

COMMISSION FILE NO: 25-036-3 **DATE INTRODUCED:** March 10, 2025

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

REFERRED BY COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON TO: Policy, Finance, and Personnel Committee

RELATING TO: Change Order Request, Contract W98006P01, Reforestation and Wetland Restoration Program Support Services

SUMMARY:

The Commission is requested to authorize and to direct the Executive Director to execute a change order to Contract W98006P01, Reforestation and Wetland Restoration (RWR) Program Support Services, with Ducks Unlimited (DU) to add reforestation project services to the scope, to extend the contract timeline an additional two years, and to increase the contract cost by \$605,000 for a total contract amount not to exceed \$1,005,000.

The RWR Program is a 15-year program through which approximately six million trees will be planted and approximately 4,000 acres of wetlands will be enhanced or restored within the Greater Milwaukee Watersheds. DU is a primary partner responsible for identification, planning, engineering, and implementation of the RWR wetland projects, as well as solicitation and management of contributed project funds.

The original \$400,000 has been committed to completed, current, and planned wetland projects. Of the \$605,000 in proposed additional funds, \$400,000 will be used and leveraged for implementation of new projects and \$205,000 will be used as match funds for the \$1.7 Million Sustain Our Great Lakes (SOGL) grant that DU recently secured to support seven RWR projects. The expanded scope will increase program capacity and efficiencies, as DU will identify and implement reforestation projects in addition to wetland projects, as well as projects that include both elements. Lastly, the two-year timeline extension will accommodate the completion of projects that are in the project pipeline.

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

PFP_W98006P01_Change_Order_Request_legislative_file.docx
02-14-25

COMMITTEE ACTION: _____ **DATE:** _____

COMMISSION ACTION: _____ **DATE:** _____

SUMMARY (Cont'd)

Change Order Request, Contract W98006P01, Reforestation and Wetland Restoration
Program Support Services

Table 1 shows the original contract amount, the requested amount in the change order and the percent increase of the request.

Table 1. Original and Requested Budget Summary

	AMOUNT	% INCREASE OVER ORIGINAL CONTRACT	AUTHORIZED BY
Original Value	\$400,000		Commission
Change Order	\$605,000	151%	Request of Commission
TOTAL	\$1,005,000		

BACKGROUND

Change Order Request, Contract W98006P01, Reforestation and Wetland Restoration Program Support Services

The RWR Program uses natural flood management strategies, including reforestation and wetland restoration or enhancement, as adaptation and resilience strategies to address the challenges presented by climate change. These green infrastructure strategies improve the land's natural ability to intercept and store precipitation, which reduces downstream flood potential and restores hydrological functionality while supporting the land's ability to store carbon and increase species biodiversity. Implementing these green infrastructure strategies complements and optimizes grey infrastructure.

DU is a primary program partner that assisted and advised in RWR Program strategy and development and planned and installed 28.7 acres of wetlands in 2023-24 primarily using leveraged funds. At least 69 acres of wetland projects have been identified and committed for installation in 2025-2026. DU's original contract amount of \$400,000 has been committed to 10 projects (completed or planned) totaling approximately \$2.3 Million for which DU secured nearly \$1.7 Million in grant funds. Of the \$605,000 requested in the proposed change order, \$400,000 will be used to implement additional projects and to leverage additional grant funds. \$205,000 of District capital funding was leveraged as matching funds in the SOGL grant. These matching funds will be transferred to DU, which is administering the grant and managing the projects and expenses.

The two tables below provide a summary of DU's contract spending (Table 2), as well as a detailed project list including costs (Table 3).

Table 2. Funding Summary for DU Committed Projects

Year	DU original contract funds	MMSD SOGL match funds (requested)	Leveraged funds (grants)
2023-2024	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 231,615
2024-2025	\$ 145,000	\$ -	\$ 210,000
2025-2026	\$ 255,000	\$ 205,000	\$ 1,222,640
Totals	\$ 400,000	\$ 205,000	\$ 1,664,255

BACKGROUND (Cont'd)

Change Order Request, Contract W98006P01, Reforestation and Wetland Restoration
Program Support Services

Table 3. Project & Funding Details for DU Committed Projects

	Year	DU Original Contract Funds	Leveraged Funds (Grants)	Grant Source	MMSD SOGL Match Funds (Requested)	Acres/ Trees
Puetz Road	2023	\$0	\$197,000	Various	\$0	19/0
Mauthe Lake	2023	\$0	\$34,615	Various	\$0	10/0
Beaver Pond	2024-25	\$35,000	\$35,000	SOGL	\$0	10/105
Prairie Pothole	2024-25	\$110,000	\$175,000	SOGL	\$0	35/TB D
Watertower Park	2025-26	\$0	\$280,000	SOGL/other	\$140,000	10/200
Turtle Creek	2025-26	\$190,000	\$757,000	SOGL/other	\$0	
Riveredge	2025-26	\$0	\$80,000	SOGL	\$40,000	8/100
Glendale	2025-26	\$0	\$35,000	SOGL	\$25,000	0/100
Arboretums	2025-26	\$0	\$3,000	SOGL	\$0	0/138
Firefly Grove	2025-26	TBD	\$38,000	SOGL/USFS	TBD	3/TBD
DU Staff time		\$65,000	\$29,640	SOGL	\$0	
TOTALS		\$400,000	\$1,664,255		\$205,000	95/643

An expansion of DU's scope to include the identification and implementation of reforestation projects will increase District capacity and RWR Program efficiency. The scope in the original contract includes identification, planning, engineering, and installation of wetlands only while reforestation projects are identified and managed by the District's project planner. Capacity and efficiency will increase by taking a more comprehensive systems-based approach, as DU will seek both wetland and reforestation projects within a given area or with any given landowner. There is often overlap in wetland and reforestation projects on a given parcel with changes in elevation and soil conditions (e.g. a wetland and upland forest may be directly adjacent to each other on a single parcel). With the proposed scope expansion, DU will source, plan, and manage all aspects of a project that includes one or both elements. DU will focus their reforestation and wetland efforts in the rural communities, and the District's project planner will focus on reforestation efforts in the suburban and urban communities.

The timeline extension will accommodate the uninterrupted planning and completion of pipeline projects. DU's current contract is scheduled to end June 30, 2026, which occurs before the end date of the SOGL grant and associated projects (October 1, 2026). Additionally, project planning is underway for projects that are not included in Table 2, some of which will be implemented in 2028.

RESOLUTION

Change Order Request, Contract W98006P01, Reforestation and Wetland Restoration
Program Support Services

RESOLVED, by the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage Commission, that the Executive Director is authorized and directed to execute a change order to Contract W98006P01, Reforestation and Wetland Restoration Program Support Services, with Ducks Unlimited to add reforestation project services to the scope, to extend the contract timeline an additional two years, and to increase the contract cost by \$605,000 for a total contract amount not to exceed \$1,005,000.