

June 5, 2020

To: City Plan Commission Members
City Council Members
Mayor Kabat

From: Glen Jenkins, City of La Crosse Resident

Re: CIP Budget Item # 551: Marsh Hydrological Study

Dear Mayor Kabat, City Planning Commission and City Council Representatives,

Today with all the challenges our community is facing it takes leadership that has vision and understand resilience and sustainability. The La Crosse River Marsh was once part of a flood plain that was twice the size of the existing marsh and helped accommodate flooding. The past three years we have experienced excessive water events and the future suggests that we be prepared for more of the same. We need to value what we have and enhance it so it is more efficient. The benefits of the La Crosse River Marsh are not fully understood by some leadership and a professional and systematic study of marsh hydrology is needed.

If you read about resilient communities up and down the Mississippi River one will notice is the negative economic impact of flooding. Numerous communities have decided to study what needs to be done and moved toward those goals. They have learned that water connectivity, flood recovery, properly designed recreational trails, habitat restoration, water quality planning and management are all variables that must be addressed. To reap the positive economic impact of tourism/recreation while at the same time mitigate the negative impacts of flooding careful cognizant planning needs to occur.

Support the CIP 2021-2025 budget item #551, "Marsh Hydrological Study" and move forward like other resilient communities. I urge the City Plan Commission and the full City Council to support this proposal.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Glen Jenkins