

DATE March 29, 2010

TO: Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Edward Buroughs
Acting Commissioner

SUBJECT: Resolution Authorizing the Agreement Between the County of Westchester and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to Accept a Grant to Implement a Bronx River Streambank Stabilization and Wetland Restoration Project (NY) # 2008-0117-006.

The attached resolution authorizes the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to accept a grant. The grant will be used to implement a Bronx River Streambank Stabilization and Wetland Restoration Project (NY) # 2008-0117-006. The not-to-exceed amount of the grant is \$350,000, and the term is May 1, 2010, to April 30, 2012.

The Westchester County Department of Planning will plan, design and construct a streambank stabilization and wetland restoration project on the east bank of the Bronx River within the Bronx River Parkway Reservation adjacent to the Bronx River Parkway at the Westchester County Center. The grant agreement requires that the County will contribute \$350,000 in matching funds. It is anticipated that a Capital Budget amendment will be requested to bring the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation funds into Capital Project BPL21.

The streambank erosion is threatening to undermine abutments to the County owned vehicular bridge to the parking lot for the Westchester County Center and to northbound travel lanes of the Bronx River Parkway. This restoration project is located on County-owned property and will directly benefit County infrastructure and assets by stabilizing eroding streambanks adjacent to pedestrian and vehicular structural features, better manage stormwater runoff to alleviate flooding, improve the quality of water resources in compliance with state/federal regulations, and enhance the passive and active recreational purpose of the County parkland and convention center. **This project will complement the restoration efforts currently underway along the west bank of the Bronx River adjacent to the Bronx River Parkway at the Westchester County Center.**

The agreement will serve the public purpose of protecting the environment by restoring the streambank and a degraded freshwater wetland.

The goal and objective of this agreement is to stabilize the eroded streambank on the east side of the Bronx River, restore the aquatic buffer associated with it and restore a degraded freshwater wetland. The results of this stabilization and restoration project will protect County assets and infrastructure, improve water quality and fish and wildlife habitat, and add to the aesthetic and educational values of the Bronx River Parkway Reservation. The project is located in a highly urbanized area, therefore, improvements to the wetland and aquatic buffer are very important in providing flood protection by acting as a natural sponge in which peak water flows are buffered. The project will be monitored by the Planning Department staff who will oversee all phases of the project which includes grant administration, planning, permitting, project design, construction and construction supervision.

Should the agreement not be approved, the County owned infrastructure would continue to be threatened by streambank erosion and water quality, fish and wildlife habitats and the aesthetic nature of the site would continue to be degraded, requiring the County to take correction using funding entirely from tax payers funds.

I recommend approval of this agreement.

EB/
Attachment

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 4-29-2010 - JOMARY VIEIRA, SECRETARY

RESOLUTION

UPON A COMMUNICATION FROM THE ACTING COMMISSIONER OF PLANNING, BE IT HEREBY

RESOLVED: that the County of Westchester is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to accept a grant to implement a Bronx River Streambank Stabilization and Wetland Restoration Project (NY) # 2008-0117-006. The not-to-exceed amount of the grant is \$350,000.00, and the term is May 1, 2010, to April 30, 2012, and be it further

RESOLVED: that the agreement with National Fish and Wildlife Foundation may be conditioned on an agreement by Westchester County to contribute \$350,000.00 in matching funds on this project, and be it further

RESOLVED: that the County Executive or his duly authorized designee is authorized to execute any documents and take any actions necessary to effectuate purposes hereof.

Account to be Charged/Credited

		Major Program, Program & Phase	Object/	Trust	
Fund	Dept	Or Unit	Sub Object	Account	Dollars
318	19	BPL21	9634	N/A	\$350,000.00

Budget Funding Year(s) FY 2010 Start Date May 1, 2010 End Date April 30, 2012
(must match resolution)

Funding Source Tax Dollars _____
State Aid _____
\$350,000.00 Federal Aid _____
(must match resolution) Other **\$350,000.00**

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APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 4-28-2010 - JOMARY VIEIRA SECRETARY