

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: NORTH RIVER VALLEY PARK 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 people 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.

An award of contract for construction was made to RW Excavating Solutions of Prairie City, Iowa, on April 10, 2018. The construction, which is currently underway, is anticipated to be complete by fall 2020. Change Order No. 1 was executed on March 7, 2019, for \$3,900 to create an upstream ledge that was previously believed to exist, but was not found during construction. Change Order No. 2 was executed on November 12, 2019, for \$40,663 to provide additional rock materials.

Change Order No. 3 in the amount of \$59,483.99 is requested to provide additional rock and grout materials. Since the shape of the channel was different than expected, more rock was needed than in the original bid. Additional grout was recommended by the consulting engineer to provide added stability for boulder structures.

The current project budget is as follows.

Project Budget	
FY 16/17 Actual	\$ 54,402
FY 17/18 Actual	88,751
FY 18/19 Actual	242,739
FY 19/20 Budget	689,292
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Total Project Budget	\$ 1,075,184

A total of \$392,901 of funding comes from a series of grants from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. An additional \$5,000 has been provided by private donations.

As the summary below shows, the current year budget includes sufficient contingency to cover the proposed change order.

Current Year Budget (carryover from prior years)	\$ 497,320
Minus YTD Expenses	
Engineering	0
Construction	0
Minus Encumbrances	
Engineering	13,465
Construction	401,006
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Available Contingency before Change Order #3	\$ 82,849
<u>Change Order #3 (this request)</u>	59,484
Remaining Contingency after Change Order #3	\$ 23,365

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve Change Order No. 3 in the amount of \$59,483.99 to RW Excavating Solutions of Prairie City, Iowa, for additional rock and grout materials.
2. Do not approve Change Order No. 3 at this time.

CITY 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 additional materials 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.