Madison
Water Utility

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MEMORANDUM

Date:	July 21, 2026
To:	Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway City of Madison Common Council Finance Committee Water Utility Board
From:	Pete Holmgren, PE – Chief Engineer January Vang – Interim General Manager
Subject:	Authorizing a non-competitive service contract with Strand Associates, Inc. for professional engineering services related to the Reservoirs 126 and 225 Painting project

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommend authorizing a non-competitive service contract with Strand Associates, Inc. (Strand) for professional engineering services related to the recoating and maintenance of Reservoirs 126 and 225.

BACKGROUND:

Madison Water Utility (MWU) owns and maintains multiple water storage reservoirs throughout its distribution system. These facilities require periodic maintenance, inspection, and recoating to preserve their condition, extend their useful life, and maintain reliable water system operations.

Reservoir 126 (910 South High Point Road) is scheduled for recoating and maintenance work as part of MWU's ongoing reservoir maintenance program – findings that the Department of Natural Resources agrees with in their recent MWU Sanitary Survey inspection and report. Reservoir 225 (435 Milky Way) has similarly approached the typical milestones for recoating and maintenance; it was previously included in the 2026 reservoir recoating and maintenance plans, albeit as an alternate bid item alongside Reservoir 20 (2829 Prairie Road), which is currently undergoing said recoating and maintenance. Strand was competitively selected as the consulting engineer to complete design work for Reservoirs 20 and 225 in 2025 as part of that project; however, MWU ultimately elected not to award the Reservoir 225 scope of work as the alternate bid scope.

MWU now intends to move forward with a new reservoir recoating and maintenance project for 2027 construction, with planning and design to begin in 2026. The project is anticipated to include Reservoir 126 as the base bid, and Reservoir 225 again as an alternate bid based on the overall facility needs from the respective reservoir inspections. This approach allows MWU to proceed with the highest priority work at Reservoir 126, while preserving the option to complete work at Reservoir 225 if bids and available funding allow.

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Strand has submitted a proposal to provide professional engineering services for the project. The proposed scope includes preliminary design, final design documents, WDNR permitting, bidding-related services, construction administration, part-time construction observation, substantial completion walkthroughs, project closeout, and WDNR tank inspection reports for both reservoirs.

BASIS FOR NON-COMPETITIVE SELECTION:

Continuing to use Strand is in the best interest of MWU because this is a similar and continuing project from work that they have already completed for Reservoir 225. Strand is already familiar with the project background, design approach, and bidding documents, and their continued involvement will provide consistency between the Reservoir 126 base bid documents, and the Reservoir 225 alternate bid documents which Strand has already prepared.

Professional design continuity is economical to MWU on the basis of time and money. Selecting a new consultant would require that firm to review, recreate, and redesign much of the prior Reservoir 225 documents, resulting in unnecessary duplication of effort, additional cost, and potential schedule delays. Other design professional firms will not certify another such firm's documents in a situation like this and instead would essentially be re-designing these documents from scratch again. That scenario introduces significant inefficiencies to the City for the project timeline and expenses, on top of rendering nearly all past work a sunk cost.

The proposed contract meets the exception in MGO 4.26(4)(a)7. for the use of a consultant who has provided services to the City on a similar or continuing project in the recent past, and where it would be economical to the City on the basis of time and money to retain that same consultant.

FISCAL IMPACTS:

The proposed professional services contract with Strand will be written to not exceed $112,000. Funding for this work is available in MWU's current (2026) operating budget.

LEGISLATIVE PATH:

1. 7/21/2026 Common Council (Introduction)
2. 7/27/2026 Finance Committee
3. 7/28/2026 Water Board
4. 8/4/2026 Common Council (Final Action)

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Memo (this document)
2. Noncompetitive Selection Request Form