



CITY OF WASHINGTON, ILLINOIS

Committee of the Whole Agenda Communication

Meeting Date: June 12, 2023

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Agenda Item: BRIC Application Consideration

Explanation: FEMA has a nationally competitive grant program, Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC), that can be utilized to assist with any priority flood management projects. This is funded on a 75/25 basis. A Notice of Intent (NOI) form must be submitted to the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) by June 30 in order to be eligible for the program. The NOI was created by IEMA as part of the initial review process and asks for a project description, estimated project cost, and the source of any required matching funds. IEMA will review the NOI's by July 17 and will notify all local jurisdictions by July 24. The actual grant cycle will likely open in the fall and close in early 2024. IEMA priorities include mitigation projects to enhance adaptation to climate change, projects to address equities and inequities to provide the greatest support to economically disadvantaged rural communities, and the acquisition of substantially damaged flood-prone structures, severe repetitive loss structures, and repetitive loss structures. Each state is only allocated \$2 million in funding and the odds of receiving a grant are likely quite low.

Feedback staff has received from IEMA staff has indicated a project must be identified with a previously approved regional hazard mitigation plan in order to be eligible for funding. The Tri-County Regional Planning Commission is currently leading the effort to revise that plan. It will include the priority projects identified in the citywide stormwater master plan. However, that plan does not figure to be completed until early 2024. As a result, the only project that will likely be eligible is to address flooding in the Washington Estates subdivision.

A larger project that included the construction of an upstream detention basin was submitted for grant consideration through the HUD National Disaster Resilience Competition (NDRC) program in 2015 but was not awarded. As with NDRC, the City would be the subapplicant and IEMA would be the applicant on behalf of any local governments in Illinois to FEMA. The federal grant applications are quite lengthy and time-consuming.

The construction of a basin northwest of Elgin or channel improvements is included in the stormwater master plan. Property acquisition would be required as part of that project. It is unknown whether this project would be a solid candidate for funding given the relative lack of funds that will be available in Illinois and any other statewide projects that may be submitted.

Fiscal Impact: The FY 23-24 budget includes \$1 million to be used towards a drainage project.

Action Requested: Staff seeks direction on a possible BRIC grant submittal at the June 12 Committee of the Whole meeting. While the City has been the recipient of several past funding opportunities, this may not be an option worth pursuing.