

City of Scottsbluff, Nebraska

Monday, November 3, 2014

Regular Meeting

Item Reports4

Council to authorize the Mayor to send a letter of support for a Nebraska Silver Jackets project proposal to update flood plain studies for the region.

Staff Contact: Annie Folck, City Planner

Agenda Statement

Item No.

For meeting of: November 3, 2014

AGENDA TITLE: Council to authorize staff to send a letter of support for a Nebraska Silver Jackets project proposal to update flood plain studies for the region.

SUBMITTED BY DEPARTMENT/ORGANIZATION: Planning and Zoning

PRESENTATION BY:

SUMMARY EXPLANATION: The Nebraska Silver Jackets are a collaborative interagency team that works together to reduce flood risk across the state. Some agencies involved include NDNR, NEMA, FEMA, and USACE. This group is currently working on a proposal for funding an updated study of the flood areas of our region (Scottsbluff, Gering, and Terrytown). We have been asked to submit a letter of support describing how we would utilize the information in the study and what we could contribute to the collaborative project, both in-kind contributions and actual cash match. The data collected by the study would be extremely important for Scottsbluff's floodplain management, especially in the Winters Creek drainage area. Having this data available will be a prerequisite for any development in that drainage area, and if we do not have sufficient floodplain information, it will be a significant barrier to development.

BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION:

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends a letter of support be sent that describes our commitment, in staff time and financially, to the project

EXHIBITS

Resolution Ordinance Contract Minutes Plan/Map

Other (specify) _____

NOTIFICATION LIST: Yes No Further Instructions

APPROVAL FOR SUBMITTAL: _____
City Manager

Rev 3/1/99CClerk



2525 Circle Drive

Scottsbluff, NE 69361

308-632-4136

November 4, 2014

Tony D. Krause, P.E., CFM
Hydraulic Engineer
Flood Risk and Floodplain Management
USACE Omaha District
1616 Capitol Ave., Ste. 9000
Omaha, NE 68128

Dear Mr. Krause,

The City of Scottsbluff is responsible for regulating floodplain development within our zoning jurisdiction, a significant portion of which is located in the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). Over the last several years, the City has made great progress in improving our floodplain management practices. We are committed to ensuring that future development does not result in increased flood elevations; however, this is very difficult in some areas of our floodplain due to a lack of detailed information. The Winters Creek drainage area, which is a relatively large Approximate A zone, is an area where we foresee the City growing in the future. We are hopeful that by collaborating with the Silver Jackets, we will be able to obtain data which we can then adopt for use in regulating development in that zone. If we do not have such information available, we are hesitant to allow any development in that area without requiring detailed studies for each development, which would be a significant impediment to any businesses considering relocating or expanding in our community.

In order to best serve our citizens, we are also considering joining the CRS program. In addition to providing us with better information on which to base our floodplain management decisions, the proposed project would also provide better information on flood risk for structures in the community and alternatives to mitigate the risk. This is all information that we would be able to utilize to better inform property owners in the floodplain and which would assist us in reaching our goal of obtaining a CRS designation.

The City is excited about the prospect of a collaborative effort between the Silver Jackets and neighboring communities. We are prepared to support the project with in-kind and/or monetary contributions. Our staff is prepared to assist with public outreach, meeting facilitation, and providing all previous studies and information we have available to us. One such study is the North Platte River Floodplain Evaluation and Floodway Mitigation Report, the final draft of which was completed in September 2014. We believe that the Silver Jackets will be able to provide a level of expertise that would far surpass anything that we could do on our own, and we look forward to working with them on this project.

Sincerely,

Randy Meininger, Mayor
City of Scottsbluff