



PI/T – 01/23/2025
AGENDA ITEM REPORT

Presenter:	Jason Anderson
Meeting Date:	Thursday, January 23, 2025
Category:	NEW BUSINESS
Type:	ACTION
Subject:	Request for City Funding on Streambank Restoration Project
Background Information:	<p>On December 17, 2024, Kerry Netzke and Ron Halgerson presented to the Lyon County Commissioners to request funding for a “pilot project” for a riverbank stabilization project at 112 Park Avenue in Marshall. Kerry and Ron were presenting as representatives of the Redwood Riverbank Workgroup. The property at 112 Park Avenue is a single-family residential property that is located along the Redwood River and is experiencing erosion and loss of property due to the failure of an existing, in-place slope protection management practice. Essentially, there is an old retaining wall that has failed, and a project must be completed to keep the river from advancing further into the property.</p> <p>The memo from the Commissioner’s meeting is included in the PI/T packet. Also included in the packet is a memo from the Redwood Riverbank Workgroup to the PI/T Committee. The request for funding the \$40,800 project from Lyon County would utilize buffer enforcement dollars that Lyon County receives annually from the State of Minnesota. At the meeting, the Lyon County Commission motioned to fund 40% of the project cost, up to \$16,320, contingent upon the City of Marshall also funding 40% of the project costs. The proposed cost split is \$16,320 from both the City and Lyon County, and an \$8,160 cost share from the property owner at 112 Park Avenue.</p> <p>Should the City elect to participate in funding this riverbank stabilization project, funding would likely come from the Surface Water Management Utility (SWMU). Each property within the city limits of Marshall contributes funding to the SWMU in an amount that is proportional to the runoff quantity and water quality impact of each property. Because commercial and industrial land uses are typically more intensely developed, those types of properties contribute more runoff and therefore they contribute more funding into the SWMU.</p> <p>The SWMU is established under the authority of Minnesota Statute 444.075. The Statute allows for the expenditure of funds as needed to build, obtain, repair, reconstruct, improve, or enlarge all facilities. In addition to being a public waterway, the Redwood River may be considered part of the city’s drainage facilities because it plays a key role in surface water drainage for the City of Marshall. Additionally, one of the missions of the SWMU is to protect environmental diversity, and preventing sediments from being washed into the river would help to protect the Redwood River and its environmental diversity.</p> <p>The SWMU is used by the City of Marshall to cover costs associated with the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maintenance and repairs of existing drainage system; pipes, intakes, manholes, ponds - Operation of existing system (i.e., pumping costs for existing stormwater lift pumps) - Maintenance of federal flood control project

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - City street sweeping program - City staff time to administer Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit and requirements - City staff costs to administer the SWMU - City costs for feasibility studies, engineering design, system modeling, other drainage system reviews - City costs for Lyon County ditch assessments - City capital costs for drainage improvements, repairs, and replacements; projects may include storm water pipe, intakes, manholes, ponds, etc. <p>If the city desires to fund improvements that stabilize shoreline along the Redwood River through Marshall, city staff would have the following concerns that would deserve some attention:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We should consider creating a framework for funding private improvement projects; how would projects be prioritized? - What types of projects qualify? Only repairs of existing infrastructure? All river slope failures? - What level of review and design should be required? - Who determines that the project has been satisfactorily completed? - Is there a maximum city cost participation? Is there a competitive grant with limited dollars available annually? <p>If the Council moves to fund river slope repair projects, city staff believe it would be prudent to create a program that is approved by the City Council. The program could have a specific annual budget that is allocated annually, and project submittals could be reviewed for consideration of funding. It is worth noting that all projects are required to receive a MnDNR permit for working along a public water. If this is the desire, city staff could bring forward a proposed program for future consideration.</p>
Fiscal Impact:	If the request is granted, the SWMU would pay 40% of the \$40,800 project cost at 112 Park Avenue. The maximum obligation would be \$16,320.
Alternative/ Variations:	<p>To grant funding to the project at 112 Park Avenue for an amount not to exceed \$16,320. Another alternative would be to fund the project at a different level.</p> <p>To deny the funding request at 112 Park Avenue, with the basis that the city does not have a program to fund riverbank improvements that do not directly protect public infrastructure.</p>
Recommendations:	City staff recommends the PI/T to consider the creation of a riverbank restoration program that is funded through the SWMU.