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| Title: | Authorization to Award 2020 Vegetation Maintenance Contracts |
| Resolution number: | 20-039 |
| Prepared by: | Name: Janna Jonely Phone: 952.641.4523 jjonely@minnehahacreek.org |
| Reviewed by: | Name/Title: Tiffany Schaufler, Project & Land Manager, Michael Hayman, Project Planning Manager |
| Recommended action: | Authorization to execute the following three vegetation management contracts to: Landbridge Ecological for two years of vegetation maintenance for the Minnehaha Creek Greenway Sites which includes Cottageville Park, Minnehaha Creek Preserve, Minnehaha Creek Preserve Enhancement, Methodist Hospital Wetland Restoration, and 325 Blake Road in the amount of \$99,846 and establish a not-to-exceed budget of \$109,830.60; Natural Shore Technologies for two years of vegetation maintenance for the HWY 101 / Bushaway Road Shoreline & Jennings Bay Wetland Sites, in the amount of \$8,000 and establish a not-to-exceed budget of \$8,800; Applied Ecological Services (AES) for one year of vegetation maintenance for Six Mile Marsh Prairie Restoration & Laketown Wetland Sites in the amount of \$38,187 and establish a not-to-exceed budget of \$42,005.70. |
| Schedule: | May 2020 - February 2022: Landbridge Ecological and Natural Shore Technologies perform vegetation maintenance May 2020 – February 2021: AES performs vegetation maintenance |
| Budget considerations: | Fund name and code: 200-2003 Project Maintenance and Land Management Fund budget: \$854,762 Expenditures to date: \$23,231 Requested amount of funding: \$160,636.30 (\$146,033 + 10% contingency) |
| Past Board action: | Res # 19-034 Authorization to enter into four contracts for vegetation maintenance at 25 sites Res # 18-034 Authorization to Enter into a Contract for Vegetation Maintenance at four Sites Res # 17-013 Authorization to Enter into Contract for Vegetation Maintenance at three Sites Res # 16-014 Authorization to Enter into Contracts for Vegetation Maintenance at 17 Sites |

Summary:

In 2003, the District adopted a policy in which the District maintains vegetation established as part of its implementation of projects. This action was in response to the finding that project partners may not have the expertise, budget, or oversight needed for ongoing vegetation maintenance and that the District is best equipped to ensure that maintenance is regular and consistent. As more recent capital projects have reached the end of their warranty period, and maintenance and management goals have been refined for District lands, the number of projects where vegetation maintenance is needed has grown to 30 sites.

The District currently has contracts for 21 of these sites through 2022. The three contract packages sought here would cover the remaining nine sites. Of these nine sites, six sites have expired contracts, two sites are coming off of project warranty periods, and one site has been added for vegetation management.

Proposed maintenance for these sites has been divided among three contracts in an effort to group sites geographically, to group similar management approaches and required equipment, and to align technical abilities of individual contractors with specific management techniques. In addition, organizing the work into three separate contracts as defined will facilitate staff's oversight and administration of the work.

| Minnehaha Creek Greenway Sites (5) Two Year Contract Period: 2020-2022 | Highway 101 & Jennings Bay (2) Two Year Contract Period: 2020-2022 | SMMPR & Laketown (2) One Year Contract Period: 2020-2021 |
|--|--|--|
| Cottageville Park | Highway 101 / Bushaway Road Shoreline Restoration | Six Mile Marsh Prairie Restoration |
| Minnehaha Creek Preserve (Reach 20) | Jennings Bay Wetland Restoration | Laketown Wetland |
| Minnehaha Creek Preserve Enhancement (Japs Olson) | | |
| Methodist Hospital Wetland Restoration | | |
| 325 Blake Road | | |

The District received quotes for vegetation maintenance from six contractors; the table below summarizes quotes received:

| CONTRACTOR | Minnehaha Creek Greenway Sites (5) | Hwy 101 & Jennings Bay (2) | SMMPR & Laketown Wetland (2) |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Prairie Restorations, Inc. | \$220,206 | \$25,180 | \$38,150 |
| Landbridge Ecological | \$99,846* | \$17,270 | \$58,750 |
| Minnesota Native Landscapes | \$118,468 | \$11,500 | \$40,130 |
| Applied Ecological Services | | | \$38,187* |
| Natural Shore Technologies | \$118,113 | \$8,000* | \$38,600 |
| Native Resource Preservation | \$184,610 | \$25,300 | \$42,025 |

*Staff recommended quote

Based on the submitted quotes, staff recommends the following:

- Award of the Minnehaha Creek Greenway Sites contract to Landbridge Ecological for two years of vegetation maintenance in the amount of \$99,846 and establish a not-to-exceed budget of \$109,830.60;
- Award of the Highway 101 / Bushaway Road & Jennings Bay contract to Natural Shore Technologies for two years of vegetation maintenance in the amount of \$8,000 and establish a not-to-exceed budget of \$8,800;
- Award of the Six Mile Marsh Prairie Restoration & Laketown Wetland contract to Applied Ecological Services (AES) for one year of vegetation maintenance in the amount of \$38,187 and establish a not-to-exceed budget of \$42,005.70.

Although slightly above the low quote (a difference of \$37), staff is recommending the Six Mile Marsh Prairie Restoration (SMMPR) & Laketown Wetland contract be awarded to AES due to the complexity of each site and the experience of AES in previous management. Six Mile Marsh Prairie has 200 acres of management, excluding research areas under Great River Greening. Laketown Wetland is a mitigation site subject to a restoration plan approved by the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), the Board of Soil and Water Resources (BWSR), and is subject to MCWD permit 15-266. Both of these sites were managed by AES under the 2018 vegetation maintenance contract and thus due to their familiarity with the unique restoration qualities of each site, staff is recommending contract award to AES. The remaining maintenance contracts are recommended for award to the firms submitting the low quote, Landbridge Ecological and Natural Shore Technologies.

At the April 23, 2020 Board meeting, staff will provide a brief presentation detailing the recommended vegetation maintenance contracts.

Supporting documents (list attachments):

Attachment A: Contract Sites Map



RESOLUTION

Resolution number: 20-039

Title: Authorization to Execute 2020 Vegetation Maintenance Contracts

- WHEREAS the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) engages in regional capital improvement projects as described in its Water Resources Management Plan;
- WHEREAS the MCWD has constructed various regional treatment facilities that include a vegetation component;
- WHEREAS the MCWD Board of Managers has amended the maintenance policy to include maintenance of vegetation planted in conjunction with capital projects, but not including mowing of lawns or general landscaping of the project site;
- WHEREAS the MCWD contracts for vegetation management at seven projects sites expired December 31, 2019 and two additional sites are recent projects whose warranty period has ended, for a total of nine project sites requiring vegetation maintenance;
- WHEREAS the MCWD sought quotes for three vegetation maintenance site packages – Minnehaha Creek Greenway, Highway 101/Bushaway and Jennings Bay, and Six Mile Marsh Prairie Restoration and Laketown Wetland – grouped based on location and management approach;
- WHEREAS, MCWD staff has obtained five quotes for vegetation maintenance services for the five Minnehaha Creek Greenway Sites and staff is recommending Landbridge Ecological with a submitted a quote of \$99,846;
- WHEREAS, MCWD staff has obtained five quotes for vegetation maintenance services for the Highway 101 / Bushaway Road Shoreline Restoration and Jennings Bay Wetland Restoration Sites and staff is recommending Natural Shore Technologies with a submitted a quote of \$8,000;
- WHEREAS, MCWD staff has obtained six quotes for vegetation maintenance services for the Six Mile Marsh Prairie Restoration & Laketown Wetland and staff is recommending Applied Ecological Services with a submitted a quote of \$38,187.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers authorizes the District Administrator, on advice of District Counsel, to execute a contract with Landbridge Ecological in the amount of \$99,846 for vegetation maintenance at the five Minnehaha Creek Greenway Sites and establish a project maintenance budget in the not-to-exceed amount of \$109,830.60 and authorizes the District Administrator, in his judgment, to authorize change orders obligating the District up to that amount;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers authorizes the District Administrator, on advice of District Counsel, to execute a contract with Natural Shore Technologies in the amount of \$8,000 for vegetation maintenance at the Highway 101 / Bushaway Road Shoreline Restoration and Jennings Bay Wetland Restoration Sites and establish a project maintenance budget in the not-to-exceed amount of \$8,800 and authorizes the District Administrator, in his judgment, to authorize change orders obligating the District up to that amount; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers authorizes the District Administrator, on advice of District Counsel, to execute a contract with Applied Ecological Services in the amount of \$38,187 for vegetation maintenance at the Six Mile Marsh Prairie Restoration & Laketown Wetland and establish a project maintenance budget in the not-to-exceed amount of \$42,005.70 and authorizes the District Administrator, in his judgment, to authorize change orders obligating the District up to that amount.

Resolution Number 20-039 was moved by Manager _____, seconded by Manager _____. Motion to adopt the resolution ___ ayes, ___ nays, ___ abstentions. Date: 4/23/2020

Secretary Date: April 23, 2020

DRAFT

MINNEHAHA CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT 2020 VEGETATION MANAGEMENT CONTRACTS

