



Nine Mile Creek Discovery Point
12800 Gerard Drive

Eden Prairie, MN 55346

(952) 835-2078

www.ninemilecreek.org

MEMO

TO: Nine Mile Creek Watershed District Board of Managers
FROM: Randy Anhorn
DATE: May 7, 2020
RE: Staff Recommendations for Professional Services for 2020-2021 Based Upon Submitted Qualifications

Background

Pursuant MN Statutes Section 103B.227, Watershed Districts, at least once every two years, are required to solicit qualifications for legal, professional, or technical consultant services before retaining the services of an attorney or consultant or extending an annual services agreement. Submittals were due May 1, 2020.

In addition, The District sought qualifications from engineering firms interested in being a part of the District's engineering pool to provide engineering and project-design services for specific types of projects.

The District received a total of 12 letters of interest for professional services. A list of the firms that submitted qualifications is below.

Firm	Area(s) of Expertise
Cavanaugh & Co. (formerly JMCS)	Accounting
Red Path and Co.	Audit
Barr Engineering	Day-to-Day District Engineer
Asakura Robinson	Project Specific Engineering Pool
Barr Engineering	Project Specific Engineering Pool
Houston Engineering Inc.	Project Specific Engineering Pool
ISG Engineering	Project Specific Engineering Pool
SRF Consulting Group	Project Specific Engineering Pool
Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.	Project Specific Engineering Pool
Wenck Associates, Inc	Project Specific Engineering Pool
Roach Law Office	Legal
Smith Partners PLLP	Legal

The administrator and President Cutshall went through the received letters of interest on Wednesday May 6, 2020 to discuss the received proposals and to bring a recommendation back to the Board at our May 20, 2020 meeting.

Recommendations

Accounting, Audit and District Engineer

Only one submittal was provided for each of these three service areas. Staff finds all qualified to fulfill the role for which they submitted; therefore, staff recommends that Cavanaugh & Company be named District accountant, Redpath and Company be named District auditor, and Barr Engineering be named District engineer.

Legal

In review of the two submittals for legal services, staff finds that both are qualified, only one of the firms, Smith Partners, has direct experience working with watershed districts. In addition, the billing rates for Smith Partners are 20-25% less than those of the other firm. For these reasons, staff recommends that Smith Partners PLLP be named the District's legal counsel.

Engineering Pool

Given the breadth of services, and specialties of the consulting firms, staff recommends that all consulting firms that submitted qualifications, should be included within the project specific engineering pool,

Request

Select Barr Engineering, Smith Partners PLLP, Cavanaugh & Company and Redpath and Company as the providers of engineering, legal, accounting and annual audit services and authorize the Administrator to enter into the necessary agreements upon advice of counsel. In addition, to select Asakura Robinson, Barr Engineering, Houston Engineering, ISG, SRF Consulting Group, Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. and Wenck Associates, Inc. as part of the District's project specific engineering pool.