

Agenda Report

September 15, 2014 City Council Meeting

September 15, 2014
Item No. 19

ISSUE: Walnut Creek WMA (Watershed Management Authority) grant application through the DNR- Letter of Support needed.

BACKGROUND:

Earlier this year, City Council adopted a 28E agreement with cities in the Walnut Creek Watershed to form a Watershed Management Authority (WMA). The Des Moines MPO is working on an application on behalf of the WMA for state funding through the Iowa DNR. The MPO is asking for a Letter of Support from each community. The DNR Watershed Implementation Grants give funding assistance to local groups to put a Watershed Management Plan into action. Watershed Management Plans identify problems in a watershed, develop solutions to improve water quality and create strategies to put the plan into action. Windsor Heights is at the bottom on the Walnut Creek Watershed; the need to stay involved in planning and action for the entire watershed is crucial to protect our residents.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the City Council approve the Letter of Support as outlined.

STAFF CONTACTS:

Sheena Danzer, City Inspector/Zoning Administrator



City of
**Windsor
Heights**
the heart of it all

September 11, 2014

Iowa DNR
Wallace State Office Building
502 East 9th Street, 4th Floor
Des Moines, IA 50319-0034

Mayor:
Diana Willits

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Pro Tem)
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Betty Glover
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Jeff Fiegenschuh

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Christopher Cross

Police Chief:
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**Director of
Public Works:**
Jason VanAusdall

**City Inspector/Zoning
Administrator:**
Sheena Danzer

**Administrative
Assistant:**
Danielle Nelson

City Attorney:
Matt Brick

1133 66th Street
Windsor Heights, IA
50324
515/279-3662
515/279-3664 fax
www.windsorheights.org

The City of Windsor Heights supports the health and sustainability of the Walnut Creek Watershed. To better support the watershed in which our residents live in, a clear strategy must be implemented. The City supports the Des Moines MPO in applying for a Walnut Creek Watershed Management Authority grant.

The City of Windsor Heights strives to provide high quality infrastructure, water quality, and flood protection for its residents. These goals clearly relate to the goals in the Watershed Management Authority grant outline. As the City has entered into a 28E agreement with other jurisdictions in the Walnut Creek Watershed, we will continue to participate at every level possible to implement policy and advocacy, data gathering, communication strategies, infrastructure changes, etc. that are most fitting for the watershed. Coordinated planning is needed for a viable watershed for the future. This would bring a great opportunity for communities to work together to find solutions to better protect our residents.

The City of Windsor Heights encourages the state to fund the grant to help improve water quality in our region.

Sincerely,

Diana Willits
Mayor

