



# CITY OF MANITOWOC

WISCONSIN, USA

[www.manitowoc.org](http://www.manitowoc.org)

## MEMO

**TO: Public Infrastructure Committee**

**FROM: Greg Minikel, PE, Engineering Division Manager**

**DATE: May 31, 2024**

**RE: Flooding Issues at 4336 Custer Lane**

Members of the Public Infrastructure Committee:

The issues with flooding at 4336 Custer Lane have been around for a very long time. I believe that it may date back to around 2005. The existing culvert pipes were upsized (from 15" CMP to an 18" CMP pipe) at the railroad tracks crossing Custer Lane in 2001 according to our records.

The previous property owner at this address, the Englebrecht's, contacted the City and the Railroad numerous times over the years about the undersized 12-inch culvert crossing the railroad tracks behind their house. After many letters, phone calls and e-mails to the railroad, we finally got the Railroad to install a new 24 inch culvert in 2018.

In 2019, the reconstruction of S. Rapids Rd. added a new storm sewer under the east curblin that picked up a lot of water from Fleet Farm and discharged it to the Manitowoc River. Prior to that, all this stormwater ran down the railroad's ditch to the culvert behind 4336 Custer Lane.

All of this has helped, but in 2019-2020, Scott Christiansen from Hendrick Beverage came to the City to see about getting the continuing drainage issues resolved. He indicated that they get all of the stormwater runoff from Fleet Farm especially since the large addition around 1999. This is a true and accurate statement. The addition at Fleet Farm predated the stormwater requirements for them to build a retention pond.

We took Mr. Christiansen's concerns to the PI Committee in September 2020. The Committee placed the communication on file and I believe that we may have put a request to CAWG to install some storm sewer in 2021 but it did not make the cut.

Hendrick Beverage was also going to have Kip Gulseth install 2 – 24" storm sewer pipes under their property to get the Fleet Farm water to Custer Lane, but at a cost of \$20,000 and the fact that the City storm sewer budget request did not get approved, they did not move forward with their proposed work.

Move forward to the end of May 2024 and the nearly 8 inches of rain that we have received this month, we received a call from Jason Novak, the new property owner at this address. He stated that he has owned the property since December of 2020 and his yard has flooded 4 times since he lived there. He stated that basically the stormwater overtops Custer Lane and completely surrounds his house and that he has video footage from the storms this past week.

He is requesting the City do something to resolve the continuous flooding issues.

If we were to take action, the first thing that we should do is to replace the City's storm sewer under the driveway for Diversion Motors, LLC (fka Hendrick Beverage) and replace both existing manhole structures. The existing system is plugged and not functioning properly.

We would have to get some quotes for this work, but we believe the estimated cost of this work to be on the order of \$35,000 to \$40,000. We could submit an unbudgeted request to CAWG for this work or budget for it in 2025.

We could also look at performing more ditching along both sides of Custer Lane and replace the existing 12-inch pipe crossing the street that is plugged/failed. In lieu of this option, we could also look at installing a new storm sewer pipe (120 ft of 12" or 15" pipe) from the south side of Custer Lane to the Railroad ditch behind 4336 Custer Lane. This option would allow the stormwater to flow both to the east and to the north. This option would require an easement from Mr. Novak, but we believe he would be accommodating for the easement. The cost estimate for this option would be in the range of \$20,000.

In addition, there is a 75-foot section of the existing storm sewer located at the intersection of Custer Street and Custer Lane (within the island area) that is basically flat and restricting the flow of the stormwater. We could also look at replacing this section of 18 inch pipe with a 24 inch pipe. The cost estimate for this option would be in the range of \$25,000.

The final option or the ultimate option would be to relay and upsize the existing storm sewer from 18 inch to 24 inch from the Custer Street intersection back to the west side of the Diversion Company Driveway. However, this would be about 500 feet of new storm sewer pipe and would have an estimated cost in the range of \$150,000.

Therefore, we are recommending the PI Committee to approve one or more of the options listed above, along with a recommendation on whether we should submit an unbudgeted request to CAWG for this year or to submit a request for the 2025 Budget.