

Environment Committee

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of July 10, 2019

Subject: Master Contracts for Project Communications and Public Involvement to Support MCES Interceptor Rehabilitation and Improvements

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to award and execute master contracts 18P381 for communications and engagement related to MCES capital projects to HDR Inc., Zan Associates, Bolton & Menk, WSB & Associates, and Black & Veatch, totaling \$1,500,000.

Summary of Committee Discussion/Questions

Staff provided an overview of typical public outreach procedures that communities would experience when projects will occur.

Committee Member Vento commended staff on efforts related to customer outreach as well as the job recently done for the budget workshops. A resident she spoke with recently praised the amount of outreach that has occurred. Chair Lindstrom commented communication is vitally important.

Committee Member Fredson asked if we have enlisted the help of paid canvassers for outreach activities. Staff stated we have not enlisted paid canvassers; however, have had people go door to door with door hangers. Information is translated if needed. Committee Member Fredson shared that if canvassers are used, it would be important for them to earn a livable wage while conducting these efforts.

Committee Member Sterner inquired if Environmental Services would be able to conduct the work in-house. Staff stated it is not currently done in-house due to the fluctuation of staff workflow, as well the varied scope of work required to support the capital program.

Chair Lindstrom commented that it appears the organizations being awarded the contracts appear to be non-standard communication organizations. What is the reason for that? Staff stated the work being conducted requires specific skills including interpretation of technical information to the general public.

Committee Member Fredson asked why there were no MCUB or DBE goals for this project. Staff stated there are not a lot of subcontracting opportunities for these types of contracts. Eligible firms were solicited by procurement staff.

Committee Member Fredson sought clarification on why we are doing direct bids or awards to women owned or minority owned businesses. Staff clarified this project will be counted toward DBE goals.

Environment Committee

Meeting date: June 25, 2019

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of July 10, 2019

Subject: Master Contracts for Project Communications and Public Involvement to Support MCES Interceptor Rehabilitation and Improvements

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: 3-3 Expenditures Policy

Staff Prepared/Presented: Anna Bessel, 651-602-1125; Jeannine Clancy, 651-602-1210

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

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Background

Communication and outreach services are needed to implement the authorized multi-year capital program for the MCES interceptor system and treatment plants. The total contract amount was based on a level of effort estimate by MCES Technical Services staff.

A formal solicitation was issued on January 16, 2019, and ten proposals were received on February 20, 2019. The proposals were evaluated by three MCES staff and one Council Communications staff.

Based on strengths and ability to provide communication needs to the MCES capital program, five master contracts were awarded in various amounts. Staff recommended awarding \$500,000 to HDR Inc., \$400,000 to Zan Associates (Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE)/Women Business Enterprise (WBE)), \$275,000 to Bolton & Menk, \$225,000 to WSB & Associates, and \$100,000 to Black and Veatch.

The Office of Equal Opportunity did not assign any DBE/Metropolitan Council Underutilized Business (MCUB) goal commitments for this locally funded procurement. Procurement staff reviewed the directory and contacted potential DBE/MCUB vendors to make them aware of the solicitation.

Rationale

Master contracts with a total value of \$500,000 or more require Metropolitan Council authorization.

Thrive Lens Analysis

The services authorized by these consulting contracts support the following Thrive Outcomes:

- Equity: The work promotes communication and engagement across communities.
- Stewardship: The work supports preservation of the region's wastewater system.
- Sustainability: The work advances efforts to invest in the region's wastewater treatment and collection system so it may be operated efficiently and effectively.

Funding

Funding is provided in the 2019 Authorized Capital Program.

Known Support / Opposition

There is no known opposition.