

 <p style="text-align: center;">Council Communication Office of the City Manager</p>	Date: October 8, 2012
	Agenda Item No. 35 Roll Call No. <u>12-1574</u> Communication No. <u>12-533</u> Submitted by: Pat J Kozitza, Acting Public Works Director

AGENDA HEADING:

Resolution Supporting Polk Soil and Water Conservation District Application for an Iowa Department of Natural Resources Watershed Implementation Grant to be used for Easter Lake Watershed Project Phase 1.

SYNOPSIS:

Polk Soil and Water Conservation District will be submitting an application to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources Watershed Implementation Grant Program to help implement Phase 1 of the Easter Lake Water Quality Management Plan. City matching funds are required to fully implement Phase 1 of the Plan. There is also a need to have a commitment that the local match will be available should the grant be awarded. It is recommended that the City Council pass this resolution supporting the grant application and committing City matching funds in the amount of \$599,787.50.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$599,787.50 over three years beginning FY 2013-14

Funding Source: \$411,037.50 - 2012-2013 CIP, Page Stormwater Improvements - 10, STE061, Easter Lake Watershed Improvements, Stormwater Utility Fund; \$188,750.00 – 2012-2013 CIP, Page Park Improvements – 14, PKS137, Park Improvements.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Easter Lake, located within the City of Des Moines, has been a great recreational resource for the residents of Des Moines since 1967. However, over the last several years, the water quality of the lake has diminished, due to increased loads of nutrients and sediment as development has occurred around the lake. Currently, the lake suffers from poor water clarity, algal blooms, high sedimentation rates, low oxygen concentrations, and a poor fishery. In response to these water quality problems, area stakeholders worked together to develop the Easter Lake Water Quality Management Plan (the Plan). The Plan serves as the culmination of existing studies, citizen and stakeholder input, and the consultant’s recommendations for structural and non-structural Best Management Practices intended to reduce delivery of pollutants to stormwater, reduce stormwater runoff, and renovation of Easter Lake. Phase 1 projects and programs are aimed at reducing external load pollutants through cost-share and financial incentives for watershed best management practices, in addition to stream restoration projects. Decreasing the transport of eroded soil is critical to restoring Easter Lake and the watershed to a healthy, functioning system. The goal of Phase 1 is a 10% reduction of sediment loading and a 21% reduction in phosphorus loading to Easter Lake.

In 2012, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, with partial funding provided by the Polk County Conservation Board and the City of Des Moines, contracted with EA Engineering for them to take information gathered in previous studies, along with other available data, and develop the Plan. EA Engineering was also responsible to coordinate project activities with participating agencies and the local steering committee, and prepare preliminary designs, statement of probable costs, and schedule of implementation for selected management practices. A community-based planning approach was used to allow local residents and stakeholders input in development of the restoration plan for Easter Lake. This approach helped develop a common vision, identify and prioritize concerns, and come up with appropriate steps to address problems. The goal is to use the Plan as a guidance document for future cooperative lake and watershed restoration and protection efforts at Easter Lake.

The grant application being submitted by the Polk Soil and Water Conservation District seeks funds in the amount of \$692,726.50 to begin implementation of Phase 1 of the Plan. The grant is proposed to be used to fund construction projects including two Yeader Creek stabilization projects and a Ewing Park bioswale project. In addition, the funds will be used to support staff at the Polk Soil and Water Conservation District who will be responsible for coordinating implementation efforts of Phase 1 of the Easter Lake Watershed Management Plan. The Polk Soil and Water Conservation District was selected to be the applicant for the grant due to their experience in working with multiple entities and property owners with respect to water quality issues.

The Department of Public Works will coordinate City efforts to implement the Plan, working closely with the Park and Recreation and Community Development Departments. The total cost of all Phase 1 activities is estimated to be \$1,851,139 over a three-year period beginning in FY 2014 with an estimated City share of \$599,787.50. Additional funding beyond that requested by the grant application and that provided by the City will be provided by the Polk County Conservation Board, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources Lake Restoration Program, and other grant opportunities as they become available. The City of Des Moines has been asked to support the grant application and commit the City matching funds identified in the grant application. Ensuring that matching funds are available is essential for the grant to be competitive.

Projects included in Phase 1 of the Plan, which require matching funds from the City of Des Moines include: Yeader Creek stabilization projects near Ewing Park and near SW 9th Street and Spring Street, construction of bioswales in Ewing Park, and a Watershed Best Management Practices Incentive Program.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: February 27, 2012

Roll Call Number: [12-0358](#)

Action: [Intergovernmental](#) 28E Cooperative Agreement with Iowa Department of Natural Resources and Polk County Conservation Board to fund Easter Lake Water Quality Plan. ([Council Communication No. 12-088](#)). Moved by Meyer to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

If selected, the City will be asked to enter into an agreement to jointly fund Phase 1 of the Easter Lake Watershed Management Plan.

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