

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: **SQUAW CREEK PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE**

BACKGROUND:

The Squaw Creek Pedestrian Bridge was heavily damaged in the floods of 2010, and since that time has been out of service. **After working through the FEMA public assistance process following the 2010 flood, it was determined that federal funding would not initially be available for a replacement of the bridge. This project is for replacement of the existing bridge with a pre-engineered steel truss bridge as used throughout the trail system. This bridge can be reused at a different location in the trail system when the bridge is removed to facilitate the Grand Avenue Extension.**

A longer than originally anticipated bridge span was required in order to prevent water from backing up on private property upstream from the bridge, meeting the Iowa Department of Natural Resources requirements to eliminate backwater. The project also now includes armoring of the stream banks in the work area. This was not originally planned but is now important due to the uncertain timing of the Grand Avenue Extension project.

On August 22, 2012, bids for this project were received as follows:

<i>Engineer's Estimate</i>	<i>\$429,000.00</i>
Iowa Bridge & Culvert, LC	\$279,335.60
Peterson Contractors, Inc.	\$294,751.85
Jenco Construction, Inc.	\$341,526.50
Godbersen-Smith Construction Co.	\$355,733.00
Jensen Construction Co.	\$357,996.00
Herberger Construction Co., Inc.	\$397,333.00

Engineering is estimated to be \$55,000, bringing total project costs to **\$334,336**. Funding is shown in the Capital Improvements Plan in the amount of **\$400,000** from the 2012/13 General Obligation Bond Issue.

In addition, staff also submitted an improved project request to FEMA several months ago that would provide \$54,700 in additional funding, if approved. Staff was originally told that should construction begin before FEMA approval, the City would not be eligible for reimbursement. However, recent communication from Iowa Homeland Security indicated that the City may still be eligible if construction begins prior to a determination.

ALTERNATIVES:

- 1a. Accept the report of bids for the Squaw Creek Pedestrian Bridge Project
- b. Approve the final plans and specifications for the Squaw Creek Pedestrian Bridge Project
- c. Award the Squaw Creek Pedestrian Bridge Project to Iowa Bridge & Culvert, LC, in the amount of \$279,335.60
- 2a. Accept the report of bids for the Squaw Creek Pedestrian Bridge Project
- b. Approve the final plans and specifications for the Squaw Creek Pedestrian Bridge Project
- c. Delay award of contract
3. Reject the project

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Award of contract could be delayed up to 30 days to see if a determination on the grant request is received from FEMA. If the award was to be delayed any longer, the bidders could withdraw their bids and construction would likely not occur until spring of 2013.

If Council moves to award the project at this point, the time needed to execute the contract documents, hold a preconstruction conference, and mobilize materials and equipment would mean that construction likely would not start until October 1, 2012. Iowa Homeland Security has told staff that they will advocate for the City in pressing FEMA to expedite their decision before October 1st. However, Staff was also recently informed by Iowa Homeland Security that award of the grant could still be possible if construction were to commence. The total anticipated project cost of approximately \$335,000 is well below the \$400,000 of GO Bonds budgeted for this project.

This important link in the City's north-south trail system has been unavailable to the public for two years. During that time staff has worked extensively with Iowa Homeland Security and FEMA to maximize outside funding for this bridge replacement. Very competitive bids have been received, and it is possible that this work can commence yet this fall.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1 accepting the report of bids, approving the final plans and specifications, and awarding the Squaw Creek Pedestrian Bridge Project to Iowa Bridge & Culvert, LC, in the amount of \$279,335.60.