



PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM 2014 Permitting Services RFP Proposal Evaluation Summary

Recommendation

Based on the quality and content of proposals, proposal evaluations, and prior Platte River Recovery Implementation Program (PRRIP or Program) and Executive Director's Office (EDO) experience with some of the proposing firms, the EDO recommends the Governance Committee (GC) approve the selection of HDR to provide permitting services as described in the RFP for the period of 2015-2017. This selection would result in a multi-year contract that would need approved by the GC. The EDO intends to present a draft multi-year contract to the GC for discussion and approval at the December 2-3, 2014 GC meeting in Denver if possible.

Proposal Ranking Summary

The Proposal Selection Panel for this RFP consists of Suzanne Sellers (Colorado Water Conservation Board), Eliza Hines (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service), and Chad Smith (EDO). Based on two of three ranking workbooks (Sellers and Smith), the average score (out of a total possible score of 175) for each of the four proposals is:

<u>Firm</u>	<u>Average Score</u>
1. HDR	160.75
2. Olsson Associates	140.5
3. FHU	125.5
4. JEO	118.5

Summary Comments

Below are specific summary comments provided for each firm during the proposal ranking process:

FHU

- I don't understand how the hours listed on their org chart add up.
- Major background is with wetland mitigation and delineation, primarily with the Nebraska Dept. of Roads (NDOR); have done work for CPNRD (related to flood control project; Czaplewski listed as reference) as well as in both NE and CO; have experience with on-call contract (NDOR work, secured a repeat contract for similar work); made note of species avoidance periods; emphasized making a simplified presentation to Corps with graphics (like that); team is very heavy on wetland delineators, that is a strength of their experience but may have weighted team and approach too heavily toward that (probably due more to their previous experience as opposed to not understanding PRRIP need); like their proposed scope of work (based on NDOR work) but it would need adapted to our specific needs.

HDR

- Previous PRRIP work is big advantage, but they developed a serious proposal and didn't just appear to assume the job was theirs to lose; combination of Pillard and Morton is strong; overall team more manageable in terms of size; successful at securing permits for PRRIP; approach is solid, like idea of "permit condition tracking"; provide option to do monitoring, not a requirement but might provide some synergy/efficiency.

JEO

- Understanding and approach a little thin; comes across a little as a "cookie-cutter" proposal; that seems due to unfamiliarity with the PRRIP which is a challenge not having been around it before but that



stands out in proposal; do have good experience with Corps, 404 permits, and on-call services; experience has some direct overlap with FHU (CPNRD flood control, on-call NDOR) so there is some cancelling effect; experience is heavy on wetland delineation; team is tight and manageable.

Olsson Associates

- I like that they have a former Omaha USACE on the project.
- Familiarity with PRRIP and need; Tillotson good to have on team but given PRRIP experience with permits that may not be as strong of influencing factor as in the past; proposal is very heavy on Tillotson and his experience with the Corps and with securing permits; approach is thin, seems to focus mostly on using Tillotson's expertise to pre-determine the approach (maybe over-thinking it?); experience that is highlighted in the proposal is less topically on point, more focused on showing Keith's recent record of getting permits; team fairly large and heavy on wetland delineation.

Discussion

HDR successfully provided permitting services at reasonable cost to the Program over the past several years, including helping the Program secure a very-difficult-to-obtain permit for the sediment augmentation pilot project. John Morton at HDR is well regarded nationally for his expertise in permitting, Matt Pillard and Pat Engelbert have been strong project managers, and all work has been completed on time and on budget. While Olsson has a former USACE Nebraska regulatory officer on the team, that experience is not at on-point at this stage in the Program given our successful track record of securing permits. Additionally, John Morton with HDR also has past experience in the regulatory office of the USACE Omaha District. The other two firms (FHU and JEO) seem to have correlated experience that is heavily tilted toward wetlands and not so much toward the kind of river-related projects that the Program also works with.

The Program received four solid proposals for the RFP and all submitting firms could provide good services to the Program. However, based on the proposal content, the proposal reviews, and past experience the EDO believes the Program will be best served by securing HDR for permitting services in 2015-2017.

Next Steps

Given the GC meeting is only two weeks away and will be the last opportunity to discuss and approve multi-year contracts in 2014, the EDO recommends moving into the contract phase with HDR to develop a draft contract for GC consideration at the upcoming December GC meeting in Denver. If the other members of the Proposal Selection Panel concur, this item will be moved to the December GC agenda, all firms will be notified, and the EDO will work with HDR to develop a draft contract. **If the Proposal Selection Panel would instead like to discuss this recommendation further, the EDO will moderate a conference call for the Proposal Selection Panel on Thursday, November 20, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. Central/9:00 a.m. Mountain.**