

LRB - FISCAL SECTION ANALYSIS

July 20, 2005

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE

ITEM 21, FILE 050394

EMMA J. STAMPS

File #050394 is a resolution authorizing the Commissioner of Public Works to execute a funding agreement with the South Shore Park Watch for a pilot downspout disconnection project located along South Delaware Avenue in Bay View.

Background

1. The 2005 Proposed Budget lists \$1,206,000 for a Flow Reduction Project, which provides for four separate inflow/infiltration pilot projects. The purpose is to reduce the amount of clear water flowing directly into sanitary and combined sewers. In 2005, all proposed capital projects in the DPW Sewer Maintenance Fund are financed using new borrowing, versus cash. Any debt service would affect budgets after 2005. These capital funded disconnection projects include:
 - \$300,000 – Downspout in the Washington Park neighborhood for voluntary downspout disconnections – This pilot project will target 1,200 single and two-family residential buildings. In previous years, MMSD funded a similar Sewer Maintenance Fund administered pilot program where property owners in targeted areas received \$50 per downspout disconnected, with a maximum of \$100 per house.
 - \$275,000 – Inlet Restrictors and Downspout Disconnection – The project calls for the installation of inlet restrictors in catch basins to reduce the rate of rainwater runoff entering into the combined sewers. The water is temporarily stored on the street (puddle) and gradually released into the sewers. If implemented, this pilot project is expected to result in increased street flooding and complaints by citizens during the first year.
 - \$505,000 – Footing Drain Disconnections – This pilot project targets homes built before 1954 in one area of the Lincoln Creek watershed. Homeowners must voluntarily consent to have foundation footing drains disconnected from sanitary sewers.
 - \$126,000 – Retrofit Control Flow/Flat Roof Drainage – This pilot calls for reducing the flow of water from flat roof buildings and, ultimately, the discharge flowing into the combined sewers to alleviate sewer over-flows on 125 city-owned buildings including libraries, police stations, fire stations, City Hall, DPW facilities, Health Department clinics, MPS schools, and Housing Authority properties and other residential and commercial buildings within the combined sewer area for which this retrofit technology may also be feasible.
2. The Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) has agreed to enter into Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreements (ICAs) with the City and partially fund the Inlet Restrictors & Downspout Disconnection and Footing Draining Disconnection pilot projects through reimbursable, 50%-50%, matching grants in amounts of \$137,500 and \$250,000 respectively.
3. Common Council Resolution Nos. 050267 and 050268 authorized acceptance of the grants provided that the 2005 Capital appropriations for those projects be reduced by the amount of the grant awards (\$137,500 and \$250,000 respectively).

Discussion

1. File 050394 substitute 2 authorizes the Sewer Maintenance Fund to execute a funding agreement with the South Shore Park Watch group which requests a \$1,000 appropriation from the City to the South Shore Park Watch community group for 'work performed' on its downspout disconnection project.
2. The agreement was not on file at the time of this writing.
3. According to a DPW letter dated 7/15/2005, the South Shore Park Watch project will include disconnection of downspouts and installation of rain barrels and education on the use of rain gardens to reduce the amount of stormwater from entering the combined sewer system.
4. The MMSD is funding \$14,000 of the \$15,000 project costs.

Fiscal Impact

1. Adopting File 050394 authorizes the execution of a \$1,000 capital funding agreement with the South Shore Park Watch Group as reimbursement for its downspout disconnection program.
2. File 050394 authorizes and directs the Comptroller to transfer these funds using applicable 2005 Capital budget authority.

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