

 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Council Communication</b> Office of the City Manager</p>	<b>Date</b>	July 27, 2009
	<b>Agenda Item No.</b> 7A <b>Roll Call No.</b> <u>09-</u> <b>Communication No.</b> <u>09-525</u> <b>Submitted by:</b> William G. Stowe, Assistant City Manager-Public Works Director, and <b>Jeb E. Brewer, P.E. City Engineer</b>	

**AGENDA HEADING:**

Approving Professional Services Agreement with Tallgrass Historians, L.C., to provide historical context development and formulate criteria for evaluation of the sewer system not to exceed \$27,500.

**SYNOPSIS:**

Recommend approval of the Professional Services Agreement with Tallgrass Historians, L.C., Jan Olive Nash, Managing Member, 2460 S. Riverside Drive, Iowa City, IA 52246, for a total cost not to exceed \$27,500 based on hourly rates for historical context development and to formulate criteria for evaluation of the sewer system.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Amount: \$27,500

Funding Source: 2009-10 CIP, Page Sanitary-11, SAE049, Lining Sanitary Trunk and Lateral Sewers, Sanitary Sewer Revenue Funds.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Grant funding provided by the Assistance Agreement (XP-98728601) has been used towards lining of sanitary sewers. The EPA has consulted with and received advice from the Iowa State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) about certain brick sewers within the sanitary sewer lining project areas that may be historic cultural resources. The EPA Region Staff believes that the question of whether or not brick sewers in the City of Des Moines represent an historic cultural resource is properly addressed as a post-review discovery. Therefore, an historical assessment of the City of Des Moines sewer system must be completed to determine National Registry eligibility to resolve adverse effects, if any, due to lining of the sanitary sewers. An assessment and development of historic contexts, detailing the historical development of the sewer system in the City of Des Moines and formulating criteria for the National Register evaluation of the various sections of the historic sewer system, satisfies the requirements under the referenced Grant; and, in agreement with the Iowa SHPO, this work constitutes a “proposed action to resolve adverse effects,” if any, in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) regulations at 36 CFR Section 800.13(b)(3). The EPA and SHPO staff have advised that this assessment can be used as a basis to evaluate potential impacts associated with future projects that require NHPA review.

The City has solicited interest from area historians and requested responses to perform an assessment and development of historic contexts detailing the historical development of the sewer system in the City of

Des Moines and formulating criteria for the National Register evaluation of the various sections of the historic sewer system. Tallgrass Historians L.C. was the only firm that was interested and provided a Scope of Work. Staff has reviewed and evaluated the Scope of Work and also presented the Scope to both the EPA and SHPO. The EPA and SHPO concurred with the Scope from Tallgrass Historians L.C., and noted this proposed assessment and historic context of the sewer system would satisfy the requirements. Staff has negotiated a Professional Services Agreement with Tallgrass Historians, L.C., a total not to exceed \$27,500 based upon hourly rates to provide historical context development and formulate criteria for evaluation of the sewer system.

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE**

**BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE**

**ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:**

Present report and findings to City Council.

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