

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: FLOOD MITIGATION ENGINEERING SERVICES

BACKGROUND:

Following the floods of 2010, the City Council established a goal of mitigating the impact of future flooding in Ames. A comprehensive Flood Mitigation Study was completed in 2013 that considered many possible mitigation alternatives across a wide range of factors, including: degree of reduction of flood water elevation, estimated annual damage reduction, construction costs, ongoing operations and maintenance costs, environmental impacts, and likelihood of obtaining federal grant funding.

On December 10, 2013, the City Council approved a series of flood mitigation measures. These included discrete elements targeted at: A.) Undertaking a 'stream restoration' of Squaw Creek; B.) Working with IDOT to improve the conveyance capacity of the US Highway 30 bridge; C.) Working through the Squaw Creek Watershed Management Authority to pursue flood mitigation alternatives in the upper reaches of the watershed; and D.) Conducting a workshop to review and discuss the range of possible floodplain regulatory approaches.

This project involves the engineering for the 'restoration' of the Squaw Creek channel. A central component will include conveyance improvements within the channel approximately 2,000 feet either side of the South Duff Avenue bridge. According to the flood mitigation study, this is anticipated to reduce the water surface elevation of a 1% annual chance flood (i.e. – a "100-year" flood) by approximately 2 feet on South Duff Avenue, a major damage center. **As part of this project, the consultant will present alternatives for providing natural stabilization and restoration options.** Outside grant funding through FEMA, REAP, and other possible sources will be pursued for the restoration work.

In April 2015, staff requested and received engineering services proposals. Six proposals were received and rated. Listed below are the results.

Consultant	Overall Rank	Fee Proposal
Ayers Associates	2	\$450,000
Bolton & Menk	5	\$358,230
HDR	1	\$345,000
RDG	6	\$277,900
WHKS & Co.	4	\$138,000
Snyder & Associates	3	\$485,000

As shown above, there was great interest in providing professional services for this project and the professional qualifications of each team were rather closely rated. Ultimately, the fee proposal became a large consideration for which professional firm rose to the top for negotiation of a contract. **WHKS & Co. submitted the lowest fee proposal, yet has proposed a team that has technical experience in completing stream restoration/flood mitigation projects in Iowa and Minnesota.** Overall, WHKS & Co. has delivered numerous successful projects in Ames including 6th Street reconstruction (west of Grand Avenue), 6th Street Bridge replacement project (over Squaw Creek), 13th Street reconstruction (west of Stange Road), and Squaw Creek Pedestrian Bridge Design and Hydraulics (replacement of bridge damaged during Ames flooding). The approved CIP included \$639,000 for engineering services and construction inspection.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the engineering services agreement for the Flood Mitigation – River Flooding with WHKS & Co. of Ames, Iowa, in an amount not to exceed \$138,000.
2. Direct staff to negotiate an engineering agreement with another consulting firm.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

In order to move ahead with one of the goals of the City Council, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby approving the engineering services agreement for the Flood Mitigation Engineering Services with WHKS & Co. of Ames, Iowa, in an amount not to exceed \$138,000.