

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: 6/17/2024

To: Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

From: Amos Morris, Executive Zoo Director

Subject: From the Executive Zoo Director, requesting authorization to amend the Rhino Construction Agreement with the Zoological Society of Milwaukee County (Society) for the purpose of accepting \$1,000,000 in donor revenues and increasing the Rhino project expenditures by \$250,000 to include an educational classroom

File Type: Action Report

REQUEST

The Executive Zoo Director is requesting authorization to amend the Rhino Construction Agreement with the Zoological Society of Milwaukee County (Society) for the purpose of accepting \$1,000,000 in donor revenues and increasing the Rhino project expenditures by \$250,000 to include an educational classroom.

POLICY

Wisconsin State Statutes:	
Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances:	
Specific Adopted Budget:	
Specific Adopted Budget Amendment:	
Specific Adopted Capital Project:	2024 Capital Budget

BACKGROUND

The table below includes all files related to the Adventure Africa complex renovations.

Related File No's:	15-478, 16-463, 17-496, 18-858, 23-781, 23-919
Associated File No's (Including Transfer Packets):	
Previous Action Date(s):	August 5, 2015; November 11, 2016; August 3, 2017; January 1, 2019; September 25, 2023; December 29, 2023

The County adopted File No. 23-781 authorizing the Zoo Director to enter into an agreement with the Society of Milwaukee for the construction of a new rhino habitat in an amount not to exceed \$22,209,691. The agreement included a minimum of \$6,000,165 in donations from the Society. Since the signing of the agreement, the

Society has raised an additional \$1,000,000 for a total contribution of \$7,000,165 of which \$750,000 will reduce the County's bond funding and taxpayer costs for the project. The remaining donor amount of \$250,000 is earmarked to add an educational classroom increasing capital project expenditures by \$250,000 to \$22,459,691. The classroom was designed as an add-alternate and would only be included if additional funds were identified.

The County will be responsible for any cost overages for the classroom, and any potential classroom overages will be absorbed within the County's overall project funding amount of \$15,459,526 (via project contingency).

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

Describe how the item aligns with the objectives in the [strategic plan](#):

- 1A: Reflect the full diversity of the County at every level of County government
- 1B: Create and nurture an inclusive culture across County government
- 1C: Increase the number of County contracts awarded to minority and women-owned businesses
- 2A: Determine what, where, and how we deliver services to advance health equity
- 2B: Break down silos across County government to maximize access to and quality of services offered
- 2C: Apply a racial equity lens to all decisions
- 3A: Invest "upstream" to address root causes of health disparities
- 3B: Enhance the County's fiscal health and sustainability
- 3C: Dismantle barriers to diverse and inclusive communities

The additional donor revenues from the Society enhance the County's fiscal health and sustainability by reducing the County's bonds and taxpayer costs.

FISCAL EFFECT

This action increases Capital Project WZ014 Adventure Africa Rhinos revenues by \$1,000,000 in account 49019 - Other Private Funding Revenue and reduces account 49700 Bond and Note Proceeds by \$750,000. Project expenditures increase by \$250,000 to include a new classroom and related amenities.

TERMS

The term begins with the signing of the amendment and runs until the rhino project is complete which is tentatively scheduled to finish in fall of 2025.

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

Amos Morris, Executive Zoo Director, Amos.Morris@Milwaukeecountywi.gov
Vera Westphal, Deputy Zoo Director, Vera.Westphal@Milwaukeecountywi.gov

PREPARED BY:

Vera Westphal, Deputy Zoo Director

APPROVED BY:

Amos Morris, Executive Zoo Director

Amos D Morris, Jr.

ATTACHMENTS:

Resolution, Fiscal Note, DRAFT Contract amendment

cc: Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Janelle M. Jensen, Director of Legislative Services
David Crowley, County Executive
Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, County Executive
Liz Sumner, Comptroller
Aaron Hertzberg, Executive Director Administrative Services
Joseph Lamers, Director of Strategy Budget and Performance
Michelle Nate, Deputy Comptroller
Steve Cady, Director Research and Policy, Comptroller's Office
Ciara Miller, Research Analyst, Comptroller's Office
Pamela Bryant, Director Capital Finance
Vincent Masterson, Capital Budget Coordinator
Anthony Rux, Budget and Management Analyst
Justin Rodriguez, Capital Project Manager
Vera Westphal, Deputy Zoo Director
Tracey Dolphin, Director of Animal Management and Health