

City of Warrenville

August 29, 2011

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Mr. Daniel Cronin
County Board Chairman
DuPage County Board
421 North County Farm Road
Wheaton, IL 60187

Mr. Jim Zay
Stormwater Management Planning Committee Chairman
DuPage County Board
421 North County Farm Road
Wheaton, IL 60187

RE: REQUEST FOR DUPAGE COUNTY ACTION

Dear Chairmen Cronin and Zay: *Dear Jim,*

The City of Warrenville (City) appreciates DuPage County's (County) recent efforts to update the West Branch DuPage River (WBDR) Watershed Plan and allocate significant Bond Initiative funding to the design and implementation of the proposed projects that comprise the Watershed Plan Addendum's "*preferred alternative*." The City is especially grateful for the efforts of Stormwater Chairman Jim Zay to make sure that a portion of the Bond funds were allocated to help fund the "*preferred alternative*" projects last fall.

Thank you for meeting with Alderman Aschauer, City staff and me on June 29, 2011. As you are likely aware, on August 15, 2011, the Warrenville City Council unanimously passed Resolution No. 2011-20, a resolution adopting the Fawell Dam Workgroup Final Report dated August 3, 2011 (Report) and authorizing staff to implement the recommendations in Section 5 of the report. Attached to this letter, please find a copy of the Resolution and Report for your records.

Section 5 of the Report identifies five concerns that the City feels need to be addressed moving forward. These concerns along with the City's requests to DuPage County are as follows:

Concern #1: Need to expedite the implementation of the County's Bond Initiative funded "*preferred alternative*" projects in a form that is in the best long term interest of the City and its residents.

City Request:

A. DuPage County provide written clarification of the estimated time-frame for the

implementation of all preferred alternative planned flood mitigation improvements in Warrenville.

Concern #2: Need to maximize the benefits of individual “preferred alternative” projects during final engineering process.

City Request:

- A. Written County commitment to design each of the individual County flood protection/mitigation projects to achieve the maximum level of flood protection reasonably possible given technical and economic constraints and City/resident input.

Concern #3: Need for County funding for the design and implementation of important “preferred alternative” projects that are currently unfunded or underfunded.

City Request:

- A. Chairman Cronin advocate for the reconstruction of the Warrenville Road Bridge and River Road with the County Department of Transportation and the County’s Transportation Committee as soon as reasonably possible;
- B. County actively seek grant funding to implement the unfunded elements of the Watershed Plan Addendum including the replacement of the Warrenville Road Bridge; and
- C. County financial participation for the construction of a backflow prevention improvement on the City’s Main Street storm sewer outlet to the WBDR.

Concern #4: Need for County commitment and attention to other WBDR related projects not specifically identified in the current Watershed Plan Addendum.

City Requests:

- A. County analyze the issue of subsurface ground water movement and related problems in Warrenville as a result of increased flood elevations and duration along the WBDR;
- B. County update the FEQ modeling and Watershed Plan for Ferry Creek;
- C. County allocate the financial resources necessary to facilitate the buyout of flood prone properties along Ferry Creek meeting the County’s buy-out program;
- D. County provide a written commitment to actively coordinate with FEMA on updating the Flood Insurance Rate Maps once the “preferred alternative” flood mitigation projects have been implemented and the 100 year floodplain has been lowered;
- E. County develop and maintain a flood forecasting model for the WBDR that would be made accessible to the general public; and

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F. County work with the USGS to develop and maintain an inundation map for the WBDR.

Concern #5: Need for the County to maintain and operate existing County controlled infrastructure so as to reduce the possibility it will unintentionally increase flood elevations and duration in Warrenville.

City Requests:

- A. Fawell Dam gates are operated so they are left open to the largest opening reached for each individual storm event as dictated by the gate operations sequence contained in the 2001 Fawell Dam Operations Plan and are not closed down as flood pool elevations fall;
- B. County commitment to reevaluate and adjust the operating plan of Fawell Dam to increase conveyance of flood waters in the early stages of large storm events to full channel flow through the City of Naperville without flooding properties in Naperville;
- C. County commitment to immediately maintain / clean the silt and other debris present under the Warrenville Road Bridge so as to restore its original designed flow capacity;
- D. County illuminate the Dam and all gages so they are visible onsite and remotely via the cameras during all times the dam is in operation including periods of darkness;
- E. County provide survey notes for the "west bank" pole to address Alderman Bevier's question about the accuracy of the range pole on the west bank and commit to adjusting the various range pole and gages if they are found to be off in elevation;
- F. County install and maintain new highly visible river elevation gages on downstream side of the Diehl Road bridge structure, the upstream side of the Ferry Road bridge structure, and the upstream and downstream side of the Warrenville Road bridge structure;
- G. The cameras are regularly cleaned and maintained so as to reduce dirt and glare impacts and increase the ability for all to remotely view and accurately interpret river elevations and gate operations at Fawell Dam. This would include fixing the cameras inadvertent focusing on water droplets on the outside of the "bubble" rather than the dam;
- H. County include enhanced graphics (similar to the examples City staff previously provided to DuPage County) on DuPage County's new storm event operations page so viewers have a clear understanding of appropriate water levels for each gate operation sequence;
- I. County comply fully with the inspection, maintenance, and reporting requirements outlined in Section three of the May 2001 Operation and Maintenance Plan for Fawell Dam and Saddle Dike, West Branch DuPage River Watershed, Naperville, Illinois. This would include strict compliance with the requirements for inspection and removal of any trash and woody debris that accumulates at Fawell Dam;
- J. County comply with all Dam Safety Permit requirements regarding property acquisition should it modify the Dam or cause an increase in the 100-year flood pool at Fawell Dam; and

- K. County make copies of all required inspection and maintenance reports available to the City of Warrenville by either sending the City a copy or posting copies on the County's web site.

We are committed to work in cooperation with the County to address flooding in the City of Warrenville and happy to bring closure to some of the City's longstanding concerns regarding Fawell Dam. **Please provide a response to this letter outlining the County's plan and anticipated timeline for addressing each of the individual items.** Thank you for all of the County's past and future efforts to assist the City on these important issues.

Sincerely,



Mayor David Brummel

Attachments: City of Warrenville Fawell Dam Workgroup Final Report on Fawell Dam's Impact on Flooding in the City of Warrenville, dated August 3, 2011

cc: Tom Cuculich, DuPage County Chief of Staff (*letter only*)
Anthony Charlton, DuPage County Director of Stormwater Management (*letter only*)
Stewart Aschauer, Alderman (*letter only*)
John Coakley, City Administrator (*letter only*)
Ron Mentzer, Community Development Director (*letter only*)
Mike Smith, Public Works Superintendent (*letter only*)
Phil Kuchler, Senior Civil Engineer (*letter only*)

*Thank you both for your cooperation
and help!*