



City of Harrisonburg

To: Eric D. Campbell, City Manager
FROM: Ande Banks, Deputy City Manager
DATE: February 6, 2018
RE: Lower North River Watershed Project

Summary:

Attached is a letter from the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) regarding the Lower North River Watershed Project. Given environmental approval hurdles and fiscal constraints, it seems extremely unlikely that any of the additional eleven dams included in the original plan will be constructed.

Background:

The Lower North River Watershed project began as a federally funded project to construct flood control dams throughout the watershed. Six dams were constructed including Switzer, with the last dam being constructed in 1980. Since that time no additional construction has taken place and it is the position of the NRCS the remaining proposed dams will not be constructed because of environmental regulations and lack of funding. NRCS has asked the original sponsors to allow closure of the remaining projects.

Environmental Impact: N/A

Fiscal Impact: N/A

Prior Actions: N/A

Alternatives:

- (a) Indicate no opposition to NRCS closing the project.
- (b) Request the NRCS to continue to hold the project open.

Recommendation:

Staff recommendation is that City Council indicate there is no opposition to closing the project out as NRCS proposes.

Attachments:

- (a) November 16, 2017 NRCS Letter
- (b) Project Map