

Date: October 20, 2021

To: City Manager
Mayor and City Council Members

From: Brandon Cook, Assistant City Manager-Municipal and Development Services

Project location: Citywide

Project: The Stormwater Master Plan

Request: Consider prequalifying Lockwood, Andrews & Newman, Inc. to compile a detailed scope and negotiated fee for developing the City's Stormwater Master Plan; Authorizing the City Manager to execute all necessary documents upon final approval by the City Attorney.

Background

- A. The City of Galveston last completed its Citywide "Drainage Master Plan" in 2003.
- B. Since 2003, there have been significant environmental, technological, physical and regulatory changes that have impacted our drainage system.
- C. Environmental changes include sea level rise and higher storm intensities which have led to the publishing of new data from NOAA (Atlas 14).
- D. Technological changes include advancement in stormwater pumps and pump station design for coastal environments with outfall backflow valves to inhibit tidal inundation of the island's drainage system.
- E. Physical changes since 2003 include significant topographical alterations of those areas of the island not protected by the Seawall, the condition of our storm system due to its age, and a system capacity reduction due to sediment deposition and barnacle growth in the outfalls. The significant topographical changes have resulted from major storm events and naturally changing coastal conditions. Accordingly, a refreshed and detailed study of this area will be needed in the Strategic Drainage Plan.
- F. Regulatory changes include the City's proactive efforts to consistently upgrade its infrastructure standards. After Hurricane Harvey, the City upgraded its drainage criteria from the 2-year to the 25-year storm intensity, to provide better protection for our citizens during the development and infrastructure improvement process. As a result of this drainage criteria upgrade, as well as other specific regulatory upgrades, the City of Galveston's FEMA Community Ratings System improved to a Class 6 in May of 2019, thus providing our residents and businesses with a significant discount on their annual flood insurance premiums.
- G. The compounded effect of the Environmental, Technological, Physical and Regulatory changes described above have necessitated the need for the community to take a new look at the way we prioritize and address drainage challenges going forward.
- H. Accordingly, the City issued a Request for Qualifications and five staff members scored the initial proposals received, interviewed the finalists and scored those firms.
- I. Lockwood, Andrews & Newman, Inc. received the highest final score after Purchasing tallied up all of the evaluation forms.
- J. After compilation of a final scope and cost proposal from Lockwood, Andrews & Newman, Inc., a professional services contract will be developed and submitted to the City Council for its consideration.



Fiscal Impact Report

City of Galveston

There is currently not a fiscal impact associated with approval of this item. Should this item be approved, Staff will define a scope of work with the consultant and negotiate a fee that is within the bounds of customary professional pricing, which takes into consideration the type of work, volume of work, difficulty of work, and collective experience of the professional team charged with delivering this project.

Alternatives

1. Continue using the 2003 Drainage Master Plan to make decisions and recommendations on drainage problems and policies, even though it is outdated and inadequate to meet the challenges of today, much less those of tomorrow. Under this option, the City will continue risking the investment of its resources into capital projects and maintenance activities that inadequately address, or temporarily mask, the root of drainage problems in particular basins across the City’s entire system.
2. Instruct staff to seek out another firm to formulate the Stormwater Master Plan. This will cause a significant delay and the City may not have the appropriate drainage strategy and project information identified timely enough to adequately educate the public during a November 2024 Drainage Bond Election. Later dates to order an election would include May of 2025.

Staff Recommendation

Select Lockwood, Andrews & Newman, Inc. for Professional Engineering Services to formulate the City’s Stormwater Master Plan.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brandon Cook
Assistant City Manager

Attachments:
RFQ 21-01 – Stormwater Master Plan
Lockwood, Andres & Newman, Inc. Team Qualifications.





City of Galveston

Drainage Master Plan Update

