



ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

County Board Agenda Item Meeting of July 9, 2011

DATE: May 3, 2011

SUBJECT: Acceptance of a continuation grant and appropriation of grant funds from the Commonwealth of Virginia, AmeriCorps State Program

C. M. RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Accept a one-year grant from the Commonwealth of Virginia's AmeriCorps State Program (101.364900) in the amount of \$80,448;
2. Appropriate that money to the Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources' (PRCR) FY 2012 operating expenses (101.83024), and reauthorize the 4.8 temporary FTEs associated with the work of the program funded by this grant; and
3. Authorize the County Manager to sign a Letter of Intent to Contract and a contract between the County Board and the Commonwealth of Virginia's Department of Social Services, subject to the approval of the Letter of Intent to Contract and the contract by the County Attorney.

ISSUES: County Board action is needed to accept a state grant to recruit and train AmeriCorps members to apply best management practices in abating invasive plant species throughout the Four Mile Run Watershed.

SUMMARY: The grant will improve and increase the County's capacity to control invasive plant species within the Four Mile Run Watershed and help the County continue efforts to rehabilitate the natural environment. The program participants will receive a living stipend and money for college.

BACKGROUND: The AmeriCorps program is the federal government's domestic volunteer program with 740 full-time and part-time members currently serving throughout Virginia. The present continuation grant represents one of only two AmeriCorps programs in the state to use members to address environmental issues. The continuation grant will be the third year of a three-year grant program that the County Board initially accepted on November 14, 2009.

County Manager:

BMD/mjs

County Attorney:

MA

[Signature]

40.

Staff: Miguel Ortega, PRCR, x7625

DISCUSSION: The AmeriCorps continuation grant will provide the County with its third cadre of six (6) AmeriCorps members, most of whom will be recent high school and/or college graduates recruited primarily from the local area, for a period of one year. AmeriCorps members will work on removing invasive plants and restoring native vegetation environments in parks, with particular attention to stream valleys throughout the Four Mile Run Watershed. This continuation grant will fund 80% of the \$15,300 living stipend, and all of the personal protective equipment, for each of the six (6) AmeriCorps members. Each member will work 1,700 hours during the year and will be trained by the staff of the Division of Parks and Natural Resources of PRCR to recognize and remove English Ivy, Japanese Honeysuckle, Java Dropwort, Norway Maple, Japanese Wisteria, Japanese Stilt grass, Russian Olive, and numerous other invasive plants and restore natural habitat in the County; primarily within the Four Mile Run Watershed.

In order to proceed with accepting the grant, the County must sign a Letter of Intent to Contract (attached hereto) and return it to the Virginia Department of Social Services. Upon receipt of the County's executed Letter of Intent to Contract, the Virginia Department of Social Services will send the County a contract to review and execute. The Board is asked to authorize, as part of its consideration of this Report, the County Manager to sign that contract on the Board's behalf after the contract is reviewed and approved by the County Attorney.

FISCAL IMPACT: No new net tax support is required to support this grant. The County has agreed to provide a \$30,341 cash match, which is already included in the FY 2012 adopted budget for invasive plant control and abatement purposes. The County has also agreed to provide \$130,237 of in-kind contributions, which will be provided by current PRCR staff in the normal course of their invasive plant abatement activities. This combination meets the maximum total contribution of \$160,578 (cash and in-kind) required by the State.



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

April 27, 2011

Dr. Miguel Ortega, Program Director
Arlington County
AmeriCorps Four Mile Run Restoration
2700 South Taylor Street
Arlington, VA 22206

Re: Letter of Intent to Contract
AmeriCorps*State 2011-2012

Dear Dr. Ortega:

Thank you for participating in the AmeriCorps*State Program during the 2010-11 program year. The Virginia Department of Social Services Office on Volunteerism and Community Service is pleased to notify Arlington County of our intent to provide funding for the 2011-12 program year as well.

Contingent upon approval of funding by the Corporation for National and Community Service for the 2011-12 program year, and satisfactory completion of all precontract requirements, the Office on Volunteerism and Community Service will offer a contract to Arlington County for an amount not to exceed \$80,448.00. This contract will require a cash/in-kind match. Our expectation is that the match will be not less than \$160,578. We expect that the 2011-12 contract will be effective on or about October 18, 2011, and will have a duration of one year.

This funding will be used to implement a 2011-12 AmeriCorps Program consistent with the County's application, including recruiting up to 6 full-time service members or the equivalent.

Please confirm the County's acceptance of this tentative grant award by having the appropriate individual sign this letter, scan and return via email attachment to stephen.whitman@dss.virginia.gov.

Please contact Stephen Whitman at 804-726-7068 or stephen.whitman@dss.virginia.gov if you have any questions or need assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nikki Nicholau".

Nikki Nicholau
Director, Office on Volunteerism and Community Service

Confirmed for Arlington Board:

Name

Title

Date