



ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

County Board Agenda Item
Meeting of January 23, 2010

REVISED REPORT

DATE: ~~January 14, 2010~~ January 20, 2010

SUBJECT: Authorization to sign a State and Tribal Assistance Grant (“STAG”) agreement, expend \$1,008,450 in order to receive that amount in FY 2004, 2005 and 2008 STAG reimbursement funds, ~~and appropriate~~ and use previously allocated \$825,102 in matching funds to receive the STAG funds.

REVISION EXPLANATION: The Board report was revised to make the language related to the matching funds in the subject line and in the fiscal impact section consistent.

C. M. RECOMMENDATION:

1. Authorize the County Manager to sign a STAG grant agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”), subject to the approval of that grant agreement by the County Attorney.
2. Authorize the County Manager to expend \$1,008,450 for construction of the Four Mile Run Restoration Master Plan demonstration project and installation of stormwater treatment facilities at the Trades Center (\$815,600 (FY 2005 & FY 2008) + \$192,850 (FY 2004)) in order to qualify for reimbursement by \$1,008,450 in grant funds from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (“DEQ”) STAG program.
3. Appropriate \$1,008,450 of STAG monies received in the form of reimbursements from the DEQ STAG program (321.364900) to the Arlington County Stormwater Fund (321.47223).

ISSUES: None.

SUMMARY: Arlington County (“Arlington”) and the City of Alexandria (“Alexandria”) have been awarded several appropriations of STAG funds to implement the Four Mile Run Restoration Project and to improve water quality in Four Mile Run. STAG costs and reimbursements are shared equally between Arlington and Alexandria.

County Manager: BMD/mak

County Attorney: ARC/SAM

Staff: Aileen Winquist, DES

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A portion of the FY 2006 STAG funds have been approved and are currently being used for design work for the Four Mile Run Restoration Master Plan's demonstration project, which in turn allows Arlington and Alexandria to be reimbursed for those expenditures by DEQ. Reimbursement is contingent on expenditure. The demonstration project entails wetland and stream bank restoration in the tidal portion of Four Mile Run, between Mt. Vernon Avenue and the U.S. Route 1 bridge. Design work on the demonstration project should be completed in 2010. Construction is expected to begin in 2011.

In order to receive reimbursement for Arlington's anticipated but as yet not approved FY 2005 and FY 2008 STAG funds and remaining already-approved FY 2006 STAG funds, Arlington County staff propose to expend funds to construct the demonstration project. The planning-level construction cost estimate provided by the consultant hired for design of the wetland and stream bank restoration for the entire tidal portion of Four Mile Run is \$4.8 million, of which Arlington's share is half, or \$2.4 million. Actual construction costs will not be known until construction bids are solicited and received.

Arlington's FY 2004 STAG grant funds will be used to install stormwater treatment devices at the Arlington Trades Center. The installation of stormwater treatment devices will help improve water quality in Four Mile Run, as recommended by the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan for the facility, finalized in 2009. This stormwater treatment devices concept has been reviewed and approved by the DEQ and EPA staff that administers the STAG program. Upon final approval of the FY 2004 STAG application (which was submitted in October 2009 and is expected to be approved in February/March 2010), design and construction of the stormwater treatment facilities at the Trades Center is expected to begin in autumn, 2010.

BACKGROUND: The County Board adopted the Four Mile Run Restoration Master Plan in conjunction with Alexandria in March 2006. The Master Plan focuses on the lower two miles of Four Mile Run and presents a bold vision to enhance the environmental, recreational, and open space resources and urban vitality of Arlington and Alexandria. In addition, the Plan identifies and describes a Demonstration Project as the first phase of implementation, as well as the next steps in the implementation planning process. The Department of Environmental Services, the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources, and the Department of Community Planning, Housing, and Development are collaborating on this multi-disciplinary effort.

Congressman Jim Moran secured federal appropriations for Arlington and Alexandria in FY 2004, FY 2005, FY 2006, FY 2008, FY 2009, and FY 2010 to help fund the Four Mile Run Restoration Project. These appropriations, which are made to the two localities separately but in equal amounts, have been placed into the State and Tribal Assistance Grant (STAG) program, administered in Virginia by the DEQ. Arlington and Alexandria must separately apply for these monies through a non-competitive process. A local match of forty-five percent (45%) is also required. The localities are entitled to reimbursement by STAG funds only after expenditure.

DISCUSSION: Arlington and Alexandria applied for and were approved for the FY 2006 STAG funds in 2007 to design the Plan's demonstration project – wetland and stream bank restoration in the tidal portion of Four Mile Run between Mt. Vernon Avenue and the U.S. Route 1 bridge. As design expenditures are made, the localities are reimbursed by STAG funds

through DEQ. This design work is currently underway and final designs are expected to be completed in 2010. Design costs for the tidal restoration work will total \$578,927.

The planning-level construction cost estimate provided by the consultant hired for design of the wetland and stream bank restoration for the entire tidal portion of Four Mile Run is approximately \$4.8 million, with Arlington's 50 percent share totaling \$2.4 million. Actual construction costs will not be known until construction bids are solicited and received. After design costs the remainder of Arlington's FY 2006 STAG grant funds will be \$1,013,809, and that amount will reimburse Arlington for expended construction costs. Arlington's FY 2005 and FY 2008 STAG funds available for reimbursement are \$815,600, which combined with \$667,312 in matching funds and the remainder of the FY 2006 STAG grant (\$1,013,809) results in a total of \$2,496,721 available for Arlington's \$2.4 million share of construction costs.

Arlington and Alexandria staff have decided to use their respective FY 2004 STAG monies to reimburse the costs of stormwater management enhancements adjacent to Four Mile Run. Alexandria is using the FY 2004 reimbursement funds to install a green roof on the Cora Kelly School. Arlington has applied to DEQ to receive and use the FY 2004 STAG funds for the costs associated with installing stormwater treatment facilities at the County Trades Center, as recommended by the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan completed in 2009 for that facility. Given the industrial activities that occur at the Trades Center and its proximity to Four Mile Run, it is a high-priority location to install stormwater treatment facilities. In addition, installation of such treatment systems exceeds the requirements of the County's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit, issued by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation.

The stormwater treatment devices that are proposed to be installed at the Arlington County Trades Center include storm drain insert retrofits, tree box filters, and a stormwater treatment facility for the Earth Products yard for a cost of \$350,000, as estimated by Arlington DES staff. The total FY 2004 STAG funds available for reimbursement are \$192,850, which, when combined with \$157,790 to be appropriated in matching funds, totals \$350,640.

The STAG grant application process is non-competitive. Arlington's formal application to Virginia DEQ for the FY 2004 STAG grant was submitted in October 2009, and approval is expected in February/March 2010. Upon approval of the FY 2004 application materials, the U.S. EPA will prepare a grant agreement to be signed by the Arlington County Manager. The existing grant agreement in place for the FY 2006 funds can be amended to include the FY 2005 and FY 2008 funds.

Pending approval of the FY 2004 STAG application, design and installation of the stormwater treatment facilities at the Trades Center will take place in fall, 2010. Design on the Four Mile Run demonstration project is underway and should be completed in 2010. Construction is expected to begin in 2011.

FISCAL IMPACT: The total local match requirements of \$825,102 for these STAG reimbursement funds are available and allocated in the Stormwater Fund (Fund 321). Of this total, the match requirement of \$157,790 for the FY 2004 STAG monies are available in the Environmental and Water Quality Improvement projects cost center (321.47224.437405). The

match requirement of \$667,312 for the FY 2005 and FY 2008 STAG monies are available in the Four Mile Run Capital Projects cost center (321.47223.437405).

The figures involved in these projects may be summarized as follows:

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| \$1,013,809 | FY 2006 STAG funds already approved (reimbursed after expenditure) |
| \$ 815,600 | FY 2005 & 2008 STAG funds applied for (reimbursed after expenditure) |
| <u>\$ 667,312</u> | <u>Matching funds to be appropriated by Board available</u> |
| \$2,496,721 | Total funds sought for Arlington share of Demonstration Project |

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|-------------------|--|
| \$ 192,850 | FY 2004 STAG funds applied for (reimbursed after expenditure) |
| <u>\$ 157,790</u> | <u>Matching funds to be appropriated by Board available</u> |
| \$ 350,640 | Total funds sought for stormwater management improvements |