

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: **AGREEMENT TO PURCHASE MITIGATION BANK CREDITS FOR THE IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY RESEARCH PARK PHASE III**

BACKGROUND:

In support of the ISU Research Park Phase III expansion, the City of Ames is developing projects for the utility installation and roadway paving. The utility project was bid in April 2015 and the contract was awarded to J&K Contracting in the amount of \$798,589. The roadway project was bid in May 2015 and the contract was awarded to Manatts, Inc in the amount of \$4,607,745.60.

During the project design FOTH Infrastructure and Environment, Shive Hattery's sub-consultant, determined there a small amount of wetland area is affected by the project. The final report was submitted to the Army Corps of Engineers as a part of the project review and permitting process.

When a project has an identified wetland or affects Waters of the United States, the owner can re-design the project to avoid impacts to the wetland, mitigate the wetland by constructing a new wetland, or purchase wetland mitigation credits from a wetland that has been constructed by others through the Iowa DNR. With the layout of this project, the project the team determined the most cost effective and expedited solution would be to purchase wetland credits from a wetland that has already been constructed.

As terms of the permit for the project, the ACE has determined that the purchase of 0.67 acres of wetland credit from the Elk Creek Wetland Mitigation Bank will compensate for the loss of 0.36 acres of wetland in this area. The cost of these credits is \$33,500. **This cost has already been accounted for in the Engineering/Administration cost estimate for the project.**

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the agreement to purchase wetland mitigation credits from the Elk Creek Wetland Mitigation Bank in the amount of \$33,500 to assist with completion of the ISU Research Park - Phase III expansion project.
2. Direct staff to pursue other mitigation possibilities.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Based on the design team's recommendation and the direction of the Army Corps of Engineers, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1 as described above.