



DU PAGE COUNTY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING
Daniel J. Cronin, County Board Chairman

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January 6, 2012

Mr. Ronald Mentzer
Community Development Director
City of Warrenville
3S258 Manning Avenue
Warrenville, IL 60555

RE: Request for Status of County Efforts on Various West Branch DuPage River Items

Dear Ron:

This letter is in response to your letter dated December 28, 2011, which requested an update on several items regarding the West Branch DuPage River. These items are referenced according to your letter.

1. City Concern #3, Request C – The County is in the process of including backflow prevention equipment on the City's Main Street storm sewer outlet to the West Branch in our design plans for the Second Street Improvements. The County continues to look for funding opportunities for this backflow prevention project and the other projects identified within the Addendum to the Watershed Plan. As we complete designs of the various project pieces we will revise the watershed plan cost analysis and have a clearer picture of our overall funding status. We have reached out to the Wetland Initiative and the Conservation Foundation to get their assistance in obtaining private sector grants. We have applied for 2 different State grants associated with land acquisition and environmental restoration and we will soon be filing a Federal grant request for environmental restoration. The funding situation is very fluid with some of the grant cycles not coming due for a few months so updates in this area may be slow. In addition to the grants we are seeking for the West Branch projects, we are also seeking grants on several of the other bond funded projects. If we are successful in obtaining grants for any of those projects it would free up bond funds to be used on the remaining projects.
2. City Concern #4, Request E – DuPage County recently entered into a new Joint Funding Agreement with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) for FY2012. The County has provided the USGS with the latest FEQ models for the West Branch mainstem and its tributaries. The USGS has developed a flood forecasting system which utilizes actual and forecasted rainfall amounts. The rainfall amounts are run through hydrologic (HSPF) and hydraulic (FEQ) models in real time to determine peak elevations and flow rates at various locations along the West Branch DuPage River. The USGS and Stormwater staff will be collecting and checking meteorologic data and updating, maintaining and testing the flood forecasting system throughout the year in 2012.

Bill Morris of the National Weather Service has requested that a flood forecast point be developed for the West Branch in Warrenville. We are still awaiting final confirmation from NWS.

3. City Concern #5, Request A – At this time the County’s watershed planning staff have focused their efforts on the design and public coordination of the projects identified in the Addendum to the Watershed Plan. Staff anticipates performing the hydraulic model runs with the historical series of storm events during the first quarter of 2012. The modeler assigned to this task will return from maternity leave in late February and this effort is her first priority. If the model runs indicate that the modified gate operations have no adverse impacts, the County will coordinate with the City of Naperville and the State of Illinois to adopt these changes.
4. City Concern #5, Request B – The County has commenced gathering stream level information downstream of Fawell Dam during rainfall events that trigger gate operation. We have photographs showing the West Branch DuPage River still in bank at the time of the initial gate operation at the dam. We will continue to gather this information for storm events that trigger the dam operation. In addition, hydraulic model runs will need to be made to demonstrate that there are no adverse impacts to initiating the gate operations at a higher elevation. As stated in the previous response, available staff has focused their efforts on the design and public coordination of the projects identified in the Addendum to the West Branch Watershed Plan. We anticipate making these hydraulic model runs during the first quarter of 2012.
5. City Concern #5, Request D – As we have advised you in the past, the County will not illuminate Fawell Dam during the entire gate operation of a storm event. The lights are used for site security when Stormwater staff are on-site during operation. Leaving the lights on during the entire gate operation sequence creates an additional expense for the County and adversely impacts the residential areas adjacent to the dam. Neighboring residents specifically requested that the lights not be left on in a permanent manner during our initial take-over of the dams operation. In August, the County provided the City a link to a newer staff gage type in a different location that we believe is easier to read. As yet we have not heard back from the City as to whether you would like us to convert the Fawell gage to the newer type. We are also looking into relocating the illuminator from the camera to a cantilevered position on the dam’s gate platform to try and increase nighttime visibility. We have been unsuccessful in finding a method to block the early morning sun glare; however, the County’s stormwater operations website does display the current stream elevation from the sensor located on the upstream face of the dam in real-time. This can be used anytime the dam’s face is not visible.
6. City Concern #5, Request H – The County’s website for Fawell Dam currently displays the gate operation plan and several images showing the staff gage, gate positions and debris accumulations upstream of the dam. We are aware of the picture utilized by Warrenville staff showing the upstream face of the dam with operation levels drawn onto the picture. We assume this is the kind of thing you are requesting being added to the webpage. Our plan is to get a picture from in-stream directly in front of the dam to

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minimize distortion and then add the markings to that picture. We will get this added as soon as possible; however, it might be spring before we can get a crew in the water. Please provide examples of other graphics that you feel may be beneficial to inform or educate the public regarding the operation of the dam.

We hope that these responses will help you provide an update to your City Council at the January 9, 2012 Committee of the Whole Meeting. We look forward to your continued cooperation on these issues as well as our efforts to design and construct the projects identified in the Addendum to the West Branch Watershed Plan. If you have additional questions regarding these issues please contact me or Chris Vonnahme of my staff at 630-407-6701.

Sincerely,



Anthony J. Charlton, P.E.
Director, Stormwater Management Division

Cc: Chris Vonnahme
David Brummel, Mayor
John Coakley, City Administrator
Mike Smith, P.W. Superintendent
Phil Kuchler, Sr. Civil Engineer ✓