

**COUNCIL ACTION FORM**

**SUBJECT: FLOOD MITIGATION – RIVER FLOODING  
(CHANNEL SHAPING ON SQUAW CREEK AT SOUTH DUFF BRIDGE)**

**BACKGROUND:**

On November 29, 2016 as part of the Special Meeting of the City Council, direction was provided for staff to work toward Hydraulic Alternative No. 6 (2010 Event), which is for “full build” (channel shaping). This would mean channel shaping with a reconnection to the floodplain. There would be major impacts to adjacent properties and represents the limit of what can be done with channel improvements. **This project alternative directly connects the improvements being made with the Flood Mitigation – River Flooding project with the Grand Avenue Extension project.** Additional instruction was given to staff to reach out to affected property owners to receive input.

Because this flood reduction strategy is directly tied to the Grand Avenue Extension drainage and bridge options that were chosen by City Council, the flood mitigation area needed to be included in the Grand Avenue Extension environmental assessment area. **Due to this area being included as part of that assessment area, staff needed to wait until environmental clearance is received before approaching the South Duff Avenue property owners in order to not jeopardize federal funding eligibility.** FHWA recently signed the Finding of No Significant Impacts (FONSI). This means that the City has received environmental clearance and is now proceeding with final design and property owner communications for the Grand Avenue Extension and Flood Mitigation – River Flooding projects.

**As a result, Public Works staff is working to submit a funding application for consideration under FEMA’s Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Grant Assistance for the Flood Mitigation – River Flooding project (Squaw Creek Channel Improvements at South Duff Avenue).** The grant application information is submitted to the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (HSEMD) and if deemed complete and eligible, they would then submit the application for consideration nationally.

The estimated construction cost for this project is \$4,576,000, including construction, engineering, and land acquisition. If approved for funding, the cost share basis for this project would be in amounts not to exceed 75 percent (\$3,432,000) from federal funds and the remaining 25 percent (\$1,144,000) from local funds. Local match funding in the amount of \$1,144,000 was included in the 2015/16 and 2016/17 Capital Improvements Plans Flood Mitigation – River Flooding program. This funding has continued to be carried forward with budget amendments.

Please note that there are several factors influencing this grant application including: the competitive nature of the grant, the limited funding for this federal grant program, and the need for the Federal government to redirect funding to deal with the hurricane damage (Hurricane Harvey and Hurricane Irma). If funding for the grant program moves forward, money will not be released for use until after December 31, 2018 (which would mean a 2019 construction at the earliest).

**ALTERNATIVES:**

- 1a. Approve a resolution as part of the grant application through Iowa HSEMD to FEMA for local match funding up to \$1,144,000 (a minimum of 25 percent) for the Flood Mitigation-River Flooding project with a total project estimated cost of \$4,576,000; and
- b. Designate Tracy Warner, Municipal Engineer, as the applicant's Authorized Representative for the Flood Mitigation-River Flooding project.
2. Reject the FEMA applications and direct staff on how to further mitigate flooding of the S. Duff Avenue area.

**MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

By approving the resolution for this project, FEMA funding can be applied for as part of mitigating further public infrastructure damage in this area of town.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby approving the FEMA FMA application for the Flood Mitigation-River Flooding project with local match funding up to \$1,144,000 (a minimum of 25 percent) and designating Municipal Engineer Tracy Warner as the applicant's Authorized Representative.