

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: WATER POLLUTION CONTROL FACILITY TRICKLING FILTER BUILDING HVAC HEAT RECOVERY UNIT – PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS AND NOTICE TO BIDDERS

BACKGROUND:

The City's Water Pollution Control Facility has a heat recovery unit on the trickling filter building. When the building is occupied, several air exchanges per hour must occur. The air exchanges draw in outside air or "make-up" air. However, in the winter, the make-up air significantly reduces the temperature of the building affecting the equipment and the staff working inside. Typically, an HVAC system uses a heater to warm the incoming air. A heat recovery unit (HRU) uses a heat exchanger to increase the temperature of the incoming air with the heat from the air that is ventilated or released. The current HRU is no longer working properly. A more energy-efficient replacement fits well into the City of Ames Cool Cities vision.

This project was originally included in the 2006-2011 CIP as part of the WPC Plant Equipment Project at \$75,000. When budget amendments were made in late 2006, \$50,000 in savings from another CIP project was transferred to this HVAC project, bringing the total available funding to \$125,000. The engineering consultant's contract has already been awarded in the amount of \$17,300. The anticipated cost for the equipment and installation of the new heat recovery unit is \$80,000.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Grant preliminary approval to the plans and specifications and issue a Notice to Bidders, setting February 14, 2008 as the bid due date and February 26, 2008 as the date for public hearing and award.
2. Do not approve plans and specifications at this time.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The existing heat recovery unit at the trickling filter building is not functioning as necessary to maintain building temperature. It is in the city's best interest to remove and replace the heat recovery unit to protect the equipment and provide appropriate working conditions for staff. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1 approving the plans and specifications and issuing a Notice to Bidders for this project.