

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: 2014/15 LOW POINT DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS (NORTHWOOD DR)

BACKGROUND:

The Low Point Drainage Improvements is the annual program to decrease flooding at low points. Low point drainage improvements are not focused on residential street locations, but rather on those locations most in need of the improvements as affected by standing water, flooding, and insufficient pipe capacity. The program identifies core locations for improvements each year. **The location for this project is the 2800 block of Northwood Drive.**

Staff has been working with Wenck Associates of Woodbury, Minnesota on this project. Wenck Associates and City staff have completed plans and specifications for this contract with a base bid and three alternate bids. The base bid covers stabilization work in the ravine between Northwood Drive and Duff Avenue. The base bid has an estimated construction cost of \$134,849. Bid Alternate A is for a culvert debris screen on the south side of Duff Avenue and has an estimated construction cost of \$6,500. Bid Alternate B covers repair work to the Duff Avenue culvert outlet and has an estimated construction cost of \$69,634. Bid Alternate C covers stabilization work in the ravine between Duff Avenue and the South Skunk River. Bid Alternate C has an estimated construction cost of \$45,055. The total estimated construction cost for the base bid and all bid alternates is \$256,038. Engineering and construction administration costs are estimated at \$51,208, bringing the total estimated costs for this project to \$307,246.

This Low Point Drainage Improvement is shown in the 2014/15 Capital Improvements Plan with funding in the amount of \$150,000 in Storm Sewer Utility Funds. As bids are received and analyzed, staff will make a recommendation to City Council regarding funding of these improvements.

Staff, along with Wenck Associates, held two project informational meetings with area property owners, residents, and interested persons to receive input on the project timing, staging, and design. The comments incorporated into the project design included minimizing the tree removal and creating a design that fits into the natural surroundings.

A letter was sent to the City on November 18, 2016 from Neil and Darlene Harl of 2821 Duff Avenue resisting the implementation of the project as designed at that time. The letter was referred to City staff on November 22, 2016 by City Council. City staff met with the property owner several times to discuss plan changes that would address their concerns while still accomplishing the goals of the project. Ultimately, construction methods and access routes were revised to reduce the tree removals necessary to complete the project. A second letter was sent to City staff on December 29, 2016 from

the property owner stating that their concerns were addressed and that they now fully support the project (attached).

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the plans and specifications for the 2014/15 Low Point Drainage Improvements (Northwood Dr) project and establish February 8, 2017, as the date of letting and February 14, 2017, as the date for report of bids.
2. Do not approve this project.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

By approving these plans and specifications, it will be possible to re-establish a healthy drainage conveyance and stabilize the channel to prevent erosion from migrating closer to the homes in this area.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1 as described above.

NEIL E. HARL

ATTORNEY AT LAW
2821 DUFF AVENUE
AMES, IOWA 50010

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BY APPOINTMENT ONLY
TELEPHONE 515-232-0487

December 29, 2016

Mr. Mark Gansen

City Hall

515 Clark Avenue

Ames, Iowa 50010:

Dear Mr. Gansen:

First, I want to thank you for the diplomatic way you have handled the controversy involving the ravine that runs just west of our house at 2821 Duff Avenue toward the Skunk River. We agree that something needed to be done. Our first choice, if we were deciding the matter, would be to route as much of the water as possible west of Grand Avenue in a northerly direction toward the river. However, as you have noted that would involve substantial funding which reportedly is not currently available. One important component of the project would be to reduce the water flow through the ravine.

Darlene and I are satisfied with the modifications you have made in the plan involving saving as many trees as possible to help anchor the soil in place on the slopes in the ravine (some of which are very steep and pose major challenges in preventing serious erosion which would be extremely difficult to accomplish with the plans circulated initially and which could ultimately jeopardize the homes adjacent to the ravine).

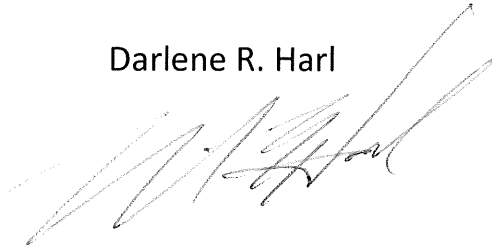
We acknowledge that the much needed component of the project, to stabilize the area around the northerly outlet of the culvert that runs under Duff Avenue, is badly needed and we agree that there will be some damage (including removal of a limited number of trees) in the construction phase. We appreciate that you have revised the project to minimize the damage to the trees in the immediate area.

We appreciate your efforts in addressing our concerns and look forward to the completion of the project which now has our full support.

Sincerely yours,

Darlene R. Harl

Darlene R. Harl

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Neil E. Harl', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Neil E. Harl