



Office of the
City Manager

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Memorandum

TO: Lee D. Garrity, City Manager
FROM: Gregory M. Turner, Assistant City Manager
DATE: August 8, 2017
SUBJECT: Information – Drainage Concerns of Property Owners along Cassell Street

At the May 9, 2017 meeting of the Public Works Committee information was brought to share the concerns of sixteen property (16) owners along Cassell Street which have an eroded stream channel behind their properties. Staff determined that the length of the impacted stream behind the homes is approximately 1,253 feet and could cost over \$600,000 to stabilize.

The 70/30 private property drainage assistance program was explained to the property owners, in which they explained that they could not afford to participate in the program. However, the owners are requesting that the City investigate alternate funding solutions to stabilize the eroded stream channel.

This memorandum outlines supplemental information requested by the Public Works Committee regarding the availability of grant funding to assist in the repair as well as the ability to compel the neighbors to participate in stormwater projects.

Funding availability for stream restoration projects

Staff have researched funding availability of various state and federal agencies such as the Clean Water Management Trust Fund, FEMA and other agencies that have historically provided funding for environmental projects. Staff is not aware of any current funding availability for a project of this magnitude and scope.

Legal remedies to compel citizen participation in private property stormwater projects

Legal staff have advised that it would be difficult for the City to compel a private citizen to participate in a private property drainage assistance effort if the citizen's drainage issue does not violate any City Code provisions or impact the public right-of-way.

Possible adjustments to the current 70/30 Policy

One possible option could be to alter the current 70/30 policy to provide increased assistance for owners that are less than the median home value. According to Zillow, the median home value in the City is \$124,000. Cost share assistance could be increased to 80/20 if these criteria are met. Also, the loan payback period for cost share participants could be extended from 5 years to 10 years to lower payments over time.

CityLink311

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City Council: Mayor Allen Joines; Vivian H. Burke, Mayor Pro Tempore, Northeast Ward; Denise D. Adams, North Ward; Dan Besse, Southwest Ward; Robert C. Clark, West Ward; Molly Leight, South Ward; Jeff MacIntosh, Northwest Ward; Derwin L. Montgomery, East Ward; James Taylor, Jr., Southeast Ward; City Manager: Lee D. Garrity



View looking southeast (upstream) behind properties on Cassell.



View looking northwest (downstream) behind properties on Cassell.