

**Agenda Item 130955**

# **General Contractor for the GRU Biosolids Dewatering Facilities**

**Water & Wastewater Engineering Department  
Gainesville Regional Utilities**

**May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

# What Are Biosolids?

- Biological material harvested from water reclamation process
- Valuable as fertilizer
  - Nutrients
  - Slow Release
  - Organic soil amendment
- Application highly regulated, controlled & monitored to ensure protection of public health, safety & the environment

# Current GRU Biosolids Program

- Land Application at Whistling Pines Ranch (WPR)
- Beneficial to farmer & environment
  - Organic soil amendment
  - Farmer uses less chemical fertilizer
- >30 year operating history at WPR
- Compliance with all regulatory requirements
- 2004 EPA Exemplary Biosolids Operation Award

# Regulatory Changes

- Alachua County took action to restrict land application of biosolids
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection rules becoming more restrictive
- Several Florida Counties have disallowed biosolids land application

# Schedule Summary

- Feb 2011 – City Commission Approval for settlement agreement and consent order
- Oct 2011 – GRU finalized biosolids master plan
- Feb 2012 – GRU issued a Request for Statement of Qualifications for engineering design firm for dewatering design
- May 2012 – City Commission Approval of selected engineering firm & started dewatering design
- June 2013 - Issued Invitation to Bid for dewatering equipment

# Schedule Summary

- July 2013 - Equipment bids received & evaluated
- Sept 2013 – City Commission Approval to award dewatering equipment contract
- Jan 2014 – Completed dewatering design
  - Invitation to Bid for dewatering construction
- Apr-May 2014 – Evaluate bids for dewatering construction
  - Request City Commission approval to award contract for dewatering construction

# Evaluation of Biosolids Alternatives

- All alternatives will require dewatering
  - GRU currently “thickens” biosolids to 6 percent solids
  - “Dewatering” Facility required to increase to ~20 percent solids
- All alternatives will increase costs over current program
  - Total cost of new facilities will be ~\$23 Million
  - Increased biosolids reuse and disposal costs

# General Contractor for Dewatering Bids

- Issued Invitation to Bid (ITB) to 18 known general contractors that perform this type of work
- 8 firms attended the mandatory pre-bid meeting
- 4 bids received and evaluated
- Ortega Industrial Contractor was lowest cost of the responsive bids
  - Recommend issue purchase order to Ortega Industrial Contractor for \$13,230,556



# Next Steps

- Continue WPR land application until 2016
- Construct dewatering facilities
- Construct subsequent improvements at both Kanapaha Water Reclamation Facility & Main Street Water Reclamation Facility to protect the dewatering equipment
- Issue solicitation and choose an interested party to receive dewatered biosolids – City Commission approval required
- Phase out WPR land application in 2016

# Recommendation

The City Commission:

1. Authorize the Interim General Manager, or her designee, to execute a contract with Ortega Industrial Contractor, Inc. for construction services as the General Contractor for the GRU Dewatering Project; and
2. Approve the issuance of a purchase order to Ortega Industrial Contractor, Inc. for construction services in the amount for \$13,230,556, subject to the approval of the City Attorney as to form and legality, subject to the final appropriation of funds.