

Board of County Commissioners

Agenda Request

Date of Meeting: January 25, 2010

Date Submitted: January 8, 2010

To: Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners

From: Benjamin H. Pingree, County Administrator
Cleve Fleming, Public Works Director

Subject: Request Board Approval of Change Order #1 to Jones Edmunds
for the Relocation of the Solid Waste Transfer Station

Statement of Issue:

This agenda item requests Board approval of Change Order #1 to Jones Edmunds for the relocation of the solid waste transfer station within the existing Lower Bridge Landfill facility.

Background:

During the Spring of 2007, the County requested a review of solid waste management alternatives to address future growth, meet regulatory criteria and increase operational efficiencies and safety. A feasibility study was completed and presented to the Board in September 2007. There were four alternatives evaluated and presented from the feasibility study for Board consideration. In November 2007, the Board selected Alternative 4 – Build a New Transfer Station. At this same Board meeting, the Board was also presented the option of pursuing funding for this project through the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development (USDA-RD) as there was a possibility of some grant funding that may be available to the County. Jones Edmunds & Associates, Inc. was selected to support the County with this effort. Per the Board's direction, Jones Edmunds & Associates, Inc. prepared and submitted a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) and Environmental Assessment to the USDA Rural Development (RD). These reports were approved by USDA.

County staff, supported by Jones Edmunds, prepared and submitted the USDA-RD Application in January 2009. Since submitting the application, the County has been notified that our application has been proposed for funding of \$2,208,000 of which \$713,000 is a grant allocation. A Letter of Conditions was presented by Mary Gavin, with the USDA-RD Program at the August 4, 2009 Board meeting and subsequently signed by the Board Chairman.

Jones Edmunds & Associates, Inc. performed recent geotechnical investigations at the current landfill site and encountered buried trash, and unconsolidated soils within the proposed building footprint. This has resulted in the need for a change order to move the proposed construction site and footprint of the proposed building within the Lower

Bridge Landfill facility. Detailed clarification and recommendations related to the recent geotechnical investigations are outlined in the analysis section in this agenda item.

Analysis:

When Jones Edmunds Engineering was contracted by Wakulla County to design a new transfer station at the Lower Bridge Landfill Facility in Wakulla County, the preliminary design called for the new transfer station to be positioned in an area of the landfill believed to be outside of any buried trash. This area was previously identified as the new transfer station site in both the Preliminary Engineering Report and the Environmental Report. However, as stated previously, recent geotechnical investigations encountered buried trash and unconsolidated soils that make the previously proposed building site unsuitable. These conditions would require that the proposed transfer station building be constructed on pile foundations, the interior tipping floor designed as a structural slab, and the soils under significant portions of the new roadways excavated and replaced with clean structural fill. Unsuitable material was also encountered in some areas as deep as 18 feet. These excavated soils containing trash would need to be disposed of at an appropriate landfill facility. These site conditions have made construction on the current location cost prohibitive.

As a result of these findings, Jones Edmunds Engineering is recommending an alternate building location site, herein referred to as "Alternative D" (Attachment #1) that places the new transfer station within a wooded area at the Lower Bridge facility, just north of current operations and east of the main entrance road. This alternative was not previously included in our previous studies (Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) and Environmental Assessments) and will require modifications to those studies to the USDA. Alternate D includes the same transfer features and components as in our current preliminary design with the exception of new truck scales. Due to site space constraints and truck turning movement needs, the existing scales cannot be used and new scales will be required. However, the cost of new scales would be significantly lower than the construction costs that would be incurred to address the current geotechnical issues.

On November 24, 2009, in advance of this design change request, Jones Edmunds performed a wetlands and biological/wildlife habitat review of the Alternate D site and no related issues were found. A final report documenting these efforts will be prepared as part of this project amendment request.

Staff is recommending approval of this change order with a total cost of \$38,852. There are significant cost savings to the County that will be realized by moving the proposed site of the transfer station within the current landfill facility. A detailed scope of work to be performed by Jones Edmonds Engineering as well as cost summary for this change order is attached (Attachment #2) for your review. This scope outlines the work that will be done by JEA to ensure that we maintain momentum moving forward with construction of the transfer station. The funding for this change order will be the USDA funding for the Transfer Station.

The County Attorney has reviewed and approved this change order for execution by the Chairman.

Options:

1. Approve Change Order #1 and Relocate the Transfer Station Site to the new location at a reduce cost and savings to the project.
2. Do Not Approve Change Order #1 and Build the Transfer Station at the original proposed location and pay the significant increase in construction cost.
3. Board Direction.

Recommendation:

Option #1

Attachments:

- 1) Site Plan for New Transfer Station Location Alternative "D".
- 2) Detailed Scope of Services and Cost Summary.