


COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number:	21-430	Meeting:	October 18, 2021
	Agenda Item:	29	Roll Call:	21-1566
	Submitted by:	Benjamin R. Page, Parks and Recreation Director		

AGENDA HEADING:

Approval of agreement with Des Moines Water Works (DMWW) regarding flashboards on the Des Moines River near the Center Street Dam and authorizing City Manager to permit flashboards to remain in place for up to four (4) additional annual periods.

SYNOPSIS:

Approval of the agreement with Board of Water Works Trustees (Ted Corrigan: CEO and General Manager, 2201 George Flagg Parkway, Des Moines, Iowa 50321) for Center Street Dam operations and flashboard repairs.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: Total estimated cost of potential flashboard repairs is \$24,320 to be reimbursed by DMWW.

Funding Source: FY2022 Operating Budget, Parks and Recreation, Marina Operations, PK201289, Page 171.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- DMWW desires that the flashboards at the Center Street Dam remain in place during the 2021 winter season to help provide an ample supply of raw water available at the Des Moines River Intake and Pumping Facility upstream of the Center Street Dam.
- The City's normal procedure is to remove the flashboards at the Center Street Dam during the winter season to prevent damage to the flashboards and related pins, but is willing to cooperate with DMWW request to leave the flashboards in place, subject to the terms of the agreement and to take whatever action is needed to comply with any regulatory authority or that is in the interest of public safety and welfare.
- DMWW has agreed to reimburse the City for the cost of materials and labor to repair or replace such flashboards and related pins as a result of impacts related to leaving the flashboards in place during the winter season. The effective date of this agreement is October 31, 2021, and shall remain in effect until August 31, 2022, with the option to renew annually up to August 31, 2026.

- Through an agreement with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, the City will place flashboards that are 2-feet high and 9-feet long and made of corrugated steel on the Center Street Dam. This is to aid in providing enough water depth for Birdland Marina and the Des Moines River which are dependent upon the river's cubic foot per second (CFS) flow.
- Flashboard placement increases the dam height by backing water up the river and increasing harbor and river water depth by approximately two (2) feet. The flashboards are removed in the fall to mitigate flooding for the following winter melt and spring rains and to prevent damage to the flashboards due to ice jams and large trees. This annual process has been taking place in this location of Des Moines for more than 30 years and boaters on the Des Moines River at Birdland Marina are advised 24 to 36 hours ahead of the scheduled installation and removal dates that water levels will become lower.
- Several factors are considered in preparation for the installation of flashboards, which cannot be performed until there are acceptable conditions at Saylorville Reservoir and the level of Des Moines River is adequate. These include but are not limited to:
 - The outflow at Saylorville Reservoir is 4,000 CFS or less.
 - Saylorville Reservoir is at normal pool elevation, so inflow does not exceed outflow.
 - The 2nd Avenue River gauge is at 14.5-feet or below.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: November 9, 2020

Roll Call Number: [20-1782](#)

Action: [Approval](#) of agreement with Des Moines Water Works regarding flash boards on the Des Moines River near the Center Street Dam. ([Council Communication No. 20-477](#)) Moved by Boesen to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE**ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE**

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