

**WOODBURY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AGENDA ITEM(S) REQUEST FORM**

Date: 03-23-23

Weekly Agenda Date: 03-28-23

**ELECTED OFFICIAL / DEPARTMENT HEAD / CITIZEN:** Dan Heissel - Conservation

**WORDING FOR AGENDA ITEM:**

Request Additional \$350,000 in ARPA Funds for Sewage Retention Pond Little Sioux Park

**ACTION REQUIRED:**

Approve Ordinance

Approve Resolution

Approve Motion

Public Hearing

Other: Informational

Attachments

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

I am requesting \$350,000 in additional ARPA Funds for a sewer retention pond that will handle all the sewage flow for Little Sioux Park and any future additions we may add. This retention pond became necessary when our engineering firm designing our project for the original \$800,000 allocated for sewer and water hook ups, found out our leach fields are not sized big enough to handle the campsites and facilities we currently have. They are unable to move forward with design or put stamp on the project because of this. Should any of our leach fields fail, we would be forced to reduce our camping fees and not allow dumping which leads to loss of campers and revenues. The proactive way is to build the retention pond now, do our original plan of hooking up water and sewer to each site, and be in compliance and ready for any future additions.

**BACKGROUND:**

The original \$800,000 in ARPA funds allocated to us was for water and sewer to be put into our campgrounds at Little Sioux Park and Southwood Park. These original ARPA funds will not pay for the engineering or installation of sewer and water to the campgrounds and pay for the retention pond, there is not enough to fund it all, thus the request for the additional \$350,000. If we were forced to use the original funds for the retention pond and engineering we would not have enough money to even complete one campground. These campgrounds generate revenue and bring people to the county which is economic development. By adding sewer hookups to each site we are able to charge more for camping which in turn raises our revenues.

The retention pond would sit to the northwest corner of our wildlife area part of Little Sioux Park and not be near the users. We have been told odor will not be an issue. This retention pond would be 2.5 to 3 acres in size, fenced in for liability reasons and would be able to handle all the sewage generated by the park now and in the future. Project estimates without ground borings to analyze materials is 300,000 to \$400,000 for a 3 acre retention pond. This quote is based off of other retention ponds the engineering firm has designed and built so it is close I believe. We are having borings done to see if there is clay present because if there is, it can be used for the liner of retention pond and could reduce cost because it does not have to be hauled in or have to use a synthetic liner like heavy plastic.

For example, we have been dealing with the DNR at Browns Lake on a septic system for a year now and are into it \$42,500 for engineering just to get the permit so we can put in the septic system for the concession stand, and that is just for the concession stand. Issues we ran into when we did sewer in the campground at Browns Lake brought this problem to light, the DNR is not allowing adding of septic fields or altering of existing septic fields in the park and wants to look at the park as a whole and require different treatments of sewage. This holistic approach moves us out of chapter 69 and into chapter 64 which requires DNR permitting, engineering and this type of treatment, a retention pond. Once this retention pond is in place we should not have any issues with DNR or sewer in Little Sioux Park. The retention pond would last over 20 years before it would need to be drained, material cleaned out to be put back into use again. This material would then be spread on crop fields.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

Impact will be to the remaining ARPA funds the county has. The Conservation Board does not have any funds left to leverage to help pay for this. On the positive side by doing this, it will allow us to raise our camping fees by \$5 a night, thus increasing our revenue stream and usage to the park. Little Sioux Park is our largest park. On an average year the campgrounds brings in around \$152,000. By raising the fees for sewer would bring an additional \$30,400 per year or more just for Little Sioux Park. By putting in sewer it will also increase our usage which would also increase our revenues.

The down side is if we don't do anything we could lose revenues because we don't have dump stations or sewer hook ups and would have to decrease our fees.

**IF THERE IS A CONTRACT INVOLVED IN THE AGENDA ITEM, HAS THE CONTRACT BEEN SUBMITTED AT LEAST ONE WEEK PRIOR AND ANSWERED WITH A REVIEW BY THE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE?**

Yes  No

**RECOMMENDATION:**

To allocate an additional \$350,000 of remaining ARPA funds towards the project.

**ACTION REQUIRED / PROPOSED MOTION:**

To allocate \$350,000 of remaining county ARPA funds towards the Little Sioux Park Campgrounds sewer project.