

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR CONSTRUCTION OF NORTH RIVER VALLEY WELL FIELD PROJECT

BACKGROUND:

On February 20, 2015, a request for proposals (RFP) for engineering services was issued for the route determination and design of the pipeline associated with the City's new well field. After a thorough review of each firm's proposal, staff determined that HDR Engineering was the most qualified firm for both the route determination and design of the project. When negotiating the scope of work with HDR, staff learned that the level of uncertainty in the route resulted in some additional costs being included in HDR's proposal for the final design phase. **As a result, staff decided to limit the initial scope of services to just the route determination portion, with the intent to negotiate the design services after the study phase had been completed.** On May 12, 2015, the City Council approved the initial scope of services with HDR for only the route study services in the amount of \$37,500.

The route study has since been completed, and a pipeline alignment was chosen based on the recommendation by HDR and feedback from various stakeholders. Three alternative alignments were evaluated to transmit water to the new treatment plant. The selected *pipeline route* utilizes City property and will limit impacts to the public during construction. It should be noted that it may be necessary to acquire private property for construction of the *actual wells*. City staff worked closely with the Electric Services Department and the Parks and Recreation Department during the process of the route study. Staff also invited all potentially affected property owners to an open house on March 1, 2016. The open house allowed the public to ask questions and give feedback regarding the alternative pipeline route alignments and planned well locations.

On April 26, 2016, City Council approved a resolution to fund the final site specific design and to acquire, by condemnation if necessary, property and easements for the construction of the North River Well Field and Pipeline Project. Following the approval by Council, staff worked with HDR to develop a scope of services for the actual design of the project. **This project will be a joint design effort by City staff and HDR. City staff will design the new wells, while HDR will design the pipeline. HDR will also design the power supply for the site, to include both Ames Electric for primary service and the installation of a standby generator for emergency power.** The Electric Services Department has worked closely with W&PC staff to ensure that the scope of work for the electrical design includes all necessary requirements.

After finalizing the scope of services with HDR, their final proposed fee for completing the design, bid, and construction phase engineering services is

\$384,200. As is shown in the FY 2016-2021 Capital Improvements Plan, the project budget has \$518,000 earmarked for these same services, as well for securing needed land and/or easements.

FY 2012/13; 2015/16	\$ 60,000	Test Drilling
FY 2014/15 – 2016/17	518,000	Design/Engineering/Easements
FY 2015/16 – 2016/17	2,804,000	Pipeline Construction
FY 2015/16 – 2016/17	<u>2,179,000</u>	<u>Well Construction</u>
	\$ 5,561,000	Total

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Award a contract for engineering services to HDR Engineering, Inc., of Des Moines, Iowa, for design, bidding, and construction phase engineering services for the North River Valley Well Field Project in an amount not to exceed \$384,200.
2. Do not award a contract to HDR Engineering, Inc. at this time.

MANAGER’S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

In order to increase source water capacity as existing wells age and become less effective and as demand for treated water increases, new wells and a transmission pipeline need to be constructed. The route study for the pipeline to transmit the water to the new water plant has been completed, and the scope of work for the pipeline and electrical engineering services has been finalized. All obligations required by the Code of Iowa for notifying potentially impacted property owners have been fulfilled, preserving the use of eminent domain as an alternative for the City should it become necessary at some point in the future.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1 as described above.