

ITEM # 14
DATE 01-06-09

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: WATERSHED IMPROVEMENT REVIEW BOARD GRANT AGREEMENT

BACKGROUND:

The City of Ames Public Works Department, in partnership with Iowa State University (ISU) Landscape Architecture scientists, has been awarded a grant from the Watershed Improvement Review Board (WIRB) for improvements to College Creek. The grant titled "Establishing and Monitoring Stream Stabilization Practices for Water Quality Enhancement" is in the amount of \$304,335 over a three-year term. The main area of focus along College Creek will be from the west corporate limits to South Dakota Avenue.

The water quality enhancement goal of this project is to reduce sediment delivery specifically from unstable stream banks and degrading stream channels on College Creek. This project will also redirect urban storm water runoff into engineered systems, intercepting it from storm drains entering College Creek. This program builds on storm water runoff demonstration projects already funded in the College Creek sub-watershed by EPA Region 7 and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. Public outreach is built into each phase of this program, including holding neighborhood learning circles to educate residents and receive feedback to consider in design.

On January 8, 2008, City Council approved the WIRB grant agreement. The WIRB meets biannually (mid-January and mid-July) to approve funding requests. These funding requests include partial allocation for expenses anticipated during the next six-month period. Reports and financial ledger updates are required to be submitted to WIRB biannually with a more detailed annual report due January 15 for the calendar year just completed.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the request for partial allocation of funds from WIRB in the amount of \$15,200.
2. Reject the WIRB Grant Agreement.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

It is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby approving the request for partial allocation of funds from WIRB in the amount of \$15,200.