

DENVER BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

Meeting Date: June 11, 2014

Board Item: II-B-2

Amendment to Contract for Consulting Services with GBSM, Inc. Contract # 14684A

Action by Consent

Action

Information

In 2009, GBSM, Inc. was selected to provide strategic public policy and issues management consulting services through a competitive bid process, and the Board voted to retain them on a year-to-year basis.

Initially, GBSM's scope of work included support for human resources, stakeholder relations, process improvements and lobbying efforts. This work has since been absorbed by staff or bid out to other consultants, and the GBSM services scope was narrowed to water policy, issues management and strategic counsel. The services currently provided include water policy support for Integrated resource planning, land and water use planning, Gross Reservoir expansion, WISE project development, and Colorado River basin-wide drought management; Public Affairs support for message platforms, strategies and plans to support initiatives in various communities; climate change communications campaign support; and support for the CEO/Manager and Executive Team with strategic, organizational and managerial counsel and problem solving. The contract has been reduced from a high of \$275,000 in 2011 to a total of \$190,000 proposed for 2014.

This amendment restructures the contract to better align with changing needs, better coordinate work across divisions and make most efficient use of the contractor's time and experience. The CEO/Manager will now administer the contract to best direct the work across divisions. Work is divided into an issues management section, where the CEO directs work as issues and projects arise, and a retainer work section where the contractor maintains both a fundamental understanding of current and relevant project activities and a watchful eye on the interaction on projects, trends and activities to provide overall strategic counsel and coordination.

Given the nature of the work that lies ahead and the depth of relevant knowledge GBSM has on water issues, staff recommends continuing on a year-to-year contract basis and making changes to the contract structure as described above.

In 2013, the GBSM budget was reduced to \$140,000 in response to the drought. This savings allowed the 2013 contract amount of \$230,000 to extend services through March 31, 2014. This amendment extends the contract through December 31, 2014, for an amount not to exceed \$100,000 -- a total contract amount of \$190,000 for calendar year 2014. Even though this amendment was approved under the CEO's spending authority, it is being brought to the Board for consideration for the following reasons: 1) the Board's ongoing interest in the GBSM consulting work, 2) the carryover of the 2013 contract amount into 2014, which changed the amendment pattern of this contract, and 3) staff's commitment to providing transparency, since this \$100,000 amendment is at the upper limit of the CEO/Manager's spending authority.

Recommendation:

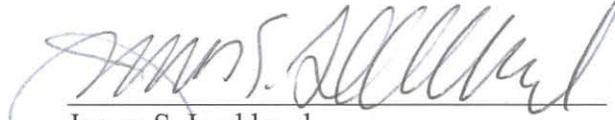
It is recommended that the Board ratify the amendment to Contract 14684A to retain the services of GBSM, Inc. through December 31, 2014, for an amount not to exceed \$100,000.

Approvals:



Dave Little
Director of Planning

Respectfully submitted,



James S. Lochhead
CEO/Manager



Sally Covington
Manager, Public Affairs



Terri Bryant
Controller