

Environment Committee

Meeting date: June 9, 2020

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of June 24, 2020

Subject: Blue Lake Solids Management Assistance, Contract 19P211

District(s), Member(s): District 4, Deb Barber

Policy/Legal Reference: Council Expenditure Policy 3-3, Procurement of Goods and Services

Staff Prepared/Presented: Jason Peterson, 651-602-1614; Rene Heflin, 651-602-1077

Division/Department: MCES c/o Leisa Thompson, 651-602-8101

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize award, negotiation and execution of Contract 19P211 with New England Fertilizer Company (NEFCO) in the amount of \$23,500,000 for Blue Lake Solids Management Assistance.

Background

The proposed Contract 19P211 will replace an existing twenty-year contract with the New England Fertilizer Company (NEFCO) that will expire in December 2020. Under the original contract, NEFCO designed and constructed the Final Stabilization Facility (FSF) at the Blue Lake Wastewater Treatment Plant in 1999. NEFCO has operated and maintained FSF using MCES operations staff since then.

FSF converts Blue Lake wastewater solids into a marketable fertilizer product. The proposed contract will continue solids management services to provide private-sector expertise in marketing the end product to farmers, fertilizer companies, and/or hardware stores.

A Request for Proposals was issued on January 22, 2020. A pre-proposal meeting and site visit was held on February 11, 2020, and a second site visit was held on February 27, 2020. There were seven plan holders, and two proposals were received on April 16, 2020. The evaluation panel selected New England Fertilizer Company as the proposer with the proposal most advantageous to the Council.

The Office of Equal Opportunity reviewed this contract and found that the management and operations of the Final Stabilization Facility did not provide the opportunity for sub-contracting. Additionally, there are no MCUB firms with the expertise or experience with the end product produced at the facility and marketing it to farmers, fertilizer companies, and/or hardware stores.

Rationale

The award and execution of a professional services contract exceeding \$500,000 requires Council approval.

Thrive Lens Analysis

This action advances the Thrive outcomes of Stewardship and Sustainability by recycling wastewater solids through an efficient, effective and economically feasible process.

Funding

Project funding is authorized and available within the Blue Lake WWTP Operations budget.

Known Support / Opposition

There is no known opposition to this project.