

Staff Report

Subject: Wetland Mitigation Credit Purchase for Hodgeville Sanitary Sewer Force Main Project

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Department: Project Management, Procurement, Engineering

Meeting Date: April 15, 2025

Item Description: Consideration to approve the revised purchase of wetland mitigation credits related to the Hodgeville Sanitary Sewer Force Main Project (23-ITB-060), reflecting changes to the project's construction method and reduction in impacted wetlands.

Summary Recommendation: Staff recommends approval of the revised purchase of 1.28 wetland mitigation credits for a total cost of \$106,880.

Executive Summary/Background:

Effingham County is required to purchase wetland mitigation credits to comply with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit for the Hodgeville Sanitary Sewer Force Main project (Permit No. SAS-2023-00406). The original impact assessment called for the purchase of 6.56 wetland credits at a cost of \$547,760.

However, based on updated engineering and permitting plans, two wetlands (C and D) will now be crossed using horizontal directional drilling (HDD) instead of open cut methods. This change eliminates impacts to those areas and reduces the credit requirement by 5.28 credits.

The revised purchase now includes only 1.28 credits for unavoidable impacts to other wetland areas, at a cost of \$83,500 per credit, totaling \$106,880 .

Alternatives for Commission to Consider

1. Approve the revised purchase of 1.28 mitigation credits for \$106,880.
2. Decline the revised purchase and proceed with the original plan at a higher cost.
3. Provide staff with further direction.

Recommended Alternative: 1

Other Alternatives: 2

Department Review: Project Management, Engineering, Procurement

Funding Source: Hodgeville Sanitary Force Main Capital Budget FY25

Attachments: Revised Wetland Credit Invoice – EMC Engineering, Wetland Impact Summary Worksheet, USACE Permit Letter – SAS-2023-00406