

COMMISSION FILE NO: 21-010-1 **DATE INTRODUCED:** January 11, 2021

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: Award of Contract M04003P01, Fresh Coast Fresh Start, and Approve Changes in Total Project Cost

SUMMARY:

The Commission is requested to award and to direct the Executive Director to execute on behalf of the District Contract M04003P01, Fresh Coast Fresh Start (FCFS), in an amount not to exceed \$500,000. Cream City Conservation Corps and Consulting, LLC, (Cream City) was selected as the recommended consultant through a noncompetitive process. Further, the Commission is requested to increase the total project cost (TPC) for Project M04003, FCFS, by \$120,000 for an amended TPC of \$620,000 and to make a corresponding change to the TPC for Project M99001, Allowance for Cost and Schedule Changes.

FCFS is a pilot workforce development program with a focus on adult/reentry training and apprenticeship in green infrastructure (GI), water industry construction, and vegetation establishment. The FCFS program will be a three-year program that trains participants on water/wastewater industry topics of interest to the District, such as wastewater operations, conveyance construction, watercourse and GI construction, and vegetation establishment. People enrolled in this program will complete one year of educational training, one year of hands-on and on-the-job training, and one additional year of on-the-job development leading to job placement or apprenticeship. The on-the-job training will be with selected contractors that are performing District vegetation establishment and/or construction for watercourse and GI projects.

The goal is to train adults and make them workforce-ready and, in doing so, to better coordinate and share resources used for GI and watercourse construction, vegetation establishment, and potentially maintenance contracts in the future.

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

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COMMITTEE ACTION: _____ **DATE:** _____

COMMISSION ACTION: _____ **DATE:** _____

SUMMARY, CONTINUED

Award of Contract M04003P01, Fresh Coast Fresh Start and Approve Changes in Total Project Cost

The TPC is changing to account for the contract coming in higher than budgeted. The contract came in at \$500,000 for Cream City.

The approved program budget is \$500,000 over three years starting in early 2021 and ending in 2023. Additional funding will be brought in through partnerships and grants.

BACKGROUND

Award of Contract M04003P01, Fresh Coast Fresh Start and Approve Changes in Total Project Cost

FCFS will introduce underemployed adults and reentry to the water/wastewater industry and develop training programs that meet the growing needs of GI and watercourses in the region. As the regional GI demand and portfolio grow, more qualified construction and maintenance personnel are needed to ensure these investments are properly installed and maintained to perform optimally. The District's partners have shared their needs through various projects and plans including the Fresh Coast Resource Center Strategic Plan, Milwaukee Equity Roadmap, and the GI Operations and Maintenance Lessons Learned report. This program is needed to ensure that the District is meeting the GI requirements of the Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit for installing, establishing, and maintaining GI with a local workforce. The two main benefits to the District are securing the investment the District and its partners have made in GI and meeting the goals set out in the Regional Green Infrastructure Plan and draft 2050 Facilities Plan. FCFS is also a part of the District's 2020 Community Platform.

August Ball, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Cream City, plays a critical role in the Milwaukee area on equity and inclusion training, program development, and managing corps programs. Cream City is a two-prong social enterprise. First, it works with environmental, corporate, and community-based organizations to address internal cultures and practices that contribute to racial homogeneity. Second, Cream City provides paid training and work experience to young adults 15 to 25 years of age whose social identities are under and inequitably represented in various conservation, agriculture, and GI industries. The model is a closed-loop system between the consulting firm and the corps program that cultivates the next generation of environmental stewards while preparing organizations to attract, develop, and retain a diverse pool of leaders. Ms. Ball is also a member of the Milwaukee Water Equity Taskforce and the Governor's Climate Change Taskforce. This makes Cream City uniquely positioned to undertake these professional services.

Furthermore, Cream City has identified 10 partners in the program framework to provide resources including training, facilities, program services, and funding. A few examples of the partnerships that Cream City has brought to the table are with Milwaukee County, WRTP/BIG STEP, and Transform Milwaukee. Milwaukee County Parks plans to provide funding (\$40,000 via the Up-Lift Program, budget pending), project work sites, and potential employing trainees. WRTP/BIG STEP plans to assist with outreach, recruitment, and construction training. Transform Milwaukee plans to cover 1,040 hours of minimum wages to the trainees. Ms. Ball will serve as the program manager and Cream City will have subcontracts/agreements with entities to provide the services outlined in the framework. Cream City will directly report to the District on the program's progress toward contractual goals.

RESOLUTION

Award of Contract M04003P01, Fresh Coast Fresh Start and Approve Changes in Total Project Cost

RESOLVED, by the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage Commission, that Contract M04003P01, Fresh Coast Fresh Start, is awarded to Cream City Conservation Corps and Consulting, LLC, in an amount not to exceed \$500,000, and that the Executive Director is directed to execute a contract on behalf of the District.

FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage Commission, that the total project cost for M04003P01, Fresh Coast Fresh Start, is increased by \$120,000 for an amended total project cost of \$620,000, and that a corresponding change is made to the total project cost for Project M99001, Allowance for Cost and Schedule Changes.