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**TO:** Chairperson Vered Meltzer and Members of the Utilities Committee

**FROM:** Environmental Programs Coordinator Brian Kreski

**DATE:** **August 2, 2022**

**RE:** *Approve: Sole Source Compost Screening Contractor Services contract to Vandenberg Transportation LLC for a three-year term ending December 31, 2024 in the amount not to exceed \$82,100.*

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#### **BACKGROUND:**

The Appleton Wastewater Treatment Plant (AWWTP) has operated a biosolids compost facility since the fall of 2010. Since the inception of the Compost Program in 2010, the AWWTP has created a Class A Exceptional Quality biosolid compost meeting Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) regulatory requirements in addition to nationally recognized standards and specifications identified by the US Composting Council's (USCC) Seal of Testing Assurance (STA) Program.

The Biosolids Composting Program processes several feed stock streams including: biosolids, fall leaf, yard and brush materials. By combining what was once considered waste, Biosolids Composting now has become a stabilized nutrient rich material that can be used in a variety of applications including: local landscape and turf projects, highway department projects, city wide projects, bio-filter projects, residential giveaways, and landfill capping projects. The volume produced varies depending on available storage and market demand for the biosolids compost. Over the life of the composting program, screening is used as a final step before sale or giveaway. Staff have either contracted the work or rented the equipment and performed the task in house. Over the past eight years, the most cost-effective/efficient option is to have a contractor provide the services. Vandenberg Transportation has provided the labor and equipment over the last two screening events and showed complete, efficient, and cost-effective services.

The last Compost Screening Contractor Services request for quote (RFQ) process was last completed in 2020. At that time, Vandenberg Trucking was the lowest bid and was 11% less than the next service bidder. Competitor reasons provided by the companies that did not submit a quote for the entire work included the inability to meet necessary qualifications, the inability to be competitive based on process frequency and distance to mobilize equipment, and/or the services being requested were outside of their corporate business model. If approved, language will be developed within the 2022-2024 Vandenberg Trucking contract that allows for an extension by mutual agreement from both parties in recognition of the uniqueness associated with services requested and the limited pool of companies capable of delivering them.

The original 2020 quote tabulation is summarized in Table 1. Firms were asked to quote on specific processing volumes that were established on past compost screening experience. The Compost Program budget and contract award amount (over three years) is based on screening approximately 4,000 to 5,000 cu yards of processed biosolids compost annually.

**Table 1: 2020 Compost Screening Quotes**

Quote: Provide labor and equipment to process 5,000 cu yds of biosolids compost with a 5/8" screen						
	<i>Larger screener</i>	<i>Smaller screener</i>	<i>Larger screener</i>	<i>Smaller screener</i>	<i>Larger screener</i>	<i>Larger screener</i>
<b>Service</b>	<b>Vermeer</b>	<b>Arings</b>	<b>Vandenbergs</b>	<b>Bucklins</b>	<b>Hsu</b>	<b>Komptech</b>
5,000 cu yds screened	\$17,400	\$15,400	\$24,700	\$13,400	N/A	\$27,900
Entire work: equip/labor	DNQ	DNQ	<b>\$24,700</b>	\$27,500	\$35,000	N/A

It would seem very reasonable going forward with Vandenberg's quote even with some moderate increases in cost. Given the complexity, weather delays, staffing, and scheduling related to the composting program, I feel this makes solid business sense to utilize this company and put a multi-year contract in place.

#### **QUOTATION:**

The proposed fees would represent nominally a 6% increase over the previous year. The 2022 quote from Vandenberg remains under bid for any of the 2020 submittals. With that, the 4% increase over each of the next two years, does not seem excessive given the volatility in consumables, services, and fuel prices. Similar to past contracts, language would exist in the 2022-2024 contract that allows for an extension by mutual agreement from both parties at the end of the contract term. The contract award amount would be based on screening one batch of material (5,000 cu yards each) annually.

**Table 2: Vandenberg Transportation LLC 2022-2024 Contract Services Quote**

<b>Company</b>	<b>Required Quote</b>
	5,000 cu yards / year
Vandenberg Transportation LLC	\$82,100

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Approval of sole source contract to Vandenberg Transportation LLC for a three-year term ending December 31, 2024 in the amount not to exceed \$82,100. If you have any questions regarding this project, please contact Brian Kreski at 920-832-2316.