

**CITY COUNCIL  
COMMUNICATION:**

**02-628**

**AGENDA:**

DECEMBER 16, 2002

**SUBJECT:**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
INVESTIGATION IN  
THE AGRIMERGENT  
TECHNOLOGY PARK

**TYPE:**

**RESOLUTION**  
ORDINANCE  
RECEIVE/FILE

**SUBMITTED BY:**

RICHARD CLARK  
DEPUTY CITY  
MANAGER

**ITEM \_\_\_\_\_**

**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER  
CITY OF DES MOINES, IOWA**

**SYNOPSIS —**

On the December 16, 2002 agenda is a roll call to enter into an agreement with Great Lakes Archaeological Research Center Inc. for professional archaeological services, including development of a cultural resource management plan, for the Agrimergent Technology Park. Jennifer Harvey from Milwaukee, WI, is the President of the firm. An archaeological investigation is required because federal funds are involved in the redevelopment project.

**FISCAL IMPACT —**

The cost for professional archaeological services is \$27,274. Federal funds from U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development-Veterans Administration (HUD-VA) appropriations will be used to pay for the work.

**RECOMMENDATION —**

**Approval.**

**BACKGROUND —**

The City of Des Moines has received approximately \$2 million in federal funds for the future development of the Agrimergent Technology Park. This includes \$1 million for new storm sewer and \$990,000 for land assemblage. The use of federal funds, licenses, or permits requires the City to determine the impact of its actions on historic and archaeological resources in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (P.L. 89-665; 80 Stat. 915: 16 U.S.C. 470aa-mm) as amended.

Compliance with Section 106 begins by notifying the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) of the proposed work within the project area. SHPO responded that development of the Agrimergent Technology Park and construction of associated infrastructure has a very high potential to impact archaeological deposits and features associated with Native American occupations of the area. Archival research shows that an 1840's Sauk Village was located within the boundaries of the Park. SHPO recommended that an archaeological survey be performed prior to any earthmoving activities on the site and that the City consult with the Meskwaki Tribe pursuant to federal law.

The City sent a Request for Proposals (RFP) to archaeological firms that

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meet the Secretary of Interior's requirements for professional archaeology. The RFP specified the need for a comprehensive land use history of the 1,100-acre tract of land, intensive archaeological survey of the proposed Phase I storm sewer, sample archaeological survey of agricultural lands, and a cultural resource management plan. The land use history and cultural resource management plan are intended to help the City locate development outside areas that have the greatest likelihood for significant archaeological features.

Three firms responded to the RFP. Great Lakes Archaeological Research Center Inc. (GLARC) provided a comprehensive approach to the archaeological work and the most cost reasonable bid. The City of Des Moines has worked closely with GLARC on the Science Center of Iowa site and the Vine Street Lofts site. Their work has been acceptable to the State Historic Society of Iowa and timely.

