

**COUNCIL ACTION FORM**

**SUBJECT: ADA HAYDEN PARK WATER QUALITY MONTIORING CONTRACT**

**BACKGROUND:**

As a part of both the 2008/09 and 2009/10 operating budgets, the City Council set aside funds to be used for water testing at Ada Hayden Heritage Park. On September 23, 2008, Council gave staff direction to begin looking at improvements that would mitigate phosphorus contamination of Ada Hayden Lake. On December 16, 2008, Council approved a plan to address these concerns. That plan included targeted public education in the Hayden Park watershed, testing of the stormwater entering the south wetland to ensure that there is no sanitary waste entering the storm sewer system, evaluation of possible carp exclusion devices, and review of the north wetland performance. On March 3, 2009, Council authorized staff to proceed with distribution of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for water quality monitoring.

During amendments to the current year's operating budget, staff reallocated funds from other areas to allow the monitoring activity to proceed at the funding level originally authorized and to carry out the additional efforts approved by Council in December 2008. Below is a summary of the current Council-approved funding.

FY 08/09	\$15,000	Water Level Monitoring Probes
	\$30,000	Water Quality Monitoring
	\$15,000	Additional Hayden Park Activities
FY 09/10	\$30,000	Water Quality Monitoring
	\$15,000	Additional Hayden Park Activities

The RFP included monitoring between May and September for the next two years. The proposed sampling and analytical services will be tracking any deviations from the baseline data already collected. The next two years will be focused on monitoring key parameters, compiling data, and observing if any changes occur in water quality.

Four proposals were received. It is important to note that each proposal had a different scope of work; and, therefore, a decision was not simply made by cost alone. Staff evaluated the proposed work and selected the person that would provide the most beneficial data for the City's needs.

The four proposals and costs for two years of monitoring are listed below:

PERSON – ORGANIZATION	COST, \$
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John Downing – ISU Limnology Lab	51,038
Jim Luzier – University of Iowa Hygienic Laboratory	43,062
Todd Whipple – FOX Engineering	125,940
Donna Lutz – ISU Civil, Construction, and Environmental Engineering	87,929

Dr. John Downing and his lab are being recommended to complete this work. Dr. Downing's proposal includes monitoring the lakes, wetlands, tributaries, and phytoplankton composition and providing the City with a better overall picture of the Hayden watershed. To receive this wide array of data from the other researchers, additional cost would be added to their base proposals.

Although this work is scaled back in comparison to previous monitoring efforts, the proposed scope of work includes a sufficient level of effort to adequately monitor changes in water quality in the lake over time.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Award a two-year Ada Hayden Heritage Park water quality monitoring services contract to Dr. John Downing, Iowa State University, in the amount of \$51,038.
2. Do not take any action on awarding a contract.

**MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Ada Hayden Heritage Park has been identified as a valuable resource for the City of Ames. The Council has requested that staff members continue efforts to maintain the overall health of the lakes and wetlands. Water quality sampling is an important part of a lake management plan by monitoring any changes in lake quality.

Therefore it is the City Manager's recommendation that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby approving the two-year water quality monitoring services contract with Dr. John Downing, Iowa State University, in the amount of \$51,038. Reallocations were made during mid-year budget amendments, providing sufficient funding to carry out these monitoring activities which were approved by Council in December 2008.