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COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

June 18, 2013

Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street, 4th Floor
Buffalo, New York 14202

Re: LEWPA Coordinator Budget Revision and Contract Extension

Dear Honorable Members:

Enclosed please find a memorandum and proposed resolution from the Department of Environment and Planning authorizing the County Executive to enter into an agreement to extend a contract with the Erie County Soil and Water Conservation District to assist with the *Lake Erie Watershed Protection Alliance Project* funded through a New York State Department of Environmental Conservation grant. The resolution also revises the grant budget which funds staffing for the project.

Should your honorable body require further information, I encourage you to contact Thomas R. Hersey, Jr., Deputy Commissioner, at the Erie County Department of Environment and Planning. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP/bl
Enclosure

cc: Maria R. Whyte
Thomas R. Hersey, Jr.

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Department of Environment and Planning
Re: LEWPA Coordinator Budget Revision and Contract Extension
Date: June 7, 2013

SUMMARY

It is recommended that the Legislature approve the attached resolution prepared by the Department of Environment and Planning (DEP) authorizing the County Executive to enter into an agreement to extend a contract with the Erie County Soil and Water Conservation District (ECSWCD) and revise the project budget in the amount of $84,907.60 which will allow Joanna Panasiewicz, Junior Environmentalist (JG-7), to continue to fulfill the role of Lake Erie Watershed Protection Alliance (LEWPA) Coordinator. ECSWCD is the recipient of a three-year 604b grant from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) for the LEWPA Project, which involves a regional planning effort with Cattaraugus and Chautauqua Counties.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

100% of funding for this position will be paid through grant funds. No in-kind match is required.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

It is vital that the LEWPA project does not lose momentum as it is crucial to securing funds to make improvements to water quality along the Lake Erie shoreline in New York State, as well as the associated watershed.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

ECSWCD has NYSDEC grant funding to form and implement LEWPA – a three-county collaborative effort to better align our communities to address our needs and protect Lake Erie water quality. This effort also involves working with NYSDEC to develop work plans and pursue funding for Great Lakes Restoration Initiatives. In September 2012 the Erie County Legislature passed a resolution (COMM. 15E-26(2012)) authorizing the County Executive to enter into a contract with ECSWCD to establish a budget and enable the DEP to create a grant position for Ms. Joanna Panasiewicz, Junior Environmentalist, to fill the role of LEWPA Coordinator for the 604b.

As anticipated, ECSWCD currently has additional funding available for this project which would fund Ms. Panasiewicz's position for an additional 18 months.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

Without the requested authorization, the LEWPA project will be further delayed and fall behind in its deliverables and lose momentum. Such a delay will result in lost opportunities to secure funding to make improvements to water quality along the Lake Erie shoreline in New York State, as well as the associated watershed.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The County Executive will enter into an agreement with the Erie County Soil and Water Conservation District for $84,907.60. The grant budget will be revised within the Department of Environment and Planning.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
Department of Environment and Planning

RE: LEWPA Coordinator Budget Revision
And Contract Extension

WHEREAS, the Erie County Soil and Water Conservation District has New York State Department of Environmental Conservation 604b grant funding to form and implement the Lake Erie Watershed Protection Alliance (LEWPA), a three-county collaborative effort to better protect Lake Erie water quality; and

WHEREAS, Erie County entered into a contract in November 2012 with Erie County Soil and Water Conservation District to have a Junior Environmentalist (JG-7) fulfill the role of LEWPA Coordinator for the 604b grant; and

WHEREAS, Erie County Soil and Water Conservation District recently received approval for additional funding for the 604b grant; and

WHEREAS, it is vital that the LEWPA project does not lose momentum as it is crucial to securing funds to make improvements to water quality along the Lake Erie shoreline in New York State, as well as the associated watershed; and

WHEREAS, Erie County Soil and Water Conservation District would like to extend the contract with Erie County to have a Junior Environmentalist (JG-7) fulfill the role of LEWPA Coordinator for the 604b grant.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the County Executive is authorized to enter into an agreement with the Erie County Soil and Water Conservation District to extend the contract to coordinate the Lake Erie Watershed Protection Alliance in an amount not to exceed $84,907.60 in grant resources; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the current budget for the Lake Erie Watershed Protection Alliance Budget is revised as follows:

Lake Erie Watershed Protection Alliance Project
(Grant Period: 10/15/12 – 12/31/15)
SAP Grant Account #162LEWPA062113

ACCOUNT	DESCRIPTION	BUDGET		
REVENUE		Current	Revision	Revised
409000	State Aid Revenue	($42,453.80)	($84,907.60)	($127,361.40)
TOTAL REVENUE		($42,453.80)	($84,907.60)	($127,361.40)

APPROPRIATIONS

Account	Description	Current	Revision	Revised
500000	Regular Full Time Wages	$28,302.53	$58,473.06	$86,775.59
502000	Fringe Benefits	$14,151.27	$26,434.54	$40,585. 81
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS		$42,453.80	$84,907.60	$127,361.40

and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Director of the Division of Budget and Management is hereby authorized to implement any budget adjustments as required to comply with State and local funding requirements; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be sent to the County Executive's Office; the Comptroller's Office; the Director of the Division of Budget and Management; the County Attorney; and the Commissioner of the Department of Environment and Planning, Rath Building, 10th Floor.