



Committee Meeting

Meeting Date: May 28, 2024

Cooperative Service Agreement between Augusta, Georgia and
United States Dept. of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection
Services (APHIS) Wildlife Services (WS)

File Reference: 24 – 014(A)

Department:	Engineering & Environmental Services
Presenter:	Dr. Hameed Malik, Director
Caption:	Approve Augusta Engineering entering into Revised Cooperative Services and Funding Agreement (Agreement) with United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS) Wild Life Services (WS) for assisting Augusta Engineering Managing Beavers within Augusta, Georgia Service Area. Also approve the Agreement annual mutual continuation. /AE
Background:	Beaver and their associated damages have been reported to cause an estimated damage of \$200 million in the southern United States on an annual basis. Although accurate estimates are difficult to obtain in Georgia, the losses can probably be measured in the millions. Much of this damage is associated with impacting stream flow with building of dams and plugging culverts or creeks that prevent natural flow of water, damage to trees, creek bank destabilization and flooding. Augusta is experiencing Beavers created similar issues. USDA WLS has needed resources and technical know-how & skills managing Beavers, partnering with USDA WLS is a cost effective approach. Also, USDA WLS is a federal entity and cost is a pass through direct cost for rendered services. On June 6, 2023 Augusta Commission authorized Augusta Engineering (AE) & United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS) Wildlife Services (USDA WLS) Agreement for assisting AE in reducing Beaver damage and related flooding issues.
Analysis:	Under the 2023 agreement, Beavers management initial efforts revealed that at least for initial few years assigning the equivalent of one full time person needed for establishing an effective and successful Beaver Management program. To accomplish this, USDA has to revise its 2023 agreement with Augusta, Georgia, and accordingly will allocate additional resources. The management plan involves the reduction of site-specific beaver population in Augusta area, using a variety of control techniques, to a point where associated problems reach acceptable limits.

Financial Impact: \$80,000 per year. Funds available in Stormwater Utility Funds

Alternatives: 1). Do not approve and abundant the area beaver management efforts.

Recommendation: Approve Augusta Engineering entering into Revised Cooperative Services and Funding Agreement (Agreement) with United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS) Wild Life Services (WS) for assisting Augusta Engineering Managing Beavers within Augusta, Georgia Service Area. Also approve the Agreement annual mutual continuation. /AE

Funds are available in the following accounts: (\$80,000/yr) 581044320-52.11120 - Stormwater Utility Funds

REVIEWED AND HM/LA
APPROVED BY: