



**City of Missoula, Montana
City Council Committee Agenda Item**

Committee: Public Works and Mobility

Item: Professional Services Agreement with Water and Environmental Technologies for the Missoula Airport Wells

Date: October 13, 2022

Sponsor(s): Logan McInnis

Prepared by: Ashley Strayer

Ward(s) Affected:

☐ Ward 1	☐ Ward 4
☐ Ward 2	☐ Ward 5
☐ Ward 3	☐ Ward 6
☐ All Wards	☐ N/A

Action Required:

Approve the Professional Services Agreement Tasks 1 through 5 with Water and Environmental Technologies for the Missoula Airport Wells and Preliminary Engineering Report

Recommended Motion(s):

I move the City Council: Approve and authorize the Mayor to sign a professional services agreement with Water and Environmental Technologies for Tasks 1 through 5 for the Missoula Airport Wells and Preliminary Engineering Report.

Timeline:

Committee discussion:	October 19, 2022
Council action (or sets hearing):	October 24, 2022
Public Hearing (if required):	N/A
Final Consideration	N/A
Deadline:	N/A

Background and Alternatives Explored:

This project relates to the City's acquisition of the Flynn Lowney ditch, as well as to the City's desire to drill a new municipal production well as a replacement to its Arthur Avenue Well. The Arthur well is located on the south side of the Clark Fork River, but pumps to the North Reservoir on Waterworks Hill through two 100-year old water mains buried under the river bed. One of these mains is already leaking and has been shut off and the other one has also outlived its useful life. Replacing these mains with excavation in the river bed is not feasible and trenchless methods are unreliable at best in the cobbles and boulders present in this part of the valley. Thus, the preferred alternative for replacing the water supply to the north side of the river is to drill a new well north of the river. Siting a well in a developed areas is also problematic due to the presence of sanitary and storm sewers. The Missoula, Montana Airport has expressed a willingness to allow the City to drill municipal production wells on Airport property east of the runway that will not be developed. A test well is needed in order to determine that the aquifer in the area east of the runway is suitable for large municipal production wells. The City also agreed to drill the Airport a new irrigation well as a condition of the City's purchase of the Flynn Lowney ditch. The proposed new well will thus serve two purposes, the City will drill the well, install a pump and conduct a pumping test to determine aquifer characteristics in the area. After the

aquifer testing is complete, the Airport will take over the well for use as an irrigation well. The City would then decide at a later date whether the property east of the runway is suitable for municipal wells, which would be located some distance from the irrigation well in order to avoid interference between the wells. The location for the municipal production wells would be served by Missoula Electric Cooperative's 98% carbon-free electric portfolio, which will allow the City to make significant progress on reducing its carbon footprint. The City and Airport are in the process of negotiating an agreement which would assure the City that Airport properties could be leased for future municipal production wells.

The proposed contract with WE&T is to assist the City with designing and bidding the installation of the irrigation/test well. WE&T will also assist the City with completion of a Preliminary Engineering Report, Environmental Checklist and public meetings as required for the City to apply for a loan from the State Revolving Fund.

WE&T was one of two consultants short listed during the City's FY20 Water Rights Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process.

Financial Implications:

The Airport Well project was approved in the FY23 budget, relying on \$70,000 in Water Development Funds as well as \$210,000 in SRF funds. The City subsequently received a \$30,000 ARPA Competitive Grant to offset a portion of the design costs. An additional \$1.525 million was estimated for FY24 to complete construction of the well, using a combination of SRF funds and Water Development funds. The SRF funds cannot be secured until the work is completed by WE&T and City staff to complete the PER, environmental checklist and uniform loan application. The cost of tasks 1 through 5 of the WE&T contract is \$44,200. Of this amount, \$30,000 will be funded using the ARPA competitive grant and the remaining \$14,200 will be funded using the approved Water Development Funds.

Links to external websites: None