

ITEM #:	12
DATE:	06-10-25
DEPT:	PW

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

**SUBJECT: STORY COUNTY WATER MONITORING AND INTERPRETATION PLAN
2021-2030 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT**

BACKGROUND:

In 2020, a planning team of 24 members from Story County agencies, including Ames, developed a plan to comprehensively monitor stream and lake water quality in the County. The plan was presented to the City Council on March 23, 2021. An update was presented to the Council during the Watersheds Update on April 19, 2022.

This county-wide plan is the first of its kind in Iowa. It provides a working document for meeting goals and strategies as the planning team continues to meet and support effective and practical stream and lake water quality monitoring efforts.

The Story County Water Monitoring & Interpretation Plan 2021-2030 is now completing its fifth year. The purpose of the plan is to collect and analyze water sampling data, to increase residents' knowledge and understandings, identify problems in the watersheds within Story County, and to support and improve water quality.

The goals of the plan are:

1. To increase awareness of water quality in Indian Creek and South Skunk River (and their tributaries), recognize progress, and engage stakeholders who can positively impact those watersheds.
2. Expand monitoring efforts to cover more of the county.
3. To identify and promote actions that improve and sustain the water quality and system resiliency of the lakes and rivers through which water travels.
4. To strengthen the working relationships between current and future partners as we implement the monitoring plan.

Since the plan's inception, the City of Ames has contracted with Prairie Rivers of Iowa, RC & D, of Ames, Iowa (PRI) to assist in development and implementation of the plan. Other partners also contribute funding for implementation of the plan.

Services provided by PRI include:

Water Monitoring

- Work with Monitoring Planning team to implement goals and strategies and assist in holding at least four meetings/year with the Monitoring Planning team.
- Continue to oversee two volunteer monitoring snapshots taken in the spring and in the fall. Conduct monthly sample collection, delivery to lab, and reporting/interpretation of

data for 15 sites around the county and snapshot events.

- Work closely with the City of Ames Lab to collect and coordinate monitoring information for the Monitoring Plan.
- Oversee water quality monitoring webpage development and maintenance in partnership with City of Ames.
- Facilitate the development of a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) for the monitoring program
- Coordinate follow-up monitoring to identify bacteria sources.

Water Quality Public Education

- Support the City of Ames events that involve conservation by interpreting and educating the public.
- If requested, provide one article a year about water quality and/or conservation to distribute throughout the city.
- Develop graphs and educational materials as needed.

Other Conservation Efforts and Education

- Present water quality, water monitoring and other educational elements to the City Council, as needed.
- Support and participate in the Eco-Fair.
- Support the prairie restoration at the Ames Water and Pollution Plant on 13th Street.
- Support City of Ames in project-related grant seeking and philanthropic endeavors, as needed.
- Conduct site analysis and/or develop restoration planting plans for best management practice (BMP) implementation, as needed, including supporting the development of a master plan for the section of loway Creek that flows through the City of Ames.

A focus for FY 2025/26 will be source tracking E. Coli. A new testing method has become available that can narrow down the source of E. Coli and determine if it is human, bovine, swine, poultry, sheep or dog. The samples will be taken at strategic locations where there are known or anticipated high E. Coli levels.

The proposed contract is for the period from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. The contract amount is \$56,740. This is the first year in which the agreement is above \$50,000 and, therefore, City Council approval is necessary.

Funding for the contract is from the following sources:

Public Works Stormwater Permit Program	\$ 37,826.67 (2/3)
WPC Watershed Nutrient Reduction CIP Program	\$ 18,913.33 (1/3)
Total	\$ 56,740.00

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the Professional Services Agreement for the Story County Water Monitoring and Interpretation Plan, 2021-2030 with Prairie Rivers of Iowa, RC & D of Ames, Iowa, billed monthly and not to exceed \$56,740.
2. Do not approve the agreement for services.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Staff has worked diligently with PRI and other agencies to implement the plan that monitors water quality in local waterways, educates the public, and improves the water quality in area streams and waterbodies. This plan is starting the sixth year of implementation. Continued monitoring will identify trends and help determine the effectiveness of water quality practices and streambank stabilization projects. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, as described above.

ATTACHMENT(S):

[PRI-CityofAmes WaterMonitoringServicesAgreement 2025-2026 signed by PRI.pdf](#)