

TO: The Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: Michael C. Van Milligen, City Manager

SUBJECT: National Disaster Resilience Grant (NDRG)

DATE: June 13, 2016

The City of Dubuque has received \$160 million in federal and state grants to support the \$219 million Bee Branch Watershed Flood Mitigation Project. The most recent award was a \$31.5 million National Disaster Resilience Grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The City will also be receiving \$630,000 for administrative expenses. The special significance of this grant is that \$8.4 million is dedicated to direct assistance to 320 low income properties who have suffered flood damage. This is the first major flood grant the City has received that provides this direct assistance to property owners.

The City has five years to complete the work on these 320 properties. This will be a massive effort that will require development of an organizational structure to deliver the assistance. The grant will fund five positions and some service contracts. Housing and Community Development Department Director Alvin Nash and City Engineer Gus Psihoyos are recommending the creation of two limited term City positions, Resiliency Project Coordinator in the Housing and Community Development Department and a Grant Accountant in the Budget Office.

The City will issue a Request for Proposals for inspection services and Healthy Homes Services. Also, the City will contract with ECIA for technical services.

This grant will coordinate with the recent Federal Lead Paint Remediation Grant that will impact 127 properties over the next three years and the newly created CHANGE program that over the next five years will acquire 100 dilapidated rental properties and convert them to home ownership. This means the City's most economically challenged neighborhoods will see their flooding problems cured and see well over 500 properties have significant rehabilitation improvements.

Housing and Community Development Department Director Alvin Nash and City Engineer Gus Psihoyos are recommending:

- Hire two full-time limited term City employees, the Project Coordinator and the Grant Accountant

- Approval to contract with ECIA as a sole-source agency to function as a Council of Governments to provide technical assistance for the administrative plan, perform 106 environmental reviews, manage the relocation process where applicable and maintain state and federal administrative procedures as required
- Develop and solicit request for proposals for the Home Advocate Services
- Develop and solicit request for proposals for the inspection services and the resiliency rehab work

I concur with the recommendation and respectfully request Mayor and City Council approval.

City staff now has a presentation.


Michael C. Van Milligen

MCVM:jh
Attachment

cc: Barry Lindahl, City Attorney
Cindy Steinhauser, Assistant City Manager
Teri Goodmann, Assistant City Manager
Alvin Nash, Housing and Community Development Department Director
Gus Psihoyos, City Engineer