

Staff Report

File #: 23-184

Version: 1

Date: 5/8/2023

Item #: 5. a.

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Councilor Micki Varney, Ward 8

SUBJECT:

Motion from Councilor Micki Varney regarding a letter of support for the Glenn-Gibson Watershed Council's development of a Floodplain Species Assessment and Natural Floodplain Functions Plan.

Ward(s): All Wards

Councilor(s): All Councilors

Neighborhood(s): All Neighborhoods

MOTION:

I move that the City Council provide a letter of support for the Glenn-Gibson Watershed Council's grant application to the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board to conduct a Floodplain Species Assessment and Natural Floodplain Functions Plan for the floodplain areas in Salem.

DISCUSSION:

- A Floodplain Species Assessment identifies the threatened and endangered species that have range or critical habitat within the floodplain of a community.
- A Natural Floodplain Functions Plan recommends actions to support conservation or recovery of those species.
- Development of these products is consistent with the City's Floodplain Management Plan, Comprehensive Plan, and Climate Action Plan.
- Glenn-Gibson Watershed Council submitted a proposal to fund development of these resources to the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) Open Solicitation Technical Assistance grant program on May 1. Council's letter of support can still be added to the application package.
- The OWEB Technical Assistance Program is a competitive grant program. Reviewers have indicated to the Glenn-Gibson Watershed Council that documentation of local government support makes the grant application more competitive.

- Glenn-Gibson Watershed Council worked closely with Public Works staff in developing the grant application and will continue to work closely with staff if the grant is awarded to ensure the work products are consistent with the City's plans, goals, and needs.
- FEMA encourages communities that participate in the Community Rating System (CRS) of the National Floodplain Insurance Program to develop and implement floodplain species assessments and natural floodplain functions plans to support the protection and restoration of threatened and endangered species within their jurisdictions.
- The City participates in the CRS Program and will receive CRS credits for use and/or adoption of the assessment and plan.
- A draft of the proposed letter of support is provided as Attachment 1.

Attachments:

1. Draft letter of support