



## ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

**County Board Agenda Item  
Meeting of November 13, 2007**

**DATE:** October 30, 2007

**SUBJECT:** Authorization to accept FY 2006 State and Tribal Assistance Grant (STAG) monies and Appropriation of Local Match Funds for the FY 2006 STAG monies for the Four Mile Run Restoration Project.

**C. M. RECOMMENDATION:**

1. Authorize the County Manager to accept \$716,800.00 in grant funds from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) State and Tribal Assistance Grant (STAG) Program to be applied towards costs for design and construction of the Four Mile Run Restoration Master Plan demonstration project.
2. Authorize the County Manager to sign the STAG grant agreement with Virginia DEQ.
3. Appropriate \$716,800.00 from Virginia DEQ to the Department of Environmental Services General Capital Fund (313.44020) and appropriate \$386,473.00 from the Watershed Management Fund (799.40001) and \$200,000.00 from the Storm Drainage CIP (314.43527) to the DES General Capital Fund (313.44020) as the required 45 percent local match (\$586,473.00) for the STAG monies.

**ISSUES:** None.

**SUMMARY:** Arlington and Alexandria have each applied for the FY 2006 STAG appropriation for each jurisdiction to help fund the Four Mile Run Restoration Master Plan's demonstration project—wetland and streambank restoration in the tidal portion of Four Mile Run between Mt. Vernon Avenue and the Route 1 bridge.

The STAG appropriation for each jurisdiction (which is non-competitive) totals \$716,800.00, with a required 45 percent local match of \$586,473.00. Combined, the STAG appropriation for each jurisdiction plus each jurisdiction's local match totals \$2,606,546.00. The planning-level estimate provided in the Plan for design and construction of wetland and streambank restoration in the entire tidal portion of Four Mile Run is \$2.5 million.

It is anticipated that a design consultant for the demonstration project could be procured by early 2008, with design completed by early 2009. Construction is expected begin sometime in 2009.

County Manager: \_\_\_\_\_

County Attorney: \_\_\_\_\_

Staff: Jason Papacosma, Department of Environmental Services

**BACKGROUND:** The County Board adopted the Four Mile Run Restoration Master Plan in March 2006. The Four Mile Run Restoration 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 for the first phase of implementation as well as the next steps in the implementation planning process. The Department of Environmental Services, Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources, and the Department of Community Planning, Housing, and Development are collaborating on this multi-disciplinary effort.

Congressman Moran has been successful in securing Congressional appropriations for FY 2004, FY 2005, and FY 2006 for Arlington and Alexandria to help fund the Four Mile Run Restoration Project. These appropriations, which are separate but equivalent for each jurisdiction, have been placed into the State and Tribal Assistance Grant (STAG) program, administered in Virginia by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The City and County must separately apply for these monies through a non-competitive process. A local match of 45 percent is also required.

**DISCUSSION:** The FY 2006 STAG appropriation is the first appropriation that each jurisdiction has applied for to help fund the Plan's demonstration project—wetland and streambank restoration in the tidal portion of Four Mile Run between Mt. Vernon Avenue and the Route 1 bridge.

The STAG appropriation for each jurisdiction totals \$716,800.00, with a required 45 percent local match of \$586,473.00. Combined, the STAG appropriation for each jurisdiction plus each jurisdiction's local match totals \$2,606,546.00. The planning-level estimate provided in the Plan for design and construction of wetland and streambank restoration in the entire tidal portion of Four Mile Run is \$2.5 million. It is anticipated, however, that actual design and construction costs will be higher than this figure.

With the FY 2006 STAG funding and appropriated local match monies, the project team intends to proceed with procuring and completing restoration design services for the entire tidal portion of Four Mile Run—estimated to cost approximately \$500,000.00. Construction bids could then be solicited, at which time the actual cost for constructing the tidal restoration design will be known. If the remaining FY 2006 STAG funds with local match (approximately \$2.1 million after \$500,000 design expenditure) are not sufficient to pay for restoration of the entire tidal portion of Four Mile Run, a smaller restoration project (the 'demonstration project') within the tidal area will be constructed with the available funds.

Also, given the likelihood of higher costs than the planning-level estimate, Arlington plans to apply for its portion of the FY 2005 STAG monies for use in the demonstration project as well. There is the potential for additional restoration work on the Arlington side of Four Mile Run in the tidal portion relative to the Alexandria side due to the existence of more hardened bank materials on the Arlington side and an extensive existing wetland area on the Alexandria side. The local match funds for the FY 2005 STAG monies would come from a combination of Watershed Management Fund and Storm Drainage CIP funds.

Alexandria has not yet decided whether to use its portion of the FY 2005 STAG monies for the demonstration project or for additional near-stream storm water management work. Arlington and Alexandria each plan to use their respective FY 2004 STAG monies for stormwater management enhancements near Four Mile Run; Arlington has not yet applied for these monies but staff expects to do so during FY 2008.

The STAG grant application process is non-competitive. Arlington's formal application to Virginia DEQ for the FY 2006 STAG grant was submitted in early November, at the same time Alexandria submitted its application for the FY 2006 grant. Upon approval of all the application materials, Virginia DEQ will prepare separate grant agreements to be signed by the Arlington County Manager and the Alexandria City Manager.

It is anticipated that a design consultant for the demonstration project could be procured by early 2008, with design completed by early 2009. Construction is expected begin sometime in 2009.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** Funds for the local match requirement for the FY 2006 STAG monies are available in the Watershed Management Fund (799.40001) and the Storm Drainage CIP (314.43527). Of the \$586,473.00 local match required, the Watershed Management Fund will provide \$386,473.00 and the Storm Drainage CIP will provide \$200,000.00. Upon approval by the County Board, these funds will be appropriated to the DES General Capital Fund (313.44020).