

Village ready to start more work on dam

Written by Steve Ostermann
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Board recommends hiring engineering firm to prepare upgrades for west abutment

Village of Grafton officials are poised to hire a familiar firm to inspect the Bridge Street dam and prepare options for repairing the structure's west abutment.

The Public Works Board on Monday recommended the Village Board hire Bonestroo, the Mequon-based engineering firm that has worked on dams in Grafton and other parts of the state, for the new tasks.

Village Engineer Dave Murphy recommended Bonestroo be hired for \$25,600 after reviewing proposals from four firms to prepare cost options and bid documents for upgrading the abutment. The village has been ordered by the Department of Natural Resources to repair the dam — which is in disrepair and does not meet state flood-control standards — by 2020.

Bonestroo is currently working with Ozaukee County to install a fish passage along the east abutment as part of a federally funded Milwaukee River restoration project. That work will include improvements to the east abutment.

The village does not face any cost for the fish passage, but as the dam owner it must pay to repair the west abutment.

Proposals for the abutment work were submitted by Bonestroo, Ayres Associates, Graef and AECOM. Besides completing a full inspection of the dam, Bonestroo proposed preparing abutment options to meet flood-control standards, reduce riverwalk flooding, control water levels in the impoundment and complete emergency, inspection, operation and maintenance plans.

In a report to the Public Works Board, Murphy said an inspection of the dam done this summer by Collins Engineering revealed that the dam has no major structural problems but that both abutments are in disrepair and fail to comply with state standards.

Proposals for engineering work from firms other than Bonestroo ranged in cost from \$23,450 to \$41,800.

Murphy said he recommended hiring Bonestroo because “they will provide more options to the Village Board so a more informed decision can be made.

“The village has one chance to modify the dam and regulate the impoundment. It is important to consider all options when making this decision.”

The Public Works Board voted 4-1 to recommend hiring Bonestroo. Trustee Ron LaPean, who has repeatedly voiced opposition to the the village spending money on dam work, cast the dissenting vote.

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The Village Board is expected to consider the recommendation Monday, Nov. 15.