



COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
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TO: Conan Smith, Chair
Ways and Means Committee

THROUGH: Robert E. Guenzel
County Administrator

FROM: Anthony VanDerworp, Director
Office of Strategic Planning

DATE: November 18, 2009

RE: United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Brownfields
Community-wide Hazardous Substances and Petroleum Assessment
Grant

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

The Office of Strategic Planning requests that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners ratify the County Administrator's signature on the grant application to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) for a \$300,000 Brownfields Community-wide Hazardous Substances and Petroleum Assessment Grant (Assessment Grant) Program for the period of 2010 through September 30, 2013.

BACKGROUND:

In May of 1999, the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners established the Washtenaw County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority (WCBRA) through Resolution 99-0110, and subsequently appointed members to its Board the same year (Res. 99-0122). In October of 2000, Commissioners adopted the Brownfield Redevelopment Plan (Plan) for Washtenaw County. The WCBRA was established to facilitate the revitalization of underutilized and environmentally contaminated properties throughout the County.

Pursuant to the goals of the Washtenaw Brownfield Redevelopment Program and its efforts to support the identification and redevelopment of brownfield sites, a grant application was prepared and submitted to the United States Environmental Protection Agency for a \$300,000 Community-wide Hazardous Substances & Petroleum Assessment Grant. This grant will be used to fund assessment work for sites with suspected contamination. The County has previously successfully expended the EPA Brownfields Demonstration Pilot Assessment Grant (2001-2005), yet it is important to continue to identify and characterize sites that pose potential health threats and/or redevelopment opportunity. This would fund assessment work on potentially contaminated sites throughout the County.

DISCUSSION:

The Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners has demonstrated its support for the sustainable redevelopment of environmentally distressed sites in Washtenaw County, as well as its commitment to collaboration with other governmental units. The grant application is requesting \$300,000 over a three-year period. The Assessment Grant program will provide dollars for environmental site assessment (ESA) and related activities necessary to build on our existing inventory of brownfields and remove the barriers associated with brownfield redevelopment. The grant will provide funding to local municipalities and private developers to undertake assessment activities. Priority consideration will be given to applications with imminent redevelopment potential, potential threats to human health or the environment, long-term development potential pursuant to local unit master plans, and the support of parks, greenspace, and trail development.

In accomplishing the objectives of the grant, the County will build on existing mechanisms and networks established to encourage community involvement, improve coordination in land-use planning, share information on environmental issues and strengthen collaborative efforts with our local units of government. This grant will be used as an incentive to increase economic development and recreational opportunities, implement infill, and eliminate risks to the environment and public health.

IMPACT ON HUMAN RESOURCES:

None

IMPACT ON BUDGET:

The requested Board action would authorize the Administrator to accept the grant award of \$300,000 in federal revenue over a three-year period.

IMPACT ON INDIRECT COSTS:

None

IMPACT ON OTHER COUNTY DEPARTMENTS OR OUTSIDE AGENCIES:

This project will continue the strong partnerships with the 23 municipal members of the WCBRA (Cities: Ann Arbor, Chelsea, Milan, Saline and Ypsilanti; Villages: Dexter, Manchester; and Townships: Ann Arbor, Bridgewater, Dexter, Lima, Lodi, Manchester, Northfield, Pittsfield, Saline, Scio, Sharon, Superior, Sylvan, Webster, York, and Ypsilanti) in pursuing sustainable land use practices by remediating and redeveloping environmentally distressed areas. In addition, this project may lead to new relationships with the five municipalities not currently members of the WCBRA.

CONFORMITY TO COUNTY POLICIES:

This action is in conformance with County policies.

ATTACHMENTS/APPENDICES:

Attachment A Final Proposal for EPA Brownfields Community-wide Hazardous Substances and Petroleum Assessment Grant

A RESOLUTION RATIFYING THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S SIGNATURE ON AN APPLICATION TO THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY FOR A BROWNFIELDS COMMUNITY-WIDE HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES AND PETROLUUEM ASSESSMENT GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$300,000 FOR THE PERIOD OF 2010 THROUGH 2011; AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATOR TO SIGN THE NOTICE OF GRANT AWARD; AMENDING THE BUDGET; AND AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO SIGN DELEGATE CONTRACTS

WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

November 18, 2009

WHEREAS, Washtenaw County has committed to collaborating with other governmental units and providing leadership for long term county-wide sustainable development and redevelopment incorporating a diversified economy, environmental protection, and social needs; and

WHEREAS, brownfield redevelopment encourages more efficient use of the land that will provide for sustainable growth, protect valued natural resources, and preserve important agricultural and open space lands, while also encouraging growth and economic revitalization on environmentally distressed sites designated as brownfields; and

WHEREAS, through Resolution 99-0110, the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners, pursuant to and in accordance with the provisions of the Brownfield Redevelopment Financing Act, being Act 381 of the Public Acts of the State of Michigan of 1996, as amended, established the Washtenaw County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority (the "WCBRA") to facilitate the implementation of plans relating to the identification and treatment of environmentally and economically distressed areas in Washtenaw County; and

WHEREAS, there is need to provide incentives to assist with the environmental site assessments (ESAs) and related activities necessary to remove the barriers associated with brownfield redevelopment in order to move a brownfield site into a viable redevelopment, and

WHEREAS, Washtenaw County has applied for a United States Environmental Protection Brownfields Community-wide Hazardous Substances and Petroleum Assessment Grant (Assessment Grant) in the amount of \$300,000 to fulfill these purposes; and

WHEREAS this matter has been reviewed by the Budget Department, Corporation Counsel, Human Resources, County Administrator's Office and the Ways and Means Committee.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners hereby ratifies the signature of the County Administrator on the application to the United States Environmental Protection Agency for an Assessment Grant in the amount of \$300,000 for the period of 2010 through 2013, as on file with the County Clerk; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Board of Commissioners takes the following actions contingent upon receipt of the grant award in conformity with the grant application:

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

DRAFT
Office of Strategic Planning
Brownfields Community-wide Hazardous Substances and Petroleum Site Assessment
Budget

Three Years from the start of the grant

BU:

Revenues

50000	Federal Revenue	\$ 0	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000
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Expenditures

72600	Supplies	\$ 0	\$ 800	\$ 800
80001	Other Services & Charges	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 299,200</u>	<u>\$ 299,200</u>
	Total	\$ 0	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000