

May 17-18, 2023

ITEM 206-1019-R0523

Request for Authorization to Construct Storm Water Infrastructure; University of Montana-Missoula

THAT

The Board of Regents of the Montana University System authorizes the University of Montana – Missoula to expend up to \$800,000 for the construction of storm water infrastructure improvements on the University of Montana – Missoula Campus.

This item is consistent with the Board’s authority to manage the Montana University System in accordance with Board of Regents Policy 1003.7.

EXPLANATION

1. This project will improve campus stormwater infrastructure in order to protect and safeguard the Clark Fork River and the Missoula aquifer by installing stormwater pretreatment, infiltration galleries and green infrastructure to capture and remove stormwater debris and pollutants.
2. University of Montana-Missoula (UM) campus contains 1 stormwater outfall that discharges directly into the Clark Fork. Stormwater runoff throughout most of UM’s campus is managed by multiple dry wells but a portion of campus is still served by legacy stormwater sewers.
3. As part of UM’s due diligence in establishing and maintaining a state permit for its Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (“MS4”), UM’s stormwater management team (SWMT) discovered that, in addition to garbage, debris and sediment, other pollutants were being directly released into the Clark Fork River from UM's stormwater.
4. The SWMT investigated the feasibility of decommissioning the outfall via strategies that included adding more dry wells and/or constructing infiltration galleries to allow stormwater to percolate through geotextiles and soils which act as filters. The engineering firm WGM Group examined the issue and proposed 3 options that would remove the outfall and a 4th option (a hydrodynamic separator) that would improve the quality of the discharged water while leaving the outfalls intact.
5. The project will also look to address a significant drainage problem that exists at the intersection of 2 very popular hiking/biking trails at UM's campus perimeter to the north. Poor initial design has resulted in water pooling-up at this intersection which then becomes an ice hazard in winter. Water continues to pool until it eventually overflows directly into the Clark Fork River, resulting in an unofficial 3rd outfall.
6. The goal of the project will be to eliminate or greatly reduce the discharge of stormwater directly to the Clark Fork River.
7. The project is funded with an ARPA Water and Sewer Infrastructure Grant awarded to the University of Montana. The State A&E Office will be managing the project in coordination with the UM.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment #1: BOR Policy Physical Plant B Section 1003.7