

ITEM #: 9  
DATE: 7-28-09

## COUNCIL ACTION FORM

**SUBJECT: PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS AND NOTICE TO BIDDERS FOR WATER POLLUTION CONTROL FACILITY RAW WATER BUILDING HVAC HEAT RECOVERY UNIT**

### **BACKGROUND:**

The City of Ames Water Pollution Control Facility has a heat recovery unit on the raw water pump station building. When the building is occupied, several air exchanges each 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.

In the FY 2008-09 adjusted budget, \$150,000 was budgeted for this project, including engineering design and construction. The engineering consultant’s contract was awarded in the amount of \$14,800. The anticipated cost for the equipment and installation of the new heat recovery unit is \$110,000.

### **ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Grant preliminary approval of the plans and specifications and issue Notice to Bidders, setting August 27, 2009 as the bid due date and setting September 8, 2009 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 WPC Facility raw water pump station building is at the end of its useful life and 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, thereby approving the plans and specifications and issuing a Notice to Bidders.