

**Item 24-1444: Approve single-source award of 2024D Contract for Northland Creek and Bellaire Watersheds Stormwater Evaluation to Brown and Caldwell in an amount not to exceed \$301,200.00**

**Utilities Committee**

Tue, Nov 12, 2024 4:30PM

**Aldersperson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 03:26**

Moving down, 24-1444, approve single source award 2024D contract for Northland Creek and Bel Air watershed storm water evaluation to Brown and Caldwell in an amount not to exceed \$301,200.

**Aldersperson Chad Doran (District 15) 03:43**

Move to approve.

**Aldersperson Patti Heffernan (District 8) 03:43**

Second.

**Aldersperson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 03:45**

All right, we have a motion and a second. Deputy Director, go ahead.

**Deputy Director Pete Neuberger (Public Works) 03:49**

Thank you. Chair. So happy to answer any questions on the information that's provided in the memo. I would like to provide some clarification on the physical limits of this. So, the study has been described as covering the Northland Creek and the Bellair watershed. So just for purposes of clarification, the Northland Creek watershed boundaries approximately are bound to the north by highway 41 bound to the east by highway 441, to the south by Glendale Avenue, and to the west by Mason Street. And then the Bellair ravine study is south of Glendale Avenue. The east boundary is roughly the river. The south boundary is roughly Franklin Street, and the West boundary is roughly Mason Street. So, it's a significant portion, very significant portion of the city, north of the river and south of highway 41.

**Aldersperson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 04:51**

Thank you. Any comments or questions? Alder Croatt, go ahead.

**Aldersperson Chris Croatt (District 14) 04:56**

Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Deputy Director Neuberger. Could you restate the boundaries for the Northland Creek watershed again? Did you say 41 to the north—interstate 41?

**Deputy Director Pete Neuberger (Public Works) 05:06**

Yes, the North boundary is highway 41. The east boundary is highway 441. The south boundary is roughly Glendale Avenue, and the West boundaries is roughly Mason Street.

**Aldersperson Chris Croatt (District 14) 05:22**

Okay. Thank you.

**Aldersperson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 05:24**

All right. Thank you. Any other comments or questions? Seeing none, let's go ahead and vote on this item. All in favor, say aye. Aye. Any opposed or abstaining? There are none. That is recommended. Three Zero for approval.

**Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 05:39**

Moving down our final action item, 24-1445 approve contract amendment number three for 2024-A storm water management plan review contract with Brown and Caldwell by an increase of \$115,000 for a total contract amount not to exceed \$228,000. Do I have a motion?

**Alderson Chad Doran (District 15) 06:02**

Move to approve.

**Alderson Patti Heffernan (District 8) 06:03**

Second.

**Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 06:04**

All right, I have a motion and a second, and I understand that this item is when a number of you will be wanting to speak. So go ahead and you can come first, state your name and address for the record and then share your comments.

**Rachel P. (Resident) 06:24**

It's already on? Perfect. Hi. My name is [Rachel P.]. My husband and I live at [XXXXX] North Viola Street. I was born and raised in the Fox Valley and went to school in Appleton. So, like many, I consider Appleton my home. What my husband and I experienced was tragic but entirely preventable. It is not unique only to us. Our neighborhood is a diverse micro chasm, and each resident has been burdened by this ongoing issue in their own way. As I share my story, I implore you, please do not mistake my passion for indignity or scapegoating. The physical, financial, and emotional damage caused by this incident was preventable. This was not a 100-year storm. I believe the Council's on the right track with this study, and should continue prioritizing meaningful action. May I pass out photographs?

**Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 07:12**

Certainly. Should they be given to you and then attached?

**Rachel P. (Resident) 07:21**

I have copies for all.

**Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 07:23**

Okay, just make sure that—yeah, make sure that Amanda gets one.

**Rachel P. (Resident) 07:28**

In the afternoon of July 5, 2024 Appleton experienced flash flooding, with water rising to waist levels on Viola Street between Pershing and Service Road. At the time of the time of the flooding event, my husband and I had only been living in our home for 11 months. We are first time homeowners. It had been raining all morning, but when the rain picked up, our storm and sanitary sewers couldn't keep up. I heard a loud crack, and then water rushing into the basement. The flood waters breached our foundation, creating two car door sized holes and 80,000 gallons of water filled our basement in five minutes. Ultimately, we had seven feet of water and four inches of mud in our basement. I grabbed our vital documents, our cat Raja, our wedding vows, and waded through knee deep water to the neighbor's house. After about 30 minutes, our little family was evacuated by boat by the Appleton Fire Department.

**Rachel P. (Resident) 08:40**

An hour or so after being evacuated, my husband and I returned to Viola Street to watch the relief efforts and check the damage to our neighborhood. When we arrived, I watched as city employees cleared the drains and open the manhole covers. Within an hour of the crew working on the storm and sanitary sewers, the water was waist high—the water that was waist high was completely gone. Keep in mind, some of that water went into the sanitary system and flowed out of my neighbors toilets into their basements, causing significant damage.

**Rachel P. (Resident) 09:09**

At first, I was relieved when I saw the water gone, but then I asked myself, if it was so simple for the city to clean the storm and sanitary sewers, why wasn't it maintained? Now, what I want all of you to understand is that we had even more rainfall the following weekend. So, anticipation of that rainfall, my husband and I put tarps up to cover the massive holes that exposed our basement to the outside. We watched the radar incessantly, sure that we would be pumping our basement again, considering that the ground was completely saturated. The storm hit our neighborhood with the same intensity as the week before, but not a drop of water flowed into our basement. What was different? The storm and sanitary sewers were just clean the week prior.

**Rachel P. (Resident) 09:50**

We proceeded to spend the next month displaced from our home, working tirelessly to rebuild and repurchase all that was lost. Like too many on our street, we rebuilt our foundation, redid our electrical, replaced our HVAC system, hot water, heater, washer, dryer and so much more. Our total cost will likely reach \$80,000. Of course, none of that is insured.

**Rachel P. (Resident) 10:12**

This is not new to our neighborhood. The city had previously acknowledged that storm water is a recurring issue and will persist if not addressed. If there are—if they are present today, I encourage those neighbors to share their story with the Council, as you have with our alderman.

**Rachel P. (Resident) 10:29**

A similar study previously conducted in the city of Appleton revealed that the current storm water systems are not sufficient for levels of rainfall associated with even a 25-year storm, much less a 100-year storm. I understand the previous study suggested a solution that was financially unrealistic for the city. However, if left unresolved, the city is choosing to allow this private nuisance to exist, and this is simply unacceptable.

**Rachel P. (Resident) 10:55**

While the damage of flooding is obvious (risk to public safety, health hazards from waterborne issues, and mold from excess moisture) the personal hardship that it creates is easy to ignore if you are not speaking to impacted individuals directly. On our block, we have multi-generational families, retired teachers, new parents, immigrants, and the financial blow of rebuilding will sting for years to come. We are not Appleton's most wealthy, but we are Appleton's most determined.

**Rachel P. (Resident) 11:24**

I urge the council to vote yes to fund and study comprehensive storm water management solutions expeditiously, as delay only increases risk. We already know when the next flooding event is going to happen. We have 25 years on the clock. You have the power to make meaningful differences by investing in preventative infrastructure that will protect the homes, families, and community you represent. Thank you for your time in considering the voices of homeowners impacted by these preventable issues. I trust the city of Appleton will do the right thing and demonstrate their commitment to resident safety, property and well-being. Thank you.

**Alderman Vered Meltzer (District 2) 12:01**

Thank you very much for sharing your story. Who else would like to approach the microphone. In the back there, come on up and state your name and address for the record.

**David M. (Resident) 12:17**

My name is [David M.] My wife and I Sheri lived at [XXXXX] North Viola Street. We have lived there—my spouse and I lived at 2613 North Viola since May 24 1974. 50 years residing at this address, we are the senior citizens on this block. There's another couple here we beat out by six months. Let me share with you our history of flooding on this block.

**David M. (Resident) 12:51**

We have experienced three flooding issues. The first was in 1974 shortly after moved into our house. Nearly four inches of rain caused a small river to flow between our house and our detached garage. There was no construction north of OO, and other than the river flow, there was no area flooding. An analysis of the 1938 aerial map of what was then Charles Kristin farm on Meade street showed two swales running across the property in the vicinity of what then became Viola Street. This was named after one of his two daughters when the farm was developed in the nin—late 1950s. About 25 years later, around 1999, rains did cause this area to flood with water coming into the basements. By this time, the area north of OO had developed, causing increased water flow north of the county highway. In my opinion, however, increased traffic lanes on Northland Avenue resulted in a concrete river forming between Oneida Street and Meade Street during heavy rain and intense rains. The street curbs straddle this East flowing river—rain river—until it hits the right-hand turn onto Mead Street.

**Alderman Vered Meltzer (District 2) 14:18**

Excuse me. I'm sorry to interrupt you, but could the audience keep side conversations to a minimum so that we can hear what the speaker is saying? Thank you very much.

**David M. (Resident) 14:28**

The river can then break over the Pizza Hut parking lot, flow over the Apostolic Truth Church parking lot and begin filling the backyards on Viola Street. The issue was complicated by the fact that the street curbs straddling the river continuing east on county OO, end one block west of Viola Street. With no curb, the river can again break into the right jump the non-existent ditch and also begin filling Viola street backyards. So, in my opinion, the issue is when the rain becomes so intense and so heavy that this river flowing down Northland Avenue starts to fill up the backyards and causes flooding in addition to the next subject.

**David M. (Resident) 15:25**

Now as to the July flood, which occurred about 25 years later. In addition to the above factors, in my opinion, the Viola Street flooding was complicated by storm sewer overload caused by the intersection of storm drain basins intersecting under the intersection of Ballard road and County Highway OO. The North basin drains the retention pond in Memorial Park. The South basin drains the Viola Street area. The city has constructed numerous wet and dry retention ponds with some even draining water overflow from the Town of Grand Chute. We originally lived on Birchwood Avenue. 1999 or so, I think there were four homes purchased—five home purchased on Birchwood Avenue to take overflow from the town of Grand Chute. The city has constructed numerous wet and die retention ponds, with some even draining overflow from Town of Grand Chute. To keep Viola Street from future flooding why not construct water retention ponds south of Northland Avenue and County Highway OO?

**David M. (Resident) 16:38**

I want to thank you very much for the action that you are taking. With the 50 years of living on North Viola Street, I can tell you where every drop of water flows in any direction from my home. The ability to study and look at this issue is something that should be of concern. There is a church under construction on French Road. The Apostolic Truth Church is rebuilding. I don't know what's going to happen to their property there. But in 1993 the pastor of Apostolic Truth Church purchased land over on French Road at the intersection of the street that became known as Glory road and French road. What the future that parcel is now on Kesting Court, I do not know, but as part of your study, I'm sure you'll look into that. Thank you very much for your attention to this matter.

**Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 17:49**

Thank you very much for sharing your perspective and a lot of history too. Appreciate that. Who else would like to share their comments tonight?

**Eugene P. (Resident) 18:04**

[Skip P.] and I live at [XXXXX] North Viola Street—Eugene. I'm here to follow up what others have said. There have been a lot of tragedy in our neighborhood as a result of this. I am also one of those individuals who's lived in the same home for 50 years. We paid our taxes. We paid for our sidewalks. We paid for our streets. This is a reoccurring incident that's happening.

**Eugene P. (Resident) 18:36**

I also, just like Dave, want to commend you for taking the time and the effort to try to resolve the situation, or at least find out what's happened. This is very emotional to me because every time we listen to weather now we wonder, is this another flood that is going to take place? And we've all really had about as much as we can take with this one incident. We can't imagine what it would be like to have to go through it a second time. So, thank you very much. I'm very sincere when I said I back you 100%; please get this through our system so we can find out what has happened, what can be done to resolve the situation.

**Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 19:25**

Thank you. Who else would like to speak?

**Judy P. (Resident) 19:37**

My name is [Judy P.] and I live at 2519 North Viola Street. I'm not aware if everybody knows 25-26-27 is one great, big, long block. Kind of has a dip in the middle of the block. So, on the—this is a—we've lived there for 48 years, and this is the second time we've seen water flood people's basement. However, many people lost lot of items. Some of them didn't have insurance. Some didn't have coverage. It's a disaster for the whole block. We live right, like, the third house off of Viola Viola—I mean, Pershing. We did not have water; however, in the middle of the block where dips, it was four feet. They were evacuating people with the rubber rafts and stuff. We have a couple on the—in the neighborhood that live more down in the lower part, and they lost two vehicles that were sitting in the road. And we did not have water. We kept watching, but we did end up having water when the city came and they were told to pull the manhole covers, and it just gushed out of our toilet.

**Judy P. (Resident) 20:53**

So, we had—we were on the blessed end. We had, like seven, eight inches. However, everything was destroyed in the basement, that anything that touched the floor is destroyed, other than if it's wood, it could be washed, but the rest of it is just destroyed. The neighborhood has suffered from this. And this is not the first time. I think the city should be accountable and check into it and take care of it, because this is very true: the next week we had rain. It was again on Pershing Street by the corner of Pershing and Viola. It comes to like a T. The people in

that house were getting water in their basement. It's gotten to the point where everybody's afraid when it starts raining where we're going to be at. So, I just suggest that they take a look at it, do something about it. And like this happened, I said to my husband, maybe we should get a condo. We're getting we're getting older. We're getting too old to have to keep going through this, and I think that the city should be wanting to help the neighbors. Thank you.

**Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 21:58**

Thank you for sharing your experience with us. Who else would like to speak?

**Jake N. (Resident) 22:08**

Hi, I'm [Jake N.]. I live at [XXXXX] North Viola Street. I'm neighbors with a lot of these folks and their friends as well. On July 5, my basement flooded with over a foot and a half of sewage back up as a result of the rain water that surged our street. The city employees opened up the manhole covers in the middle of the road, and from that moment, I witnessed my toilet backing up in my basement. So as a result of this damage, I had to replace hvac, my water heater, and utilities, and so I think this study is some is of great concern. Thanks.

**Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 22:51**

Thank you. Who else would like to speak?

**Lisa K. (Resident) 23:08**

Hello. I'm [Lisa K.]. I live at [XXXXX] North Viola. Along with my neighbors here experienced this flooding. I moved into my home in 2021 in the midst of a flood, and at that point is when where was the Appleton Papers down on off of Wisconsin and Oneida had flooding, and my car flooded. I walked to my new home because we were in the midst of moving in, down the sidewalk, my house—right the power had gone off. The sump pump stopped pumping, got a little got water in the basement then. Now we fast forward to this year, and as everyone was saying, not only was it a result of the heavy rain, but also the pulling of a manhole cover.

**Lisa K. (Resident) 24:03**

I'm adding to this that my daughter this summer worked for the city of Green Bay public works department. As an engineering student working for Green Bay Public Works, she was able to sit with us, watch with us what was happening. And she was pointing out, as a student, some of the things that the City of Appleton should have already known and already taken care of. Her words to me as an 18-year-old was "Mom, the person who was in charge of this in the city of Appleton is not doing their job. My boss in Green Bay—" and she talked to her boss throughout all of this to find out what information we needed to get gathered from the city that this was has obviously been a known situation. And so, everyone is congratulating you, and I am glad that you're doing a study, but we need more than a study, right? We need action to be taken. And the information is already out there. It's in your records. We just need to act on it. Thank you very much.

**Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 25:25**

Thank you. Who else would like to speak?

**Jim B. (Resident) 25:54**

Hi, I'm [Jim B.]. I have a business at 1800 East Northland Avenue, and it's on the other end down towards Ballard road. Behind my business is Memorial Park. At the time of the flooding, July 5, the water came down through the drainage ditch and from the drainage ponds, and it went into my property, which I have a parking lot there for about 10 cars, and the building, the water came in so fast so heavy. There's a door there. It pushed the door right in on the building, and I ended up with three feet of water in my basement and the parking area lot.

**Jim B. (Resident)** 26:53

And then I talked to the mayor. He was there that day. Fire department came. They pumped it out. Took them about three hours to pump all the water out of there. Everything in the lower level of my basement is destroyed. Over \$200,000 worth of paper and machinery. I have—in three and a half months I have not heard anything from the City of Appleton, which I'm very disenchanted with the city and the employees. I talked the next day to engineering department, and they said they were going to come out, check things out the next day; they never showed up. So, I called them. They said, well, it's too wet back there. But right behind my business is the park and rec department. They were able to come out there and mow the lawn. So why couldn't the engineers go out there?

**Jim B. (Resident)** 27:56

When they redid that part of the park, they hired a contractor to regrade the stream that went through there, and I had two six-inch pipes running from my berm out into the ditch. They were supposed to correct that. They never did. They never showed up. In three and a half months, engineering department never showed up, and I haven't heard anything from the city whatsoever until this meeting now.

**Jim B. (Resident)** 28:32

I don't know what else to say other than I'm very just disenchanted with the city and the employees the way they handled that. They were going to furnish dumpsters out there. Never—the dumpsters never showed up. I had hired two dumpsters to bring all that damn—all that paper was soggy and wet. We had to destroy it and get rid of it all. The machinery, the electronic machinery that I had down there, all the electrical boards and the motors and everything are shot. So that's why it's way over \$200,000. So that's all I got to say.

**Aldersperson Vered Meltzer (District 2)** 29:13

Thank you for sharing that. I'm sorry that you haven't had the best experience, but city—I hope that city staff will be reaching out to you presently to follow up. Is there anyone else who wants to share their comments with the committee?

**Joseph S. (Resident)** 29:36

Hi, my name is **[Joseph S.]**. I live in District 14, **[XXXXXX]** North Viola. Our home is located at the lowest point of North Viola Street, in a block whose elevations form a distinct concavity to which most of the neighborhoods water will flow. Drive around the neighborhood and you will see that no other block has such a poorly designed elevation.

**Joseph S. (Resident)** 30:00

On July 5, I was home with my two-year-old son when—sorry. **[It sounded like he became tearful.]** I was home with my son when rain water overran the storm sewers, filled our street, driveway, yard, and neighborhood. The storm water then broke our basement windows and filled our home with nine feet of water. **[He paused. It sounded like he was trying to maintain his composure.]** Sorry. I won't go into all the things that my family lost, or the expenses we incurred, or how insurance doesn't actually cover any of this, but I do want to talk about one thing I think our entire neighborhood lost, and that was the trust in our neighborhood. And I want to be clear, not in our neighbors but in the safety and security of the geographic area we live in. We lost trust in our elected officials, who have a responsibility to ensure a minimal level of basic infrastructure security. We lost trust in our elected officials who have a basic responsibility to respond to their constituents. Most of us were well into multiple dumpster expenses before the city offered any sort of garbage pickup. Making sand bags available after a flood is far from helpful. If I may quote the mayor's own words to Governor Evers, "We do not have the local financial resources to support individual residents when they experience damage and loss from nature disasters." I feel compelled to point out the irony of these comments in the discussion we are having today to

potentially spend a significant amount of available and apparently discretionary funds. I understand how budgets and funds appropriation work, but surely we can all appreciate the optics of this situation, how it—and how it only further erodes our trust in our local government.

**Joseph S. (Resident) 30:40**

This is a long term, chronic problem in our neighborhood as you have heard from many members of our community. The city of Appleton has unfortunately had a consistent and negligible pattern of behavior, and has chosen to ignore what has been well documented. Yes, we received an uncommon amount of rain on July the fifth, but the fact was compounded by infrastructure that the city knew was problematic. Those of us who live there here today and on July 5 can only have wonder what the outcome might have been. I'm here today to encourage the City of Appleton to approve this action item and take a step towards earning the trust of the Viola Street Neighborhood back again. Thank you.

**Alderman Vered Meltzer (District 2) 32:44**

Thank you. Would anyone else like to speak? Would anyone else like to speak? And one final time, would anyone else like to share their comments with the committee tonight? All right, seeing none, I just want to thank all of you for coming out here tonight. I know that what you have experienced is truly devastating, and it's hard not to be moved with emotion myself. I certainly understand the trauma of the fear you feel now as you look at the weather radar and anticipate coming storms. So as the chair of this committee, I hope that we are able to act decisively, urgently, and quickly to mitigate things like this happening again, and I will certainly do everything I can in my power to support these studies and support a fast and rapid response to implementing whatever actionable items come out of these studies.

**Alderman Vered Meltzer (District 2) 33:58**

So, at this point, I'll recognize Alderman Croatt for District 14.

**Alderman Chris Croatt (District 14) 34:04**

Thank you, Chair Meltzer, and thank you for those comments. I share that sentiment with, you know, understanding the magnitude of what happened here in July of this year, twice, I may add, within about eight days. Thank these residents for coming tonight and sharing their stories. I saw a lot of this firsthand. It was truly devastating, unbelievable, you know, the amount of water that that collected in that area. So, I'm thankful that we're able to bring this forward here in 2024 with available funds, versus having to wait until next year and use funds from '25 budget year. So, I look forward to seeing how this goes.

**Alderman Chris Croatt (District 14) 34:50**

If I could ask Director, Deputy Director Neuberger a question about next steps timeline, just to give everyone kind of an idea of how long something like this takes to unfold. Obviously, at some point—what I've been sharing—at some point, you know, the results get published and come out, and recommendations get made, and that's when some tougher decisions have to be made. I don't see, you know, approving a study as a tough decision. It's what is in those studies that we would have to look at implementing at some point, which ultimately means pay for it. So, if you could just talk a little bit about the timeline, so everyone has an idea of how long these things can take and if there's any way to expedite that process.

**Deputy Director Pete Neuberger (Public Works) 35:36**

Sure. The DPW is would look to have a kickoff meeting with the consultant. If this gets approved at the next council meeting, we'd be looking to have a kickoff meeting before the end of the year, so in December. It could be many months by the time that we start to identify alternatives. The DPW would look to provide periodic updates with the Utilities Committee so the committee has an opportunity to check in and we can share



progress reports. I would say this is by far the largest study scope that we have taken on, and it will take time to identify potential solutions and then to share that information in an effective way so that staff and, ultimately, elected officials have the information that they need to make good, informed decisions, to make sure that we're picking the right potential solutions. So, it can be—it can be many, many months before we're prepared to provide initial findings.

**Alderman Chris Croatt (District 14) 36:49**

Okay. I look forward to the regular updates for sure and keeping the citizens updated. Could you talk a little bit about the usefulness, or maybe lack thereof, of an older study, or data from an older study, or the need to update a study to get better data that might result in more cost-effective measures? Because I think there was a comment made earlier by someone that we already have the data; we just need to act on it. And I think maybe it's important to note that updated data might mean new technologies are identified, new options are identified that weren't considered, maybe 3, 5, 10, 20 years ago.

**Deputy Director Pete Neuberger (Public Works) 37:29**

Right. So, the way that these studies work is the consultants build what we refer to as a model, which is—it's a three-dimensional diagram of the drainage system that includes the storm sewer pipes and then kind of a modeled version of the ground surface. And so, the—like a map, the model—you have to pick as a modeler the amount of detail that goes into it. So, one of the elements of good modeling is you pick a level of detail that allows you to cost effectively identify the way that the system is going to react under certain circumstances. And so, if you put too little effort into it, you may not get accurate results. If you put too much effort into it, then your costs to do the modeling go through the roof. So, when we get additional information that comes from real life experiences, we can use that to make the model more accurate because you make a set of educated guesses when you first build the model, and then you can check that against how reality function, and if the two match up well, then you know you've got—you're on the right track with your modeling. So, when we talk about the value of the data, that's really what we mean, is when we when we get real life experiences we can compare that to how the model functions, and the closer they match each other, the better off we are.

**Deputy Director Pete Neuberger (Public Works) 39:16**

The other thing I'll mention about this is there are many, many inputs that go into the model. The how much rain falls out of the sky, how quickly it falls out of the sky, the rate that it falls out of the sky over time, and the moisture conditions in the ground are a big one. So, I would say, in addition to the very heavy, intense rainfall that we got during these events, particularly on July 5, one of the aspects of the July 5 storm that was also very unusual was how wet the ground was before the storm even started. So that—the same piece of ground, let's say it's, it's a grassy field. If, if you run a model of how that runoff will come off of that field when you have relatively dry conditions, you're going to get drastically different results if that grassy field is already very, very wet. So that's how the models are intended to function, and that's because it's intended to mirror real life. So that's another element that needs to be considered when we do the modeling, is what sort of pre-existing conditions do you want to use and build into the model to try to get those results.

**Alderman Chris Croatt (District 14) 40:45**

Okay. And then lastly, if I may, and I think I know the answer to this, but just want to be clear, the modeling, the study, the modeling, takes into account changes in development, changes in everything in the within the watershed, even the existence of a non-urbanized county highway. Does it take into account potentially available parcels for—does it does it evaluate all of that to that level?

**Deputy Director Pete Neuberger (Public Works) 41:16**

So, I think there were two different questions there. One question was, does it account for changes in the way that the land surface is developed? Broad—generally, the answer is yes. So, if a new sewer is put in, or a road changes the direction of a drainage pattern, or something like that, then we strive to include that level of accuracy in the model.

**Deputy Director Pete Neuberger (Public Works) 41:43**

As far as potential locations for, I guess, storm water improvements, or potential flood storage or something like that, that that is something that the modelers need to choose where to put the model inputs. So, it's not feasible to come up with thousands of different alternatives. You kind of have to use an iterative process to determine where you think the cost-effective alternatives may happen. And then you gradually tweak the model and incorporate more and more refinements into that. So, the modeler has to pick the potential improvements to bake into the model and make modifications to the existing conditions that are in the model. And if I could also defer to Director Jungwirth, I think Director Jungwirth may have, may have an additional comment to add.

**Director Laura Jungwirth (Public Works) 42:40**

Thank you. So, Pete hit it pretty much on the head with what goes into the model. There's a lot to it, and as staff, we will work side by side with these this consultant to make sure that alternatives make sense, locationally, financially, they have the most impact. So those are pieces that we would intend as this process transpires that we would work with them on, and then those are kind of some of the updates that we'll be able to provide to the utilities committee as we progress.

**Director Laura Jungwirth (Public Works) 43:11**

I did want to back up. I know you had one question regarding the previous study, and there was a previous study completed. It was very much more broad in its scope and the solution that was offered, and that was a very, very, very costly alternative of basically laying one large pipe to the water—the river, rather that would convey flooding from these areas. It didn't really break down on a neighborhood level what we would anticipate with utility conflicts, with being able to route that pipe, what other what other utilities are in the ground that we need to compete with, is there even room to be able to fit a large pipe with the utilities that are already in an existing roadway? So that was deemed to be a project that was not a great, feasible alternative. So, what this study is intended to do is break that down on a more neighborhood level.

**Director Laura Jungwirth (Public Works) 44:14**

Some of you spoke to having a low spot in the in, you know, the middle of this, this roadway segment. We would break that down and look at that roadway segment, probably more particularly, to see if there's some solutions that we could attribute on a smaller scale. And then as you chip away with that that total of all of those projects, it'll accumulate to a better effort.

**Director Laura Jungwirth (Public Works) 44:37**

Now it's not going to be a one size fits all approach. We're probably going to have many alternatives and many different projects that will look to offer alternatives on. But again, until we sit down with the consultant and work through that, we will have more answers once we get there. So, I can assure you, we will do our best and stay diligent on this, keep this progressing, and look at as many alternatives as we can, small and large, that we can start, start chipping away at that total and, you know, for storage and help everybody as much as we can.

**Aldersperson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 45:17**

Thank you.

**Alderson Chris Croatt (District 14) 45:19**

Thank you. Just one last thing.

**Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 45:21**

Go ahead.

**Alderson Chris Croatt (District 14) 45:23**

Thank you for sharing all that. One of the reasons why I brought up or asked questions about the modeling is I've heard from a lot of folks that live in this area (and this isn't far from my own house, by the way) the impact, or I'll call it perceived impact, of Northland Avenue, "concrete river," I think I heard earlier. Will something like that be a key component of a study looking at the impact of a non—call it non-urbanized county highway going through the middle of a watershed? I know it's been there, it's been in that—it's been part of that for a long time, but I think the input that I received from a lot of people that have kind of tried to understand what happened is a lot of the water comes either off that or over the top of it.

**Deputy Director Pete Neuberger (Public Works) 46:08**

So, I would say that's valuable information to have. It's good to hear the accounts of what people have witnessed. And DPW has been collecting data from a number of good sources here over the last three months, and that's all information that's going to be valuable for building an accurate model. Yes.

**Alderson Chris Croatt (District 14) 46:29**

Good. Thank you. Nothing further.

**Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 46:31**

Thank you. Any comments or questions from the committee? All right, seeing none, we need to vote on this item. All in favor say, Aye. Aye. Any opposed or abstaining? There are none. This is recommended three zero for approval. This will go to Common Council for the 15 members of Common Council to take the final vote on it next week, Wednesday, at seven o'clock.

**Director Laura Jungwirth (Public Works) 46:57**

Can I just add one comment, and I did not want to state it before the vote for the record, and this could very well have been my error. The second item was related to this particular watershed study. This third vote was for plan review. So, my apologies on that, but I just for the record wanted to note that those comments are associated to what was item two on the agenda.

**Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 47:21**

Thank you for that clarification. I think that it worked out well to have everyone speak at the same time, and it'll be on record as to which item was which.

**Director Laura Jungwirth (Public Works) 47:31**

Thank you.

**Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 47:32**

All right. Thank you. And again, thank you all for coming out. Do you have a question or—do you want to approach the mic?

**Unnamed Woman** 47:43

I live on 1800 East Northland too. It got super flooded and cars destroyed and stuff like this. But what I want to know is, are we—the rest of us that are here—going to get copies of this meeting?

**Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2)** 48:07

We don't typically have a process of sending out material copies, but all of our meetings are archived on our website, so you would be able to review the video of this meeting at any time that you'd like, and certainly share that with any of your other friends or neighbors who were not able to be here tonight.

**Unnamed Woman** 48:27

That would be helpful. Very helpful. So where do I get the email address so that I can have that?

**Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2)** 48:33

So, if you go to [appleton.org](http://appleton.org).

**Unnamed Woman** 48:37

Yeah.

**Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2)** 48:38

Then when you scroll down, there is kind of a big button that says agendas and meeting videos. When you click on that, you can filter it by month or by department, but it'll usually start out showing everything. So, you'll you can scroll down and find where it says Utilities Committee, November 12, 4:30 and then there will be a link to the agenda. And tomorrow, at some point, the video will be posted. So, the video won't be available tonight, but if you check the website tomorrow, the video should be posted at that time.

**Unnamed Woman** 49:21

Okay, thank you.

**Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2)** 49:23

And the minutes will also be posted. So, if you don't want to take the time to watch the whole thing again, the minutes are a summary of how we voted.

**Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2)** 49:37

Go ahead.

**Eugene P. (Resident)** 49:41

There's an enormous amount of construction taking place on OO right now, and I'd like to find out if there's anyone in this room that could tell me what that blue pipe is. I mean, we talked about OO as an issue to begin with, and now there's more pipe, and I'm thinking, is it going to help us? Is it going to hurt us?

**Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2)** 50:02

Yeah, wonderful. So, our director will be able to answer that question for you after the meeting. So, since that item is not on our agenda, we're not going to answer the question as part of the meeting. So, if you if you guys want to just hang tight, we are about ready to wrap up the meeting.