Wells Fargo	1/30/2014	2/15/2016	3 yrs	Columbus OH Txbi	\$251,135.00	0.500%	\$1,255.68	\$250,397.50
					\$525,175.56		\$5,366.28	\$501,067.50
Invested one to three years								
Certificates of Deposit								
Wells Fargo	7/21/2014	7/21/2016	2 yrs	Citizens State Bank	\$245,000.00	0.650%	\$1,592.50	\$245,112.21
Morgan Stanley	7/24/2013	7/25/2016	3 yrs	Discover Bk DE	\$100,000.00	1.100%	\$1,100.00	\$100,646.00
Wells Fargo	7/31/2014	7/29/2016	2 yrs	Washington Trust Co	\$245,000.00	0.700%	\$1,715.00	\$245,326.10
Morgan Stanley	8/1/2012	8/10/2016	4 yrs	Firstbank Santurce	\$245,000.00	1.250%	\$3,062.50	\$247,521.05
Morgan Stanley	8/31/2011	8/31/2016	5 yrs	Goldman Sachs - UT	\$150,000.00	1.850%	\$2,775.00	\$152,316.00
Frandsen Bank	3/5/2015	9/5/2016	18 months	Frandsen Bank	\$245,000.00	0.300%	\$735.00	\$245,000.00
UBS Financial	9/10/2014	9/12/2016	2 yrs	Peoples United	\$240,000.00	0.850%	\$2,040.00	\$240,278.40
UBS Financial	9/12/2014	9/12/2016	2 yrs	Merrick	\$240,000.00	0.850%	\$2,040.00	\$240,369.60
Morgan Stanley	9/23/2011	9/23/2016	5 yrs	GE Money Bk UT	\$35,000.00	2.000%	\$700.00	\$35,630.00
Morgan Stanley	9/30/2013	9/30/2016	3 yrs	BMW Bk - UT	\$80,000.00	1.150%	\$920.00	\$80,603.20
Morgan Stanley	11/14/2013	11/14/2016	3 yrs	Ally Bank (form GMAC)	\$150,000.00	1.100%	\$1,650.00	\$151,182.00
Morgan Stanley	6/8/2012	6/8/2017	5 yrs	World Financial DE	\$200,000.00	1.850%	\$3,700.00	\$203,694.00
Morgan Stanley	6/22/2012	6/22/2017	5 yrs	St Bank of India NY	\$245,000.00	2.000%	\$4,900.00	\$249,794.65
Wells Fargo	7/24/2014	7/24/2017	3 yrs	American Express Fed Sv	\$245,000.00	1.150%	\$2,817.50	\$245,686.00
UBS Financial	10/19/2012	10/19/2017	5 yrs	Boston Prvt B&T MA	\$100,000.00	1.000%	\$1,000.00	\$99,772.00
Morgan Stanley	11/25/2013	11/24/2017	4 yrs	Comenity Bk UT	\$68,000.00	1.400%	\$952.00	\$68,772.48
Morgan Stanley	3/12/2014	3/14/2018	4 yrs	GE Capital Ret BK UT	\$210,000.00	1.500%	\$3,150.00	\$211,667.40
Morgan Stanley	5/8/2013	5/8/2018	5 yrs	CIT Bk UT	\$145,000.00	1.200%	\$1,740.00	\$145,159.50
					\$3,188,000.00		\$36,589.50	\$3,208,530.59
Municipals								
Wells Fargo	7/30/2012	6/1/2016	4 yrs	Des Moines IA	\$180,678.60	0.750%	\$1,355.09	\$180,669.60
Wells Fargo	12/6/2013	12/1/2016	3 yrs	Minneapolis MN	\$207,581.33	0.750%	\$1,556.86	\$204,430.00
Wells Fargo	1/14/2010	2/1/2017	6 1/2 yrs	Bloomington MN BAB	\$202,324.00	2.100%	\$4,248.80	\$205,274.00
Wells Fargo	1/7/2009	2/1/2017	7 yrs	Osseo MN ISD 279	\$218,141.70	5.400%	\$11,779.65	\$228,162.90
Wells Fargo	1/31/2014	3/1/2017	3 yrs	Menomonie WI Txbi	\$340,204.15	0.970%	\$3,299.98	\$333,465.00
Wells Fargo	9/4/2014	4/1/2017	2 1/2 yrs	St Francis MN ISD	\$166,137.00	0.900%	\$1,495.23	\$157,839.00
UBS Financial	12/1/2010	12/1/2017	7 yrs	Stamford CT	\$512,636.25	2.759%	\$14,143.63	\$516,395.00
Wells Fargo	1/14/2014	2/1/2018	4 yrs	Anoka County MN	\$567,323.75	1.480%	\$8,396.39	\$543,645.00
Wells Fargo	7/26/2012	2/1/2018	6 1/2 yrs	North Branch MN ISD 138	\$121,040.56	1.260%	\$1,525.11	\$109,508.00
					\$2,516,067.34		\$47,800.76	\$2,479,388.50
Invested over three years								
Certificates of Deposit								
Morgan Stanley	6/28/2013	6/28/2018	5 yrs	BMW Bk - UT	\$96,000.00	1.650%	\$1,584.00	\$96,162.24
Morgan Stanley	10/2/2013	10/2/2018	5 yrs	Discover Bk DE	\$145,000.00	2.050%	\$2,972.50	\$148,111.70
Morgan Stanley	10/28/2013	10/29/2018	5 yrs	Bank Baroda NY	\$245,000.00	2.050%	\$5,022.50	\$249,228.70
UBS Financial	4/16/2014	4/16/2019	5 yrs	Wells Fargo	\$240,000.00	1.000%	\$2,400.00	\$241,116.00
Morgan Stanley	4/29/2014	4/29/2019	5 yrs	Barclays Bk DE	\$45,000.00	1.900%	\$855.00	\$45,633.60
Morgan Stanley	10/16/2014	10/16/2019	5 yrs	Capital One Bank VA	\$245,000.00	2.150%	\$5,267.50	\$248,128.65
Morgan Stanley	1/28/2015	1/28/2020	5 yrs	Goldman Sachs - UT	\$96,000.00	2.048%	\$1,966.08	\$95,812.80
UBS Financial	2/27/2015	2/27/2020	5 yrs	Private Bank & Tr IL	\$240,000.00	1.750%	\$4,200.00	\$241,932.00
UBS Financial	2/27/2015	2/27/2020	5 yrs	JP Morgan Chase DE	\$240,000.00	2.000%	\$4,800.00	\$240,993.60
UBS Financial	4/13/2015	4/13/2020	5 yrs	HABC Bk VA	\$240,000.00	1.125%	\$2,700.00	\$238,764.00
Morgan Stanley	5/7/2015	5/7/2020	5 yrs	Amex Centurion UT	\$185,000.00	1.950%	\$3,607.50	\$184,742.85
					\$2,017,000.00		\$35,375.08	\$2,030,626.14
Municipals								
Wells Fargo	10/7/2010	8/1/2018	8 yrs	U of M Build America	\$260,748.16	2.700%	\$7,040.20	\$262,432.50
UBS Financial	12/4/2012	11/1/2018	6 yrs	NY City Transition	\$360,038.40	1.280%	\$4,608.49	\$360,997.20
Wells Fargo	12/1/2010	12/21/2018	8 yrs	Weston WS BAB	\$152,058.00	3.550%	\$5,398.06	\$160,653.00
					\$772,844.56		\$17,046.75	\$784,082.70
Government Agencies								
UBS Financial	2/25/2015	2/25/2021	6 yrs	FHLB	\$500,000.00	1.000%	\$5,000.00	\$499,770.00
Morgan Stanley	3/16/2015	3/16/2021	6 yrs	FHLB	\$250,000.00	1.500%	\$3,750.00	\$250,675.00
Morgan Stanley	3/18/2015	3/16/2021	6 yrs	FHLB	\$45,000.00	1.500%	\$675.00	\$45,121.50
Morgan Stanley	9/7/2012	9/7/2022	10 yrs	FHLB	\$500,000.00	1.500%	\$7,500.00	\$499,830.00
Morgan Stanley	12/19/2012	12/19/2022	10 yrs	FHLB	\$299,997.00	1.500%	\$4,499.96	\$295,986.00
Morgan Stanley	3/27/2013	3/27/2023	10 yrs	FHLB	\$500,000.00	2.000%	\$10,000.00	\$499,810.00
UBS Financial	2/20/2015	5/22/2023	8 yrs	FHLB	\$501,833.33	1.500%	\$7,527.50	\$500,765.00
					\$2,596,830.33		\$38,952.45	\$2,591,957.50
Totals					\$13,029,951.02		\$191,027.47	\$13,010,837.84
							1.47%	

Note: Market value fluctuates based on current rates being offered. No principal is at risk if securities are held to maturity.
Filename: Monthly Report - Investment Detail

City of Cloquet
Interest Earnings Analysis
Month Ending May
2015

Type	%	Invested Balance	Interest	Rate of Return
Money Markets	16%	\$2,689,369.03	\$79.70	0.03%
Savings	7%	\$1,115,477.52	\$142.11	0.15%
CD's*	39%	\$6,583,226.78	\$6,889.38	1.23%
Municipals*	23%	\$3,814,087.46	\$5,748.25	1.77%
Government agencies*	15%	\$2,596,830.33	\$3,305.96	1.50%
Total Investment Return*	77%	\$12,994,144.57	\$15,943.59	1.44%
Total Return	100%	\$16,798,991.12	\$16,165.40	1.13%

Earnings Comparison	Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actual
2015 Interest Earnings	\$ 282,800.00	\$ 117,833.33	\$79,122.36
2014 Interest Earnings	\$ 453,000.00	\$ 188,750.00	\$87,403.12
2013 Interest Earnings	\$ 332,500.00	\$ 138,541.67	\$90,886.66

Rate Comparisons	Current May 2015	Last Month April 2015	Last Year May 2014	Two Years May 2013
Average Total Return	1.13%	1.14%	1.29%	1.39%
Average Investment Return*	1.44%	1.43%	1.49%	1.69%

Filename: Monthly Report - Interest Earnings Analysis 2015

Press Release – For immediate release:

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Biking and walking made easier in Cloquet!

CLOQUET, MINN. (June XX, 2015) – Keep watch for two exciting projects this summer related to walking and biking in the City of Cloquet. During the month of July, sharrows will be painted on Cloquet Avenue between 18th Street and Hwy 33 in both directions. Sharrows are a symbol with a bicyclist and arrows that indicate that the street is shared by people driving motor vehicles and people on bikes. Also along Cloquet Avenue, bulb-outs will be placed at four intersections; 10th Street, 11th Street, 12th Street, and 13th Street. Bulb-outs are extensions of the sidewalk; a protected area for pedestrians to feel safer when crossing the road. These areas allow pedestrians to have a shorter crossing distance – decreasing the distance from two parking lanes and three driving lanes (five total), to only three driving lanes.

The second project, from mid-August through the end of September, will include bike lanes painted on Doddridge Avenue from 28th Street to 7th Street. Bulb outs will also be placed at 12th Street, 18th Street and two at 14th Street. These two projects are temporary and are designed to determine if they would be an effective solution to increasing connectivity and safety around the city for pedestrians and people who bike.

“While these two projects are temporary, they may lead to some long term changes,” said Al Cottingham, Cloquet City Planner. “We want our residents to have multiple opportunities for physical activity and for Cloquet to be safe for all travelers – drivers in cars, families on bike rides and kids walking to school. By installing these temporary measures, we hope to determine what will work best for the city and its residents in the long run. To do this, the city will also be able to reuse the sharrow and bulb-out materials in the future, to try these things in other parts of Cloquet as needed.”

Funding for this project is provided by the Center for Prevention at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota, as part of Blue Cross’ long-term commitment to tackling the leading causes of preventable disease: tobacco use, lack of physical activity and unhealthy eating.

If you use the sharrows, bike lanes, and/or bulb-outs, we would love to hear about your experience. Please take a minute to provide your feedback at: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/activecloquet>.



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