MEMORANDUM

To: Council Members

From: Staff

Date: September 13, 2019

Subject: Consultant Selection Approval for Brownfields Coalition Assessment Grant

Introduction

On June 5, 2019, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced that the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council (TCRPC) had been selected for a Brownfields Coalition Assessment Grant in the amount of $600,000. Council was one of 149 communities selected nationally to receive 151 grants totaling $64.6 million in EPA Brownfields funding. The Coalition members in the successful grant proposal are TCRPC, the South Florida Regional Planning Council (SFRPC) and Biscayne Bay Waterkeeper Inc. (d/b/a Miami Waterkeeper). As the grant recipient, TCRPC is responsible for administering the grant, being accountable to EPA for proper expenditure of the funds, and being the point of contact for other Coalition members. The funds will be used to undertake assessment activities at brownfield sites and help expedite redevelopment of priority areas in Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie, and Indian River counties.

Background

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through five competitive grant programs: Multipurpose Grants, Assessment Grants, Revolving Loan Fund Grants, Cleanup Grants, and Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grants.

Contamination notwithstanding, brownfields sites have been recognized as prime opportunities for redevelopment based upon their location, potential target market, and return on investment potential.

Conclusion

Under Council’s agreement with EPA, professional consultants are needed to perform certain activities and provide technical assistance. On July 29, 2019, Council released a Request for
Qualifications (RFQ) to obtain qualified consultants. The RFQ asked for engineering and/or environmental firms registered to do business in Florida to provide proposals containing their qualifications and experience in providing Brownfields-related services such as: environmental site assessments, consultation, and related services. The purpose of the RFQ was to establish up to three consultants for Council to enter into contracts with on a continuing basis to support the Coalition Assessment grant. On September 5, 2019, a selection committee (consisting of a former TCRPC Council member from St. Lucie County, a Palm Beach County staff member, and a SFRPC staff member) reviewed and ranked the submitted proposals. The rankings were as follows:

1. Cardno, Inc.
2. ESciences, Incorporated
3. PPM Consultants
4. Geosyntec Consultants
5. Terracon Consultants, Inc.
6. ATC Group Services, LLC
7. Environmental Consulting Technology, Inc.
8. Universal Engineering Sciences
10. Nova Engineering and Environmental, LLC
11. Airquest Environmental, Inc.
12. Memory Tree Companies

It is intended that Council will enter into contracts with the top three ranked firms to provide the technical and professional assistance required under the agreement with EPA. The contracts will become effective for specific services only when a Task Assignment has been issued and signed on behalf of Council. Task Assignments will set forth, among other things, the scope of services to be performed and the compensation to be paid to the Consultant.

Recommendation

Council should: approve the ranking of professional consultants recommended by the Selection Committee; authorize the Executive Director, in conjunction with Council’s attorney, to negotiate and execute consultant agreements with the top three ranked firms; and authorize the Executive Director to issue and sign Task Assignment(s), in conjunction with each consultant agreement, on behalf of and binding upon the Council, for work to be authorized consistent with Council’s Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund program. In the event that the Executive Director cannot reach an agreement with each of the top three ranked firms, then Council staff may choose to contract with fewer firms or begin negotiations with the next highest ranked firm and so on through the ranking list until three agreements are obtained.

Council Action – September 20, 2019

Commissioner Smith from Martin County moved approval of the staff recommendation. Commissioner O’Bryan from Indian River County seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.