



COMMISSION FILE NO: 26-031-3 **DATE INTRODUCED:** March 9, 2026

INTRODUCED BY: Executive Director (Signature on File in the Office of the Commission)

REFERRED BY COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON TO: Operations Committee

RELATING TO: Award of Contract W29002D01, Engineering and Ecological Design Services – Burnham Canal Wetland Restoration

SUMMARY:

The Commission is requested to award and to direct the Executive Director to execute on behalf of the District Contract W29002D01, Engineering and Ecological Design Services – Burnham Canal Wetland Restoration, to Ramboll Americas Engineering Solutions, Inc., (Ramboll) in the amount not to exceed \$393,426. Ramboll was the highest scoring proposer among nine proposals received based on a qualifications-based selection method. Costs to the District associated with this contract will be reimbursed through Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grants from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

Wetlands dominated the Menomonee River valley prior to European colonization of Milwaukee, but they were essentially all destroyed during the industrial development of the City. Burnham Canal was created through a former wetland to provide access to the Menomonee River and Lake Michigan for industries in the valley. It also received pollutant discharges prior to the establishment of modern environmental regulation that contributed to high concentrations of copper and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in the sediment within the canal. The contaminated sediment was covered with clean sand and gravel by Alter Trading and the District in 2022 through 2023.

The Milwaukee Estuary was designated an Area of Concern (AOC) in 1987, because historical modifications and pollution contributed toxic contaminants to the river and Lake Michigan. The delisting of the AOC will require completion of projects on the Management Action Lists (MAL). Restoring wetlands to the Burnham Canal to provide habitat for native fish and wildlife is a project on the MAL to address the Loss of Fish and Wildlife Habitat Beneficial Use Impairment (BUI) as described in the Milwaukee Estuary AOC Remedial Action Plan.

ATTACHMENTS: BACKGROUND KEY ISSUES RESOLUTION
FISCAL NOTE S/W/MBE OTHER _____

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COMMITTEE ACTION: _____ **DATE:** _____

COMMISSION ACTION: _____ **DATE:** _____

SUMMARY (Cont'd)

Award of Contract W29002D01, Engineering and Ecological Design Services – Burnham Canal Wetland Restoration

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers developed a preliminary design for wetlands within the Burnham Canal. The District received a grant from the USEPA through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative to update and finalize the design for the wetland. USEPA will reimburse the District for the cost of staff time and all costs incurred through Contract W29002D01 for all work to finalize construction contract documents and obtain regulatory approval. The District will apply for a separate USEPA grant to cover the costs of the construction and vegetation establishment.

The Burnham Canal wetland will consist of a mix of open water channels and emergent wetlands, which are areas where there is standing water that is shallow enough that plants emerge from the water. These features will provide habitat for fish to reproduce and forage for food and habitat for migratory and resident water birds to find food. The wetland will also provide community members opportunities to fish, watch wildlife, and enjoy green space in a predominantly industrial area. The District owns and maintains five combined sewer outflow discharge pipes into the canal. The wetland will be designed to allow for continued function of those outfalls.

Under Contract W29002D01, the consultant will perform the following services:

- Project management.
- Hydrologic and hydraulic analyses.
- Regulatory assistance.
- Public outreach assistance.
- Wetland design.
- Construction document development.
- Bid and award assistance.
- Engineering services during construction.
- Post construction project assessment.

The contract duration is estimated to be six and a half years with a target completion date of September 2032, but the completion date will depend on timing of the grant funding for project construction.

RESOLUTION

Award of Contract W29002D01, Engineering and Ecological Design Services –
Burnham Canal Wetland Restoration

RESOLVED, by the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage Commission, that Contract W29002D01, Engineering and Ecological Design Services – Burnham Canal Wetland Restoration, is awarded to Ramboll Americas Engineering Solutions, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$393,426, and that the Executive Director is directed to execute a contract on behalf of the District.