CITY OF LA CROSSE

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LEGISLATION STAFF REPORT FOR COUNCIL

File ID: 26-0541

Caption: Resolution declaring official intent to reimburse expenditures from proceeds of borrowing under the Safe Drinking Water Loan Program for the Water Utility rehabilitation of Grandad Reservoir.

Staff/Department Responsible for Legislation

Engineering & Public Works

Requestor of Legislation

Utilities - Water Utility

Location, if applicable

Grandad Reservoir

Summary/Purpose

To pass a Resolution authorizing the request of reimbursement of funds from bonds issued by the Safe Drinking Water Loan Program, for the rehabilitation of Grandad Reservoir.

The City of La Crosse has passed resolutions previously for application and potential reimbursement Safe Drinking Water funds. Borrowing through the State of Wisconsin Environmental Improvement Fund helps local utilities comply with federal and state regulations, ensuring safe drinking water for residents by helping make projects affordable with low-interest rates on long-term loans. Some projects may be eligible for principal forgiveness, which further reduces impact to the community.

Background

The Grandad Reservoir was originally built in 1913 and is an underground structure located on Grandad Bluff to provide natural water pressure. The reservoir holds 5 million gallons of water and is La Crosse's only reservoir. The water department does 2 main cleanings in set intervals, there is a 5-year partial drain and inspection, and a 10-year full drain, clean and inspection. After the last full drain down, it was noted that there is sprawling concrete (pieces that popped loose) with rusted rebar, and stress cracks on the ceiling. Additionally, there is a known crack at the base of the interior divider wall that has been present for 40 years plus that does not change operation but is a safety hazard if there is a need to do any interior work to the reservoir. The soil covering the reservoir will be removed, a new drainage pitch for the roof will be added and then recovered in soil. The reservoir will be brought up to code, and the doghouse will be altered for better maintenance access to interior valves.

Fiscal Impact

Estimate of borrowing $3.3 Million, with possibility of qualifying for 45% principal forgiveness (or a grant) of up to $1,485,000.

Staff Recommendation

Approval