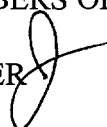


City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: SEPTEMBER 18, 2007

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 PROGRAM FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FOUR MILE RUN STREAM RESTORATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

ISSUE: Grant application for the architectural and engineering design and construction document development and partial construction of the Four Mile Run Stream Restoration Demonstration Project.

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 \$716,800, to be matched by City funding in the amount of \$586,472, for the development of the Four Mile Run Stream Restoration Demonstration Project (There is no formal application deadline); 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 FY 2006 made funds available to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for the implementation of the Four Mile Run Stream Restoration Project through the STAG program. The City of Alexandria and Arlington County received \$1,433,000 to be divided equally. The funds were earmarked specifically for Four Mile Run "to assist Arlington and Alexandria in their joint effort to restore the Four Mile Run Watershed that splits the two jurisdictions". This grant was received through Congressman Moran's office with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality administering these funds. The cost-share requirement for these grants is 45 percent for the recipient and 55 percent federal. The Federal Funds made available after state mandated set-asides for expenditure by the City of Alexandria are \$716,800, and combined with the City share of \$586,472, for a total project budget of \$1,303, 272 for the development of the Four Mile Run Stream Demonstration Project.

DISCUSSION: The proposed project includes the development of designs for wetland, stream bank, and riparian restoration in the tidal portion of lower Four Mile Run. The lower 2.5 miles of Four Mile Run was transformed into a flood channel over 30 years ago, with a flat earthen bottom and a mixture of riprap, gabion or concrete armoring the stream banks. This restoration demonstration project is the first step in implementing the Four Mile Run Restoration Master Plan, which describes the overall vision for restoration and revitalization of lower Four Mile Run.

The restoration designs will be created for the tidal reach of lower Four Mile Run, and construction bid documents will be created for a portion of this tidal reach known as the “demonstration project.” The term “demonstration project” is used to describe this first phase of the Four Mile Run Restoration Project to be designed and constructed. The Master Plan describes the demonstration project as extending approximately 1,200 feet upstream from Route 1 to Eads Street in Arlington and Commonwealth Avenue in Alexandria. The precise extent of tidal stream restoration to occur through the demonstration project will be determined during the design phase as cost estimates are developed for 60% designs for the entire tidal reach. Based on these costs estimates, available funding will determine the extent of restoration implementation to occur within the tidal reach with the remainder of the grant funding. Initial budget estimates for the project include \$250,000 (Alexandria’s share of the approximate A&E costs budgeted at \$500,000) for the design and construction bid documents with the remaining funds in the amount of \$1,053,272 to be dedicated toward construction of the project.

The Four Mile Run Stream Restoration Master Plan, approved by City Council in March of 2006, was developed through a collaborative and public effort that included Arlington County, the City of Alexandria, the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC).

FISCAL IMPACT: STAG grants require a 45 percent local match. A total of \$600,000 was budgeted (\$300,000 FY07 and \$300,000 FY08) in the FY 2007 and FY2008 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) (p. 6-21) to provide for the development of the Four Mile Run Stream Restoration work. These funds will cover the City’s match of \$586,472 for the FY 2006 STAG grant. Although there is no formal application deadline, the City hopes to submit their application at the same time Arlington County submits their portion of the FY 2006 grant to allow for greater coordination with State agencies.

STAFF:

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