



COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

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TO: Martha Kern, Chair
Ways & Means Committee

FROM: Robert E. Guenzel
County Administrator

DATE: August 1, 2001

SUBJECT: Webpolis Consortium Grant

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

The Board of Commissioners is asked to ratify the electronic submission of the application by the Administrator to the National Science Foundation Digital Government Program for the Webpolis Consortium. Washtenaw County will be partnering with Eastern Michigan University, City of Albion, City of Ypsilanti and the Forks Initiative of the greater Albion community. The grant, in the total amount of \$731,477, is for the fiscal year of January 1, 2002 through December 31, 2002.

BACKGROUND:

The purpose of the project is to bring current information technologies to local communities and to provide an efficient and inexpensive way for local communities to remain updated on a continuing basis. It will help span the "digital divide" that has increasingly stratified our society between the computer "haves" and "have-nots" by providing digital services to underserved communities. It will strengthen those communities by creating a Consortium as a way to share technologies, resources and information. This is the first time this grant has been submitted for funding. This is a competitive grant and the recipients of funds will be notified in December 2001.

DISCUSSION:

This grant proposes to develop "WebPolis Consortium," a project with two distinct components. The first component is the "WebPolis Toolbox," which would consist of a set of online applications created to meta-link local decision-making services and information between user communities. Its primary purpose would be to develop a

common portal to decision support services. Special emphasis would be given to 1) meta-linking of existing applications and technologies between communities, 2) development of needed new application modules, and 3) investigation of the human-computer interface as used by communities.

The second component is the "Consortium," a network of user communities with online services available to their citizens and local officials. Users, primarily citizens and local officials, would access the Consortium's information and applications through the "WebPolis Portal," an access that would allow use of a common interface to all users, all communities, and all information and databases. Meta-linking within the portal would link information from user community databases, both with each other and with databases maintained by a common host server. Access privileges to these databases would be as set by each community.

The focus of the Consortium is to create common linkages between databases and computer resources currently used by communities. Through these agreeably shared resources, communities will benefit from shared knowledge and experience. The goal is to expand the Consortium to include many communities (with a target of 30) in the Midwest region as members within the next three to five years and have the Consortium become financially self-supportive through annual user fees.

IMPACT ON HUMAN RESOURCES:

No impact on human resources.

IMPACT ON BUDGET:

The total amount requested is \$519,814. The County will receive up to 25% of the grant funding for administrative costs. The match will be provided through in-kind contributions in the amounts of \$100,580 from Washtenaw County, \$78,000 from the local communities (City of Ypsilanti, City of Albion, and the Forks Initiative), and \$33,083 from Eastern Michigan University.

IMPACT ON INDIRECT COSTS:

Indirect costs will be recovered if determined to be eligible.

IMPACT ON OTHER COUNTY DEPARTMENTS OR OUTSIDE AGENCIES:

This will be a true collaborative effort between the County, City of Ypsilanti, City of Albion and Eastern Michigan University. An advisory group will be constructed to monitor the program and will consist of members from the participating jurisdictions and additional academic institutions.

CONFORMITY TO COUNTY POLICIES:

This grant application conforms to all county policies.

ATTACHMENTS/APPENDICES:

The grant proposal is attached.

A RESOLUTION RATIFYING THE ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION BY THE ADMINISTRATOR ON THE APPLICATION TO THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION DIGITAL GOVERNMENT PROGRAM FOR THE WEBPOLIS CONSORTIUM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$731,477 FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY 1, 2002 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2002; 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, Washtenaw County has agreed to partnership with Eastern Michigan University, City of Albion, City of Ypsilanti and the Forks Initiative of the greater Albion community to bring information technologies to local communities; and

WHEREAS, Washtenaw County has taken many new steps to provide its local units and the community with opportunities to expend its technology resources; and

WHEREAS, the National Science Foundation Digital Government Program is offering an opportunity for communities to develop innovative technology modems to share information within a community; and

WHEREAS, the Webpolis Consortium Project is an initiative to bring current information to local communities and provide an efficient and inexpensive way for them to remain updated on an ongoing basis; and

WHEREAS, the Webpolis Consortium Project will be comprised of two components; and

WHEREAS, first is the "WebPolis Toolbox" which would be a set of online applications created to meta-link local decision-making services and information between the user and the communities; and

WHEREAS, second is the Consortium, a network of user communities with online services available to their citizens and local officials; and

WHEREAS, this project will allow communities over time to build and sustain their datasharing capabilities; and

WHEREAS, this matter has been reviewed by Human Resources, Information & Technology Services, Corporation Counsel, 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 ratifying the electronic submission of the application by the Administrator to the National Science Foundation Digital Government Program for the Webpolis Consortium in the amount of \$731,477 for the period January 1, 2002 through December 31, 2002, as on file with the County Clerk

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners takes the following actions contingent upon receipt of the award in conformity with the 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 the delegate contracts upon review of Corporation Counsel to be filed with the County Clerk

WebPolis Consortium
 National Science Foundation Digital Government Program
 1/1/02 – 12/31/02
 Business Unit 1150022000

	<u>Current Budget</u>	<u>Revised Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Revenue:			
50000 Federal Revenue	\$0	\$519,814	\$519,814
69000 In-Kind Contributions	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$211,663</u>	<u>\$211,663</u>
Total:	\$0	\$731,477	\$731,477
Expenditures:			
70050 Personal Services	\$0	\$100,580	\$100,580
72600 Supplies	\$0	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
80000 Other Services & Charges	\$0	\$414,234	\$414,234
93500 In-Kind Charges	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$211,663</u>	<u>\$211,663</u>
Total:	\$0	\$731,477	\$731,477

Indirect Costs = 0