


COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number:	21-538	Meeting:	December 20, 2021
	Agenda Item:	55	Roll Call:	21-1939
	Submitted by:	Jonathan A. Gano, P.E., Public Works Director		

AGENDA HEADING:

Approving 28E agreement with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) – Division of Soil Conservation and Water Quality, Polk County, and Des Moines Water Works to provide funding for the Central Iowa Cover Crop Seeder Project in an amount not to exceed \$75,000.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval of agreement with the IDALS – Division of Soil Conservation and Water Quality, Polk County, and Des Moines Water Works (DMWW) for a total not to exceed \$75,000 of City funds to be combined with other public funding for purchase of a cover crop seeder to be used on private-owned cropland located within sub-watersheds with approved management plans residing within the Des Moines River watershed, with special emphasis in the Beaver Creek and the North Raccoon River to demonstrate the water quality benefits of cover crops.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$75,000

Funding Source: 2021-2022 CIP, Page 96, City-wide Storm Water Utility Projects, SM057, Stormwater Utility revenue.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The City is a member of the Beaver Creek Watershed Management Authority and the North Raccoon River Watershed Management Coalition.
- Both organizations have completed watershed management plans. The watershed management plans identify projects which benefit the water quality and quantity concerns of within the Beaver Creek and the North Raccoon River watersheds.
- Polk County has led the effort to develop a pilot program to demonstrate the benefits of cover crops on private agricultural property. They have worked to develop a cooperative effort between IDALS, DMWW, the City of Des Moines, and Polk County to fund the purchase of a cover crop seeder.

- The proposed agreement will provide City funding in the amount of \$75,000 to Polk County to purchase the cover crop seeder, and the Polk County will be the fiscal agent for the purchase and operation of the \$600,000 cover crop seeder.
- Polk County will manage the project, purchase the cover crop seeder, and act as the fiscal agent for the project. Polk County may enter into a lease and operations agreement with a third party to operate and maintain the equipment, aid in establishing and operating the cover crop program, market the program, identify private farms within the project area, and provide cover crop planting using the seeder.
- Polk County shall complete a minimum of 10,000-acres of cover crops during the 4-year term of the agreement. If that minimum acreage is not accomplished, the City may request reimbursement in a pro rate amount based on the number of acres actually planted.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: October 22, 2018

Roll Call Number: [18-1759](#)

Action: [Request](#) to join the North Raccoon River Watershed Coalition and approving and authorizing the execution of a 28E Agreement with various entities to become a party of the North Raccoon River Watershed Coalition. ([Council Communication No. 18-531](#)) Moved by Gatto to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

Date: November 23, 2015

Roll Call Number: [15-2025](#)

Action: Intergovernmental 28E Agreement with various entities for the following Watershed Management Authorities:

- (B) [Beaver](#) Creek. ([Council Communication No. 15-606](#)) Moved by Hensley to adopt; refer to the City Manager to report on any future costs associated with this project. Motion Carried 6-1.
Absent: Coleman.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

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