

VILLAGE OF PLOVER
SPECIAL WATER/WASTEWATER UTILITY COMMITTEE
Monday December 5, 2016
5:05 p.m.

Members Present: Tom Davies, Marv Hopp, Anton Anday, Bob Adams, Fred LaRosa

Others Present: Debbie Sniadajewski, Matt Saloun, Rich Boden, Dan Mahoney, Al Tessman, Steve Fritz, Andrew Timm

1. Mr. Davies called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m.
2. Mr. Hopp moved Mr. Anday seconded approval of the minutes of 11/14/16. Motion carried.
3. There were no persons wishing to address the Committee.
4. **Montgomery Associates: Resources Solutions LLC – Little Plover River Restoration Proposal.**

Mr. Mahoney felt it was important to read his memo to the Village Board dated December 1, 2016, so that it would be included in the Water/Wastewater Utility Committee minutes. Mr. Mahoney read his report as follows:

As you are aware, Village staff has been working with the Village Board since 2005 to protect the Village's groundwater recharge area and develop voluntary measures to improve stream flows to the Little Plover. The Village Board has shown its commitment to undertake such efforts by including dollars in the Water Utility's Capital Improvement Program for such efforts.

Recent efforts have included acquisition of land for the Little Plover River Conservancy (land acquisition costs were funded by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Portage County Land Preservation Committee) and obtaining an Option to Purchase the Soik property for a possible wetland mitigation bank. In order to move forward with these projects, staff is recommending that an analysis be prepared that identifies environmental and hydrologic improvement opportunities for the Little Plover River. Staff requested that Montgomery Associates prepare a Scope of Services Proposal to provide such an analysis. Montgomery Associates has the expertise to perform the requested analysis and is highly regarded by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Montgomery Associates proposes to consider the feasibility of a wide range of options to improve conditions in the watershed, and to identify priority actions for implementation. The options to be considered include the following.

- Increasing base flow in the Little Plover by enhanced infiltration of surface runoff water into the local groundwater system.
- Identify potential enhanced or restorable habitat areas that could provide water quality benefits for the river as well as local habitat potential.
- Evaluate the feasibility of creating a wetland mitigation bank
- Evaluate Village water supply withdrawals to determine if they could be arranged by season or well location to be most compatible with improving base flow in the river.
- Evaluate adjustments to agricultural irrigation, industrial water use, or other water use practices to determine if hydrologic benefits to base flow in the river, or benefits to environmental enhancement projects could be developed
- Evaluate the effects of sediment accumulation in the stream channel/flood plain to determine if sediment removal could be an effective part of an environmental restoration and enhancement project.

Montgomery Associates would gather existing information that can be used for their analysis and would perform 6-7 days of field work for this first phase of work. A report with recommendations/options will be submitted to the Village Board for review and approval. If the Village Board is comfortable with the recommendations and options that are developed, work would then move into phase 2, which would be to develop costs estimates and specific implementation plans for each option to be considered. A scope of Services would be developed for Phase 2 and submitted to the Village Board for consideration.

Montgomery Associates proposal is a not to exceed amount of \$19,100. **Staff recommends approval of Montgomery Associates Phase 1 Scope of Services Proposal.**

Mr. Hopp asked if this study duplicates the model prepared by Ken Bradbury in 2015. Mr. Mahoney stated that the groundwater modeling study is completely different from the Montgomery proposal. The Montgomery proposal will explore and make recommendations regarding stormwater water diversion, wetland mitigation bank options, groundwater withdrawal options (to minimize LPR impact during specific seasons), and sedimentation removal options.

Mr. Hopp stated that after we get answers from the study we need to make sure of each implementation measure and how it affects each situation (i.e. ensure we are making positive improvements). Mr. Mahoney agreed and added that the Village feels positive impacts are already occurring with the changes made to pumping regimens at wells #1 and #2, and acquisition of 140 acres of land for the Little Plover Conservancy Area.

Mr. Hopp asked how we can be sure these two wells are really impacting the Little Plover River. Mr. Mahoney stated that the Village Board has recognized that pumping more than one billion gallons of water per year is having an impact on the River (although the exact extent of that impact is unknown) and has agreed to implement measures to reduce the municipal wells impact on Little Plover River flows.

Mr. Hopp stated he felt that converting the Soik property to a wetland mitigation bank would be the best option to pursue, however, the Village should proceed very cautiously.

***** RECOMMENDATION TO VILLAGE BOARD *** Mr. Anday moved Mr. Adams seconded to accept the proposal from Montgomery Associates in the amount of \$19,100 to identify environmental and hydrologic improvement opportunities for the Little Plover River. Motion carried with Mr Hopp voting against.**

5. Mr. LaRosa moved Mr. Anday seconded adjournment at 5:25 p.m. Motion carried.

Submitted by Pat Ladecki