November 19, 2019

City of Cedar Rapids
ATTN: Mr. Brent Neighbor, Parks Superintendent
500 15th Ave SW
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404

RE: REAP Grant #17-R4-DZ

Dear Mr. Neighbor:

Thank you for your 09/23/2019 letter requesting details on how to mitigate a planned divestment of land developed by REAP grant #17-R4-DZ. As you noted, there is a mitigation process in 571 Iowa Administrative Code 33.17(2). There are two legally permissible options available to the City: one is to use the resulting land sale proceeds to acquire or develop an area of equal value (e.g., create a new 28-acre prairie site) or to return the grant funds used on the divested area ($33,000) back to REAP.

The goal of this administrative rule is to make the program whole, which can be accomplished by satisfying the grant’s original objectives elsewhere or by returning the funds. It appears the City’s stated preference is to do the former – that is, to establish a new 28-acre prairie site. The Department is amenable to this arrangement, with a few caveats. The new prairie location must be on property that is publicly-owned and open to the public. And, ideally, it should be adjacent to other habitat so as to more closely replicate the wildlife benefits provided by the originally-funded 82 acres.

Once the city is ready to formally amend the grant, please provide a detailed plan and legal description of the proposed new site.

Thank you for your pro-active communication with the Department on this matter. Please let me know if you have any questions. I can be reached at (515) 402-8763 or at tammie.krausman@dnr.iowa.gov.

Sincerely,

Tammie Krausman, REAP Coordinator