

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE REPORT

October 7, 2009

09:05–9:30 am

140 West Pine Street

Members Present: Marilyn Marler (chair), Pam Walzer, Dave Strohmaier, Bob Jaffe, John Hendrickson, Stacy Rye, Dick Haines, Renee Mitchell, and Jason Wiener,

Members Absent: Ed Childers, Jon Wilkins

Others Present: Donna Gaukler

I. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

A. Approve minutes.

Minutes of September 30, 2009 were approved as submitted.

II. FINAL CONSIDERATION AGENDA ITEMS

III. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

A. **[Discussion Date: 10/07/09]** Approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement with AMEC Geomatrix in amount not to exceed \$48,395 ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Donna Gaukler) (Referred to committee: 10/05/09 **REMOVE FROM AGENDA**)

MOTION: The committee recommends Council approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement with AMEC Geomatrix to provide Missoula Parks and Recreation with Soil Science and Environmental Engineering services for Wood Reclamation Research and cost benefit analysis for the DNRC Grant in the amount not to exceed \$48,395.00.

The City of Missoula was recently awarded a DNRC grant in the amount of \$50,000 to conduct research on the cost benefit analysis for wood reclamation research. The Department requested written proposals for the purpose of evaluating whether buried wood material on the Missoula Sawmill site could economically be recycled into a growth medium for reuse in City parks. There were three RFP's submitted and AMEC Geomatrix was selected as the best proposal per the grant scope and requirements. Staff is requesting Council to approve the agreement for \$48,395.00 to AMEC Geomatrix. Upon completion of the project and based on results the City could also apply for a \$200,000 grant for implementation.

Discussion:

John – are there other developed parks which could make use of the soil rather than using it for the development at Fort Missoula?

Donna – the soil could be used anywhere, we specifically named the Fort as it could be less expensive to create an area at the Fort and less cost associated with hauling. Another factor is that park is not surrounded by residences.

Renee – the purpose would be to excavate all the old timber material and make it into compost?

Donna – that is part of it; however the project also involves excavating small piles and then using manure to help the compost process. Then the end product is evaluated as to its value for composting, as well as fiscal feasibility.

Renee – the referral indicates there are no anticipated additional cost to city and I can support doing study contingent on whether or not the city picks up any costs later.

Marilyn – this project is all funded by DNRC. What will be used for the project the soil or old logs and is there any issue with contamination?

Donna – the waste material, sawdust is what is being used and it has already been evaluated as part of the DEQ requirements.

Bob – it is amazing the volume of material at the Champion site, and wood waste itself is not good as compost but a mix may be beneficial and would be good to find a way to use all that material.

Pam – this is an exciting project and looking at the site and being able to turn those enormous piles into something valuable would be a win- win for the City.

Stacy – as compost needs nitrogen where will that be acquired and what?

Donna – there are several possibilities which will be evaluated including leaf pickup, and grass clippings. This will involve using manure for a test which is being donated.

Dick – any issues with odor?

Donna – any odor will happen when the manure first comes in but it will be dry and then covered. In looking at long term use the Fort is a good site as there are fewer neighbors.

John – it would be worth looking into recycling grass clippings and having the City start a program to collect or work with Allied Waste on collection.

Bob – since we already have a large composting business it may be inefficiency for the city to create a composting program, and perhaps look at a partnership.

Donna – that will all be part of the economic feasibility study.

It was moved to recommend the agreement with AMEC and the motion was approved unanimously.

IV. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

V. NON-AGENDA ITEMS

VI. HELD AND ONGOING AGENDA ITEMS - PER COMMITTEE CHAIR – Marilyn Marler

A. Support for City employee cash for Bus Commuters Program ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Ben Schmidt and Nancy Wilson) (Referred to committee: 08/24/09)

B. Consider an ordinance amending Missoula Municipal Code Title 8, entitled "Health and Safety," Chapter 8.28, entitled "Garbage and Rubbish" to provide for special management of garbage in specific areas within the City of Missoula where there is conflict with bears ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Pam Walzer and Urban Wildlife Subcommittee) (Referred to committee: 09/14/09)

C. Approve and authorize the Mayor to sign an agreement to provide Missoula Parks and Recreation with a map to show all Missoula trails, trail connections and most Missoula Parks and open spaces ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Donna Gaukler) (Referred to committee: 10/05/09)

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 9:30 am.