



CITY OF CONCORD

REPORT TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Edward L. Roberge, PE, City Engineer

DATE: August 26, 2016

SUBJECT: Report from the City Engineer requesting that the City Manager be authorized to apply for and accept an Aquatic Resource Management Program Grant with the NH Department of Environmental Services in conjunction with the Portsmouth Street Culvert Replacement Project (CIP83).

Recommendation

Accept this report recommending that the City Manager be authorized to apply for and accept an Aquatic Resource Management (ARM) Program Grant with the NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) in conjunction with the Portsmouth Street Culvert Replacement Project (CIP83).

Background

The City Council will recall that upon the I-93 drainage failure (sink hole), funds from CIP83/2015 that were to fund a culvert replacement on Portsmouth Street were redirected to support drainage improvements on Storrs Street. That left the funds available for the Portsmouth Street project \$125,000 short.

Discussion

The City has been tracking a grant program where funding for flood mitigation/water resource improvements could help offset the costs for the Portsmouth Street culvert replacement. The NHDES Aquatic Resource Management Program funds eligible projects that mitigate and improve flood flow within sensitive resource areas and look to improve ecosystem functionality (level of water restored to wetland areas where previously hindered or constrained – in our case restricted by a culvert crossing on Portsmouth Street).

The City's wetland scientist has evaluated this opportunity and believes our culvert replacement project is a strong candidate for funding. The City would seek \$150,000 in grant funds to accompany the remaining \$275,000 for the project.

Unfortunately, applications for this program were due on August 30th which was prior to the next City Council meeting. The City Manager has been apprised of this grant deadline and was in agreement that it is an invaluable opportunity that—if successful—would allow us to complete this project and save Concord taxpayers money. The City Manager authorized the submission of the application. Of course, if the grant application is successful, we would seek Council's formal authorization to enter into an agreement and appropriate grant funds.

elr/E