

Summary Minutes

ROLL CALL

Directors Terry Woodrow, Vice-Chair, Ed Gonzalez, Richard Farrington, Bill Patterson, and Jeff Davidson were present. Absent: John Coleman, Chair, Brian Oneto, Richard Blood, Jack Garamendi. Also present were Executive Officer (EO) Richard Sykes, Authority Counsel Greg Gillott, Authority Secretary Lorna Barfield and 7 visitors.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

AUTHORITY BUSINESS

1. Regular Meeting Minutes of July 28, 2023.

The summary minutes of the July 28, 2023, meeting were provided to the Board for review.

Motion 19-23 to approve the regular meeting minutes of July 28, 2023, was made by Director Farrington seconded by Director Gonzales and carried by voice vote: Yea 5 – Nay 0 – Abstain 0.

2. Forest Projects Plan - Phase 1 Implementation Project

This FPP - Phase 1 fuels reduction implementation project, funded by a \$4,999,967 Cal Fire grant will treat 2,295 acres in the Eldorado National Forest and is the first in a series of projects included in the FPP - Phase 1 Plan. The project area lies entirely within the Eldorado National Forest, Amador Ranger District, and parallels Highway 88. The treatment work area to be performed by the contractor includes 2,262 acres of mastication and 33 acres of hand thinning. The recommended contract allows for additional treatment acres based on yet-to-be determined budget availability.

Authority staff administered a request for proposal for the FPP - Phase 1 work and prospective bidders were each sent RFPs and the RFP was posted on UMRWA's website. Eight proposals were received for the project and were reviewed and rated by the Authority Selection Committee (comprised of UMRWA and USFS staff). The Board was presented a table that summarized the proposals received. BurnBot, Inc. (BurnBot) was determined by the committee to be the best-qualified proposer and staff is recommending the Board approve a general services agreement with BurnBot.

The Selection Committee rated BurnBot highly in Approach and Technical Criteria, Experience, and References. Their proposal demonstrated an understanding of the requirements, scope, and project specifications, with provisions that exceed safety and fire precaution requirements. BurnBot plans to deploy eight masticators and support equipment with a work schedule indicating project completion by mid-August 2024. According to its references, BurnBot performs quality work, often completes work ahead of schedule, and is considered an outstanding contractor and very cooperative to work with. BurnBot's proposal is within the UMRWA budget and equal to UMRWA's cost estimate. BurnBot is not a local service provider and is headquartered in South San Francisco. In summary, the Committee recommends awarding the FPP - Phase 1 general services agreement to BurnBot, Inc. based on affordability and work service delivery.

Motion 20-23 to approve and authorize the Executive Officer to sign the General Services Agreement with BurnBot in the amount of \$3,672,000 was made by Director Davidson seconded by Director Farrington and carried by voice vote: Yea 5 – Nay 0 – Abstain 0.

3. FPP - Phase 1 Implementation Funding Strategy Follow-up

At the July 28 meeting the Board was presented a Funding Strategy designed to allow UMRWA to implement fuel reduction projects to treat the 26,000+ acres addressed in the Forest Projects Plan - Phase 1. Two supporting presentations were also made to the Board that day, each addressing a specific funding element. David Lach, Director of Environmental Products at Anew, provided an overview of the Avoided Wildfire Emissions carbon credit market and Matt Sjöholm and Nick Wobbrock, of Blue Forest Conservation, presented an update on progress being made towards a Forest Resilience Bond in support of UMRWA's forest work. Following the Board's Funding Strategy discussion, staff was asked to schedule follow-up conversations with staff from other agencies that have experience with the key Funding Strategy elements – the Anew carbon credit market program, and Blue Forest's Forest Resilience Bond.

The Board hosted an on-line conversation with staff from Tahoe National Forest, Yuba Water Agency and the National Forest Foundation who shared their experiences working with Blue Forest Conservation and the success of their Forest Resilience Bond. The group discussed the utilization of the program, current lines of credit, project treatment areas, cash flow pace in scale with grant funding and the partnerships, beneficiaries and stakeholders invested. The Board asked questions regarding the bidding process, securing loans and interest rates.

The Board then asked the EO about other credit funding options. The EO shared the possibility of a line of credit from EBMUD and explained that some grants allow upfront funding to be spent within six months but include additional administrative costs. Staff plans to present the Board with line of credit agreements for their review at the January meeting.

Board Member Comments:

Director Farrington thanked the Executive Officer for the informative discussion on the Forest Resilience Bond.

Executive Officer Comments:

The EO informed the Board that the 3rd amended JPA has been finalized and uploaded to UMRWA webpage.

ADJOURNMENT: Director Woodrow adjourned the meeting at 11:19 a.m. The next regular meeting will be held on October 6, 2023, at Pardee Lodge.

SUBMITTED BY:



Lorna Barfield, Authority Secretary



John Coleman, Chair of the Board

APPROVED: October 6, 2023