

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: FLOOD MITIGATION – RIVER FLOODING TREE CLEARING

BACKGROUND:

On February 11, 2020, City Council approved the FEMA grant funding agreement for the stream bank restoration project providing flood mitigation in the Squaw Creek channel. A central component includes conveyance improvements within the channel approximately 2,000 feet either side of the South Duff Avenue bridge. The cost share amounts for this grant are as follows:

Funding Source	Funding Amount	% of Cost
Federal:	\$ 3,747,450.00	75%
Local:	\$ 1,249,150.00	25%
Total:	\$ 4,996,600.00	100%

Final design has been submitted with permit applications to Army Corps of Engineers and Iowa DNR. Land acquisition is in the process including landowner meetings, title opinions, and appraisal reports being written.

Due to threatened and endangered species (two bat species) requirements, tree removal needs to be completed prior to April 1, 2021 or else not until November (which would push the project close to the FEMA completion deadline of June 19, 2022). The land acquisition agent is approaching landowners about concurring with this tree removal prior to closing on the respective properties. These plans for tree removal were developed with a Base Bid for activities on City-owned property and then including Add Alternates for each of the other parcels that agree (prior to award of bid) to allow tree removal to occur. This will enable an award to be recommended based on who has provided concurrence at the time of bids being received.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the Flood Mitigation – River Flooding Tree Clearing project by establishing February 24, 2021, as the date of letting and March 9, 2021, as the date for report of bids.
2. Direct staff to revise the project.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Due to Story County being within the territory for threatened and endangered species of two kinds of bats, tree clearing needs to take place prior to April 1 or else wait until November, which would further delay the flood mitigation project and result in a tighter construction window, potentially extending the project beyond the FEMA project completion deadline of June 19, 2022.

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