



MEMORANDUM

Water Pollution Control Plant
1202 Musser Street
Muscatine, IA 52761-1645
(563) 263-2752
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WATER & RESOURCE RECOVERY FACILITY

To: Greg Jenkins, Interim City Administrator
CC: Nancy Lueck, Finance Director
From: Jon Koch, WPCP Director
Date: July 7, 2020
Re: Request To Approve Submittal Of An RFA For EPA Digester Grant

INTRODUCTION: The Water and Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF) staff is requesting approval to submit a Request For Application (RFA) to the Environmental Protection Agency for the Supporting Anaerobic Digestion In Communities (SADIC) grant. Staff is also requesting approval for the Mayor to sign the required documents on behalf of the City. The City will be requesting the maximum grant amount of \$300,000.00 for completion of the Digester Rehabilitation Project.

BUDGET: There is no cost for the grant submittal. Stanley Consultants has been hired to coordinate writing the technical aspects of the grant at a cost of \$4,950.00. This cost will come from a budgeted engineering line item in the WRRF Administration 20/21 budget. There is \$15,000.00 available in this line item. Craig Just, Associate Professor from the University of Iowa Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering, will be assisting with the proposal and will collaborate on the project if the grant is funded.

BACKGROUND: The SADIC grant is looking to "...accelerate the development of new or enhance/increase existing anaerobic digestion (AD) capacity and infrastructure in the US" and "...to increase use of AD to manage food waste". Both of the these fit the goals of the approved Digester Rehabilitation Project currently underway at the WRRF. With the recent opening of the Muscatine Organics Recycling Center (MORC) for food waste collection, the City is in a strong position to qualify and receive grant funding for the remaining portion of the Project. \$800,000.00 was approved and bonded for the \$715,000.00 purchase of the digester equipment. The remaining cost of engineering and connection of the new digester to existing facility processes is estimated to be \$250,000.00. This was to be budgeted from remaining HSW Project Funds, remaining bonded funds and plant reserve funds.

Craig Just with the University of Iowa has written multiple grants of this size and is more qualified than City staff to write such a large federal grant proposal. Stanley Consultants has been involved in the biogas and anaerobic digester projects with the City and a professional engineering firm is in a much better position to state the technical aspects of the Digester Project than any City staff. Submission is required through grants.gov, a highly complex system for

"I remember Muscatine for its sunsets. I have never seen any on either side of the ocean that equaled them" — Mark Twain

Muscatine Organics Recycling Center
1000 S. Houser St.
Muscatine, IA 52761

federal grant submissions. The Muscatine Community Development Department works with grants.gov and will assist the WRRF in properly submitting the grant for the City.

RECOMMENDATION/RATIONALE: Staff recommends approval of the request to submit an RFA to the EPA to receive funding from the Supporting Anaerobic Digestion In Communities grant.

BACKGROUND: 1. EPA-OLEM-ORCR-20-02