

From: James Gossett <jlgossett@charter.net>
To: Dave Hargettdhargett52@gmail.com
CC: Ann Clarkclarkar@dhec.sc.gov
Chris Laneychris@southernid.com
Rossie Corwonrcorwon@greenwoodsc.gov
Danny Varatdannyvarat@gmail.com
Danny VaratDannyVarat@scstatehouse.gov
Stewart, Jill C.STEWARJC@dhec.sc.gov
John T. LittonLITTONJT@dhec.sc.gov
Mark Hollishollisme@dhec.sc.gov
David Wilsonwilsonde@dhec.sc.gov
Tom Kestertom@lakeconesteenaturepark.com
William Bridgeswmalfred@gmail.com
John Gardnerjohngardner.1962@gmail.com
Meghan Ludwigmzettle-moyer@kpmg.com
Mary Arrington Walter (mary@lakeconesteenaturepark.com)mary@lakeconesteenaturepark.com
Date: 4/6/2018 11:37:27 AM
Subject: Re: Lake Conestee Dam - Final Pre-Design Engineering Study - Engineering Firm Selection Panel Final Recommendation

Dave,

As I indicated in my e-mail of April 4, I have personally reviewed all of the pertinent documents and have cast my vote for the selection of the best qualified dam engineer to prepare the "Final Predesign Study" for the dam. I understand that three other members of the Selection Panel have also already cast their votes, and per attached e-mail's, two of them have already said that they see no need for getting additional information through a conference call. For me personally, I also see no need for a conference call unless there is a split in the votes among the four votes already cast. However, if two members feel that there is a need for a conference call, or if a split in the votes already cast indicates a division of panel opinions, then I would be happy to participate in a conference call to permit discussion among the panel members. I do feel that it is important that the panel make its selection as soon as possible so that the Foundation can enter into a contract to conduct the work.

Jim Gossett
jlgossett@charter.net
864-230-1007

On Apr 5, 2018, at 1:29 PM, Dave Hargett <dhargett52@gmail.com> wrote:

Distinguished Selection Panel Members, and Other Interested Parties,

Below is my response to Chris Laney's request for a call to discuss

the selection of an engineering firm for performance of the Lake Conestee Dam "Final Pre-Design Study."

I fully respect his request.

At the same time, all of you have had the engineering firms' SOQ and proposal materials in hand for a full 4 weeks, and I would have thought we could certainly have recommendations by this point. Our candidate firms have been abundantly patient, and we have a clock ticking to get this work performed and guide us to the next decision points.

If you all feel convening a call is warranted and useful at this point, please let me, and all others know.

Please let us know no later than noon, Mon, 09 Apr, if you want to convene a call, or if you specifically do not want to invest more time in this decision process and want us to move forward. If two or more of you want a call we will move post haste to convene one.

I am the mere facilitator of this process, but am admittedly quite exhausted with administrative/bureaucratic hand-wringing after nearly two years of conversations on this subject. (We started these conversations about June 2016, although my conversations with multiple state and federal agencies, and the governor's office, started in 1998!)

With the other experiences I've had in my life over the last two years, and the unequaled depth of background and insight on the situation that I've accumulated over fully twenty years, I have a very strong sense of urgency to get this work done while I can provide institutional and informational support to the decision process.

Meanwhile, our Conestee Foundation, Inc. board of directors has unanimously approved the recommendation of a firm in its best interest to hire for this work, and is eager to move forward and fulfill our contract to DHEC.

Thanks,

Dave

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Dave Hargett <dhargett52@gmail.com>

Date: Thu, Apr 5, 2018 at 10:51 AM

Subject: Completion of Re: On 180405 Engineering Firm Selection Panel

To: Christopher Laney <chris@southernid.com>

Cc: Tom <tom@lakeconesteenaturepark.com>, James Gossett <jlgossett@charter.net>, "Mary Arrington Walter (mary@lakeconesteenaturepark.com)" <mary@lakeconesteenaturepark.com>

Thanks, Chris.

I understand your concerns.

Again, the other four panel members have already thoroughly reviewed the materials to their satisfaction and have rendered what is a decisive vote.

Two of the four candidate engineering firms have essential flaws in their proposals that ostensibly eliminate their further consideration. Between the other two firms, one has essentially priced itself out of contention, leaving one well qualified firm.

Beyond that, the qualifications review supports the decision for the same selection.

As a result of their independent and thorough review of the extensive materials provided, the other four selection panel members have made their recommendation, which is ultimately decisive. Three of the other members have extensive professional engineering experience, and the other has extensive state contracting experience. We gave DHEC and extended three week period to do its own in depth review, involving at least three different DHEC staff engineers, and it came up with the same decision. What we had said all along was that if any 2 of 5 selection panel members wanted to convene a call, to discuss the details, then we would do so. You are the only one to request a conference call.

DHEC's technical staff and DHEC's procurement representatives have concurred that we have more than adequately addressed all procurement, solicitation, and qualifications review requirements and that we have executed a fair, open, transparent, and objective selection process.

The proviso simply establishes the selection panel, and does not prescribe its process. We have followed the contracting agency's (DHEC) requirements and guidance exhaustively. The selection panel was populated, and has received very extensive communications, both ways, with numerous meetings, calls, and information exchanges in the process. All others involved agree we have more than adequately addressed the spirit and intent of DHEC's guidance and the directive of the proviso.

If you still want to have a call, we can schedule a time for next week, and can make that available to all selection panel members who want to participate.

So, we will accommodate your desire for a call if you feel it is necessary. I would ask Jim Gossett, (PE-retired), the selection panel representative for the Conestee Foundation, to convene that call. Given that the others have submitted their

recommendations I'm not sure what the participation will be.

Let me know your thoughts, and if you still want a call, we can try to set that up.

We do need to close this process out right away, as the firms have been patiently waiting, and the clock is ticking for us to perform and complete the study.

Thanks,

Dave

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<http://lakeconesteenaturepark.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/LakeConestee>

Dave Hargett, Ph.D.

Founder & Executive Director

Conestee Foundation / Lake Conestee Nature Park

864.787.8160 c

dave@lakeconesteenaturepark.com

dhargett52@gmail.com

LCNP - Southeast Region Phoenix Award Winner

National Brownfields Award Recognition

On Thu, Apr 5, 2018 at 9:53 AM, Christopher Laney <chris@southernid.com> wrote:

Dave -

Sorry I missed your call on Tuesday - I was out of pocket with no cell service. I believe it is best that the committee is able to talk among the committee members about the selection. (Similar to a jury decision)

To my knowledge, no one tried to spearhead a conference call which I believe we owe the process. I assumed we would be talking once DHEC finished their review which is why I am just now bringing this up.

I respect the Nature Park's need to move this along but I want to make sure we correctly follow the process and aren't seen as just another bureaucratic committee that didn't even meet and do what was requested by the state.

Thanks,

Chris

On Thu, Apr 5, 2018 at 9:43 AM, Dave Hargett <dhargett52@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Chris

I left a couple of voicemail messages for you, and perhaps you are traveling or on vacation.

Yours is the last vote / recommendation I need from the selection panel members regarding the selection of an engineering firm for the Lake Conestee Dam study. All other panel members have already weighed in with their recommendations.

If you have any questions on the materials I provided when we met on 07 March please do give me a call.

Otherwise, all I need is a brief email from you confirming you have received and have reviewed the documents provided, that your questions, if any, have been addressed, and what your recommendation is in terms of firm selection.

Once we have your vote, we will compile the results, and start negotiating with the recommended firm.

Thank you for your service to this selection panel and for your patience with the process.

Please call me at 787.8160 if you have any questions.

Best regards,

Dave

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<https://www.facebook.com/LakeConestee>

Dave Hargett, Ph.D.
Founder & Executive Director
Conestee Foundation / Lake Conestee Nature Park

864.787.8160 c

dave@lakeconesteenaturepark.com

dhargett52@gmail.com

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Christopher Laney
Managing Partner
Direct: 770-596-5370

Southern Investment and Development, LLC
Post Office Box 1552 - Greenville, SC 29602
www.SouthernID.com - Chris@SouthernID.com