



Council Communication

Office of the City Manager

Date	April 12, 2010
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Agenda Item No.	45A
Roll Call No.	<u>10-</u>
Communication No.	<u>10-187</u>
Submitted by: Michael Matthes	
Assistant City Manager & CIO	

AGENDA HEADING:

Authorize acceptance of a subgrant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) through the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (IHSEMD) for \$198,836 to hire professional services to enhance the Des Moines Area Regional Geographic Information System (GIS) to support hazard risk assessment for multi-jurisdictional mitigation planning.

SYNOPSIS:

On January 16, 2008 the City of Des Moines was notified of its eligibility to receive a federal appropriation under the FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Program for risk identification, planning, communication, response coordination, and modeling activities for disaster mitigation. The funding was to be disbursed through FEMA in the form of a subgrant through IHSEMD. The Information Technology (IT) Department submitted a subgrant application to FEMA to provide details of the project and prove the City's eligibility for PDM funding.

On September 4, 2008, FEMA approved the City's subgrant application and awarded the funding. Due to City staff's misunderstanding of the nature of the appropriation, the subgrant agreement with IHSEMD was not properly accepted by the City Council and signed by the City Manager. This action accepts the subgrant and authorizes the City Manager to execute the subgrant agreement.

The current project seeks to leverage the Des Moines Area Regional GIS technology and partnership to fulfill FEMA requirements for GIS-based hazard risk assessment. The resulting system will also strengthen countywide preparedness, response, and recovery activities for all hazards by improving information exchange and decision making among partners.

The subgrant (2008 Legislative Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program project number LPDM-08-77-02) provides \$198,836 to the City specifically for hiring GIS professional services to support this project. The grant agreement requires a \$74,663 match from local funds, which the City will provide in the form of in-kind labor from City staff working on the project. The City has not drawn on subgrant funds for any part of the project to date. In other words, the City has not requested reimbursement nor has IHSEMD disbursed any subgrant funds to the City to date.

FISCAL IMPACT: NONE

Amount: N/A

Funding Source: N/A

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The City of Des Moines, Polk County, and several other Des Moines area municipalities partner to maintain the Des Moines Area Regional GIS. The Regional GIS is a repository of mapping equipment, geographic data, and digital maps hosted by the City of Des Moines and maintained collaboratively by the Regional GIS partners to support public safety response and emergency management throughout the Des Moines area.

The Polk County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP), approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and adopted by the Des Moines City Council in July 2009, included a specific mitigation action to enhance the Des Moines Area Regional GIS in order to “improve data collection, use, and sharing to reduce the impact of hazards.” Increasingly FEMA requires that GIS be used in the development of hazard mitigation strategies as a scientific basis for assessing exposure and vulnerability to hazards.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: July 13, 2009

Roll Call Number: 09-1284

Action: Approving and adopting the Polk County Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan, as required by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). (Council Communication No. 09-488) Moved by Mahaffey to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

Date: April 20, 2009

Roll Call Number: 09-653

Action: Approval of participation in the Des Moines Area Regional Geographic Information System (GIS) Partnership and to authorize City Manager to sign Memorandum of Understanding with Regional GIS partners. (Council Communication No. 09-230) Moved by Vlassis to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE**ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE**

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