



Title: FEMA Repayment Summary

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Purpose:

Provide additional context to the Board of Managers regarding the repayment of de-obligated funds to FEMA

Summary:

During the period of June 11, 2014, through July 11, 2014, torrential rain impacted the State of Minnesota and caused severe weather conditions including high winds, heavy rains, mainstream river and tidal flooding. This resulted in widespread flooding as rivers and streams crested at near record levels. As a result of the severe storms and flooding a major disaster was declared for the State on July 21, 2014. Water levels within Minnehaha Creek exceeded peak stage on record, causing excessive bank and stream bed scour, stream channel erosion and uprooting of bank edge trees into the creek.

The district applied for FEMA Grants to support the costs associated with repairs and debris removal in this area. Through this effort, we secured grant funding for nine project areas along the creek, totaling **\$444,830.85**.

Although the district initially planned to complete all approved projects, circumstances led to adjustments in project execution. In certain locations, local cities took responsibility for debris removal, reducing the district's scope of work. Additionally, the district made strategic decisions not to proceed with some of the repairs and debris removal projects initially covered by the grants. It's important to note that FEMA funding only covers expenses directly related to restoring natural features to their original condition. Activities such as channel realignment or infrastructure improvements fall outside the scope of eligible expenses.

Of the nine projects, two were successfully completed and officially closed out, accounting for **\$106,645.51** of the awarded funds. The remaining seven projects had incurred **\$25,976.85** in eligible expenses. FEMA has de-obligated the remaining funds and has requested a repayment for the unused balance of **\$312,208.49**.

A summary of this situation was presented to the Board by James Wisker during the January 9, 2025, Administrator's Report. The repayment of **\$312,208.49** is scheduled for processing as part of the check register approval during the Board meeting on January 23, 2025. Once this repayment is completed, the seven remaining open or incomplete projects will be officially closed.