

Jackson Park Playground Consultant Selection

At the March 7, 2022, Board of Commissioners meeting, the top firm from the RFQ, Progressive AE, was selected by the board. Staff had been unable to reach a contract agreement with this firm and requested to start negotiations with the firm that scored 2nd, RVE, Inc.

Motion:

I move that the Henderson County Board of Commissioners terminate negotiations with Progressive, AE as the consulting firm for the All-Inclusive Playground at Jackson Park and authorize staff to start negotiations with the 2nd firm, RVE, Inc.

Chairman Lapsley made the motion to adopt the consent agenda as amended. All voted in favor and the motion carried 4-0.

DISCUSSION**General Assembly Update**

North Carolina General Assembly Representative Jake Johnson was present to update the Commissioners on items that may affect the County as they arise while the General Assembly is in session. Representative Johnson informed the Board that the General Assembly had recently adjourned from the “longest” long session in NC history. He said there is a budget in place, this being the first time the General Assembly has had a Comprehensive Budget since 2018. The total budget was 25.9 billion, not including the supplemental ARPA funds. Most state employees received a five percent pay raise and a \$1000 bonus. The State Health plan was fully funded, and retirement requirements. Eight hundred seventy-eight million for Capital Projects, not including DOT. The Education Budget included 400 million in Capital Projects for NC Community Colleges. A considerable investment was made in Broadband, with a 750 million plan to be leveraged for between one and two billion depending on the private and county matches. Another part of the budget was Tax Reform the state income tax was reduced from 5.25% to 3.99% over the next three budget cycles. The standard deduction will increase to \$25,500 for those filing jointly, and the child deduction was increased by \$500 for expanded eligibility. The tax on Military Pensions was eliminated, which is a great way to demonstrate what a military-friendly NC can be. Over the next decade, NC will be phasing out all Corporate Tax in NC to stay on par with other states in the southeast for the relocation of industry to NC. The Franchise Tax was reduced, and eliminated some of its basis on property values, which will be good for small businesses.

Representative Johnson’s legislative priorities include Workforce Development, bringing Broadband to the district, lowering taxes, supporting NC teachers, state employees, veterans, law enforcement, and enhancing voter laws.

Agreement with WGLA Engineering Clear Creek Sewer NPDES Permit Assistance

Chairman Lapsley requested that he be recused from this item, as he has a family member that is a party to this agreement. *Vice-Chair McCall made the motion that Chairman Lapsley be recused from this discussion item. All voted in favor and the motion carried 3-0.*

With the selection of WGLA Engineering (WGLA) as the most qualified responding Engineering firm for the subject project during the Board’s March 17, 2022 meeting, staff negotiated a proposed agreement with WGLA for \$275,600. The scope of the agreement is to perform the engineering services to assist the County with the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Permit (NPDES), which must be complete by December 31, 2023, per funding condition from the State allocation of \$12.7M.

Staff recommended a budget for the application process of \$320,000, which will provide a small contingency and fund the \$30,000 cultural resources work if needed. The proposed agreement with the project schedule was attached. Due to the ARP funds allocated to the project, staff has worked closely with WGLA to develop an American Rescue Plan Act compliant agreement and other required documents.

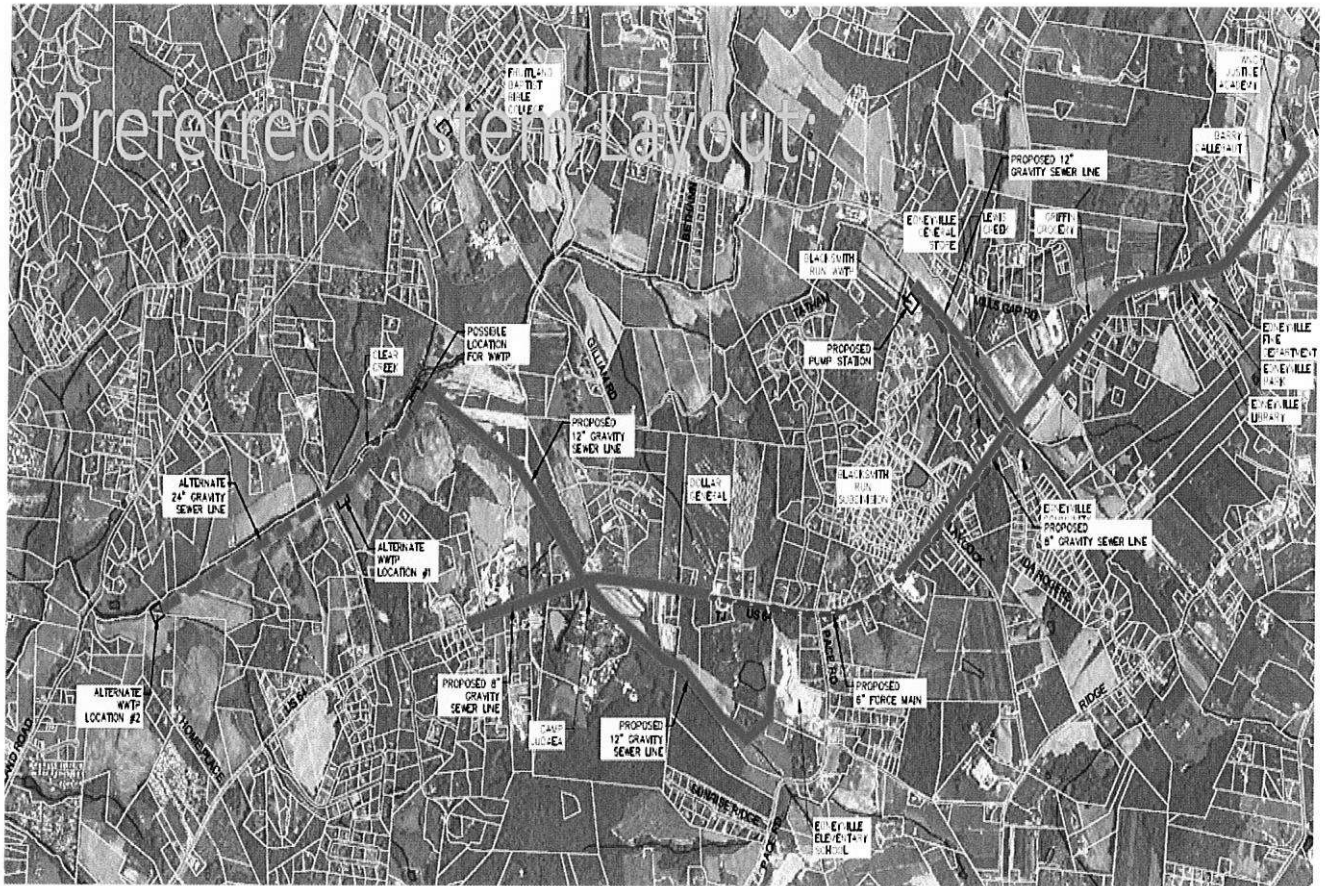
Clear Creek (Edneyville) Sewer System

Project History:

- October 19, 2017: Public Hearing at Edneyville Elementary
- December 2017: Benchmark Planning, Clear Creek Growth Analysis Study
- January 2018: McGill Engineering, Preliminary Engineering Report on Alternatives
- March 2018: Brooks Engineering, analysis of on-site options
- July 2021: KCI Engineering, Preliminary Engineering Report Update
- March 2022: WGLA Engineering, Rate Study on Recommended System Layout
- March 16, 2022: Board of Commissioners select WGLA Engineer for NPDES permit application assistance

Proposed WGLA Engineering Agreement

- **Scope:** assist in development and submission of the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit application for the proposed wastewater treatment plant to serve the Clear Creek sewer system.
- **Schedule:** Development of permit application and review by State agencies by December 31, 2023
- **Fee:** \$275,600 fee proposal with \$320,000 budget request to cover fee plus small contingency and possibility of \$30,000 for Cultural Resources work if required by State.
- **Definitely American Rescue Plan compliant!**



Other Project Items of Interest:

- Property owner notification letter (all owners abutting the proposed layout)
- Project Funding:
 - \$12.7 million direct allocation from State (State ARP)
 - \$9.3 million ARP (portion of County ARP)
 - \$22.0 million total project budget
- Budget Amendment:
 - Appropriating \$320,000 of the State Budget Allocation of \$12.7 million

Motion:

Commissioner Hill made the motion that the Board authorize the County Engineer to execute the proposed agreement with WGLA Engineering for \$275,600. All voted in favor and the motion carried 3-0.