
MEETING DATE: April 15, 2019
SUBMITTED BY: Brent Mareck, City Manager
SUBJECT: Certified Levee Study - Resolution of Support



COUNCIL ACTION:

A motion to adopt Resolution 114-19 supporting the Carver Levee certification project.

OVERVIEW:

The construction of the Carver Levee was initiated in 1965, after significant flooding from the Minnesota River had devastated the downtown. The Carver Levee was not designed using formal engineering practices and as such does not have recorded drawings related to its construction. Although the levee system has protected the community for many years, it has a variety of documented deficiencies including steep slopes, freeboard heights, and obstructions within the toe setback area.

Ultimately the lack of recorded drawings, coupled with system deficiencies, does put the levee in a position to be certified using criteria established by the Federal Emergency Management System (FEMA). In order to be considered certified, the levee must meet minimum standards for operation, design, and maintenance as defined by FEMA. The lack of certification, among other things, requires properties located within the floodplain to purchase flood insurance.

The aging of this critical infrastructure, along with the burdensome costs associated with carrying flood insurance, has resulted in numerous efforts to certify the levee system. Over the last several decades, the City has sought funding opportunities and technical support from Stantec, Mead & Hunt, the Army Corps of Engineers, and FEMA in the pursuit of modernization and certification of the levee.

In October of 2018 a proposal from WSB was accepted to develop a concept plan to modernize and certify the Carver Levee. After four months of intensive research and study, a concept plan for the modernization and certification of the Carver Levee was presented to the City Council at the February 19, 2019, meeting.

Based on the anticipated costs for certification, the project only appears to be feasible with significant financial support from other local, regional, and state partners. Specifically, the City may consider seeking special legislation from the State of Minnesota to fund a significant portion of the project. As a “kick-off” to the project, staff has prepared a resolution of support for City Council consideration. The resolution serves two purposes:

- 1) Verification of the City Council’s support of the concept plan developed for the modernization and certification of Carver Levee.
- 2) Authorization for the City Council and Staff to pursue special legislation and seek other for funding support for the project.

The adoption of the resolution **does not** serve as an authorization to proceed with the construction or commit funding toward certification project for the Carver Levee. In addition, the City will be planning and coordinating engagement to provide residents and stakeholders with opportunities to learn more and ask questions about the concept plan for the project.

FINANCIAL:

The concept plan anticipates that the certification of the Carver Levee will require a \$10,000,000 investment to complete the project.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve as presented.

ATTACHMENTS:

- 1) Resolution of Support – 114-19
- 2) Overview - Certified Levee Concept
- 3) Full Presentation – Certified Levee Concept
- 4) Levee Certification Fact Sheet - FEMA