



City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Department Source: City Utilities - Sewer/Stormwater

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: September 7, 2021

Re: Authorizing a joint funding agreement for water resources investigations with the U.S. Geological Survey, United States Department of the Interior for groundwater monitoring of well sites in the vicinity of the McBaine wetland treatment units and the Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area.

Executive Summary

Staff has prepared for Council consideration, an ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute an agreement with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) for ground water monitoring in the McBaine Bottoms, around the City's wetland treatment units, and on the Eagle Bluffs Conservation property, for a one year period. These wells will be monitored for constituents of interest to the City including, inorganic ions, pesticides, wastewater organics and pharmaceutical compounds. The cost for this monitoring is shared between the Sewer Division and the Water Division of the Utilities Department and funds are included in the operating budgets of both divisions. The annual cost for these services is \$78,960.00 and will be funded 80% by the Sewer Utility and 20% by the Water Utility operating budgets.

Discussion

In 1992 a collaborative agreement among the USGS, the City of Columbia and the Missouri Department of Conservation began groundwater monitoring in the McBaine Bottoms around the City's wetland treatment units and on the Eagle Bluffs Conservation property. The purpose of the study was to assess the effect of the constructed wetlands on the ground water quality and flow. This initial study was completed in 1999 and a significant conclusion was that the compounds associated with the sewage effluent in the wetlands could potentially migrate from the wetlands toward the City's municipal drinking water supply well field. Based on the results, all parties involved concurred that the water quality monitoring should continue and that all analysis should be performed by the USGS laboratory for consistency. The objective of performing these studies is to continue to monitor the water quality throughout the McBaine Bottoms, to track changes in groundwater quality in the vicinity of the public supply well field and the Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area, and to provide the City with the information needed to protect the well field and ensure good quality drinking water.

The USGS provided the City an updated proposal in 2015 to continue the monitoring through 2023 with annual approval. The proposal is attached and includes detailed information on the purpose and objective of the study, the wells to be monitored, analysis to be performed and the annual cost for each year.



Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: The cost to the City for FY21 of the proposal is \$78,960.00 with the Sewer Division paying 80% and the Water Division paying 20%. The funding for this has been included in the FY22 proposed operating budgets for each division.

Long-Term Impact: The future costs for fiscal year 2023 is anticipated to be \$87,500. These annual amounts will be included in the operating budgets for both utilities.

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Reliable Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Secondary, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Environmental Management, Secondary Impact: Infrastructure, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

Legislative History

Date	Action
09/08/2020	B219-20 Authorizing a joint funding agreement for water resource investigations with the U.S. Geological Survey, United States Department of the Interior for groundwater monitoring of well sites in the vicinity of the McBaine wetland treatment units and the Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area.
09/19/2019	B284-19 Authorizing a joint funding agreement for water resources investigations with the U.S. Geological Survey, United States Department of the Interior for groundwater monitoring of well sites in the vicinity of the wetland treatment units and the Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area.
09/17/2018	B224-18 Authorizing a joint funding agreement for water resources investigations with the U.S. Geological Survey, United States Department of the Interior for groundwater monitoring of well sites in the vicinity of the wetland treatment units and the Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area.
09/05/2017	B250-17 Authorizing a joint funding agreement for water resources investigations with the U.S. Geological Survey, United States Department of the Interior for groundwater monitoring of well sites in the vicinity of the wetland treatment units and the Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area.
10/03/2016	B249-16 Authorizing a joint funding agreement with the USGS for groundwater monitoring of well sites in the vicinity of the wetland treatment units and Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area.



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01/04/2016	B376-15 Authorizing a joint funding agreement with the USGS for groundwater monitoring in the vicinity of the wetland treatment units and Eagle Bluffs.
10/20/14	Res. 201-14 Authorizing a joint funding agreement with the USGS for water resources investigations relating to the hydrologic monitoring of well sites in the vicinity of the wetland treatment units and the Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area.
08/20/2012	Res. 135-12 Authorizing a joint funding agreement with the USGS for groundwater monitoring of well sites in the vicinity of the wetland treatment units and the Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area.
09/19/2011	Res. 166-11 Authorizing a joint funding agreement with the USGS for groundwater monitoring in the vicinity of the wetland treatment units and the Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area.
09/20/2010	Res. 195-10 Authorizing a joint funding agreement with the USGS for groundwater monitoring in the vicinity of the wetland treatment units and the Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area.
11/17/2008	Res. 261-08 Authorizing a joint funding agreement with the USGS for groundwater monitoring in the vicinity of the wetland treatment units and the Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area.
12/03/2007	Res. 278-07 Authorizing a joint funding agreement with the USGS for groundwater monitoring in the vicinity of the wetland treatment units and the Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area.
10/16/2006	Res. 224-06 Authorizing a joint funding agreement with the USGS for groundwater monitoring in the vicinity of the wetland treatment units and the Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area.
11/07, 2005	Res. 245-05 Authorizing an agreement with the USGS for groundwater monitoring in the vicinity of the wetlands.
11/15/2004	Res. 236-04 Authorizing an agreement with the USGS for groundwater monitoring in the vicinity of the wetlands.
01/05/2004	Res. 10-04 Authorizing an agreement with the USGS for groundwater monitoring in the vicinity of the wetlands.
12/16/2002	Res. 233-02 Authorizing agreements with the USGS RE: Groundwater Monitoring in the Vicinity of the Wetlands.
10/01/2001	Res. 209-01 Agreements with USGS RE: Groundwater Monitoring in the Vicinity of the Wetlands.
10/02/2000	Res. 197-00 Agreements with USGS RE: Groundwater Monitoring in the Vicinity of the Wetlands.
09/28/1999	Res. 185-99 Agreements with USGS RE: Groundwater Monitoring in the Vicinity of the Wetlands.
10/05/1998	Res. 197-98 Agreements with USGS for Groundwater Monitoring in the Vicinity of Wetlands Project.
09/02/1997	Res. 137-97 Agreements with USGS for Groundwater Monitoring of Well Sites Around Wetland Treatment Units.
09/16/1996	Res. 134-96 Agreement for Groundwater Monitoring of Well Sites at the Wastewater Treatment Units (USGS).



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12/18/1995	Res. 231-95 Agreement with USGS for Ground Water Monitoring in Wetlands Vicinity.
03/20/1995	Res. 62-95 Agreement for Groundwater Monitoring of Well Sites Around Wetlands Treatment Units.
09/07/1993	Res. 143-93 Agreement with USGS for Groundwater Monitoring of Wells around Wetlands.
07/06/1992	Res. 105-92 Authorizing agreement with Missouri Department of Conservation in connection with groundwater monitoring at the wetlands.

Suggested Council Action

Approve the ordinance authorizing the agreement.