



Commission Meeting

March 21, 2023

USGS Agreement for Groundwater Monitoring

Department:	Utilities
Presenter:	Wes Byne
Caption:	Motion to authorize the execution of a Joint Funding Agreement with the U. S. Department of the Interior U. S. Geological Survey (USGS) for the operation, modeling and analyzing of monitoring wells to investigate water levels and water quality for Augusta's groundwater production facilities. The request is to include an annual renewal for an additional three years unless the cost increases above \$150,000 in any year. (Approved by Engineering Services Committee March 14, 2023)
Background:	Monitoring groundwater levels and quality is important for protection and effective management of our water resources. The Augusta water supply at our three groundwater production facilities draws water from the Dublin-Midville aquifer system. The continuation of the monitoring program that is being proposed will provide valuable information to protect this important water source for Augusta. The attached proposed agreement for year 2023 sets the cost at \$123,400.00.
Analysis:	The proposed program is to continue monitoring the current groundwater levels, flow directions and water quality in the Dublin-Midville aquifer system up-gradient of our three established well fields. The data gathered from the monitoring process will provide information to support water management and water quality protection for our production facilities. This program also includes a groundwater modeling component. This program is an important part of our efforts to insure the future availability of groundwater as a valuable component of our water production capabilities. As such, we believe that the continuation of our ongoing partnership with the USGS into the foreseeable future is highly desirable. Since this needs to be an ongoing commitment we believe that this agreement should be approved and authorized for annual renewal for an additional three years unless the cost increases above \$150,000 in any year.
Financial Impact:	\$123,400.00 is within the budgeted amount included in our approved 2021 budget for this expense.
Alternatives:	No feasible alternatives.

Recommendation: We recommend the Commission authorize the execution of the proposed agreement with the USGS for the year 2023 in the amount of \$123,400.00. We further recommend authorization to renew this agreement annually for an additional three years as long as the annual cost does not exceed \$150,000.

Funds are available in the following accounts: 506043540/5213119

REVIEWED AND N/A
APPROVED BY: