

**VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE
REPORT FOR THE VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 11, 2014 AGENDA**

SUBJECT:	TYPE:	SUBMITTED BY:
Proposed Stormwater Utility Grant Program	Resolution Ordinance Motion ✓ Discussion Only	Nan Newlon, P.E. Director of Public Works

SYNOPSIS

Discussion regarding implementation of a grant program, within the Stormwater Utility’s Credit and Incentive Policy, which would provide churches with funding assistance to construct stormwater improvements on private property that benefit the stormwater system.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

The goals for 2011-2018 identified *Top Quality Infrastructure and Steward of Financial and Environmental Sustainability*.

FISCAL IMPACT

Maximum of \$200,000 annually from the Stormwater Fund budget

RECOMMENDATION

Changes to the Stormwater Credit and Incentive policy at the direction of the Council.

BACKGROUND

The Village’s stormwater utility includes a credit and incentive program designed to encourage property owners to proactively manage stormwater on their property by incorporating sustainable stormwater management practices. These practices in turn benefit the system as a whole. Based on discussions of the Council during the budget preparation process, staff has drafted a proposal to provide churches with a reimbursement for a portion of the design and construction costs for improvements on their properties that further the objectives of the stormwater system.

Staff is proposing a grant program for churches within the Village’s corporate limits that receive a stormwater utility bill from the Village. The program would have the following key points:

- Eligible costs would be design and construction costs for improvements that decrease the site runoff rate, reduce volume of stormwater leaving the property, improve the quality of stormwater runoff, reduce impervious area or a combination thereof.
- Funding would be provided on a first-come, first-served basis to applicants that meet the program qualifications and as funding is available. A maximum of 75% of the cost would be reimbursed to the property owner, up to a maximum of \$5,000 for design and \$20,000 for construction of the improvements. The applicant’s share (25% of the project cost) could include in-kind donations of labor, materials, and services.
- An applicant would be eligible to apply for and receive funding assistance on an annual basis (up to a maximum reimbursement of \$25,000 per fiscal year).

To encourage the completion of work it is recommended that grants be paid to the applicant at the completion of construction.

It is also recommended that applicants meet with the Village's Stormwater Administrator to review the proposed work prior to a grant award. Applicants would have the ability to request that permit fees be waived.

If approved staff would prepare a plan to notify and educate property owners who would be eligible for this grant. Staff from the Conservation Foundation has expressed willingness to assist in this effort through their "Conservation at Work" and "Conservation at Home" programs.