

REPRESENTATIVE POLICY BOARD

FINANCE COMMITTEE

SEPTEMBER 9, 2024

MEETING TRANSCRIPTION

Vin:

All right, it is 5:00 PM. Let's get this subcommittee meeting of the Finance Committee called to order. And we will start with our safety moment. September is Pedestrian Safety Month and we're provided with some tips for pedestrians and drivers. Ditch the distractions. Keep your eyes up and phones down, especially when crossing the street. Always use marked crosswalks. Make eye contact and nod or wave at drivers. At night, get in the habit of walking with a flashlight and wearing reflective vests. Remember, it is getting darker earlier. Remember to look both ways before crossing the street.

For drivers, slow down on busy streets and intersections. Avoid distractions such as cell phones, eating and talking to passengers. At crosswalks be prepared to stop for pedestrians. They have the right of way. Avoid blocking the crosswalk when making your right-hand turn and keep your headlights on and slow down at night, when pedestrians are harder to see. All right, just slow down and be observant. Thank you.

All right, let's move on to item number two. It's their motion related to the approval of the minutes of the August 12th, 2024 meeting.

Tom:

So moved.

Vin:

Is there a second?

Tim:

Second.

Vin:

Thank you. Is there any discussion? Any errors, omissions, or corrections to be made? Hearing none. All those in favor?

Committee members:

Aye.

Vin:

Anyone opposed? Any abstentions that you guys have? Let's move on to item number three, to consider an act on a Drinking Water State Revolving Fund resolution, which you should have been provided a copy of. The lead service lines for recommendations to the RPB. So can I get a motion to bring it to the table?

Tim:

I'll move it to the table.

Vin:

Is there a second? So that we can start some discussion.

Jay:

Second.

Vin:

Thank you. All right, there's been a motion and a second related to the resolution to issue bonds totaling the amount of \$8.5 million for the purposes of finance or financing capital improvements concerning the lead service line planning project. Is there any discussion?

Rochelle:

[inaudible 00:02:57] just add a couple points. So as we've talked about, we are minus the amount of grant funding that we are getting and so we're doing this, this is for the planning portion of the project and we are expecting that we'll get 75% of the contractor costs, that to exceed 5 million. So even though we're asking for the 8.5, a significant amount of this will be funded through a grant is our expectation. So I just wanted to mention that.

Larry:

[inaudible 00:03:35]

Vin:

Thank you Rochelle, and I apologize for not throwing it your way first to give us a little background on this. So just for clarity, the 8.5 million, that would be 75% of the total cost would be rest covered by grant, or would the grant come off of ... Can you just give some clarity on that?

Rochelle:

We have to make the resolution for the total amount. So the total amount is 8.5. It's a not to exceed amount and then 75% not to exceed though 5 million would be the grant component of the 8.5.

Vin:

All right, so there's an anticipated, not guaranteed, but anticipated cost of just 3.5?

Rochelle:

Yeah.

Vin:

If we got the 5 million in grants. Okay. And the other component of this is for the money to be deposited, can you just discuss that. So if we go out and get the money through the bonding, they would be deposited into the capital contingency fund?

Rochelle:

So with DWSRF, we do deposit into reserve funds. That includes we get a contribution to debt reserve and we get a contribution to the capital contingency, as well as to cover the construction and any cost of [inaudible 00:05:13]. 8.5 is the reserved funding.

Vin:

Okay. Are there any questions for Rochelle?

Tim:

I don't really have any questions, but this is really just to forward this to the RPB, am I not mistaken?

Vin:

Correct.

Tim:

So obviously we should be comfortable with it in every aspect.

Vin:

Right. Exactly.

Tim:

That's what essentially we're voting upon, just to forward this to the RPB?

Vin:

That is correct. Ultimately it'd be referring it to the RPB but question is whether or not anyone has any issues that need to be addressed here before they make that vote.

Tim:

Absolutely. Absolutely. Completely understand.

Vin:

Okay, so are there any questions, comments, or concerns that anyone would like to raise now?

Naomi:

I have a question. Is there an item after number three on the resolution? Because I can't see it on my screen.

Vin:

There is a number four.

Jennifer:

Can you see it?

Naomi:

No.

Vin:

Can you scroll down? There you go.

Naomi:

Yes. Okay there. Thank you.

Vin:

Okay. And again, this should have been provided in your packet that you received electronically as well. All right, are there any questions one last time that I'm going to ask, if not, as all those in favor of the resolution to refer this to the RPB please say aye.

Committee members:

Aye.

Vin:

Anyone opposed? Anyone opposed? Any abstentions? The ayes have it. Okay. We'll move on to the quarterly report on the RPB approved projects and Rochelle, I believe that would be you.

Rochelle:

Yes. Thank you. And I'm not going to read through all the verbiage here. I just want to highlight a few things. So with the first project, Kovacs was awarded this project and also to mention that the Lake Ballard water treatment plant, the clarifier portion of this project is also expected to be funded through DWSRF. For the Lake Ballard water treatment plant, HVAC and electrical improvements, this was recently awarded to JLY Contractors. The HVAC up to 2,000,647 is actually a congressional directed spending funded project. So this will actually have an opportunity to actually starting to process our reimbursement through congressional directed spending. You might recall, that was a grant that we were awarded a while ago. And then there will probably be a component that will also be Drinking Water State Revolving Fund.

For the Lake Whitney Dam and Spillway Improvements. This is phase one. This project is well underway with phase one and they're working towards getting 100% completed design documents. From a funding perspective, this is expected to be funded through Drinking Water State Revolving Fund as well as through WIFIA. So this will be our first funding through WIFIA and so far they've been very good to work with.

The next project on the list is CIS. Here, I just want to mention that you may have noticed that the anticipated completion date is fourth quarter fiscal 2025. We are now expecting a April go live and that's really due to doing a delving into the project, all the requirements, implementation. [inaudible 00:09:10] that we have adequate training and that we go live with a quality product. So we have just very recently announced a change in the go live date. The project is definitely continuing.

For the Derby Wellfield Facility chemical improvement, this was also awarded to Kovacs, and so this is still fairly early on in the life of the project. And Lake Whitney water treatment plant and chemical feeds,

this is being worked on at this point by Tighe & Bond. Also, this is also a DWSRF project. So the appropriate information has been submitted to DPH for their review. Are there any questions?

Tim:

I had a question, if I may. Going back to the Whitney Dam. It was my understanding there's basically a couple of different design proposals and that ultimately they'll be evaluated. When you talk about 90% complete, does that mean different proposals are coming together and they're complete for the engineering department to sort of review? Or do I have this misunderstood?

Rochelle:

So there was already a selection of that. It will be all the three are now working on the upstream option, but there could be some differences in approach, but now it's the upstream option.

Tim:

Okay. And then just for-

Rochelle:

As opposed-

Tim:

Okay, go ahead. As opposed to ... I'm listening.

Rochelle:

Earlier there were advancing two different options, upstream and downstream.

Tim:

Okay. Now for clarity, because we're familiar with the Mill River going into that lake, what does upstream actually mean in the whole scheme of things? What does that mean as far as a dam goes?

Larry:

Yeah, what that means is that they're going to up the Whitney reservoir from about where ... one of the street that crosses there, it's escaping my mind. [inaudible 00:11:39]

Tim:

Oh, okay. No, I know what you mean. That's the one that comes out in front of the school on Whitney Avenue. That's that one off of Hartford Turnpike.

Larry:

Yeah. That's right.

Tim:

Okay. So now does that become-

Larry:

[inaudible 00:11:55]

Tim:

Okay. Go ahead Larry. I'm sorry, I interrupted.

Larry:

Okay. They'll drain that enough so that they can work on the dam to repair it and do the refurbishment and expand it that they want to do. The downstream version as they would've just dammed up an area, a small area, right around the dam in order to do the work. And they decided that the upstream was actually a better option.

Tim:

Okay. Maybe because it's narrower there and they can just dam the whole thing. Then they just reduce the water levels ahead of that new dam, temporary as it is. They lower that to a level that they can actually do the reconstruction that's necessary. Is that essentially what's going to happen?

Larry:

That's essentially what's happening, as I understand, yes.

Tim:

Okay, I really appreciate that because I've been a little bit confused, not the least bit of post, just a little bit confused. So I appreciate that. Thank you.

Vin:

Thank you. Are there any other questions?

Naomi:

Yeah, on that one alone ... Larry, will any of the residents be affected in that area?

Larry:

We won't be affected per se, but we're certainly meeting with them to keep them informed on the process and what to expect. We also will be doing environmental remediation so we don't harm the fish. As I understand, they'll actually be transferred to the water supply behind the street where it's dammed up. So we are working with the local residents and answering their concerns through meetings.

Naomi:

Okay.

Tim:

So without giving any design secrets away, I mean conceptually they're creating a dam, which is going to make, I would assume, more water building up behind that. And they have to also create a spillway so

some of it ends up below and behind the existing dam. Is that correct? Is that sort of how it works? Because there's constant river fall.

Larry:

They'll dam it up and that will be diverted, that'll be used for the Whitney treatment plant. But the second part of your question, I don't have that level of detail.

Tim:

Oh, okay. That's fine.

Rochelle:

Maybe Tim-

Tim:

It's so interesting. It's terrific. It's an interesting process. Okay, thank you.

Rochelle:

Just to mention, Tim, that there will be an application file for the construction. So this was only the phase one to get through the initial design.

Tim:

Yeah. Understood, understood, understood. Thank you very much.

Vin:

Any other questions? If not, thank you, Rochelle, for the presentation and Larry also for answering some questions. All right. Is there any new business to come before the body?

Jamie:

Do we need to vote to approve?

Vin:

The quarterly report?

Jamie:

Oh no, I'm sorry, I retract that.

Vin:

That's okay.

Vin:

[inaudible 00:15:09]. Is there any new business? I'd like to remind everyone that our next meeting is scheduled for October 7th, 2024. We'll be hybrid, but try to make every effort as I do, but can be failing

to make it into the in-person. So I apologize for that again. All right, is there, one last time, anything else to come before the body? If not, is there a motion to adjourn?

Tom:

So moved.

Tom:

So moved.

Vin:

Is there a second? Anyone second?

Jamie:

I'll second it.

Vin:

All right, all those in favor?

Tim:

Aye.

Naomi:

Aye.

Tom:

Aye.

Jamie:

Aye.

Jennifer:

Aye.

Rochelle:

Aye.

Vin:

Anyone opposed to that? All right, well the ayes have it. We're going to stand adjourned at 5:15. Thank you all for-