Meeting Date:	October 30, 2025	**Agenda Type:**	Consent Items for Action
From:	Larry Aguilar Cyber Security Manager	**Reviewed by:**	Greg Brown Chief Technology and Security Officer
Submitted by:	Greg Brown Chief Technology and Security Officer	**Approved by:**	Ryan Kelso Chief Executive Officer

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Authorize the CEO or His Designee to Negotiate and Execute a Cooperative Agreement with iSphere Innovation Partners LLC for Technology and Security Consulting Services

BACKGROUND

New Braunfels Utilities ("NBU") is responsible for maintaining regulatory compliance with the standards for cyber-physical systems as required by North American Electric Reliability Critical Infrastructure Protection ("NERC CIP"). A robust cyber-physical program with strong systems and processes provides the organization with a high level of resilience, serving as a business enabler that enhances the experience for NBU staff and customers. To achieve this level of success, NBU has contracted with iSphere Innovation Partners LLC, with a focus on cyber-physical system maturity over the past two years.

The NBU Technology and Security staff recommends renewing the contract with iSphere Innovation Partners LLC, which expands the scope to include the evaluation and implementation of processes to increase the maturity levels of the business technology teams. This improvement will align the technology and security teams to develop at the same pace, resulting in more effective output. NBU staff recommends contracting iSphere Innovation Partners LLC, through the Buy Board, which satisfies the competitive bidding process.

NBU staff requests that the Board of Trustees approve the contract with iSphere Innovation Partners LLC.

This item is being presented to the Board because the total contract amount exceeds $250,000.00.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The total contract amount for the Agreement with iSphere is $1,627,200.00, with a not-to-exceed amount of $542,400.00 annually for the initial contract term and $542,400.00 for each of the additional two (2) one-year terms. These funds are available in our Fiscal Year 2026 Operations and Maintenance budget ("O&M Budget") and will be budgeted in the O&M Budgets for Fiscal Year 2027 through Fiscal Year 2028.

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

Customers and Community

People and Culture

Infrastructure and Technology

EXHIBITS

1. BuyBoard Proposal Invitation No. 760-25