


City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: AUGUST 31, 2009

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: GRANT APPLICATION TO THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, STATE AND TRIBAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS (STAG) PROGRAM FOR A BIORETENTION AREA AND ULTRA URBAN BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICE (BMP) AT CHARLES BARRETT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, AN ULTRA-URBAN BMP AT FIRE STATION 206, A BIORETENTION AREA AT NICHOLAS COLASANTO CENTER, AND A GREEN ROOF ON ELLEN COOLIDGE BURKE LIBRARY

ISSUE: Grant application for a feasibility study, design and construction of two bioretention areas, two ultra-urban BMPs, and the construction of a green roof.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council authorize the City Manager to:

- (1) Submit a grant application to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for State and Tribal Assistance Grant (STAG) funding in the amount of \$481,100, to be matched by City funding in the amount of \$393,627, for implementation of these best management practice retrofits as described in this docket item; and
- (2) Execute all necessary documents and agreements that may be required to receive this funding under this grant program.

BACKGROUND: The Federal Appropriations Act of FFY 2005 made funds available to The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for special water and wastewater infrastructure projects through the STAG program, with a five year window to make a grant application. The City of Alexandria and Arlington County received \$1,000,000 to be divided equally. The funds were earmarked through Congressman Moran's office specifically for "water quality improvements in the Four Mile Run watershed," with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ) administering these funds. A 3.78 percent (approximately \$37,800) set-aside is required by VDEQ for management and oversight of this project. The cost-share requirement for these grants is 45 percent recipient and 55 percent federal. Thus, the Federal funds available for expenditure by the City of Alexandria are \$481,100, and combined with the City share of \$393,627, the total project budget is \$874,727.

DISCUSSION: Consistent with the Eco-City Action Plan goal of retrofitting 70% of feasible City facilities with BMPs by 2020, the following sites have been identified for improvements. All sites are within the Four Mile Run Watershed, have stormwater management facilities that do not meet present standards, and have been tentatively approved by Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and EPA.

Project	Location	City Share	Federal Share	Total Cost
Ultra-Urban BMP	Charles Barrett Elementary School	\$58,833	\$71,906	\$130,739
Bioretention Area	Charles Barrett Elementary School	\$51,750	\$63,250	\$115,000
Ultra Urban BMP	Fire Station 206	\$58,832	\$71,906	\$130,738
Bioretention Area	Colasanto Center	\$51,750	\$63,250	\$115,000
Green Roof	Burke Library	\$172,462	\$210,788	\$383,250
Total Budget		\$393,627	\$481,100	\$874,727

Charles Barrett Elementary School, located at 1115 Custis Drive, is within ¼ mile of Four Mile Run. This school is an ideal choice to feature the latest technology in low impact development infrastructure retrofits in highly urbanized areas. It is close to Four Mile Run, would have an educational impact, and would clean and manage a considerable amount of runoff. The City intends to construct a bioretention area in addition to installing an underground ultra-urban BMP on the property. The bioretention area is a water quality control practice that uses the chemical, biological, and physical properties of plants, microbes, and soils for removal of pollutants from storm water runoff. The ultra-urban device is an underground vault that uses the principles of filtration through media to cleanse large quantities of water runoff. Both would function to improve water quality of runoff being delivered to Four Mile Run. The project would entail a feasibility study, design and construction.

Fire Station 206, located at 4609 Seminary Road, is an ideal choice to utilize the latest technologies in ultra-urban best management practice techniques due to its small area and high impervious cover. This project would entail a feasibility study, design and construction.

The Colasanto Center, located at 2704 Mt. Vernon Ave. is an ideal choice to feature the latest bioretention technology in low impact development infrastructure retrofits with the hope of providing opportunities to incorporate “green” art in its presentation. The project would entail a feasibility study, design and construction.

The Burke Library green roof project, located at 4701 Seminary Road, would provide water quality benefits and serve to mitigate energy costs associated with the operation of the library. The City has completed the feasibility and design for the green roof and the STAG funds will be used for construction only.

Any remaining funds will be used for water quality improvements associated with the Four Mile Run Master Plan, such as best management practices to reduce or clean storm water input into the run and/or wetland bars within the run to improve habitat for aquatic organisms.

The above projects have been, and will continue to be, coordinated with the property owner/user (Schools, Libraries, Fire Department, etc.).

FISCAL IMPACT: The STAG grants require a 45 percent local match. A total of \$1.23 million (\$674,800: Developer Contribution; \$552,019: General Fund City match) was budgeted in the FY 2007 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) to provide for the construction of a force main to divert flows from the Four Mile Run pump station to the Potomac Yard interceptor. It has been determined that the pump station project can now be funded from developer contributions and sanitary sewer fees. As a result, a portion (\$157,786) of these General Fund provided CIP monies (\$552,019) are now available to provide the City's grant match for the FY 2004 STAG grant. The remaining funds (\$394,233) are available to be used as the City's match for this FY 2005 STAG grant.

STAFF:

Richard J. Baier, Director, T&ES

William Skrabak, Director, Office of Environmental Quality, T&ES

Antonio Baxter, Chief, Division of Administration, T&ES

Claudia Hamblin-Katnik, Watershed Program Administrator, T&ES

Malik Williams, Grant Coordinator, T&ES