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CITY OF KOTZEBUE RESOLUTION NO. 24-15

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KOTZEBUE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER AND/OR HER DESIGNEE(S) TO SUBMIT TO THE STATE OF ALASKA, A STATE REVOVLING FUND ("SRF") PROJECT QUESTIONNAIRE FOR PLANNING, DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE VORTAC LAKE DAM REPAIR OR REPLACEMENT

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska, Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Water ("DEC/DW"), has recommended that the City of Kotzebue ("City") submit a State Revolving Fund ("SRF") Project Questionnaire for the Vortac Lake Dam Repair or Replacement Project as set forth in the email string attached hereto a Exhibit "A" and DEC/DW Table attached hereto as Exhibit "B" and incorporated by reference herein;

WHEREAS, this SRF Questionnaire loan application would be for the planning, design and construction of the Vortac Lake Dam Repair or Replacement Project;

WHEREAS, this Project Questionnaire is due on or before February 29, 2024 as set forth in the Table attached hereto as Exhibit "**B**";

WHEREAS, if there is insufficient SRF loan forgiveness available for this Project, the City will pursue CIP construction funds when planning documentation is complete and approved; and,

WHEREAS, this Vorate Lake Dam Repair or Replacement Project is vitally important to health and safety of the City and its residents.

Resolution No. 24-15 SOA SRF Project Questionnaire for Vortac Lake Dam Repair or Replacement Project Page 2 of 2

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Kotzebue, authorizes the City Manager and/or her designee(s) to submit to the State a SRF Project Questionnaire for the planning, design and construction of Vortac Lake Dam Repair or Replacement Project with all due haste.

PASSED AND APPROVED by a duly constituted quorum of the City Council of the City of Kotzebue, Alaska, this 22nd day of February 2024.

CITY OF KOTZEB	UE
Saima Chase, Mayor	
ATTEST:	[SEAL]
Rosie Hensley, City (Clerk
Attachment:	Exhibit "A" – Email string February 9-16, 2024 [5 pages] Exhibit "B" – DEC Table [1 page]

Replacement of Swan Lake Loop and Lagoon Loop

Tessa Baldwin < TBaldwin@Kotzebue.org>

Fri 2/16/2024 5:48 PM

To:City Council <CityCouncil@Kotzebue.org>

Cc:Joe Evans <Joe@jwevanslaw.com>;Russ Ferguson <RFerguson@Kotzebue.org>;Samuel Atkinson

- <SAtkinson@Kotzebue.org>;Chelsea Sieh <CSieh@Kotzebue.org>;Eldon Mulder <muldereldon@gmail.com>;Eldon Mulder
- <eldon.mulder@icloud.com>;Benjamin Mohr <benmohr@gmail.com>

1 attachments (11 KB)

Kotzebue Funding Recommendation 02.15.24.xlsx;

Dear Members of the City Council and Administration,

Our team was approached by the State revolving fund (SRF) for the beginning phases of the replacement of Swan Lake Loop and Lagoon Loop.

The option that was presented was to us does <u>not use any public dollars</u>. This would be for us to apply for the State Revolving Fund, which acts as a loan in most cases, however only for the amount in which we are eligible for reimbursement. This means we would not use any public tax payer dollars for the first phase of the project which would set us up for construction as early as next year and allow us to be eligible for grant funding for the replacement.

Please see attached the Kotzebue funding recommendation that lays out the pressing necessary steps to start these phases. Please note, that since this is a recommendation that we are planning on putting this on the agenda by resolution for your review. The transparency in this is that usually with a loan we would have to go out to public vote, however, we were reassured that since we are only applying for the amount we are eligible for reimbursement that this would act more like a grant. The pressing part is, is that if we do not apply for this action before the end of this month, we will jeopardize the project funding this year and will have to wait a whole additional year to apply for funding for any beginning phase pushing the replacement of the line to 2026 or 2027.

We have this on the agenda for next week but would like have some food for through this weekend. Eldon, Chelsea and I would act as a team to push this application forward however, we need direction and okay from the council to do this. Please review documents as you are able and we will present this information in person during the city Council meeting.

Thank you,

Tessa Baldwin
City Manager
City of Kotzebue
258A Third Avenue
PO Box 46, Kotzebue, AK 99752

Work: 907-442-5101 Cell: 907-412-3571 Fax: 907-442-3742



From: Bohan, Carrie D (DEC) <carrie.bohan@alaska.gov>

Sent: Friday, February 16, 2024 2:24 PM To: Tessa Baldwin < TBaldwin@Kotzebue.org >

Cc: Ben Mohr <benmohr@gmail.com>; emulder@gci.net; Hodges, Elizabeth <ehodges@anthc.org>; Hancey,

Derek <dhancey@anthc.org>; Ha, Young (DEC) <young.ha@alaska.gov>; Ulman, Peggy L (DEC)

<peggy.ulman@alaska.gov>; Charlie Santos <CSantos@Kotzebue.org>

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The City has also previously submitted project questionnaires (letters of interest) to the State Revolving Fund (SRF) Program for low interest loans for design and construction of the Swan Lake and Lagoon Loops. The SRF is offering the City up to \$2.5M in loan forgiveness on these loans if the City applies by April 1, 2024. The City could consider

Exhibit A to Resolution 24-15, February 22, 2024 RCCM

applying for a \$2.5M loan for planning and design of the Swan Lake and Lagoon Loops. This would result in a fully forgiven loan with up to \$12,500 (0.05% of disbursed funds) in fee withheld from reimbursements (note that my math was bad yesterday when I said \$125,000 in fees). Once the planning effort is complete and the funding agencies have reviewed and approved the selected alternative, the City could initiate design immediately. Then, the City could apply for VSW CIP funding for construction the following spring, even if design is ongoing. This method is likely to result in a complete design and initiation of construction more quickly than using CIP funding alone. Additionally, this would allow for the current CIP funded planning project to be rescoped to focus solely on the wastewater aspects and a supplemental funding request will not be necessary.

On a related note, the City has an interest in pursuing improvements to the Vortac Lake dam. The City could submit a project questionnaire to the SRF program by February 29, 2024 for planning, design, and construction of this project. The SRF Program will publish a new Project Priority List in June 2024 which will include allocation of new subsidy. It is possible that the City may be eligible for up to \$2.5M in loan forgiveness for this project as well. Once the new Priority List is available, we could regroup to discuss how the City might proceed with this project. If the City does not submit a questionnaire by the end of February, they are still welcome to do so, however the likelihood that substantial loan forgiveness will be available is very small until as it is allocated in the spring each year.

I've attached a table containing this same information in a different format that I hope will be easy to digest. Our teams are available to answer additional questions or discuss options, so please let us know how we can be most helpful.

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<peggy.ulman@alaska.gov>; Charlie Santos < CSantos@Kotzebue.org>

Subject: Re: Phone Call

You don't often get email from tbaldwin@kotzebue.org. Learn why this is important

Let's do 3PM! Charlie, can you send out the calendar invite to the group with a zoom link?

From: Bohan, Carrie D (DEC) < carrie.bohan@alaska.gov >

Sent: Wednesday, February 14, 2024 5:24:51 PM

To: Tessa Baldwin

Cc: Ben Mohr; emulder@gci.net; Hodges, Elizabeth; Hancey, Derek; Ha, Young (DEC); Ulman, Peggy L (DEC)

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Unfortunately, I don't think time works for our group. We are available tomorrow (Thursday) from 3pm – 430pm, or Friday from 130pm-300pm.

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<peggy.ulman@alaska.gov>
Subject: Re: Phone Call

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How does tomorrow at 11AM work for you?

Thank you,

From: Tessa Baldwin

Sent: Wednesday, February 14, 2024 1:02:22 PM

To: Bohan, Carrie D (DEC)

Cc: Ben Mohr; emulder@gci.net; Hodges, Elizabeth; Hancey, Derek; Ha, Young (DEC); Ulman, Peggy L (DEC)

Subject: Re: Phone Call

Absolutely! I would very much appreciate this call. I am cc'ing Charlie to find a time for all of us to meeting

I'll also extend the invite to you all for our emergency operations which Charlie can forward to you as well.

Thank you!

From: Bohan, Carrie D (DEC) < carrie.bohan@alaska.gov Sent: Wednesday, February 14, 2024 11:50:16 AM

To: Tessa Baldwin

Cc: Ben Mohr; emulder@gci.net; Hodges, Elizabeth; Hancey, Derek; Ha, Young (DEC); Ulman, Peggy L (DEC)

Subject: RE: Phone Call

Good morning Tessa,

I had the opportunity to speak with Elizabeth Hodges of ANTHC this morning to brainstorm about potential paths for the City of Kotzebue to pursue funding for replacement of the Swan Lake and Lagoon loops, as well as Vortac Lake. We do have some suggestions that could move these projects along more quickly than the usual process. There are some upcoming deadlines at the end of February and it would be helpful to meet before then.

Would you be interested in meeting with us via phone or video call (Teams or Zoom) later this week? We are available tomorrow (Thursday) from 3pm – 430pm, or Friday from 130pm-300pm. If these times don't work, we can look to next week sometime. I know you have quite a lot to deal with at the moment!

Carrie



Carrie Bohan Facilities Programs Manager

DIVISION OF WATER OFFICE 907.465.5143

CARRIE.BOHAN@ALASKA.GOV

PO BOX 111800 JUNEAU, AK 99811 From: Bohan, Carrie D (DEC)

Sent: Friday, February 9, 2024 1:52 PM

To: emulder@gci.net; Tessa Baldwin < TBaldwin@Kotzebue.org>

Cc: Ben Mohr < benmohr@gmail.com >

Subject: RE: Phone Call

Good afternoon,

I am going to be out of the office starting at about 2pm today, but I am still happy participate in a call anytime this afternoon. My calendar is also completely open on Monday so I can be available to meet whenever best fits your schedules.

Carrie

From: emulder@gci.net Sent: Friday, February 9, 2024 1:43 PM

To: Bohan, Carrie D (DEC) < carrie.bohan@alaska.gov >; Tessa Baldwin < TBaldwin@Kotzebue.org >

Cc: Ben Mohr < benmohr@gmail.com >

Subject: Phone Call

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the State of Alaska mail system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon, Tessa and Carrie. As I mentioned on our call, Carrie, Tessa is the City Manager for Kotzebue (I believe you met last year). As I suspected, Tessa would greatly appriciate visiting with you directly, Carrie, regarding funding options. What is your earliest availability? Perhaps even this afternoon?? (I've also included my business partner, Ben Mohr, on this email.)

Also, I mentioned it might be possible to deploy a person to Kotzebue for assistance and Tessa is also interested in that opportunity if available.

Anyway, perhaps we can get the two of you together in the very near future. Carrie, many thanks for your willingness to talk about options.

Take care and hope to hear from both of you soon.

All the best,

Eldon

Eldon Mulder

The Mulder Company PO Box 140711

Anchorage, AK 99514 (907)223-3262: cell

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<SAtkinson@Kotzebue.org>;Chelsea Sieh <CSieh@Kotzebue.org>;Eldon Mulder <muldereldon@gmail.com>;Eldon Mulder <eldon.mulder@icloud.com>;Benjamin Mohr <benmohr@gmail.com>

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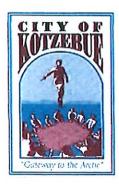
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Tessa Baldwin City Manager City of Kotzebue 258A Third Avenue PO Box 46, Kotzebue, AK 99752

Work: 907-442-5101 Cell: 907-412-3571 Fax: 907-442-3742



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DIVISION OF WATER OFFICE 907.465.5143

CARRIEBOHAN@ALASKA.GOV

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Eldon Mulder

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