



COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
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TO: Al Robinson, Chair
Ways & Means Committee

THROUGH: Robert E. Guenzel
County Administrator

FROM: Dennis Wojcik
Deputy Drain Commissioner

Marc Breckenridge
Emergency Management Director

Dan Myers
Director of Public Works

DATE: August 2, 2000

SUBJECT: Environmental Response Activities

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED

It is requested that the Board of Commissioners approve the establishment of an Environmental Response Revolving Fund and an operating advance from the General Fund in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.

BACKGROUND

The Emergency Management Division, the Drain Commissioner's Office and the Department of Environment and Infrastructure Services cooperate to provide a coordinated response to environmental incidents. That response includes a 24-hour, 7 day per week availability to respond. Over the years that this coordinated effort has been in place, some concern has arisen in the following areas:

- The level of expertise required to manage these situations is difficult to maintain because response activities are only a small portion of a County staff person's normal workload.
- The current method of service delivery may expose the County to liability.
- Field staff are being placed in roles by other response agencies that are not appropriate to their training.
- The training and administrative time to deliver current service is very inefficient.
- Current cost recovery procedures are not effective.

The coordinating agencies believe that obtaining contractual services for response expertise would be in the best interest of the County. The creation of an Environmental Response Revolving Fund will allow for the purchase of these services.

DISCUSSION

The proposed resolution establishes a revolving fund that will be used to pay for contracted response activities. It also requires creation of a cost recovery system that will replenish the revolving fund over time. Costs will be recovered through improved procedures that will bill parties responsible for environmental incidents. It is estimated that a responsible party will be identified for approximately 80% of response activities. Charge backs to these responsible parties will include direct costs for contractor services, administrative overhead, and the cost of non-reimbursable response activities. Therefore, after the establishment of the revolving fund, the program will result in no net increase in required county funding.

The coordinating agencies will be working closely with the County's Hazardous Materials Response Team, whose emphasis is more directly focused on population protection, and other local response agencies by continuing to provide assistance with environmental issues.

IMPACT ON PERSONNEL

There will be a positive impact on County personnel responsible for environmental response activities. This action will allow for alignment of job responsibilities with the current level of staff training and reduce the possibility of exposure to health hazards and injury.

IMPACT ON BUDGET

Beyond the initial operating advance of up to \$50,000 in the revolving fund, there will be no impact on the County general fund budget. All costs associated with this program will be recovered through a cost recovery procedure.

IMPACT ON INDIRECT COSTS

There will be no impact on indirect costs.

IMPACT ON OTHER COUNTY DEPARTMENTS OR OUTSIDE AGENCIES

There will be a positive impact on other County Departments and local response agencies. The proposed system will create a uniform response mechanism within the County that will enhance the availability of expertise in the response to environmental incidents.

CONFORMITY TO COUNTY POLICIES

This action is in conformance with County policies. The resolution has been reviewed by Corporation Counsel, Finance and County Administration.

ATTACHMENTS/APPENDICES

Resolution

Preparer: Daniel R. Myers P.E.
Director of Public Works

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING AN ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE REVOLVING FUND IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$50,000; AMENDING THE BUDGET AND AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATOR TO SIGN DELEGATE CONTRACTS

WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

August 2, 2000

WHEREAS, the Emergency Management Division, the Drain Commissioner's Office and the Department of Environment and Infrastructure Services cooperate to provide a coordinated response to environmental incidents, and

WHEREAS, it is in the interest of Washtenaw County residents that an integrated environmental response program be continued and improved, and

WHEREAS, because of the nature of these incidents, it is difficult and costly to have staff appropriately trained and available on a 24 hour, 7 day per week basis, and

WHEREAS, the coordinating agencies wish to contract with environmental response specialists to improve County response and reduce County liability, and

WHEREAS, the creation of an Environmental Response Revolving Fund will allow for enhancement of the environmental response program, and

WHEREAS, it is reasonable that parties responsible for environmental incidents reimburse the County for the costs associated with establishing and maintaining the County's ability to provide these services to the residents of the community, and

WHEREAS, this matter has been reviewed by Corporation Counsel, the Finance Office, the County Administrator's Office and the Ways & Means Committee

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners hereby establishes an Environmental Response Revolving Fund and authorizes the County Administrator to provide an operating advance from the General Fund in an amount not to exceed \$50,000, as attached hereto and made a part hereof

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners considers this to be a pilot program that will be reviewed during the 2002, 2003 budget process

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners instructs the coordinating agencies to create a system for billing known responsible parties of environmental incidents for the total cost of providing response activities, including those costs associated with maintaining the capability to respond and the costs for responding to incidents where there is no identified responsible party

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Administrator to sign those contracts necessary to carry out the services under the Environmental Response Revolving Fund to be filed with the County Clerk upon review of Corporation Counsel.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE REVOLVING FUND
Business Unit 17955800

	ORIGINAL BUDGET	REVISED BUDGET	VARIANCE
REVENUES			
67000 Other Revenue/Reimbursements	\$0	\$50,000	\$50,000
EXPENDITURES			
80000 Other Services and Charges	\$0	\$50,000	\$50,000