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**Subject:** Lake Conestee Dam - Update 171109 - Engineering Firm Selection Process

**Attachments:** SCBO-Wednesday, November 8, 2017.pdf  
ForLegalAds-GNews-171112-LakeConesteeDam-SolicitationOfInterest&SOQs\_Announce  
171108.pdf

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Hi Rossie, Danny, Chris, Ann, and Jim

You five have the incredibly unenviable distinction of having been designated to serve on the "Selection Panel" for the engineering firm to serve as the engineer to perform the final and definitive pre-design work for the Lake Conestee Dam.

This final review of engineering alternatives and pre-design services to select the Recommended Alternative, a singular definitive technical answer, once and for all, for how to deal with an extremely important, vulnerable, and valuable piece of infrastructure, is a critical step in the nearly 20 years of work performed by the Foundation, in close collaboration with SCDHEC. The work product of this project will give us the definitive answer on how to proceed, and what financial resources will be necessary not only for the rehabilitation or replacement of the Lake Conestee Dam, but also for

the maintenance and security of the dam over the next 100 years.

This study will be performed per the SCDHEC proviso approved by the legislature in the last session.

*From the proviso language:*

*The contractor conducting the study on behalf of the Conestee Foundation shall be selected in a manner similar to state procurement standards. The panel selecting the contractor shall be made up of one representative of the Conestee Foundation, one representative from the Department of Health and Environmental Control, one representative appointed by the Greenville County Legislative Delegation, one representative appointed by the Greenwood County Legislative Delegation, and one representative appointed by the Laurens County Legislative Delegation. The study must meet all regulatory requirements, and the Department of Health and Environmental Control will provide review of the study and scope of work. The funding of this study does not obligate the State of South Carolina in any way to the future costs of the anticipated rehabilitation or replacement of the dam.*

Our Foundation has successfully negotiated the contract with SCDHEC and we are ready to move forward.

Per the proviso the following representatives have been selected:

- Conestee Foundation - Jim Gossett (retired civil engineer and CF Board member)
- SCDHEC (Dam Safety Program) - Ann Clark (Director - Stormwater, Construction, Agricultural, and Dams Permitting Division Bureau of Water)
- Greenville County (appointee of County Delegation) - Chris Laney (AV Real Estate Fund - Owner of Conestee Mill)
- Laurens County (appointee of County Delegation) - Danny Varat (Chief of Staff for Lt. Governor)
- Greenwood County (appointee of County Delegation) - Rossie Corwon, PE (Greenwood County Engineer)

THANK YOU ALL, for your willingness to serve on this selection panel.

Note that I am not officially on the selection panel (by mutual agreement between myself and the CF Board), but I will facilitate the process on behalf of the Conestee Foundation and in the interest of the Foundation's contract obligations to SCDHEC.

Based on our contract agreement with SCDHEC, we will make the selection in general accordance with State procurement standards. As we have agreed with SCDHEC's procurement team, this will be a two-step

process.

STEP 1: We are first soliciting Letters of Interest / Statements of Qualifications from interested/qualified firms through SCBO and the Greenville News. The SCBO ad is published today (attached), and the solicitation will hopefully be in the legal ads section of the GNews on Sun, 12 Nov (text attached). The deadline for those submittals, is 27 Nov. The feedback will be all-electronic. I will capture those packages from each firm and distribute that information to the selection panel on 28 Nov for your review. The panel will be guided through an evaluation and scoring process to short-list to no more than three or four firms. If necessary, our selection panel may have one conference call during this process, the week of 28 Nov. The target date for selection of shortlist firms is 01 Dec.

STEP 2: Those 3-4 shortlisted firms will then be provided with the detailed scope of work (to be provided only to the shortlist firms), and invited to submit a detailed project approach and estimate of cost to perform the scope of work. Proposals will be due 18 Dec (subject to change, if we decide to have a mandatory site visit, probable). Those proposals will also be submitted electronically, and captured and provided to the selection panel for review. Again, we may have a conference call to discuss questions and the final firm selection criteria. We will likewise try to make a quick turn on selection and engagement of the engineering firm to perform the work, pending successful negotiation of a contract with the Foundation.

We would like to have all of this process completed before Christmas, but realize the timing gets awkward. So the calendar may have to shift a bit. (We've pushed the process as fast as we could, but could not proceed until CF's contract with SCDHEC was finalized).

A specific request to you members of the selection panel is that you have no communications with prospective firms about this project in order to keep the procurement process fair, open, and unbiased.

Email or call me if you have any questions. Otherwise, you will next hear from me when we have captured the Step 1 feedback from firms, about 28 Nov.

Again, thank you for your invaluable assistance.

Very best regards, and Happy Thanksgiving !

Dave

Dave Hargett, Ph.D.

Founder & Executive Director

Conestee Foundation / Lake Conestee Nature Park

LCNP: Celebrating 11 Years of Discovery !

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