



ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

**County Board Agenda Item
Meeting of July 7, 2007**

DATE: June 27, 2007

SUBJECT: Authorization to procure services under City of Alexandria contract number 06-05034 with Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. for stream restoration design and related watershed management services.

C. M. RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Authorize procurement of services under City of Alexandria contract 06-05034 with Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. for stream restoration design and related watershed management services totaling up to \$500,000.
2. Appropriate \$500,000 from the Watershed Management Fund (799.40001) to the Department of Environmental Services General Fund capital PAYG account (313.44001) to fund the work authorized under this contract.

ISSUES: None.

SUMMARY: The purpose of the requested authorization to procure services under City of Alexandria contract 06-05034 with Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc (VHB), dated April 3, 2006, is for stream restoration design and related watershed management services in support of the County's adopted Watershed Management Plan.

To date, VHB has performed stream restoration design and construction management for approximately 4,000 linear feet of stream restoration in the Donaldson Run and Windy Run watersheds. The quality of VHB's work on these projects has been superior, with efficient use of highly-qualified staff within the company. To minimize delays in moving forward with the high priority stream restoration work in the County and to ensure continued high quality work, staff wishes to access this task order based contract already in place between VHB and the City of Alexandria.

Stream restoration is a key component of the County's adopted Watershed Management Plan. It is anticipated that the requested appropriation would fund stream restoration design and related work for a three- to four- year period.

County Manager: _____

County Attorney: _____

Staff: Jason Papacosma, Department of Environmental Services

BACKGROUND: As described in detail in the County’s adopted Watershed Management Plan, stream erosion is a County-wide problem for both in-stream and riparian habitat as well as nearby infrastructure, including sanitary sewer lines, public trails, bridges and roadways, and private property. Stream restoration is therefore a key component of the Plan’s recommendations. With the initiation of the Donaldson Run stream restoration project in 2003, the County began its long-term effort to restore its degraded stream corridors and protect valuable infrastructure.

VHB has performed the design and construction management work for two stream restoration projects completed in the Donaldson Run watershed between 2003 and 2007, and design is underway for a restoration project in the Windy Run watershed to improve stream health and protect the Windy Run sanitary sewer lift station.

DISCUSSION: The City of Alexandria contract 06-05034 with VHB, dated April 3, 2006, is a task-order based contract for general engineering services. The contract lists examples of the types of work it authorizes, including “Hydraulic/hydrologic modeling of streams, watersheds, etc. Hydraulic/hydrologic design and design review. Stream stabilization and restoration design/review.” The Purchasing Office has determined that the type of work that staff wishes VHB to perform in the County is authorized by this contract. The contract term extends until April 2008, with one-year renewals allowed for up to three additional years.

Staff is extremely pleased with the high quality of the work VHB has performed for the County. Stream restoration involves a combination of both science and significant professional judgment and experience. The VHB engineer that has performed the stream restoration design and construction management work for the County has more than 20 years of experience in the field. He has performed virtually all of the field assessment, design, and construction management work associated with the stream restoration projects completed or underway in the County—with support from survey and CADD staff for bid document preparation and virtually no other additional overhead (e.g., program manager or company principal billings for project “oversight”).

Under Virginia Purchasing regulations, local governments may procure services under any valid local government contract with an applicable scope of work. Staff’s high confidence in VHB and the company’s cost-effective service delivery coupled with the critical need for staff to focus on project management and implementation, rather than on a time-intensive procurement effort, has resulted in this request to authorize the procurement of services under VHB’s contract with the City of Alexandria for this work.

It is anticipated that the requested appropriation would fund stream restoration design and related work for a three to four year period for the following key projects and activities:

- Stream restoration design and construction management for Donaldson Run ‘Tributary B,’ a degraded tributary to the recently restored portions of Donaldson Run and also a Donaldson Run Civic Association Neighborhood Conservation Plan priority. Planning level cost estimate of \$150,000 to \$200,000.
- Stream restoration design and construction management for the Gulf Branch watershed, where severe stream erosion has caused significant damage to County sanitary sewer infrastructure. Planning level cost estimate of \$150,000 to \$200,000.
- Peer review of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers designs for Four Mile Run stream restoration project. Planning level cost estimate of \$5,000 to \$15,000.
- “On-call” stream restoration design and construction management services for stream erosion and infrastructure damage problems that arise from severe storm events. Planning level cost estimate of \$20,000 to \$50,000.

FISCAL IMPACT: Funds for this work over the next several years are available from the Watershed Management Fund (799.40001) and upon appropriation, will be transferred to the Department of Environmental Services General Fund capital PAYG account (313.44001).