



City of Boynton Beach Agenda Item Request Form

Meeting Date: 07/15/2025

Proposed Resolution No. R25-140- Adopt the Watershed Management Plan (WMP).

Requested Action: Staff recommends approval of Proposed Resolution No. R25-140.

Explanation of Request:

The City of Boynton Beach Utilities Department, in collaboration with consultant Lori Lehr and her subconsultant team with Erin Deady and Collective Waters, has completed the development of a Watershed Management Plan (WMP) to fulfill a key requirement of the Community Rating System (CRS) program under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

According to the CRS Coordinator's Manual, the purpose of watershed planning is to support decision-making processes that reduce future flooding risks resulting from development and redevelopment, climate change, and sea level rise. The WMP serves not only to identify and mitigate existing flooding issues throughout the City but also to establish a solid foundation for prioritizing future stormwater improvement projects. Given the increasing threat of sea level rise, many CRS credit criteria for coastal communities now specifically require evaluation of its impact on future hydrologic conditions and local drainage systems.

The City's CRS Coordinator's Manual states that a mandatory prerequisite for achieving a CRS Class 4 rating is that the community must receive credit for managing the impacts of a 100-year storm and/or sea level rise, where applicable, through the adoption of a watershed management plan (FEMA 2017, Credit 450, pg. 14).

Each improvement in CRS Class (starting from Class 10) results in an additional 5% discount on flood insurance premiums for qualifying NFIP policyholders within the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). Currently, the City holds a CRS Class 5 rating, which provides most NFIP policyholders in the SFHA with a 25% discount on their flood insurance premiums. Advancing to a Class 4 rating would increase that discount to 30%, resulting in meaningful savings for residents and businesses. These discounts are a direct outcome of the City's proactive and creditable floodplain management practices under the CRS program.

To meet the CRS prerequisites outlined in Section 452b of the Coordinator's Manual, the WMP includes evaluation of future stormwater conditions, accounting for NOAA's "intermediate-high" sea level rise projection for the year 2100, and assesses impacts during multiple rainfall scenarios, including 25-year and 100-year storm events. The completed plan meets all applicable criteria and is now being submitted to the City Commission for formal adoption.

How will this affect city programs or services?

The consultant team, in collaboration with City staff, has developed a comprehensive suite of watershed management strategies informed by the scientific findings of this Watershed Management Plan (WMP) and previous City studies. These strategies are diverse in scope and designed to be applied equitably across the City. Their implementation will enhance the City's resilience to future changes in watershed conditions, including development pressures, climate variability, and sea level rise.

When properly implemented and monitored, these measures are expected to provide significant and synergistic flood mitigation benefits, particularly for storm events up to and including the 25-year storm. Because the study also evaluates impacts of the 100-year storm event under both current and future conditions, some level of flood relief is anticipated for larger storm events as well.

The WMP also serves as a valuable planning and implementation tool. It includes targeted recommendations to improve the level of service in historically flood-prone areas, a prioritized list of structural improvement projects, and a roadmap of recommended initiatives for a 10-year implementation horizon. Many of these initiatives are also accompanied by an evaluation of grant funding potential, helping the City pursue external funding sources to support flood mitigation efforts.

More importantly, adoption of the WMP will satisfy a key requirement of the Community Rating System (CRS) and directly support the City's pursuit of a CRS Class 4 designation. Achieving this rating would increase flood insurance premium discounts from 25% to 30% for National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) policyholders within the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), providing direct financial benefit to residents and reinforcing the City's commitment to effective floodplain management.

Budgeted Item: Yes

Account Line Item and Description: Watershed Master Plan is complete and adoption by Commission has no budgetary impact.

Fiscal Impact: No fiscal impact.

Attachments:

[R25-140 Agenda_Item_3163-](#)

[2025_Resolution_for_Watershed_Management_Plan_Adoption.docx](#)

[20250320_BoyntonWMP_Final.pdf](#) Exhibit A