



DEPARTMENT OF
UTILITIES

Department of Utilities
Wastewater Treatment Plant
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MEMORANDUM

Date: March 4, 2026
To: Chairperson Brad Firkus and Members of the Finance Committee
From: Chris Stempa, Utilities Director
CC: Ryan Rice, Utilities Deputy Director
Jeri Ohman, Finance Director / Enterprise Accounting Fund Manager
Subject: **Action: Award Anaerobic Digester Inspection, Maintenance, & Improvements Construction Project Base Bid Plus Alternatives 1 and 5 to Rohde Brothers Inc., in the amount of \$1,547,320 with 10% contingency of \$154,732 for a project total not to exceed \$1,702,052**

BACKGROUND:

The Wastewater Treatment Plant operates two 2.2-million-gallon (MG) egg-shaped digesters (ESDs) that biologically convert organic material under anaerobic conditions to produce methane and carbon dioxide. These ESDs serve as the primary solids treatment process, stabilizing and reducing the volume of sludge generated during wastewater treatment. The digesters were originally commissioned in 1993 and were last taken out of service in 2010 and 2011 for inspection, maintenance, and improvements. Interior inspections at that time indicated that the coating system was largely intact. However, areas of coal tar epoxy coating deterioration were observed at lower elevations, including sections where coating thickness had significantly diminished or was nearly absent.

The 2025 inspection and maintenance project was initiated following the identification of upstream ductile iron piping deterioration during recent replacement work, in conjunction with current treatment system operating conditions. Third-party engineering support services provided by Donohue assisted in developing a comprehensive maintenance, repair, and improvement plan, which was incorporated into the final plans and specifications and subsequently issued for public construction bidding.

BIDS

Sealed bids for the above referenced project were received online via QuestCDN on Wednesday, February 18, 2026, at 1:45 p.m. and then publicly opened and read aloud via virtual meeting at 2:00 p.m. Two bids were received with the least cost bid submitted by Rohde Brothers, Inc. The second low bid was submitted by August Winter & Sons, Inc., of Appleton, Wisconsin. A summary of the bids and selected bid alternatives is presented in Table 1 below. The complete Bid Tabulation is also attached for reference. The combined bid amounts including the base bid, allowance, one raw sludge blend tank coating alternative, and the controls integration alternative, ranged from \$1,518,975 to \$2,576,000.

In selecting a bid package, it was recommended that the Base Bid include Allowance 1 – Crack Injection and Concrete Repairs, Alternate 1 – Raw Sludge Blend Tank Rehabilitation: Sprayroq Corrosion Barrier Liner System (coating system for the raw sludge blend tank which can be removed from the project in the event the raw sludge blend tank is found to be in a condition such that new coating is not needed), and Alternate 5 – Temperature Control Integration: Energy Control and Design, Inc. The lowest bid for this combination of alternatives was the Rohde Brothers, Inc. bid of \$1,547,320.

Table 1: Bid Tab Summary

Company	Rhode Brothers, Inc.	August Winter & Sons
Base Bid	\$1,154,500	\$1,340,000
Alt Bid 1	\$150,845	\$1,000,000
Alt Bid 5	\$216,975	\$211,000
Base Bid+Alt	\$1,547,320	\$2,576,000

FUNDING SOURCE

The 2025 CIP Project and O&M budget identified \$2,509,025 for consulting and construction related services. There is an available balance of \$2,073,798 that is being requested in carryover to fund this contract along with the supporting construction management services provided by Donohue.

RECOMMENDATION:

I am requesting an award of the AWWTP Anaerobic Digester Inspection, Maintenance, & Improvements Construction Project Base Bid Plus Alternatives 1 and 5 to Rohde Brothers Inc., in the amount of \$1,547,320 with 10% contingency of \$154,732 for a project total not to exceed \$1,702,052. Funding will come from carryover dollars identified in the 2025 CIP and O&M budget.

If you have any questions or require additional information regarding this project, please contact Chris Stempa at 920-832-5945.

Encl: Bid Tab and Recommendation

Egg Shaped Digester (ESD) Inspection and Improvements (#10002662)
 Owner: City of Appleton, Department of Utilities
 Solicitor: Donohue & Associates - Sheboygan
 02/18/2026 01:45 PM CST

Section Title		Line Item	Item Description	UofM	Quantity	Engineer Estimate		Rohde Brothers, Inc.		August Winter & Sons, Inc	
						Unit Price	Total	Unit Price	Total	Unit Price	Total
BASE BID		1	LUMP SUM BID PRICE	LS	1				\$1,154,500.00	\$1,340,000.00	\$1,340,000.00
ALLOWANCES											
		Allow 1	CRACK INJECTION AND CONCRETE REPAIRS (SHT K-SMPH-8 AND SPEC SEC 01 21 00)	LS	1			\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00
MANDATORY ALTERNATES											
	A1		RAW SLUDGE BLEND TANK REHABILITATION: SPRAYROQ CORROSION BARRIER LINER SYSTEM	LS	1	\$150,845.00	\$150,845.00		\$1,000,000.00	\$1,000,000.00	\$1,000,000.00
	A2		RAW SLUDGE BLEND TANK REHABILITATION: TNEMEC CORROSION BARRIER LINER SYSTEM	LS	1	\$122,500.00	\$122,500.00		\$129,000.00	\$129,000.00	\$129,000.00
	A3		RAW SLUDGE BLEND TANK REHABILITATION: PPG CORROSION BARRIER LINER SYSTEM	LS	1	\$122,500.00	\$122,500.00		\$129,000.00	\$129,000.00	\$129,000.00
	A4		RAW SLUDGE BLEND TANK REHABILITATION: CARBOLINE CORROSION BARRIER LINER SYSTEM	LS	1	\$122,500.00	\$122,500.00		\$129,000.00	\$129,000.00	\$129,000.00
	A5		TEMPERATURE CONTROL INTEGRATION: ENERGY CONTROL AND DESIGN, INC.	LS	1	\$216,975.00	\$216,975.00		\$211,000.00	\$211,000.00	\$211,000.00
Base Bid + Allowance + A1 + A5 Total:						\$1,750,000.00		\$1,547,320.00		\$2,576,000.00	