

# Regular Agenda

Unfinished Business #2

City of Wheaton  
303 W. Wesley Street  
Wheaton, IL 60187-0727  
630-260-2000



City of Wheaton, Illinois

[www.wheaton.il.us](http://www.wheaton.il.us)

**TO:** Mike Dzugan City Manager  
**FROM:** Joan M. Schouten, MBA CPIM CPPB Procurement Officer  
**DATE:** May 26, 2016  
**RE:** Recommendation to Award

## STREAMS LAKE DREDGING

**Solicitation Process:** RFP to qualified engineering firms  
**Recommended Service Provider:** Earthwerks Land Improvement

*The adopted FY 2017 Storm Sewer budget includes a total of \$600,000 for the Streams Lake Dredging Project.*

**Available Budget:** \$600,000

**Request for Purchase:** \$695,000

**Budget shortfall:** \$(95,000)

The proposed price of this project is \$95,000 greater than budget. However, due to the elimination of some water main work, the Storm Sewer fund has \$68,695 of funds available for the Streams Lake Dredging Project. The remaining \$26,305 needed to fund this project will be taken from fund balance reserves.

**Background:** The city's decision to purchase the above service is based on the following:

- The Streams Lake Dredging Project is a routine maintenance effort designed to remove the accumulated sediment and debris from the Streams Lake System. The Streams Lake system is a series of two lakes on Spring Brook creek located between Creekside Drive and Stonebridge Trail. This project requires regularly scheduled maintenance by the City due to the natural accumulation of material in the lakes. The work has been performed by the City on an average of once every eight (8) to ten (10) years.
- The city contracted with Strand Associates in May 2015 for engineering services.
- A RFP was developed based on the specifications developed by Strand.
- Engineering recommended notices for this opportunity be sent to five (5) qualified contractors.
- Notices were submitted to four (4), as the fifth was no longer accessible.
- Notices were also published on the city website RSS feed, Public Purchase and Oniva's DemandStar.
- A second notice, reminding of the submittal schedule, was sent to the four (4) contractors recommended by Engineering.
- Two proposals were received.
  - Of the four (4) firms notified, only one (1) submitted a proposal.
    - When notified, the other three (3) firms did not respond why they would not be bidding.
  - The second firm was given notice either by Public Purchase, Oniva's DemandStar, or the city website RSS feed.
- The lowest bidder, Shoreline Builders, was deemed non-responsive because they failed to submit references and licensing and non-responsive for the reason that a Google search and D&B data identifies them as a general contractor of single family houses.
- The lowest responsive, responsible bidder is Earthwerks.

**Attachments:** Bid Tab

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*Bid Tabulation*

**STREAMS LAKE DREDGING**

**Department: Engineering**

**Bid Opening: Friday, May 27, 2016**

<b>BIDDER ADDRESS CITY, STATE</b> EARTHWERKS LAND IMPROVEMENT 1240 LYON RD BATAVIA, IL 60510	<b>SHORELINE BUILDERS</b> 10716 122ND ST PLEASANT PRAIRIE, WI 53150		
<b>Total Lump Sum</b>	\$ 695,000.00	\$ 420,000.00	
<b>Lead time to start / complete</b>	Affidavit of Availability	start 6/20 complete 1 mo	
<b>Bid Bond</b>	AIA	Travelers	
<b>Certificate of Compliance</b>	yes	yes	
<b>Contractor Submittal Requirements</b>	yes	none	
<b>References</b>	yes	none	
<b>Licenses</b>	IDOT Cert of Eligibility	none	
<b>List of Subcontractors</b>	trucking	trucking	
<b>Certificate of Insurance</b>	yes	yes - but lower coverage	

**Intent to Award: EARTHWERKS LAND IMPROVEMENT**

**The City Council is scheduled to make a ruling on this recommendation on: June 6, 2016**

*The City wishes to thank all bidders for participating in this solicitation. The City recognizes and appreciates the time and effort your firm put into preparing and submitting your proposal. The city invites you to bid on future solicitations which are posted on the city's website at [www.wheaton.il.us/bids](http://www.wheaton.il.us/bids).*

*The City of Wheaton is looking for ways to reduce costs and create better returns for our investments. Please advise the City if you have any suggestions that can provide: cost savings; quality improvements; improved resource utilization; standardization; modifications in delivery, inventory or consignment practices; value analysis; or other.*

# Memorandum

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Paul G. Redman, P.E.  
Director of Engineering



**To:** Michael G. Dzigan, City Manager  
**Date:** June 10, 2016  
**Subject:** Streams Lake Dredging

At the June 6, 2016 City Council meeting, City Council members requested additional information regarding the bid award for dredging the Streams Lake system. In particular, the City Council wanted to know can a lower bid be received if bid at a later or different time in the future, can the contract be postponed or delayed until next year to consider alternate projects or plans to reduce future expense for the City to dredge the lake system, and can the dredging be deferred indefinitely and allow the lake to fill-in and revert to a stream channel with native and wetland vegetation.

In this memorandum I wish to address these issues and provide a recommendation to assist the City Council in determining the most appropriate course of action on this matter.

## **Re-bid project to obtain better cost**

Staff believes that the best time of the year to dredge the Streams Lake is in the dry summer months. It is a time that is best to lower the water level of the lake and de-water the dredged materials for better offsite transport. It is also a time when construction work is at a peak and construction contractors are most available. Re-bidding a project without any specific changes in the scope of work rarely results in lower prices. Re-bidding the project next year may result in lower or higher prices based on the availability of contractors and a rise in the construction price indexes. Staff contacted the lowest responsible bidder to question whether there was an opportunity to re-bid or delay the work to lower the cost of the project. Earthwerks stated that this is the best time of the year for cost efficiencies to perform the work. The weather is more likely to remain dry allowing easier access to the site and continuous progress of the work.

## **Delay or postpone dredging work**

The current need for the lake dredging came to staff's attention in 2013 when residents contacted us to report visible signs of sediment in the eastern portion of the lake system. This was quite unexpected as the lake was dredged in the fall/winter of 2009/10, but rain storms, particularly the event of April 2013, caused increased sediment transport in the drainage channel upstream of the Streams lakes resulting in abundant sediment deposit in the eastern lake.

Staff has recently re-evaluated the condition of the Streams Lake system to determine if delaying or postponing the dredging presents any advantage for the City. The amount of sediment in the eastern lake is visible and is near or at the surface of the normal water level of the lake. Currently, drainage flow of the lake is unimpeded, but not across the entire width of the lake. The most crucial condition to avoid is the sediment rising above the water level and creating a small island in the lake. In as short as one growing season, wetland vegetation may grow on this island of sediment creating a complicated permitting situation for dredging the lake.

### Allow the Streams Lakes to fill-in and revert to a stream

The Streams Lakes are manmade excavated lakes on an existing manmade excavated drainage channel (Spring Brook) created by the development of the Streams Subdivision in the late 1960's. To the best of Staff's research and knowledge, Spring Brook drainage channel is a manmade dredged drainage channel dating back to the 1890's, and was never a natural stream. (See attached 1939 aerial photograph.) Allowing the lakes to naturally fill-in would not be the best plan for the drainage channel or the residents living near the lakes as the stream would not be well defined initially causing localized flooding, stagnate water pools during wet periods of the year, and objectionable odors as wet areas dry out.

However, a well designed, constructed and maintained stream modification project is a possible improvement for the City to consider in the Streams Subdivision. A stream may maintain flow velocities to keep sediment suspended and carried downstream without being deposited for future removal by dredging. A natural, native landscape with wetlands over the open area would be easy, and relatively inexpensive to maintain once established; provide minor flood control relief downstream by increasing storage volume and decreasing flow rates; and enhance wildlife habitats. A nature walkway could be an added feature with rock outcroppings for access to the stream or smaller ponds for fishing or quiet reflection.

A concept design plan for a project such as described above would require six months to one year to develop with assistance from a consultant including public meetings for community buy-in. Final design, permitting, land acquisition, and funding, including grant applications, would require three to five years to complete. Construction may take one to two years with native landscaping needing three to five years to fully mature and fill in.

The proposed stream modification project is very well received for grant funding primarily EPA grants under the Clean Water Act. One such grant through the IEPA is a Section 319 Grant where 60% of project costs are funded by the EPA with the remaining 40% by local agencies. DuPage County has been assisting communities with half the local share for this type of grant.

### Lake modification plan to improve dredging access

There is another possible project that could keep the lakes in their present configuration and allow dredging to be handled on a smaller scale and more routine basis. Construction of a small settling basin at the east end of the lakes near Creekside Drive would allow easier access and removal of sediment before it enters the lake system. This type of project would not reduce the volume of sediment deposited over time, but would reduce the scope of the work because the volume of material would be less and access would be from Creekside Drive reducing restoration costs due to equipment access. The timing of sediment removal from the settling basin would be more frequent than the current schedule of dredging the lake.

The timeline for this project would be similar to a larger project because the permitting and land acquisition would remain the same for any project proposed. There would be less opportunity for funding grants for this project, as well.

### Land acquisition

Land acquisition has been mentioned several times in this memorandum and the reason for this follows. The Streams Lake system property is not owned by the City. It is made up of four (4) separate parcels held privately. The original developer of the Streams intended to dedicate or convey ownership of the

lake parcels to the Wheaton Park District, but the Park District declined the offer due to the lack of open space for athletic/recreational fields. The property remained in trust with Oak Park National Bank. The maintenance of the lake properties became an almost immediate problem for the homeowners early in the subdivision's existence due to the developer's lack of attention to maintenance or turning the property over to a HOA for maintenance. The City stepped in to create a Special Service Area for the landscape maintenance of the property which is still in existence. The dredging however was deemed to be a community based project due to the stream erosion upstream of the Streams subdivision.

About twenty years ago three of the parcels were acquired by private parties through a County tax sale. Apparently, the bank trust was not able to pay the property taxes on all four parcels. Today, the properties have an assessed value of \$1.00 and therefore, no property tax is paid by these owners.

Any project other than the currently proposed dredging project will require owner acknowledgement for permitting. This may be problematic as the owners may not agree to provide consent for a project. Therefore, land acquisition may be necessary to proceed with any improvement project proposed in the future by the City.

### **Recommendation**

At this time, staff recommends proceeding with the dredging of the Streams Lake System as proposed and recently bid. The estimated timeline to proceed with a project to modify the lake system to mitigate or lessen the dredging of the lakes exceeds three to five years. The risk to the City and the property owners affected by the lakes is in our opinion greater if the dredging project is delayed beyond this year.

C: Assistant City Manager

COUNTY FARM RD

NORTH  
1939

ROOSEVELT ROAD

GABLES

AURORA WAY

THE STREAMS SUBD.

SPRING BROOK

PLANTATION

WSD

9

WIESBROOK

OCT

