

STAFF REPORT

MTG. DATE:	January 4th, 2023
TO:	Public Works, Sustainability & Properties Committee
FROM:	JJ Larson – Deputy Administrator/Director of Public Works & Utilities Brian Peterson – Deputy Director of Public Works & Utilities
RE:	Partner with Dane County for Stormwater Plan Review & Erosion Control Control Inspections

BACKGROUND

Dane County handles stormwater management plan review & approval and erosion control inspections for a number of municipalities through their Land and Water Resources Department (LWRD). Village staff met with their team to discuss a potential partnership a few months ago. Staff then reached out to a number of the communities served by Dane County LWRD for feedback and heard nothing but positives.

OVERVIEW

The plan is to have the County team handle stormwater management plan review as well as conduct all erosion control inspections on behalf of the Village. One concern was matching the responsive nature of our team; Village staff and consultants pride ourselves on responding to potential developers, contractors and engineers in an extremely efficient manner and I don't want a partnership with the County to impact that level of responsiveness. I brought this concern to them and had a frank discussion where I was convinced their team appropriately prioritizes plan review to meet their partners' needs. Additionally, there's nothing in the draft contract language that would tie us to the partnership if the County wasn't meeting our expectations; we could pivot back to Strand relatively quickly.

This partnership will also benefit developers and contractors in the Village as they will see a drop in cost for review and erosion control inspections by shifting to the County staff. While we've gotten great service from our Strand team, the County has economies of scale to dispatch field engineers/inspectors to do these checks. Additionally, the County handles erosion control inspection work for most towns in Dane County (including the Town of Cottage Grove), meaning a more efficient process for handling concerns between the Village and Town through one agency working on behalf of both our interests.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends entering into an agreement with Dane County to handle stormwater plan review and erosion control inspections for the Village.