

Pre-Bid Meeting Minutes

Project Name: Kickapoo SRA Embankments Reclamation

Project Number: AML-GVeE-1904

Date: February 11, 2021

Time: 11 a.m.

Location with address: Concession Area, Kickapoo State Recreation Area, 1 Clear Pond, Oakwood, IL 61858

Attendees were asked to sign in before the meeting began. Once sign ins were complete, Bryan Johnsrud introduced himself as Project Management Supervisor, Thaddeus Faught as the Engineer of Record, Luke Murphy as Project Manager, Tim Edison as Site Superintendent, Paula Martel as Region 3 Land Manager, and Adam Brown as Region 3 Engineer, the latter three Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) staff representing the Kickapoo State Recreation Area. Bryan gave a brief summary of the project's history and the Abandoned Mined Lands (AML) program, emphasizing that the program is federally funded and that due to federal funding the money for the project is already available. However, payment of the money is a state process and that invoices submitted may take up to three months to get paid and that there could be a gap in payments around the end of the state fiscal year ending June 30th.

Bryan then explained the project is being let through the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and that bids are due, electronically, prior to noon on March 5th. The Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goal is 5% for the project. All DBE firms must be listed with IDOT to count towards the DBE goal for the project. A copy of the Bid Bond and DBE forms needs to be sent to Ashley Stewart, IDNR's Procurement Manager, as there is a delay in IDNR getting them from IDOT. Also included for this project is a Project Labor Agreement and a Letter of Assent must be executed by the Prime Contractor and each of its Subcontractors after the bid is awarded before the respective work is commenced.

Bryan then discussed the Contract dates for the project. The work is to start within 15 days of executing the Contract. The project shall be completed by 6/30/2022 but seeding must be done by 12/01/2021 or liquidated damages may be levied against the Contractor. However, in AML program's experience the liquidated damages are rare as a mutually beneficial solution is usually achieved first.

Bryan discussed the use of existing roadways to access project locations. Many of the roads within Kickapoo State Recreation Area had been resurfaced last year and extreme care must be taken to minimize road damage. The bridge coming into the park from the west has an 8-ton load limit, so Contractor's may want to use the east entrance.

Tim added that the east entrance is not open when the park is closed.

Bryan continued and read from an answer to a contractor question from the July 31, 2020 letting that the weight limit on park roads is 10 tons, unless otherwise posted and the speed limit is 20 mph, unless otherwise posted. The Site Superintendent may grant permission to exceed limits for equipment mobilization and/or hauling material up to 20,000 pounds (single axle), 34,000 pounds (tandem axle), 54,000 pounds (gross using dump truck), and 80,000 pounds (using tractor-semitrailer). The verbage will be included in a forth coming addendum. Bryan then stated that, we will be monitoring hauling operations much more closely than previous AML

program contracts. In relation to the existing roadways, Bryan went over that there is a pay item for patching. The quantity was assumed as a percentage of the surface area of the asphalt roadways expected to be used and that the Contractor will be paid for the actual quantity of patching completed. Additionally, there is a pay item for aggregate surface course which is intended for the campground roads at the borrow area.

Bryan then went over the Field Engineering requirements for the project. The contractor is responsible for the layout of the construction limits, but the AML program will have additional control points installed as needed. Bryan explained that additional control points may be needed near the borrow area as the Contractor is paid by the cubic yard for earth excavation. Bryan reminded Contractors that the unit price for earth excavation includes excavation from the borrow area and placement/grading at the embankment area.

Bryan informed the Contractors that an Owners and Contractors Protective insurance policy must be provided covering the property owner, in addition to other standard insurance requirements.

Bryan explained that Special Clearing covers clearing all areas of vegetation, and trash/debris removal. Trees considered potential bat habitat have already been dropped. This leaves no additional bat related restrictions on the clearing of trees. All trees need to be hauled to the borrow area and pushed into brush piles.

Bryan explained that the compaction requirement is a visual standard and that the contractor must use a tamping (sheep's foot) roller. If results are not adequate, a numerical (% of maximum) standard may be used. This spurred a question from Tim regarding QC/QA on the contract. Bryan responded that this is not a QC/QA contract and that the AML program will have an engineering firm under contract to conduct onsite QC/QA.

Bryan also pointed out that the quantity of Mulch on the plans is 2.6 acres, but the quantity on the pay items is 2.3 acres. Bryan told contractors that they would be paid for quantity placed and that a similar discrepancy was found with the Mowing quantities. Mulch would not be required for riprap ditch area or areas with Special Excelsior Blanket placement. Additionally, the seeding dates listed on the plans are off by one year. Bryan took this time to mention that there will be a second round of fertilization on this project.

Bryan then discussed utilities present on site. On the north side of the embankment there are a wastewater force main and an underground electric line. On the south side of the embankment there is a water line and a fiber optic line. Contractors are required to use J.U.L.I.E. and to avoid damages. However, with reasonable care, damages are not expected on the north side, but damages that do occur are at the Contractor's expense. Since underground utilities on the south side of the embankment may already be exposed due to slope failures, a line item has been provided in the contract to replace the lines on this side. Bryan mentioned that a utility joint meeting will be occurring at a future date. Bryan also mentioned that further research is indicating the fiber optic line replacement may be the responsibility of the fiber optic company per the license agreement, however that has not yet been confirmed.

Craig Loschen of Cross Construction asked what size the water line is. Tim responded it is a 4-inch line that transitions to a 2-inch line.

Bryan then gave the available contact information of the fiber optic company: Windstream KDL/Mcleod USA 800-289-1901.

Jeff Miller of Miller & Son Construction Co. voiced concern over the possible lack of responsiveness of Mcleod and the uncertainty of costs regarding the fiber optic line replacement. Jimmy Wagle of White Construction added that the cost could be expensive, as high as 20 to 30 thousand dollars. Tim suggested providing the license agreement to the Contractors. Bryan stated this matter will be dealt with in greater detail in an addendum.

Bryan explained that construction limits go to the edge of the roads and the intent is to flatten the middle of the borrow area and provide slopes from the middle to existing grade. Computations for excavation quantities were done using the average end area method as shown on the cross sections in the Plans.

Bryan then explained the stone dumped riprap. The Class A3 riprap will be dumped from the water's edge until the top of the rock reaches the water surface. Then a foot of Class A1 riprap will be placed, followed by a geotextile, and then earth material placed in lifts. Bryan also expressed a desire to stair step into the existing slope to allow horizontal operation and placement of horizontal lifts. Bryan also stated that the Special Excelsior Blanket is to be used on slopes steeper than 1V:3H.

Bryan then explained the 2 kinds of Perimeter Erosion Barrier to be used. The rolled excelsior is to be installed near the toe of constructed earthen slopes. The silt filter fence is to be installed near the toe of existing earthen slopes.

Jeff asked if trees can be mulched and stockpiled in areas designated by Tim. Bryan said yes, but the additional efforts to mulch trees are considered incidental to Special Clearing.

AML program staff, that were present at the meeting, then accompanied all those present and interested, to the embankment and borrow areas.

Minutes taken by Luke.

Cc: Master File
Project File