

ITEM #: 17
DATE: 07-23-24
DEPT: W&PC

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: **FY 2022/23 STORY COUNTY EDGE OF FIELD PROJECT**

BACKGROUND:

The Water Pollution Control (WPC) Facility is being converted to implement nutrient removal treatment technology over a period of 20 years. **Separate from the work that will occur at the treatment plant, watershed-based improvements performed by the City can be “banked” as credit toward any future, more stringent nutrient reduction regulations imposed on the WPC Facility.**

On June 11, 2024, Council issued a Notice to Bidders for the FY 2022/23 Story County Edge of Field Project. **The project will install five saturated buffers and ten bioreactors that will intercept and treat 19 agricultural tile outlets. These practices allow for the natural removal of nitrogen from subsurface drainage before it enters a stream or other surface waters.** A single bid was received. A copy of the bid tabulation is attached.

The Engineer's estimate for the work was \$257,711. The lone bid received was significantly higher than the estimate at \$374,228. Staff is recommending that Council accept the report of bids and delay any action on an award until the August 13 City Council meeting. The additional time will allow staff to confirm with the sole bidder that they have the experience and equipment necessary to perform this specialized work. It will also allow staff an opportunity to consult with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship and with Story County Conservation, who are partnering with the City on the project, regarding their opinion on the cost exceedance. A preliminary conversation with IDALS (which is funding approximately 60% of the project) suggests they may be comfortable with awarding the bid, but staff wishes to have additional conversations before moving ahead.

Should the project move forward, the City's portion of the total project costs would be \$78,150. The funding comes from the Watershed Based Nutrient Reduction capital improvements project budgeted at \$200,000 per year.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Accept the report of bids and delay action until the August 13, 2024 City Council meeting.
2. Reject the bids and direct staff to consolidate the FY 2022/23 project into the FY 2023/24 project currently under design.
3. Accept the report of bids and award a contract to On Track Construction LLC of Nevada Iowa for the FY 2022/23 Story County Edge of Field Project in the lump sum amount of \$374,228.00.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Because only one bid was received and it exceeded the engineer's estimate by more than 45%, staff is requesting additional time to evaluate the bid and consult with the other governmental

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

ATTACHMENT(S):

[2024-195 FY22-23 Story County Edge of Field Project Bid Tabulation.pdf](#)