

**COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE**  
Inter-Office Communication

Date: August 18, 2023

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

From: Guy D. Smith, Executive Director, Milwaukee County Parks

Subject: From the Executive Director of Milwaukee of County Parks, requesting authorization to enter into any and all contracts and take all actions necessary to effectuate a \$3,000,000 grant from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for the Little Menomonee River Parkway Restoration – Design, Implementation and Oversight project in the Milwaukee Estuary Area of Concern

File Type: Action Report

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**REQUEST**

The Executive Director of Milwaukee County Parks is requesting the authority to prepare, review, approve, and execute all contracts, amendments, agreements, and any other documents, and take all actions required for the purpose of administering the grant agreement between Milwaukee County and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) for \$3,000,000 for Sections 1-6 of the Little Menomonee River Corridor in the Milwaukee Estuary Area of Concern to complete the Scope of Work (SOW) that is attached to this file.

**POLICY**

Implementation of Wisconsin Statutes 59.51(31). Any contract with a value of at least \$100,000, but not more than \$300,000, to which a county is a party and which satisfies any other statutory requirements, may take effect only if the board's finance committee does not vote to approve or reject the contract within 14 days after the contract is signed or countersigned by the county executive. Any single contract, or group of contracts between the same parties which generally relate to the same transaction, with a value or aggregate value of more than \$300,000, to which a county is a party and which satisfies any other statutory requirements, may take effect only if it is approved by a vote of the board.

Wisconsin State Statutes:	Wis Stat 59.51(31)
Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances:	Chapter 56
Specific Adopted Budget:	
Specific Adopted Budget Amendment:	
Specific Adopted Capital Project:	

**BACKGROUND**

In 1987 the Milwaukee Estuary was designated as an Area of Concern (AOC) under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement between the United States and Canada – a “hotspot” of pollution and environmental degradation issues on the Great Lakes. The presence of impairments in the AOC mean that our communities can’t safely use their waterways for eating, drinking, swimming, fishing, and more.

Habitat restoration within the Little Menomonee River Parkway (LMRP) was identified as a necessary fish and wildlife restoration project in the Milwaukee Estuary AOC Remedial Action Plan (RAP) 2015 Update. Projects in the SOW will help with an overall goal of delisting the Milwaukee Estuary AOC, addressing the “Loss of Fish & Wildlife Habitat” and “Degradation of Fish and Wildlife Populations” Beneficial Use Impairments (BUI). The project area is within a “primary environmental corridor.”

The LMRP is located between County Line Rd and confluence with the Menomonee River near Hampton Avenue. The LMRP is subdivided into six sections. Based on similarities of habitats and project objectives, the LMRP sections in this Scope of Work (SOW) are grouped into three project areas: 1) Sections 4 & 5. Located between Good Hope Road to Appleton Ave; 2) Section 1. Located between County Line Rd and Brown Deer Rd.; 3) Sections 2, 3, & 6. Sections 2 & 3 located between Brown Deer Rd. and Good Hope Road and Section 6, located between Appleton Ave and Hampton Ave.

The SOW for this project includes completing habitat restoration in Sections 4 & 5-upland; the preparation of a Habitat Restoration Plan (HRP) for LMRP Section 1-upland; and the implementation of habitat restoration work in Sections 2, 3, 6-upland. The WDNR has provided the County with a draft grant agreement for \$3,000,000 to carry out the SOW for the Little Menomonee River Parkway Restoration – Design, Implementation, & Oversight project in the Milwaukee Estuary Area of Concern. The WDNR expects that it will have authority to execute the grant with the County by October of 2023.

In order to meet all state and federal deadlines for use of this grant funding and ensure that no funding is lost, the Executive Director of Milwaukee County Parks is requesting that upon execution of the grant agreement between Milwaukee County and the WDNR for \$3,000,000 for Sections 1-6 of the Little Menomonee River Corridor in the Milwaukee Area of Concern, the Department be granted the authority to prepare, review, approve, and execute all contracts, amendments, agreements, and any other documents, and take all actions required to carry out the Scope of Work that is attached to this file to expend the full grant amount of \$3,000,000.

Related File No's:	23-109, 22-1006, 21-495, 19-678, 19-710
Associated File No's (Including Transfer Packets):	
Previous Action Date(s):	

**ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN**

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

- 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

Delisting AOCs often have a positive impact on property values in AOC communities, as well as increased outdoor recreation, commerce, port or shoreline activity, residential development that’s all supported by a healthy and sustainable environment. The use of grant money for this work ensures the fiscal health and sustainability of the County.

**FISCAL EFFECT**

None. Work is grant funded by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and does not require a match.

**TERMS**

- Work shall commence on effective date of the grant and continue until 12/31/2026
- Fees will be determined through County processes, e.g., RFP, BID, quotes, etc.
- Total fees for contracts will not exceed \$3,000,000.
- Deliverables are specified in the attached Scope of Work.

**VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES**

Erica Goblet, Contracts Manager, Milwaukee County Parks  
Natalie Dutack, AOC Program Supervisor, Milwaukee County Parks

**PREPARED BY:**

Erica Goblet, Contracts Manager, Milwaukee County Parks

**APPROVED BY:**

Guy Smith, Executive Director Milwaukee County Parks *Guy Smith*

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Resolution  
Fiscal Note  
Draft Aid Agreement  
Scope of Work  
EPA General Terms and Conditions

CC: David Crowley, County Executive  
Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, County Executive’s Office  
Sheldon A. Wasserman, Supervisor District 3, PEEC Chair  
Steven Shea, Supervisor District 8, PEEC Vice Chair  
Felesia A. Martin, Supervisor District 7, PEEC Member

Juan Miguel Martinez, Supervisor District 12, PEEC Member  
Steve F. Taylor, Supervisor District 17, PEEC Member  
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors  
Janelle M. Jensen, Legislative Services Division Mgr, Office of the County Clerk  
Aaron Hertzberg, Director, Department of Administrative Services  
Joseph Lamers, Fiscal & Budget Director, DAS  
Vince Masterson, Fiscal & Strategic Asset Coordinator, DAS  
Pamela Bryant, Capital Finance Manager, Comptroller's Office  
Justin Rodriguez, Capital Finance Analyst, Comptroller's Office  
Allyson R. Smith, Committee Coordinator, Office of the County Clerk  
Ciara Miller, Research & Policy Analyst, Office of the Comptroller  
Anthony Rux, Budget & Management Analyst, DAS-PSB