



To: President Gardiner and the Members of the Town Council

From: Town Manager, Dustin Anderson

Date: August 21, 2023

Re: Wetlands Remediation

Background

To accomplish the 45th Grade Separation and Intersection Realignment three separately delineated wetlands had to be disturbed. Regulating jurisdiction for these wetlands is split between the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) and the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

These 1.54 acres of regulated wetlands necessitated the offset mitigation of 9.63 acres of wetlands. The restoration areas will be at the Grand Prairie Nature Preserve in the vicinity of the Sycamore Avenue and Grand Boulevard in Highland Indiana.

In 2018 the Town engaged Cardino Engineering to conduct this monitoring and mitigation work.

Methodology

The agencies declined to release the site per our request in the 2022 monitoring report but have outlined what their concerns are and what they satisfied with for the site's development. Per the meeting notes, they have outlined the 2023 monitoring and maintenance to be done ahead of a fall meeting. The contract for that work is attached for your review.

Attached is the proposal from Stantec (formally Cardino) to complete the necessary work to have the wetlands released in 2024.

That scope of services includes providing a crew of licensed and botanically trained ecologists to provide focused maintenance at the Grand Prairie mitigation site. Per direction from the regulatory agency from the on-site agency meeting on June 20, 2023, efforts will focus on continued maintenance of woody species, primarily gray dogwood, and non-native herbaceous species, primarily purple loosestrife. Due to the high floristic quality and diversity of species within the site, maintenance will be done via spot treating and hand wicking. A total of five (5) site treatments will occur throughout the remainder of the 2023 growing season.

Additionally, Stantec will provide monitoring services in 2023 of the Grand Prairie mitigation site per the outcome of the agency meeting on June 20, 2023. The regulatory agencies did not release the site per the 2022 request and has limited the 2023 monitoring report to performance standards 2, 5, and 9 as listed in the 2022 monitoring report. This scope also includes a site meeting with agency(s) in the fall of 2023 per their request.

Total cost for this work shall not exceed \$19,850.00.

Recommendation:

By motion and voice vote authorize the Town Manager to sign the agreement with Stantec Engineering to ensure wetlands mitigation and monitoring compliance at the Grand Prairie site for 2023.