Post-Disaster Grant Funding
in DuPage County
Background

Stormwater Management in DuPage County
Who Are We?

Stormwater Management in DuPage

- Countywide program established in 1989
- Guided by the Stormwater Management Planning Committee & Plan
- Enforce the Countywide Stormwater Management & Floodplain Ordinance
- FY17 Operating Budget $7.1 Million
- Flood Control Facilities have a floodwater capacity of nearly 6 billion gallons

Programs

- Watershed Management
- Water Quality
- Floodplain Mapping
- Regulatory Services
- Flood Control Operations & Maintenance
Watershed Planning Efforts

• Floodplain Mapping
• Flood Control Planning
• Water Quality Planning

Why is Planning Important?

• Identifies Regional Flood Control Facilities
• Identifies Regional Flood Control & Water Quality Projects
• Identifies Voluntary Flood-Prone Property Buyouts
• Connects Stakeholders
• Helps County & Stakeholders Secure Grant Funding
Flood Control Projects

Regional Project Design & Construction
- Projects Approved by County Board in Watershed Plans
- Projects Designed to Reduce Flooding in Multiple Jurisdictions
- Flood Control Facilities
- Flood Control Projects (i.e. Levees, Wetlands, Reservoirs)
- County Staff Oversees Design & Construction

Voluntary Flood-Prone Property Buyouts
- When a Project isn’t Feasible, Buyouts are Considered
- Buyouts are Contingent on Grant Funding
- Criteria Considered is Depth of Flooding, Proximity to Floodplain, Repetitive Flooding, Federal Grant Requirements
- Prior to 2013, DuPage Purchased ~101 Structures
Flood Control Operations

Flood Control Facilities

- Owns & Operates 16 Flood Control Facilities
- Include Reservoirs, Pump Stations & Dams
- 6 Facilities are Mechanically-Operated by Staff, Remaining are Gravity-Operated
- Floodwater Capacity of Nearly 6 Billion Gallons

Flood Operations

- Flood Forecasting
- Remote Operation Using Rain/Stream Gages & Real Time Video
Funding Overview
Overview of Budget, Grants & Bonds
Funding

Budget
- In a “Maintenance Budget”
- Stormwater Management Generate $9.4 million in Tax Levy
- Supplemented by $3 Million from General Fund
- Budget Includes ~$7.36 Million in Annual Bond Repayments

Outside Funding Sources
- Federal & State Grants
- County-Issued Bonds
Federal & State Grants

Overview

- Budget Supplemented by Federal & State Grants (i.e. FEMA, EPA, USACOE, HUD & State Equivalents)
- Often Include Cost Share from Budget
- Watershed Plans Help with Eligibility
- “Shovel-Ready” Projects are Preferred
- Stormwater Management Secured ~$48.6 Million in Grants from 1996-2012

Where Are Grants Used?

- Regional Flood Control Facilities
- Regional Flood Control & Water Quality Projects
- Voluntary Flood-Prone Buyouts
- Floodplain Mapping
- Water Quality Watershed Planning
County-Issued Bonds

Overview

• Bonds are Debt Securities to Finance Capital Projects
• Require Repayment Over Specified Time Period
• Stormwater Management Received Bond Financing in 1992, 1999 & 2010
• Stormwater Currently Paying Off Bonds from ‘90s

Bond Projects

• Elmhurst Quarry Flood Control Facility (1992)
• Wood Dale-Itasca Reservoir (1999)
• Brewster Creek Headwaters Project (2010)
• Churchill Woods Dam Modification & Wetland Restoration (2010)
• West Branch DuPage River Flood Control Project (2010)
• Armstrong Park Reservoirs (2010)
Post-Disaster Grant Funding
Funding from April 2013
April 2013 Flood

Overview

• On April 17 & 18, 2013, Area Received Widespread Rainfall of 5.55 Inches in 24-Hour Period
• Central & Eastern DuPage Received More than 7 Inches of Rain in 24-Hour Period
• Heaviest Rain Fell in 15-Hour Window
• DuPage Received National Major Disaster Declaration

Damage

• Estimated $97 Million in Private/Federal Insurance Payouts, Grants, Loans for Property Repairs, Projects & Other Mitigation Activities
• Recovery & Mitigation Efforts Still Ongoing
April 2013 Flood

Lisle, IL
Post-Disaster Funding

Funding Agencies
• U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD)
• Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
• Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA)
• U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE)

Funding Activities
• Capital Flood Control Projects
• Green Infrastructure Projects
• Voluntary Flood-Prone Buyouts
• Resilience Planning
• Local Match Program
HUD Funding

Overview

• Received Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Funding of $31.5 Million
• 51% of Funding Required to be Spent in Low-to-Moderate Income Areas
• Spent on Capital Projects, Buyouts, Planning, Green Infrastructure Projects & Local Match Program
• County Eligible for Additional Resilience Funding from HUD, Didn’t Receive

Capital Flood Control Projects Funded

• Armstrong Park Reservoirs
• West Branch DuPage River Flood Control Project
• Liberty Park Drainage Project
• Springbrook Culvert Replacement Project
• Glenrise Avenue Drainage Project
• Redmond Reservoir
Overview

- Received $8.3 Million
- Received $7.7 Million from FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)
- Received $600,000 from IEMA Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA)
- Buyouts Needed to be Severe Repetitive Loss and/or Repetitive Flood Claims

Funding Activities

- Voluntary Flood-Prone Property Buyouts
- Graue Mill Flood Control Project
USACOE Funding

DuPage River Feasibility Study

- USACOE Funding $3 Million for Flood Control Study of DuPage River
- 50/50 Cost Share between Federal and Local Sponsors
- Once Complete, Projects Submitted to Congress for Funding Consideration

Project Parameters

- Flow Rate 800-Cubic Feet/Second at 10-Year Event
- Flood Related Projects Only
- Considers Future Conditions & Bulletin 70 Update
Capital & Green Projects

Overview

• Regional Projects Identified in Watershed Plans
• “Shovel-Ready” or Even Underway
• Flood Control Projects, Including Reservoirs, Berms and Pump Stations
• Green Infrastructure, Including Bioretention

Things to Consider

• Projects Need to Benefit People Served by Grant (i.e. HUD)
• Funding Needs to be Spent in Expedited Time Frame
• Funding Agencies Want to See Work Underway and Completed
Armstrong Park Reservoirs
West Branch Flood Control
Flood-Prone Property Buyouts

Process
- Properties Identified in Watershed Plans, Floodplain Maps, By Request or from Funding Agency
- Must Deal Directly with Homeowner
- Pre-Flood Value Usually Offered
- Once Purchased, Put Bid Out for Demo
- Funding Agency Determines Future Use of Property

Potential Future Uses
- Open Space
- Wetland
- Flood Control
- Park
- Police/Fire Training Prior to Demolition
Flood-Prone Property Buyouts

DUPAGE COUNTY

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT
HUD’s National Disaster Resilience Competition

- DuPage County Eligible for Additional Funding from April 2013 Flood
- Competitive Grant Asked to Demonstrate Unmet Need & Design Resilient Project
- Projects Needed to Emphasize Resilience, Not Recovery, & Highlight Co-Benefits
- DuPage Worked with State of Illinois, Cook County & City of Chicago, but no Entities Received Funding

Outcomes

- Created East Branch DuPage River Resiliency Plan
- Developed Projects for Flood-Prone Area of Lisle
- Formed Northeastern Illinois Resilience Partnership
- Developed Planning Model Still in Use Today (i.e. Multi-Jurisdictional, Inter-Governmental Partnerships)
Local Match Program

Overview
- Using Grant Funds, County Assisting Municipalities with Projects
- Municipalities Apply to Receive Funds
- Administered by Community Development
- Alleviates County Burden in Recovering from April 2013

Projects
- Flood Control Projects
- Green Infrastructure Projects
- Flood-Prone Buyouts
Lessons Learned
Keep Funding Rolling In
Applying for Grant Funds

Project Requirements
• Proposed activity must match agency requirements exactly
• Similar grants may have different focus points (Low-Mod/SRL, etc.)

Project Alternatives
• Have alternatives approved by funding agency with original application (alternative buyouts, project options, etc.)
Spending Grant Funds

**Project Deadlines**
- Requirements for start dates and project finish dates
- Municipalities may have own deadlines
- Ask for extensions early if needed

**Eligibility**
- Auxiliary expenses
- Staff time
Managing Grant Funds

Documentation
- Keep all paperwork
- Develop filing system (electronic & paper copies)
- Every RFP, Bid, Etc. needs to be aligned with funding agency

Contractor Coordination
- Often large paperwork burden on contractors
- Grant administrators at pre-construction meetings to Help Explain Requirements
- Do Not Pay Contractors Until all Required Paperwork is Received
Takeaways

Organization & Flexibility are Key
- Track and save all documents
- Upfront paperwork (Planning & Construction)
- Be prepared for time extensions
- Grant Considerations: Staff time/Administration costs/Increased personnel/Consultant contract

People are Important
- Property Acquisition is emotional: Both owner & neighbors
- Title Work/Appraisals/Surveys: all time consuming
- Utilization for Police & Fire training
Questions

Jennifer Hintze, EIT, CFM
Sr. Civil Engineer, DuPage County Stormwater Management

jennifer.hintze@dupageco.org
630.407.6719