

ITEM #: 32
 DATE: 10-08-24
 DEPT: W&PC

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

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

BACKGROUND:

On June 11, 2024, Council issued a Notice to Bidders for the FY 2022/23 Story County Edge of Field Project. This is an annual program to install watershed-based nutrient reduction projects that can be "banked" as credit towards any future, more stringent nutrient regulations imposed on the Water Pollution Control Facility. This year's project will construct Edge of Field (EOF) practices in Story County, consisting of 6 saturated buffers and 10 bioreactors that will intercept and treat 18 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 that exceeded the engineer's estimate by 45%. On August 13, Council rejected that bid and directed staff to rebid the project with a later construction deadline, with the expectation that the project would be more attractive to potential bidders.**

On August 27, revised specifications were released to bidders with an extended construction deadline. **Bids were opened on September 25, and this time a total of four bids were received. The low bid came in \$47,485.29 below the engineer's estimate.**

Bidder	Bid Price
Hands On Excavating LLC Radcliffe, IA	\$221,609.07
Herman Drainage LLC Woodward, IA	\$237,372.00
<i>Engineer's Estimate</i>	<i>\$269,094.36</i>
Gehrke Inc Eldora, IA	\$405,043.45
On Track Construction LLC Nevada, IA	\$483,398.00

The low bidder, Hands On Excavating, has successfully completed a prior year's work for this project, and staff is comfortable with the company's ability to complete the work as intended. Funding for the project comes from multiple sources, as outlined in the table below:

	Funding Source:				TOTAL
	Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)	Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS)	Story County Conservation	City of Ames	
Design Services		\$25,500.00	\$25,500.00	\$25,500.00	\$76,500.00
Easement Payments			\$9,000.00	\$9,000.00	\$18,000.00
Construction Services	\$33,029.00	\$141,435.05	\$23,572.51	\$23,572.51	\$221,609.07
Total by Funder	\$33,029.00	\$166,935.05	\$58,072.51	\$58,072.51	\$316,109.07

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Take the following actions:
 - a. Approve final plans and specifications and receive the report of bids.
 - b. Award a contract to Hands On Excavating, LLC of Radcliffe, IA for the FY 2022/23 Story County Edge of Field Project in the amount of \$221,609.07.
2. Award a contract to one of the three other bidders.
3. Take no action and provide direction to staff regarding the future of the project.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The Ames Water Pollution Control Facility will be converted to implement nutrient removal treatment technology over a period of 20 years. To mitigate future investment beyond what is already planned for, watershed-based projects can be performed, and the resulting nutrient reduction credits can be banked. Following project completion, the City will register each of these practices and receive annual nutrient reduction credit for the lifespan of each practice.

After previously receiving only a single bid that significantly exceeded the engineer's estimate, the work has been rebid. The low bid price was below the engineer's estimate, and the bidder is familiar with the type of work to be performed. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1 as described above.

ATTACHMENT(S):

[FY 22-23 Story County Edge of Field Project - Line Item Bid Tab.pdf](#)