Staff Report

July 21, 2025 Council Workshop Meeting

Professional Services Agreement with Aquatechnex for Lake Management
Presenter: Rob Charles, Utilities Manager
Time Estimate: 5 minutes

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BACKGROUND: Aquatechnex has been contracted to perform chemical spraying to reduce the algae blooms caused by phosphorous in Lacamas Lake. One spraying occurred last year in July of the chemical Eutrosorb (Aluminum Sulphate), but due to a lower dosage, was not highly effective at breaking down the phosphorous. A higher dosage of chemical and a second spraying was recommended to be more effective against the phosphorous in the lake in 2025.

SUMMARY: Aquatechnex applied the first treatment last week (7/15 and 7/16). If effective, a second treatment is anticipated in mid-August to continue to break down the phosphorous that has built up since the first application.

Figure 1: Chemical Treatment to Lacamas Lake, 7/15-16, 2025

BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY: Reduce algae blooms in the lake and make it safer for recreational users.

STRATEGIC PLAN: The chemical application of the lake aligns with Strategic Plan Priorities of Stewardship of City Assets and Vibrant Community Amenities.

POTENTIAL CHALLENGES: There is always a risk that the chemical treatment is not fully effective against the phosphorous in the lake, causing algae blooms to continue to grow in the lake. Since sampling of the water quality in the lake occurred prior to the treatment and a follow up sampling will take place next week, we will have a better idea if the treatment was effective.

BUDGET IMPACT: The cost of the additional spraying proposed is $132,861. All costs are covered by a Department of Commerce Grant. The original contract amount was $226,819. Total amount of the new amended contract would be $359,680.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff would recommend this item be placed on the August 4th, 2025 Council Regular Consent Agenda for Council's consideration.