

VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE
REPORT FOR THE VILLAGE COUNCIL WORKSHOP
JUNE 24, 2008 AGENDA

SUBJECT:	TYPE:	SUBMITTED BY:
Dissolution of the Westmont Surface Water Protection District	✓ Resolution Ordinance Motion Discussion Only	Michael Baker Assistant Village Manager

SYNOPSIS

A resolution supporting the dissolution of the Westmont Surface Water Protection District has been prepared.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

The Five Year Plan and Goals for 2007-2012 identified *Exceptional Municipal Organization*. A supporting objective is *Top Quality Core Services Responsive to Current and Future Community and Citizen Needs*.

FISCAL IMPACT

The dissolution of the District will result in a minimal financial impact to the Village.

RECOMMENDATION

Approval on the July 1, 2008, consent agenda.

BACKGROUND

The Westmont Surface Water Protection District was created in the 1950s to serve the stormwater needs of residents of portions of Downers Grove, Westmont and unincorporated DuPage County. The District is solely responsible for the control of surface water within its boundaries. Approximately 400 Village parcels are located within the District.

The District has a tax rate of 0.054 percent, and this property tax levy is its only revenue source. This means that a \$300,000 property will pay \$54 per year to the District. With only 1657 properties located within the District, this revenue does not provide significant funding sources for a comprehensive stormwater management plan and only funds routine lawn maintenance and a professional support staff. Residents within the District are also required to pay taxes to overlapping jurisdictions, though they are not receiving corresponding levels of service.

The Village of Westmont and DuPage County collectively support this effort. A timely dissolution is important for the Village's ongoing stormwater efforts. The Downers Grove properties located within the District were not included in the Watershed Infrastructure Improvement Plan. As the Village continues its efforts to improve stormwater management, it will likely need to address these areas, which are not currently receiving the proper level of stormwater service.

If the District dissolves, the Village, the Village of Westmont and DuPage County will work together to address stormwater issues in the area. Staff plans on drafting an intergovernmental agreement that would outline specific stormwater infrastructure improvements and cost responsibilities. Dissolution of the District would not obligate the Village to enter into an IGA. Upon dissolution, the Village would be responsible for maintaining the stormwater infrastructure located within Village boundaries.

ATTACHMENTS

Resolution
 Map of District

**DECLARATION OF POLICY SUPPORTING THE DISSOLUTION
OF THE WESTMONT SURFACE WATER PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 1**

WHEREAS, the Westmont Surface Water Protection District No. 1, (hereinafter referred to as the “District”), was established during the 1950’s to alleviate chronic flood issues in an area that now includes portions of the Villages of Westmont and Downers Grove and unincorporated DuPage County; and

WHEREAS, over the years, development and the District’s lack of a comprehensive stormwater management plan have exacerbated chronic flooding in that area; and

WHEREAS, the District has operated with a very low annual property tax levy each year; and

WHEREAS, the District’s tax revenue has only been sufficient to cover the District’s cost of routine lawn maintenance and maintaining a professional support staff;

WHEREAS, the District has never levied sufficient real estate tax funds to remedy flooding issues within the District; and

WHEREAS, the District exercises concurrent storm water jurisdiction with the County and, or Villages within the District’s boundaries and that circumstance has caused duplicative engineering reviews and fees, real estate taxes for stormwater management paid to overlapping entities, delays with approving area developments and resident confusion; and

WHEREAS, the District’s concurrent stormwater management jurisdiction has created jurisdictional issues which hinder storm water initiatives by the County of DuPage, the Village of Westmont and the Village of Downers Grove;

THEREFORE, the Village of Westmont, the Village of Downers Grove and County of DuPage (hereinafter referred to as the *Storm Water Cooperative*), based on the foregoing, agree to adopt and make the following declaration of policy:

1. The Village of Westmont, the Village of Downers Grove and County of DuPage (hereinafter referred to as the *Storm Water Cooperative*), urge the Board of the Westmont Surface Water Protection District No. 1 to promptly take action to dissolve the District; and
2. The *Storm Water Cooperative* members individually pledge that each shall refrain from investing in storm water improvement projects within the District’s geographic area as long as the District remains in existence; and

3. The *Storm Water Cooperative* members pledge that they shall work cooperatively to develop a storm water improvement plan for the benefit of the District's residents upon the District dissolution; and
4. The *Storm Water Cooperative* members shall immediately undertake all routine stormwater maintenance activities within the current boundaries of the District upon its dissolution; and
5. The *Storm Water Cooperative* calls upon the District's Board to convene and to make a decision on dissolution and report back to the *Storm Water Cooperative* members within thirty (30) days of receipt of this resolution; and
6. The *Storm Water Cooperative* further urges the District's Board and professional staff to do all acts necessary to complete the dissolution of the District within one hundred eighty (180) days; and
7. The **Storm Water Cooperative** asks that upon dissolution, the District turn over title to all real estate, personal property, monetary assets, and records to the Storm Water Cooperative.

William H. Rahn, Mayor

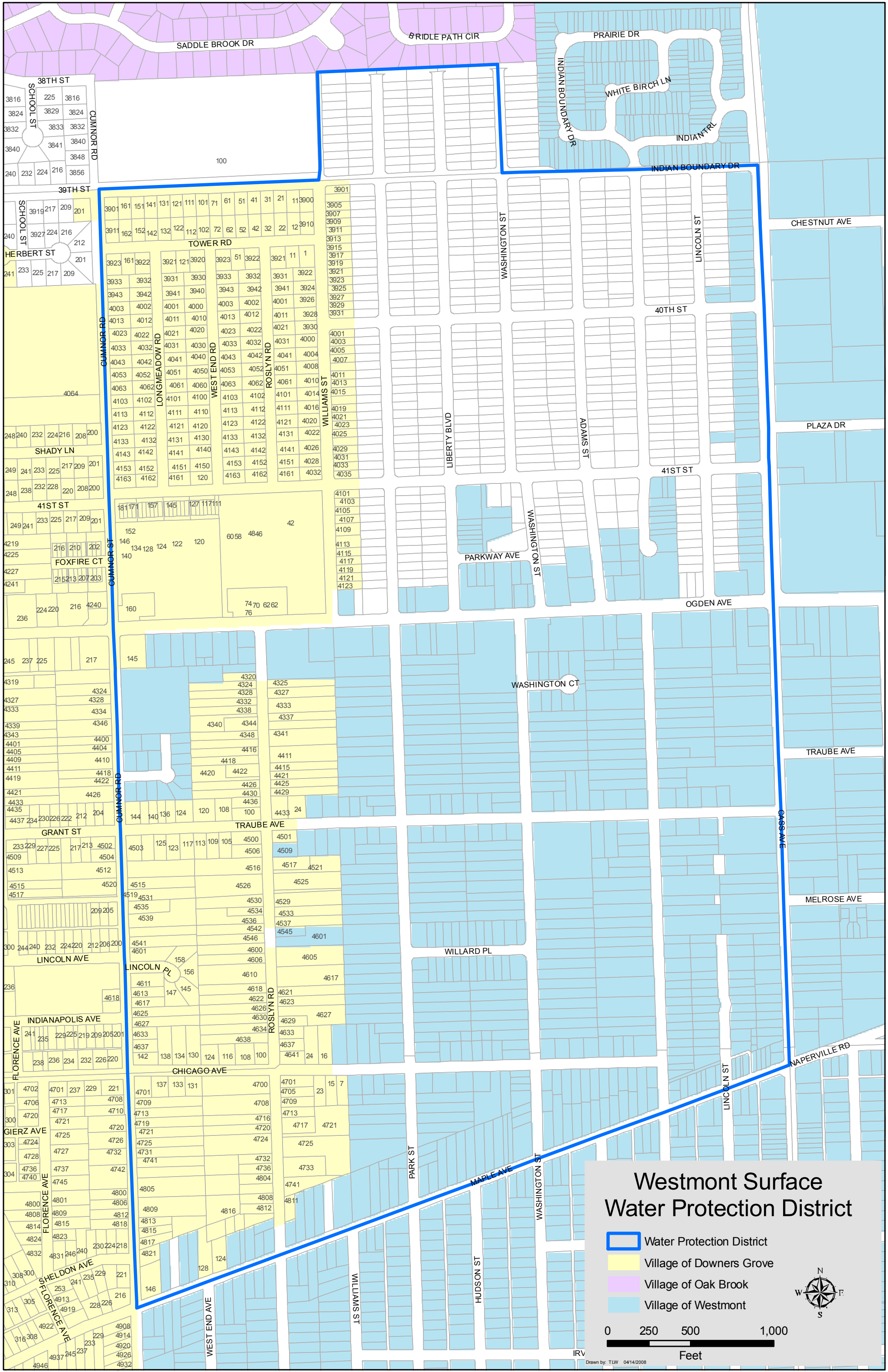
Robert J. Schillerstrom, Board
Chairman

Virginia Szymiski, Village Clerk

Gary A. King, County Clerk

Ron Sandack, Mayor

April Holden, Village Clerk



Westmont Surface Water Protection District

- Water Protection District
- Village of Downers Grove
- Village of Oak Brook
- Village of Westmont

