

REQUEST FOR ACTION

<u>Department Head</u>	<u>City Council Date</u>	<u>Agenda Item</u>
Phil Kern, City Administrator	May 4, 2010	

Discuss application for wetland exemption permit for Ditch 34 improvements.

ACTION REQUESTED

Staff would like to update the Council regarding the proposed application for Ditch 34 improvements.

BACKGROUND

Staff met with representatives from the Wright County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) this past week to discuss the City's application for a wetland exemption permit. In 2009, the County and SWCD proposed some improvements to Ditch 34. Commissioner Russek suggested the City make the improvements as part of the County's process for permitting the City to discharge storm water into the ditch from a future industrial park.

In December, a public meeting was held with landowners along the ditch. In summary, the landowners disagreed with the improvements the County proposed and the City had applied to complete. The landowners felt the project was in the wrong location and didn't solve the problems the ditch has with crushed tile and failure to properly drain the land. The City at that time agreed to allow an extension on the review of its application so the County could review the tile in the spring.

Last week, staff met with Colleen Allen and Kerry Saxton of SWCD. They confirmed that in fact, the most beneficial improvements were in an area different from what the County previously proposed. They suggested some reconstruction of tile on property owned by Ken and Diane Barlow, as opposed to open ditch improvements further to the west. Since the City had applied for a wetland exemption for the previously discussed project to the west, Allen and Saxton recommended withdrawal of that application.

Staff informed the SWCD, via the attached letter, that the City would withdraw its application before the May 1 deadline. Staff would recommend that the City continue its process with a permit application before the County to discharge into the ditch. Staff would also recommend that if the County secures an improvement project that it and the landowners agree is beneficial that the City consider what role it can play in the project.

FUNDING

None

ATTACHMENTS

- April 30, 2010 Letter to Wright County SWCD