

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: **NORTH RIVER VALLEY LOW-HEAD DAM IMPROVEMENTS**

BACKGROUND:

The City of Ames constructed a low-head dam on the South Skunk River in 1984 to create a pool of water in the primary recharge zone for the aquifer that feeds the City's Downtown Well Field, thereby providing a means to increase the capacity of these wells during periods of drought. While the City has never promoted recreation at the dam, it is evident that the low-head dam attracts members of the public who use the area for recreation. Low-head dams can pose a serious drowning hazard due to the recirculation effect which occurs immediately downstream. Therefore, in 2013 the City initiated a project to replace the dam with features that create safe recreational opportunities while still allowing for aquifer recharge during drought.

In April 2016, RiverRestoration.org was awarded a contract to design the project in the amount of \$102,499. Prior to the start of design, staff hosted a stakeholder input meeting where representatives from the Skunk River Paddlers, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Prairie Rivers of Iowa, Parks & Recreation Commission, and an adjacent property owner were able to learn about the project and help develop a list of project goals, beyond the first and foremost goal of improved safety.

An award of contract for construction was made to RW Excavating Solutions of Prairie City, Iowa on April 10, 2018. In order to provide construction phase engineering services, a change order with River Restoration is needed. A previous change order was executed with River Restoration during the design phase when the City chose to pursue design for the full vision of the project which included both in-channel and bank side improvements. Change Order No. 1 was in the amount of \$10,176. **Change Order No. 2, in the amount of \$14,945, will provide the necessary construction phase engineering services needed for construction slated to begin in August 2018.** Construction is anticipated to be completed by the end of 2018.

The current estimated cost for the project is as follows:

Total Project Costs

Engineering (<i>Includes this Change Order No. 2</i>)	\$ 127,620
Mussel Survey (permit required)	30,153
Construction	776,535
Construction Inspection	71,600
<u>Contingency</u>	<u>69,277</u>

Total Estimated Project Cost **\$1,075,185**

Current funding for the project is as follows:

Grant Funds

Low Head Dam Safety Grant (2009)	\$ 75,000	
Low Head Dam Safety Grant (2016)	85,000	
Low Head Dam Safety Grant (2017)	112,901	
Water Trails Enhancement Grant (2017)	120,000	
Subtotal		\$392,901

Local (City) Funds

Water Utility Fund – FY 13/14 CIP	\$ 75,000	
Water Utility Fund – FY 16/17 CIP (from Source Water CIP Project)	150,000	
Parks System Improvements - FY 15/16 CIP Add Recreation Features	40,000	
Local Options Sales Tax	60,000	
General Fund (FY 16/17)	150,000	
Subtotal		\$475,000

In-Kind Donations/Services

Iowa Whitewater Coalition - confirmed	\$ 1,000	
Hawkeye Fly Fishing Assoc. – confirmed	1,000	
Ames Outdoor Alliance – confirmed	1,000	
Iowa Department of Natural Resources (construction Inspection services)	71,600	
City of Ames Park & Recreation staff (tree removal)	16,000	
Subtotal		\$90,600

Total Available Funding **\$958,501**

The project budget shown above is short \$116,684, much of which is attributed to the contingency for the project. At the April 10, 2018 City Council meeting, staff indicated that the following funds would be moved as a part of the year-end budget amendments for FY 17/18.

CIP projects savings:

Source Water Protection (Water)	\$50,000
Ada Hayden Monitoring (Water)	\$24,000
North & South River Valley Softball Field Renovation	\$ 7,150
North River Valley Park Baseball Field Removal	\$12,669
Ada Hayden Heritage Park Prairie Restoration	\$22,865
Total	\$116,684

It should be noted that \$74,000 of these projects savings would come from savings in Water Utility CIP projects in the Water Fund, and \$42,684 would come from Parks and Recreation facility project savings from the Local Option Sales Tax Fund.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve Change Order No. 2 in the amount of \$14,945 to River Restoration of Carbondale, Colorado for construction phase engineering services.
2. Do not approve Change Order No. 2 at this time.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

As a result of the inherent danger of the City's low-head dam in North River Valley Park, staff has recommended a modification to the dam that will significantly reduce the downstream recirculation effect. Staff has worked diligently with stakeholders to provide an opportunity to not only increase the safety associated with the City's low-head dam, but also create a unique recreational facility not available elsewhere in the community. The contract for construction has been awarded and construction phase engineering services are needed to ensure a successful project completion.

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