

**Public Works Memorandum  
NO. 2020-13**

**DATE:** January 8, 2020

**TO:** Mayor Julie Moore Wolfe and City Council

**FROM:** Scot Wrighton, City Manager  
Matt Newell, P.E., Public Works Director  
Keith Alexander, Water Production Manager

**SUBJECT:** Resolution Authorizing an Agreement with Macon County Soil and Water Conservation District for Lake Decatur Watershed Conservation Services

**SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION:**

Council adopt the attached resolution authorizing an agreement with Macon County Soil and Water Conservation District (District) for Lake Decatur Watershed Conservation Services at a cost not to exceed \$154,508.

**PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:**

Similar agreements have been approved by the City Council since 1988. The most recent agreement was a two year agreement approved on February 5, 2018.

**BACKGROUND:**

Since 1988 the City has funded watershed conservation services with the District. The agreements are cost reimbursable arrangements with monthly invoicing. The proposed 2020 agreement is for a cost not to exceed \$154,508 including a 2% cost of operations increase compared to 2019.

The proposed agreement describes the general services that the District will provide to the City. They are almost identical to the former agreement and include:

- Providing technical assistance, research, review, recommendations and public support for watershed management related topics and issues.
- Planning and presenting at least 12 watershed conservation public education programs.
- Planning, allocating and implementing watershed conservation cost share projects in the amount of \$25,000 annually.
- Employing a full time Lake Decatur Watershed Specialist, full time Lake Decatur Watershed Technician and 1/3 of the time for an Administrative Coordinator or equivalent.

These agreements have been extremely successful and enhance other available conservation funding. For example, last year the District was approved for and/or awarded \$348,550 in state

and federal grants to plan, promote and construct best management practice (BMP) water quality improvements in the Lake Decatur watershed.

This agreement is for a one year term instead of a customary two year term due to the fact that the recommendations of the upcoming Lake Decatur Watershed Management Plan will not be available until the second half of this year. The District will work closely with the City and the consulting firm selected for the Plan to apply for an Illinois Environmental Protection Agency Section 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Control grant and a United States Department of Agriculture Regional Conservation Partnership Program grant this year. The District will also continue work this year on other watershed conservation projects that they initiated in previous years.

**POTENTIAL OBJECTION:** None foreseen.

**STAFF REFERENCE:** Matt Newell, Public Works Director, 424-2747. Keith Alexander, Water Production Manager, 424-2863. Matt will be in attendance at the City Council meeting to answer any questions of the Council on this item.

**LEGAL REVIEW:** The agreement was approved by the Legal Department on December 20, 2019.

**BUDGET/TIME IMPLICATIONS:** This expenditure is annually included in the Lake Services operating budget. Staff time is allocated to manage the agreement.

cc: David Carr, MCSWCD Board Chair  
Natalie Misner, MCSWCD Lake Decatur Watershed Specialist