

AGENDA NOTE – HRPDC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

ITEM #7: ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM CONTRACTS

A. COOPERATIVE PROJECT WITH THE CABELL BRAND CENTER FOR GLOBAL POVERTY AND RESOURCE SUSTAINABILITY STUDIES

SUBJECT:

Cooperative Project – Developing Water Management Education Modules to Prepare Localities for Climate Change in Urban Environments

BACKGROUND:

The Cabell Brand Center for Global Poverty and Resource Sustainability Studies has applied for funding through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for a project to develop water management educational modules to prepare localities for climate change in urban environments. The Cabell Brand Center has requested that HRPDC staff work as a collaborator on this project and use Hampton Roads to pilot the educational modules. An identical proposal was submitted by the Virginia Water Resources Research Center in 2009, following HRPDC authorization in September 2009. Unfortunately that proposal was unsuccessful.

This work builds on the regional climate change study, which is currently underway. One obvious conclusion from that study is the need for development of educational materials for local staff and elected officials. Similar conclusions can be drawn from discussions among the HRPDC staff and the members of the HRPDC Environmental Committees.

The proposed collaboration between the VWRRC and the HRPDC is a relatively modest effort, involving HRPDC facilitation of local government discussion of the issues and review of draft materials as they are developed. Funding in the amount of \$3,000 per year for the next two years, assuming the Cabell Brand Center receives a grant, would support the administrative aspects of this effort.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Authorize the Executive Director to execute a contract with The Cabell Brand Center for the climate change education project if a grant is awarded to the Center for the project.

STAFF COMMENTARY:

An identical proposal was submitted by the Virginia Water Resources Research Center in 2009, following HRPDC authorization in September 2009. Unfortunately that proposal was unsuccessful. The principal investigator is now the Executive Vice-President for The Cabell Brand Center, which is a nonprofit research organization. The project will also involve the City College of New York and various New York City Departments.

B. ELIZABETH RIVER RESTORATION PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE

SUBJECT:

Contract with the Corps of Engineers (COE) for the Elizabeth River Restoration Project Steering Committee

BACKGROUND:

Since the late 1990s, the HRPDC staff has chaired the Steering Committee for the Corps of Engineers Elizabeth River Restoration Project. The Steering Committee is comprised of representatives of the four cities in the watershed, several state and federal agencies, the Elizabeth River Project and the Corps of Engineers. The Steering Committee continues to believe that the HRPDC staff should continue in that role.

For the past three years, the COE has contracted with the HRPDC to Chair and support the Steering Committee. The COE has obtained funding to continue the HRPDC serving as Chair of the Steering Committee, which also includes managing the Steering Committee's efforts and providing logistical support. This funding would be provided through a multi-year contract between the COE and the HRPDC.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Authorize the Executive Director to execute a Contract with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Norfolk District, for this project.

STAFF COMMENTARY:

The HRPDC has approved previous contracts with the Corps of Engineers for this project, most recently in June 2007.