

**COUNCIL ACTION FORM**

**SUBJECT: IOWA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND LAND STEWARDSHIP  
WATER QUALITY INITIATIVE URBAN CONSERVATION  
DEMONSTRATION PROJECT GRANT AGREEMENT**

**BACKGROUND:**

On February 24, 2015, City Council supported application of two state-funded grants toward making stormwater quality and quantity improvements in the downtown area. Staff was notified we have successfully received \$100,000 from Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) for water quality improvements as proposed in the application. No response has been received about the status of the second application approved during that meeting, which would be funded from the State Revolving Fund (SRF) Sponsored Project Program.

Staff has created a master plan for the project site within the Squaw Creek Watershed including the area between 5<sup>th</sup> Street and 6<sup>th</sup> Street, around City Hall, Parking Lots M, MM, N, and the roadway right-of-way. This project can be combined with the 2014/15 Downtown Street Pavement Improvements project (5<sup>th</sup> Street from Grand Avenue to Burnett Avenue), which will be carried out in the 2015 construction season. The parking lot improvements, as approved with the amended budget, will be completed in the 2016 construction season. The City has also been successfully awarded an initial water quality grant in the amount of \$188,540 from the SRF Sponsored Project Program, which was supported by City Council at the February 25, 2014, meeting that is tied to the Residuals Handling Improvements (Biosolids Storage project). Although award of this contract is uncertain at this time, the master plan associated with the urban conservation demonstration project (water quality improvements at City Hall) can be phased, alternative revenue pursued, and design modifications can be evaluated to continue implementation of these stormwater improvements.

Conceptually, the project will include soil quality restoration and replacing all standard lawn turf with native turf/landscape, in addition to permeable pavers and bioretention cells at various locations in the project area. Other stormwater best management practices (BMP's) will also be considered as the project is designed. Management of the water quality and quantity volumes of stormwater runoff is the goal. If achieved, this project would be a unique demonstration for others who develop residential and commercial properties within the City on how to achieve successful post-construction stormwater management. This project has recently been selected for a presentation topic at the upcoming Iowa League of Cities Annual Conference & Exhibit in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, which will take place September 23-25, 2015.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Approve Agreement Urban15WQI-001 for IDALS Water Quality Initiative Urban Conservation Demonstration Project in the amount of \$100,000.
2. Direct staff to make modifications to the project.

**MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

By supporting this grant agreement, the City of Ames can be recognized locally and statewide as an innovative community that is willing to construct demonstration stormwater BMPs to address water quality and quantity concerns. This demonstration project is a unique application of soil quality restoration and native landscape in an urban setting.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, as stated above.