



COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR  
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TO: Martha Kern, Chair  
Ways & Means Committee

THROUGH: Robert E. Guenzel  
County Administrator

FROM: Janis Bobrin, Drain Commissioner

DATE: August 1, 2001

SUBJECT: Grant award for Illicit Discharge Elimination Program (IDEP)

**Board Action Requested:**

It is requested that the Board of Commissioners accept the grant award in the amount of \$463,402 for the Clean Michigan Initiative grant monies awarded to the County Drain Commissioner for 2001-2003 to implement a program to identify and remove improper connections to storm sewers and county drains.

**Background:**

The Huron River is a high quality urban river, but is experiencing increased degradation associated with nonpoint source (NPS) pollution. Among the common urban NPS pollutants are contaminants that enter the storm sewer system via illegal connections. These may be wastewater discharges that were mistakenly connected to the storm sewer or stream channel, rather than to the sanitary sewer. Improper connections deliver a range of pollutants depending on the source of waste: bacteria, detergent surfactants, nutrients, etc.

In recent years, recreational uses of the River have been an increasing concern. The Department of Environmental Quality has identified the reach between Argo Dam and Geddes Dam as a "Non-attaining Waterway," which is not consistently meeting water quality standards designated by the State. This area of concern includes several county drains.

The County is currently implementing an Illicit Discharge Elimination Program (IDEP) in the Rouge River Basin as an element of the Voluntary Stormwater Permit. In 2003 the County will be required to expand its IDEP activities countywide under the federally mandated Phase II Stormwater Permit. Once under permit, the County will not be eligible to receive Clean Michigan Initiative grant monies for IDEP. In addition,

proactive measures to improve water quality are a priority of the Washtenaw County Drain Commissioner, the Department of Environment and Infrastructure, and the City of Ann Arbor, all partners in the project.

**Discussion:**

Malletts Creek is approximately 12 miles long and traverses urban areas of the City of Ann Arbor and Pittsfield Township. The creek shows signs of illicit connections, such as low water quality downstream and lack of environmentally sensitive “indicator species” populations. The creek is under the jurisdiction of the Drain Commissioner, but City of Ann Arbor storm sewers also drain into the creek’s basin. The identification of illicit connections contributing to pollution will be done in partnership with the City and with the County’s Environmental Health Division. This work will address water quality in the Middle Huron River basin, as recommended in the Watershed Plan for the Huron River in the Ann Arbor-Ypsilanti Metropolitan Area, and will also support the goals of the Malletts Creek Restoration Plan.

Scope of work – The process for identifying improper connections begins with instream inspection and sampling by field sanitarians. Based on results, all suspected illicit discharges and connections will be prioritized as part of the overall storm system maintenance schedule. The Washtenaw County Drain Commissioner, Washtenaw County Environmental Health and the Ann Arbor Water Utilities Division will coordinate prioritization.

Based on prioritization, follow up investigation of storm sewer will be undertaken: sampling, video identification, olfactory and visual investigation and dye-testing to pinpoint the source. Sources will be eliminated by:

1. Identifying the responsible party
2. Issuing a cease and desist
3. Compliance follow-up

The three partners will provide oversight according to jurisdiction.

It is expected that identification and removal of improper connections will make immediate and lasting improvements to water quality in the Huron River, its urban tributaries and county drains.

**Impact on Human Resources:**

None.

**Impact on Budget:**

The estimated cost of the project is \$463,402. This includes:

1. Grant monies totaling \$346,652
  - a. Project personnel (City & County)
  - b. Contracted sampling, inspection, and sanitarian services
  - c. Supplies for sampling, dye testing, and training
  
2. In-kind local match totaling \$116,750:
  - a. Training
  - b. Pre- and post project sampling
  - c. Inspection and sanitarian services
  - d. Legal and enforcement follow-up
  - e. Database Maintenance
  - f. Supplies

The in-kind match will be provided by the partner (City or County) in whose jurisdiction the illicit discharge is found. The City has provided a letter of support committing to this match.

**Impact on Indirect Costs:**

Indirect costs (12.1% of salary and fringes, or \$5,737) are included in the grant award.

**Impact on Other County Departments or Outside Agencies:**

The Department of Environment and Infrastructure and the City of Ann Arbor Water Utilities Division are partners on the project.

**Conformity to County Policies:**

Conforms to County policies.

**Attachments/Appendices:**

County Budget  
Grant Application

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF THE CLEAN MICHIGAN INITIATIVE GRANT AWARD FROM THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY FOR A TOTAL PROGRAM AMOUNT OF \$463,402 FOR THE PERIOD OF APRIL 1, 2001 TO MARCH 31, 2003 FOR THE DRAIN COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE; AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATOR TO SIGN THE NOTICE OF GRANT AWARD; AMENDING THE BUDGET AND AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATOR TO SIGN DELEGATE CONTRACTS

WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

September 5, 2001

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality has awarded \$463,402 in Clean Michigan Initiative (CMI) grant monies to the Office of the County Drain Commissioner for the period of April 1 2001 to March 30, 2003 (grant: \$346,652, in-kind match: \$116,750); and

WHEREAS, CMI grant monies will be used for an Illicit Discharge Elimination Program (IDEP) – a program to identify and eliminate improper connections to storm sewers and county drains; and

WHEREAS, removal of improper connections will improve water quality and protect the public health; and

WHEREAS, the initial target area for the program is the Huron River tributaries within the City of Ann Arbor; and

WHEREAS, the program will build on the existing County IDEP program within the Rouge River Basin; and

WHEREAS, once the County will be required by federal regulation to implement an IDEP program in the 2003, the County will no longer be eligible to receive grant funding for this activity;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners takes the following actions contingent upon receipt of the grant award in conformity with this application.

1. Authorizing the Administrator to sign the Notice of Grant Award
2. Amending the budget, as attached hereto and made a part hereof
3. Authorizing the Administrator to sign delegate contracts upon review of Corporation Counsel to be filed with the County Clerk

DRAIN COMMISSIONER  
 Illicit Discharge Elimination Program-Clean Michigan Initiative  
 4/1/01 – 3/31/03  
 Business Unit

<b>Revenues</b>		Current	Revised	Variance
54000	State Revenue	0	\$ 346,652	\$ 346,652
69000	In-Kind	0	\$ 116,750	\$ 116,750
		0	\$ 463,402	\$ 463,402

<b>Expenditures</b>		Current	Revised	Variance
70050	Personal Services	0	\$ 47,415	\$ 47,415
72600	Supplies	0	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500
80000	Other Services and Charges	0	\$ 290,000	256,031
93500	In-Kind Charges	0	\$ 116,750	\$ 116,750
94000	Internal Service Charges	0	\$ 5,737	\$ 5,737
		0	\$ 463,402	\$ 463,402