



ALAN BRUBAKER, P.E., P.S.

SUMMIT COUNTY ENGINEER

DATE: April 29, 2014

SUBJECT: 2014 Storm Water Funding Detail

FROM: Steven C. Brunot
Director of Administration

The required budget is more than the \$100,000 the Executive included in his original proposal to Council; therefore, I have broken down the line-items to facilitate any necessary reductions.

The amount estimated for ditch maintenance activities is \$65,000. These include participating in a grant project with the City of Fairlawn. Fairlawn is requesting funding through the Ohio EPA, 2014 Surface Water Improvement Fund. The proposed improvement may help with current drainage issues in Copley Township.

We are also proposing to remove debris from several ditches in Copley Township to improve flow and removal of beaver dams throughout the County which will include necessary trapping and relocation of the beavers as well.

The amount estimated for non-administrative support services is \$85,000. The biggest expense in this area will be the USGS stream monitoring agreement. As you may recall, when we discussed renewal of the USGS agreement, we substantially reduced the contract for 2014 to reduce costs to \$20,000. However, as we pointed out at that time, the lower level of monitoring can only be done for one year without seriously jeopardizing the usefulness of the data that has been collected for decades. We are proposing to restore the monitoring program to its prior level to protect the value of the accumulated data. In our discussions, we covered that the federal matching funds we had been receiving might not be available if we reduced our efforts in 2014. I have confirmed with USGS that those funds are not available to us at this time.

The amount estimated for ditch assessment preparation is \$85,000. How to fund the major storm water improvements that are needed in the County is still an issue that has not been resolved. While we consider whether to pursue the proposed utility, we are taking the initial steps to fund some projects through the ditch petition process. The studies included in our proposal will aid Council, the affected communities and homeowners in determining whether to pursue ditch assessment petitions. These initial studies are intended to provide rough cost estimates that will help council decide whether to pursue these projects.

The amount estimated for administrative support is \$38,244. Recently, administrative costs increased as we developed County Ordinances to create Chapter

943 and Chapter 942. Chapter 943 is complete and will be self-funding for the future. Chapter 942 is substantially complete. We anticipate that further amendment to the proposed language will be prepared by your office and will thus no longer be an expense to the storm water program and enable administrative costs to return to typical levels.

The total estimated cost for the current year's activities is \$273,244. This amount does not include any major project funding. As we have stated in the past, we are concerned that a complete surface water management program is not sustainable using general fund resources. Funding for major projects is not included because of the absence of a viable funding source. However, this request will provide the groundwork necessary for establishing future funding of major projects through the ditch petition process and will be helpful in preparing initial budget requests for the surface water utility if Chapter 942 moves forward.

Tamela Lee requested a cost estimate for ditch work in Copley Township being proposed by the township trustees. I have included a rough estimate for costs associated with the 1-mile ditch dredging and restoration project being investigated by the township. This project would potentially be included as part of the larger Wolf Creek project, if that is approved. **As it stands, restoration of 1-mile of Copley Ditch in the affected area will cost between \$460,000 and \$502,000.** If the Executive and Council determine that we should proceed with this project, we suggest it be funded separately from, and in addition to, the basic storm water program that we have proposed. The estimate uses actual costs from similar projects, and does not include a detail breakdown for engineering, surveying, right-of-way acquisition and construction.