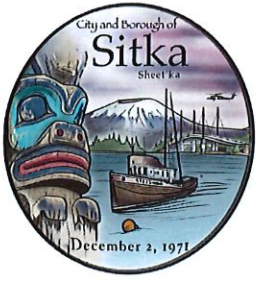


POSSIBLE MOTION

I MOVE TO approve Resolution 2022-05 on first and final reading authorizing the Municipal Administrator to apply for and execute a grant with the Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership (SEAKFHP) for \$50,000 to support the Wachusetts Storm Sewer Rehabilitation Project.




City and Borough of Sitka


PROVIDING FOR TODAY...PREPARING FOR TOMORROW

A Coast Guard City

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor Eisenbeisz and Assembly Members

Thru: John Leach, Municipal Administrator 

From: Michael Harmon, P.E., Public Works Director 

Date: February 1, 2022

Subject: Pursuit of Grant Funding for the Wachusetts Street Storm Sewer Rehabilitation Project

Background

Peterson Creek is a first order stream originating on Gavan Hill above Sitka. The headwaters of Peterson Creek are largely pristine, with the lower portions of the watershed flowing through urbanized areas and terminate in Sitka Sound north of Sitka Harbor. Peterson Creek supports approximately 1.93 km of anadromous fish habitat and supports populations of coho and pink salmon and Dolly Varden char.

The purpose of this project is to remove the two existing 48" CMP culverts carrying Peterson Creek under Wachusetts Street and to replace them with a stream simulation design structure to restore fish passage and natural channel function. The existing crossing is undersized, structurally failing and acts as a partial to complete barrier to upstream passage of juvenile salmon. The culvert blocks or impedes fish access to over half of the stream length of fish spawning and rearing habitat. The new culvert will accommodate a self-sustaining planform for the creek under the road-stream crossing and will better handle seasonal floods, lowering CBS maintenance efforts. Substrate in the culvert will be designed to mimic the natural bed and designed to the 100-year peak flow, and the aluminum structure will have an anticipated service life of greater than 50 years.

The design is currently at the 65% design level and actively moving forward. Bidding is anticipated in November 2022 and construction summer of 2023.

Analysis

This project will remediate a high priority, 'red' rated fish passage barrier culvert on Peterson Creek with a stream simulation culvert design ready for construction in 2023. 'Red' is ADF&G's second most severe rating a crossing can have and indicates the

crossing is assumed to be inadequate for juvenile fish passage. Culverts at the Wachusett Street crossing block or impede fish access to over half of the stream length of fish spawning and rearing habitat.

The project is the sister project to Peterson Storm Sewer Rehabilitation project that was completed last year. Completing the replacement of the Wachusett culvert will open a total of 1.2 km of stream habitat for coho and pink salmon, and Dolly Varden char and decrease City and Borough of Sitka (CBS) maintenance efforts associated with the existing failing culvert.

Similar to its sister project on Peterson Street, this project has the support from and partnership with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). USFWS assisted in grant application and acquisition with Peterson Storm Sewer Rehabilitation and continues to assist CBS in obtaining grant funding for Wachusett Street Storm Sewer Rehabilitation.

CBS, in partnership with USFWS, is seeking to apply for a \$50,000 grant from the National Fish Habitat Action Plan, administered through the Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership (SEAKFHP), to support the Wachusett Storm Sewer Rehabilitation project. This grant would augment working capital currently available for the construction of the Wachusett Street culvert replacement. CBS's USFWS contact is a member of the steering committee for this grant and has indicated the project will likely be a high priority for this funding source.

The SEAKFHP grant requires the project to be completed within two years of the award date. Award of this grant is anticipated for June of 2023; construction would need to be complete by June 2025. CBS anticipates the project will be constructed and completed summer 2023 which is within the grant spending window and provides flexibility in the case construction is delayed one year. Additionally, this grant requires project performance and fiscal update reporting throughout the project; this will likely be on a semi-annual basis.

CBS and USFWS anticipate applying for three additional grants through other funding sources including Alaska Sustainable Salmon Fund (AKSSF) and the USFWS National Fish Passage Program (NFPP) Bipartisan Infrastructure Legislature (BIL). The application windows for these grants are anticipated to open this spring; the Assembly will see resolutions in the upcoming months to apply to these other grant funds. The other prospective grants have spending timelines between 3-5 years and will likely require reporting to various detail and at various intervals.

Fiscal Note

The Wachusett project currently has ~\$300,000 in General funds. The SEAKFHP grant of \$50,000 is the first of 3 prospective grants totaling ~\$780,000, which, coupled with the existing General Funds is thought to be enough to complete the project. Obtaining grant funding would eliminate or minimize the amount of additional working capital needed.

There is sufficient funding in the project budget to provide the required match for all prospective grants. This SEAKFHP grant requires a 1:1 to match of awarded funds; in this case \$50,000. The AKSSF fund requires a 35% match equating to \$43,750. The USFWS grants do not require a set match amount but encourages it and providing match makes a project application competitive. Accounting for the match for the other two grants, there is \$206,250 of General Funds remaining to use as match between the two USFWS grants.

The below table summarizes the anticipated funding for this project.

Source	Secured	Needed
General Fund	\$ 300,000 ¹	TBD ²
SEAKFHP Grant		\$ 50,000 ³
AKSSF Grant		\$ 125,000 ⁴
USFWS Grant		\$ 80,000 ⁴
USFWS NFPP BIL Grant		\$ 525,000 ⁴
TOTAL	\$ 300,000	\$ 780,000
COMBINED TOTAL	\$1,080,000	
EXPECTED COSTS	\$1,000,000 ⁵	

¹ Existing General funds.

² Additional capital funding needed if any. Capital funding, if any, will be requested in the FY24 budget.

³ The subject of this memo.

⁴ Additional grant opportunities offered by USFWS; Assembly requests for these grants upcoming.

⁵ Project Manager's ROM estimate of Total Project Cost.

If any of the prospective grants are not awarded, if the full requested grant amount is not awarded, or if scope modifications needed during final design and construction occur, additional General Funds may be required to complete the project. A contingent appropriation will be included in the FY2023 capital project budget, so that if this grant is awarded, a separate supplemental appropriation will not be necessary.

Recommendation

Approve this resolution authorizing the CBS Municipal Administrator to apply for and execute a grant with the National Fish Habitat Action Plan, administered through the Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership (SEAKFHP) for \$50,000 to support the Wachusett Storm Sewer Rehabilitation project.

CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-05

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA (CBS) AUTHORIZING
THE MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATOR TO APPLY FOR AND EXECUTE A GRANT WITH
THE SOUTHEAST ALASKA FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIP (SEAKFHP) FOR \$50,000
TO SUPPORT THE WACHUSETTS STORM SEWER REHABILITATION PROJECT**

WHEREAS, the CBS-owned culverts conveying Peterson Creek under Wachusett Street is badly corroded; and

WHEREAS, the culverts block or impede fish access to over half of the stream length of fish spawning and rearing habitat; and

WHEREAS, the SEAKFHP is soliciting applications for projects to protect, restore and conserve fish habitats in Southeast Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the proposed culvert is being designed to improve the fish-passage characteristics of the existing, failing Wachusett Street culvert.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka to authorize the CBS Municipal Administrator to apply for and execute a grant with the SEAKFHP for \$50,000 to support the Wachusett Storm Sewer Rehabilitation Project with a required 1:1 match funded by the project's existing funding.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska on this 8th day of February 2022.

Steven Eisenbeisz, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sara Peterson, MMC
Municipal Clerk

1st and final reading 2/8/2022

Sponsor: Administrator