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Subject: Lake Conestee Dam - Update 170108 - Engineering Firm Selection Process

Hi Rossie, Danny, Chris, Ann, and Jim

Hope you all had good holidays and wish you all a healthy and happy 2018 !

I wanted to give you a quick up date of the status of our engineering firm procurement process, since my last advisory two months ago (171109).

We did decide it was appropriate to have a mandatory site visit to the dam to assure all four short-listed firms are operating from the same level of information, and to give all an opportunity to present questions, so that we can then reply to all. All of this is in the interest of having a fair, open, and transparent procurement process consistent with state requirements.

Because of the holidays we needed to push the mandatory site meeting out a bit, so that is scheduled for this Wednesday, 10 Jan. We have provided all firms with the "Draft Scope of Work" (DSOW), which was reviewed by the SCDHEC management team in Dec-Jan one year ago. The SDOW was the basis for the grant request to SCDHEC, resulting in the proviso. (That document is also provided for your files, attached). In the course of this solicitation process, no other information has been provided to the firms, other than what

has been provided through the solicitation advertisements.

As regards this mandatory site meeting, this is explicitly for the benefit of the prospective firms, as a pre-proposal courtesy. You (Rossie, Danny, Chris, Ann, and Jim), as selection panel members do not need to participate in this meeting, as this is basically a technical briefing on the background, history, and current condition of the dam, regulatory status, and site conditions. We will meet with representatives from each of the firms at our CF office at 1pm for a short briefing, then will go to the dam site for a quick site tour. We will also advise the prospective firms of the selection process going forward, the basis for selection, and the role of the selection panel (per the proviso). We will collect all questions from the firms, develop our responses, and then provide all questions and answers to all firms so they can all be working from the same information, without any particular bias.

We have instructed the firms that their proposals are due as electronic submittals NLT 5pm on Wed, 24 Jan. Their proposals should provide their technical approach to the project as framed in the DSOW, their estimate of costs to perform all related work, their experience with similar or relevant projects, their project team, and any special requirements or conditions. Their proposal should identify all significant subcontract services that they expect under their contract, at least categorically, and preferably to include specific contractors. All firms have been advised that any additional scope elements not included in the DSOW may be presented, for consideration by the dam owner and the selection panel. We will inform all prospective firms that selection by the panel and the dam owner will be based on all factors above, to include approach, estimated costs, relevant experience, and qualifications of the design team. This is not a cost-proposal, and the lowest cost proposer may not necessarily be selected. All firms have been advised this will be a roughly six month study. This framework is intended to invite unbiased and creative approaches to the studies.

Once we have electronic proposal packages from all firms, we will review those for completeness and responsiveness to our solicitation, and will then forward them to the selection panel. We expect to facilitate one or two conference calls with the selection panel to discuss the proposals, and will then capture feedback from the panel. These discussions and assessments by CFI and the panel are intended to produce a recommendation for selection of a firm. Once a recommendation is established CFI will negotiate a final scope and contract with that firm, and if we are successful in establishing a contract for services, only then will we dismiss the other firms. We hope to have a

recommended firm within 15 days after proposals are due, and would hope to have a contract established within another 15 days. That would put us into late February before we were ready to provide an authorization to proceed. We will accelerate this process if possible.

Please contact me if you have any questions. Otherwise we will keep you posted on our progress, and you can expect to receive a package of information for review within one week after proposals are due on 24 Jan.

Thanks for your support.

Very best regards,

Dave

Dave Hargett, Ph.D.

Founder & Executive Director

Conestee Foundation / Lake Conestee Nature Park

LCNP: Celebrating 11 Years of Discovery !

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On Thu, Nov 9, 2017 at 11:18 AM, Dave Hargett <dhargett52@gmail.com> wrote:

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

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