



Alex Magee
Deputy Director - Administration and Finance

MEMORANDUM

TO: Eileen M. Donoghue, City Manager *EMD*

FROM: Alex Magee, Deputy Director - Administration and Finance
Christine Clancy, DPW Commissioner
Katherine Moses, Energy Manager

DATE: May 4, 2021

RE: 4/13/2021 Motion by C. Drinkwater - Request City Manager provide an update on the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness action grants to help the City of Lowell become more climate resilient through climate change adaptation projects

The Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Action grant is offered annually and provides financial resources to MVP designated municipalities that are seeking to advance priority adaptation actions to address climate change impacts. MVP Action grants are available to municipalities who have received designation from the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) as an MVP Community. Lowell received this designation September 30, 2020 after the completion of the MVP planning process.

The City received an MVP Planning grant in FY20 to complete the process of becoming a designated MVP Community. The planning process included engaging key stakeholders to identify strengths and vulnerabilities when it comes to the potential local impacts of climate change. Through this process, stakeholders identify priority actions to enhance resiliency in the community. Because many steps involved in the MVP process overlap with the steps required to update the Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP), which is required to be updated every five years, Lowell combined the two processes through the planning grant. The resulting HMP/MVP document is on the City Council agenda for adoption tonight. Both updates allow the City to be eligible for further grant funding to address identified priorities and hopefully blunt the impact that climate change will bring.

In FY21, Lowell received a \$138,000 MVP Action grant to develop the Claypit Brook Climate Resilience Stormwater Management Capital Improvement Plan. The project takes a comprehensive look at potential solutions to address the projected increase in frequency of flooding in the Claypit Brook Watershed in the Pawtucketville neighborhood. Results of the analysis are anticipated around June 2021. Our team would be happy to update the Council on the findings at that time.

The City's MVP Core team recently met to discuss the status of the MVP program in Lowell. This team is comprised of key staff from various City departments, including the City Manager's office, DPD, DPW, Engineering, Water/Wastewater, Police, Fire and Emergency Management, and represents a group tasked with making recommendations to the Administration on the direction of MVP projects. The Core



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Team met and pledged support to the ongoing efforts to mitigate the local hazards related to climate change within the City. There is also a smaller project team which is tasked with handling the day to day management of MVP projects. This group is comprised of Katherine Moses, who handles most of the project management, Christine Clancy, and Alex Magee. This project team will lean into other Core Team members as necessary to complete various project related tasks.

The City recently submitted an application for the FY22 round of MVP Action grants for the Assessment and Evaluation of Climate Resilient Alternatives for Earthen Dam at Beaver Brook. This is another priority area identified through the prior MVP planning process. The earthen dam at Beaver Brook was created by a city resident in response to severe flooding in 2006. Although it is credited with protection of the neighborhood during the intense rainfall at that time, its structural integrity has never been evaluated. If the EEA grants the City the requested resources, we will use the funds to assess the conditions of the dam and evaluate potential resilient alternatives. A vote to Apply-Accept-Expend this Action grant is included as part of this week's agenda.

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.