



MEMO

To: Mayor Teske – Finance Committee
From: Daron J Haugh – City Administrator
Subject: Weed Harvester Partnership with Guardians of Lake Decorah (GOLD)
Date: 2024-10-08

I am writing to request your approval to continue funding for the seasonal position of a weed harvester operator for the 2025 fiscal year, with the ongoing partnership with GOLD for cost-sharing. As you may recall, in 2023 we approved an additional \$9,500 in our 2024 budget to hire a seasonal employee dedicated to operating our weed harvester. This was made possible through our partnership with GOLD, who agreed to pay half of the total wages, \$4,500. I am pleased to report that this investment has yielded significant improvements in the appearance and health of our lake, with the ability to run the harvester five days a week.

The enhanced frequency of harvesting has effectively managed weed growth, improving the overall aesthetic and recreational value of the lake for our residents and visitors. This is a crucial service for maintaining our waterways and supporting outdoor activities in our community. For the 2025 fiscal year, I have already allocated the \$9,500 in my proposed budget for continuation of this position. With GOLD's ongoing commitment to pay half of the wages, I believe it is prudent and beneficial to extend this partnership for another year. I respectfully request your approval to continue funding for the seasonal weed harvester operator position in the 2025 budget, in collaboration with GOLD. I am confident this will allow us to maintain the improvements we have made in our lake's condition and provide ongoing value to our community.