

Committee Report

Environment Committee



Committee Meeting Date: April 12, 2022

For the Metropolitan Council: April 27, 2022

Business Item: 2022-96

Water Supply Technical Analyses & Outreach for Engineering Services, Master Contract 21P230

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute master contracts 21P230A for \$266,666 with Barr Engineering, Inc., 21P230B for \$266,666 with HDR, Inc., and 21P230C for \$266,666 with Kimley-Horn, Inc. to provide engineering support for water supply planning for a total not to exceed procurement value of \$800,000.

Summary of Environment Committee Discussion/Questions

Committee Member Sterner inquired how the numbers have aligned in the past. Staff stated the dollar amount is close to what we have been granted in the past from the legislature, but a bit less than prior years. We utilize all the funding we receive from the Clean Water Fund; however, we reduced our request for funding due to reduced availability.

Committee Member Sterner requested clarification for awards to three separate vendors. Staff clarified each vendor is highly qualified and brings different strengths to the table to complete the work.

Chair Lindstrom shared that he is pleased to see the Metropolitan Council Underutilized Business (MCUB) goal of 8% is being met by each of vendors.

Motion by Sterner, seconded by Zeran. Motion carried.



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District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	FM14-2 - Expenditures for the Procurement of Goods and Services Policy
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Brian Davis, Principal Engineer, 651-602-1519
Division/Department:	MCES, c/o Leisa Thompson, 651-602-8101

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Background

The Council's Water Supply Planning Unit seeks to update and maintain a base of technical information needed for sound water supply decisions in the Twin Cities, which is a role supported by both Council policy and Minnesota Statute 476.1565. The proposed master contracts support this work by providing engineering services including analyses, technical studies, and outreach. Deliverables will include but are not limited to studies, reports, short videos, social media campaigns, and promotional materials. The scope of this work will also include engaging water supply advisory committees and other water supply stakeholders to help inform the work in a way that maximizes the value to both local partners and the Council's policy and planning work – collaborating to reach shared water supply reliability and sustainability goals.

A Request for Proposal was issued on September 22, 2021. A pre-proposal meeting was hosted by Council staff on October 6, 2021 to outline the solicitation requirements, discuss project specifications and respond to plan holder inquiries. There were eighteen registered plan holders, fifteen consultants, one subcontractor, and two plan rooms, and three of the plan holders identified as minority, woman, small or disadvantaged business enterprises. Proposals were received on October 22, 2021 and the Council received five proposals to be evaluated for the consideration of award.

The following criteria were used in the evaluation of proposals: proposer quality, qualifications, experience, and price. The evaluation panel utilized the experience and knowledge from a range of engineering staff and included a technical advisor from Minneapolis Water Works. The review panel met on January 6, 2022 and concluded that Barr Engineering, HDR, and Kimley-Horn represented the highest ranked and most technically qualified proposers to provide the requested services for the Council.

Rationale

The award and execution of non-construction services in excess of \$500,000 requires Council approval.

Thrive Lens Analysis

This action supports the Thrive MSP 2040 stewardship and sustainability outcomes and the water sustainability goals of the Water Resources Policy Plan and Master Water Supply Plan.

Funding

Funds are available through Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment funds through Minnesota Legislature (Minnesota Legislature, 1st Special Session, Chapter 1, Article 2, Section 8): \$919,000 the first year and \$919,000 the second year are to implement projects that address emerging threats to the drinking water supply, provide cost-effective regional solutions, leverage interjurisdictional coordination, support local implementation of water supply reliability projects, and prevent degradation of groundwater resources in the metropolitan area.

Small Business Inclusion

The Office of Equal Opportunity (OEO) assigned a Metropolitan Council Underutilized Business Program (MCUB) goal of 8% for this project. OEO has determined that the recommended proposers have met the Council's MCUB Contract requirements for this project.

