



TETRA TECH

July 13, 2017

Ms. Marlene Chockley
Northfield Township Supervisor
8350 Main Street
Whitmore Lake, MI 48189

**Re: Northfield Township, Michigan
Update of Wastewater Cost of Service "SmartRate" Study**

Dear Ms. Chockley:

Tetra Tech has appreciated the opportunity to serve Northfield Township since the 1960s. One of the many services we have completed is cost of service (i.e. rate studies) for the wastewater utility. A rate study was last completed in April 2014.

To Tetra Tech's understanding, the Township last raised sewer rates in 2014. It is prudent to periodically complete a rate study to confirm the utility's revenues are keeping pace with the utility's costs and adjust rates accordingly.

There are also growth requests occurring from areas within the Township planned for growth. These requests may necessitate capital improvements to the system. The rate study can be completed with alternative budgets to better understand the impact of potential capital improvements upon connection fees and rates.

Tetra Tech has prepared this proposal to update the 2014 rate study to account for current costs and to better understand the impact of potential improvements upon rates and fees.

INTRODUCTION

The Wastewater Cost of Service Study will address the following items:

1. Calculate wastewater rates and new-customer connection fees to comply with the intent of the proportionality test guidance given in the December 1998 Michigan Supreme Court decision *Bolt v. City of Lansing* ("Bolt").
2. Develop a method to calculate an annual contribution to a dedicated equipment replacement fund to comply with Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) requirements.
3. Project rates and connection fees for a five-year period.

SCOPE OF SERVICES

We propose to perform the following tasks for the Township:

Task 1: Data Collection

We request that Township staff provide us with the following data. In some cases we will request that Township staff review tables of data we prepared previously for ease of update.

Tetra Tech
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- Audited end of year unrestricted and restricted wastewater fund balances for the last two fiscal years.
- Audited wastewater operation and maintenance (O&M) and capital budgets for the last two fiscal years.
- Audited wastewater system revenues for the last two fiscal years.
- Wastewater O&M and capital budgets for the upcoming fiscal year.
- Wastewater capital improvement plan (CIP) for the next five years.
- List of major equipment items in the wastewater collection, treatment and disposal systems. The list should include the year the item was installed and the cost of the item. The Township's estimate of the remaining useful life of the equipment will also be needed. Major equipment items include such things as:
 - Pumps
 - Chemical Feed Equipment
 - Emergency Generators
 - Vehicles
- Current wastewater bond principal and interest repayment schedules.
- Proposed wastewater bond principal and interest repayment schedules.
- Asset value tabulation (wastewater asset description, year of construction and useful life).
- Contributions to the wastewater fund from sources other than wastewater rates and charges.
- Number of REUs billed per year for the last two fiscal years.
- Projected REU growth rate.
- Billable wastewater flow of each metered customer for the last two fiscal years, by bill.
- Number and type (residential, commercial, institutional, or industrial) of non-metered wastewater customers.
- Wastewater treatment plant influent loadings, in pounds per month, for the last fiscal year for Biochemical Oxygen Demand, Suspended Solids, Phosphorus and Ammonia.

Task 2: Data Review and Clarification

We will review the data collected under Task 1 and request additional data and clarification from Township staff as needed.

Task 3: Prepare Draft Wastewater Cost of Service Study

Once all of the necessary data has been supplied as given in Tasks 1 and 2, Tetra Tech will prepare the Wastewater Cost of Service and System Development Charge (connection fee) Study. The study will include a hardcopy of the "SmartRate" linked financial spreadsheets.

We will include a maximum of four alternative rate and connection fee schedules based on four alternative capital improvement implementation scenarios that the Township may be considering.



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Our report will summarize sewer rates and connection fees in use by 5 to 10 peer communities in southeastern Michigan.

Task 4: Review Draft Wastewater Cost of Service Study with Township Staff

We meet with Township staff to present our draft of the Wastewater Cost of Service Study. Comments will be discussed in order to address them in the final Wastewater Cost of Service Study.

Task 5: Revise Draft Study and Prepare Final Wastewater Cost of Service Study

The draft study will be revised to incorporate the comments obtained in Task 4. We will then prepare the final Wastewater Cost of Service Study.

Task 6: Presentation to the Township Board

Tetra Tech will present the results of the study in a PowerPoint and Excel presentation to the Township Board.

SCHEDULE

We will deliver the draft Wastewater Cost of Service study within one month of our receipt of all required data.

TASKS NOT INCLUDED IN THIS PROPOSAL

The following tasks are specifically not included in this proposal:

- Wastewater Ordinance Review.
- Preparation of a User Charge System for submittal to the MDEQ.
- Any meetings or presentations sessions beyond the number included in this proposal.
- Training in the use of the Excel spreadsheets.
- Additional rate and connection fee scenarios beyond the maximum of four such scenarios included in this proposal.

COMPENSATION

Compensation for our personnel for the scope of work included in this proposal will be a lump sum of \$10,500.

It is Tetra Tech's opinion that this study can be reimbursed from the Stormwater – Asset Management-Wastewater (SAW) grant that is expected in November 2017 and was procured by Tetra Tech's efforts.

If you concur with our proposal, please sign in the space provided and return one original signed copy to indicate your authorization to proceed. Our Standard Terms and Conditions are attached and are considered an integral part of this proposal.



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We appreciate this opportunity to be of continued service to Northfield Township, and look forward to helping you achieve your goals. Please contact me at (734) 213-4063 if you have any questions regarding this proposal.

Sincerely,

Brian Rubel, P.E.
Vice President

Vic Cooperwasser, P.E.
Senior Project Manager

PROPOSAL ACCEPTED BY: _____

TITLE: _____ **DATE:** _____



Tetra Tech of Michigan, PC

Engineering Services Standard Terms & Conditions

Services Consultant will perform services for the Project as set forth in Attachment A and in accordance with these Terms & Conditions. Consultant has developed the Project scope of service, schedule, and compensation based on available information and various assumptions. The Client acknowledges that adjustments to the schedule and compensation may be necessary based on the actual circumstances encountered by Consultant in performing their services. Consultant is authorized to proceed with services upon receipt of an executed Agreement.

Compensation In consideration of the services performed by Consultant, the Client shall pay Consultant in the manner set forth above. The parties acknowledge that terms of compensation are based on an orderly and continuous progress of the Project. Compensation shall be equitably adjusted for delays or extensions of time beyond the control of Consultant. Where total project compensation has been separately identified for various tasks, Consultant may adjust the amounts allocated between tasks as the work progresses so long as the total compensation amount for the project is not exceeded.

Fee Definitions The following fee types shall apply to methods of payment:

- **Salary Cost** is defined as the individual's base salary plus customary and statutory benefits. Statutory benefits shall be as prescribed by law and customary benefits shall be as established by Consultant employment policy.
- **Cost Plus** is defined as the individual's base salary plus actual overhead plus professional fee. Overhead shall include customary and statutory benefits, administrative expense, and non-project operating costs.
- **Lump Sum** is defined as a fixed price amount for the scope of services described.
- **Standard Rates** is defined as individual time multiplied by standard billing rates for that individual.
- **Subcontracted Services** are defined as Project-related services provided by other parties to Consultant.
- **Reimbursable Expenses** are defined as actual expenses incurred in connection with the Project.

Payment Terms Consultant shall submit invoices at least once per month for services performed and Client shall pay the full invoice amount within 30 days of the invoice date. Invoices will be considered correct if not questioned in writing within 10 days of the invoice date. Client payment to Consultant is not contingent on arrangement of project financing or receipt of funds from a third party. In the event the Client disputes the invoice or any portion thereof, the undisputed portion shall be paid to Consultant based on terms of this Agreement. Invoices not in dispute and unpaid after 30 days shall accrue interest at the rate of one and one-half percent per month (or the maximum percentage allowed by law, whichever is the lesser). Invoice payment delayed beyond 60 days shall give Consultant the right to stop work until payments are current. Non-payment beyond 70 days shall be just cause for termination by Consultant.

Additional Services The Client and Consultant acknowledge that additional services may be necessary for the Project to address issues that may not be known at Project initiation or that may be required to address circumstances that were not foreseen. In that event, Consultant shall notify the Client of the need for additional services and the Client shall pay for such additional services in an amount and manner as the parties may subsequently agree.

Site Access The Client shall obtain all necessary approvals for Consultant to access the Project site(s).

Underground Facilities Consultant and/or its authorized subcontractor will conduct research and perform site reconnaissance in an effort to discover the location of existing underground facilities prior to developing boring plans, conducting borings, or undertaking invasive subsurface investigations. Client recognizes that accurate drawings or knowledge of the location of such facilities may not exist, or that research may reveal as-built drawings or other documents that may inaccurately show, or not show, the location of existing underground facilities. In such events, except for the sole negligence, willful misconduct, or practice not conforming to the Standard of Care cited in this Agreement, Client agrees to indemnify and hold Consultant and/or its Subcontractor harmless from any and all property damage, injury, or economic loss arising or allegedly arising from borings or other subsurface penetrations.

Regulated Wastes Client is responsible for the disposal of all regulated wastes generated as a result of services provided under this Agreement. Consultant and Client mutually agree that Consultant assumes no responsibility for the waste or disposal thereof.

Contractor Selection Consultant may make recommendations concerning award of construction contracts and products. The Client acknowledges that the final selection of construction contractors and products is the Client's sole responsibility.

Ownership of Documents Drawings, specifications, reports, programs, manuals, or other documents, including all documents on electronic media, prepared under this Agreement are instruments of service and are, and shall remain, the property of Consultant. Record documents of service shall be based on the printed copy. Consultant will retain all common law, statutory, and other reserved rights, including the copyright thereto. Consultant will furnish documents electronically; however, the Client releases Consultant from any liability that may result from documents used in this form. Consultant shall not be held liable for reuse of documents or modifications thereof by the Client or its representatives for any purpose other than the original intent of this Agreement, without written authorization of and appropriate compensation to Consultant.

Standard of Care Services provided by Consultant under this Agreement will be performed in a manner consistent with that degree of care and skill ordinarily exercised by members of the same profession currently practicing under similar circumstances. Consultant makes no warranty or guaranty, either express or implied. Consultant will not be liable for the cost of any omission that adds value to the Project.

Period of Service This Agreement shall remain in force until completion and acceptance of the services or until terminated by mutual agreement. Consultant shall perform the services for the Project in a timely manner consistent with sound professional practice. Consultant will strive to perform its services according to the Project schedule set forth in the provisions for Scope of Work/Fee/Schedule in Attachment A. The services of each task shall be considered complete when deliverables for the task have been presented to the Client. Consultant shall be entitled to an extension of time and compensation adjustment for any delay beyond Consultant control.

Insurance and Liability Consultant shall maintain the following insurance and coverage limits during the period of service. The Client will be named as an additional insured on the Commercial General Liability and Automobile Liability insurance policies.

Worker's Compensation – as required by applicable state statute

Commercial General Liability - \$1,000,000 per occurrence for bodily injury, including death and property damage, and \$2,000,000 in the aggregate

Automobile Liability - \$1,000,000 combined single limit for bodily injury and property damage

Professional Liability (E&O) - \$1,000,000 each claim and in the aggregate

The Client shall make arrangements for Builder's Risk, Protective Liability, Pollution Prevention, and other specific insurance coverage warranted for the Project in amounts appropriate to the Project value and risks. Consultant shall be a named insured on those policies where Consultant may be at risk. The Client shall obtain the counsel of others in setting insurance limits for construction contracts.

Indemnification Consultant shall indemnify and hold harmless the Client and its employees from any liability, settlements, loss, or costs (including reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of defense) to the extent caused solely by the negligent act, error, or omission of Consultant in the performance of services under this Agreement. If such damage results in part by the negligence of another party, Consultant shall be liable only to the extent of Consultant's proportional negligence.

Dispute Resolution The Client and Consultant agree that they shall diligently pursue resolution of all disagreements within 45 days of either party's written notice using a mutually acceptable form of mediated dispute resolution prior to exercising their rights under law. Consultant shall continue to perform services for the Project and the Client shall pay for such services during the dispute resolution process unless the Client issues a written notice to suspend work. Causes of action between the parties to this Agreement shall be deemed to have accrued and the applicable statutes of repose and/or limitation shall commence not later than the date of substantial completion.

Suspension of Work The Client may suspend services performed by Consultant with cause upon fourteen (14) days written notice. Consultant shall submit an invoice for services performed up to the effective date of the work suspension and the Client shall pay Consultant all outstanding invoices within fourteen (14) days. If the work suspension exceeds thirty (30) days from the effective work suspension date, Consultant shall be entitled to renegotiate the Project schedule and the compensation terms for the Project.

Termination The Client or Consultant may terminate services on the Project upon seven (7) days written notice without cause or in the event of substantial failure by the other party to fulfill its obligations of the terms hereunder. Consultant shall submit an invoice for services performed up to the effective date of termination and the Client shall pay Consultant all outstanding invoices, together with all costs arising out of such termination, within fourteen (14) days. The Client may withhold an amount for services that may be in dispute provided that the Client furnishes a written notice of the basis for their dispute and that the amount withheld represents a reasonable value.

Authorized Representative The Project Manager assigned to the Project by Consultant is authorized to make decisions or commitments related to the project on behalf of Consultant. Only authorized representatives of Consultant are authorized to execute contracts and/or work orders on behalf of Consultant. The Client shall designate a representative with similar authority. Email messages between Client and members of the project team shall not be construed as an actual or proposed contractual amendment of the services, compensation or payment terms of the Agreement.

Project Requirements The Client shall confirm the objectives, requirements, constraints, and criteria for the Project at its inception. If the Client has established design standards, they shall be furnished to Consultant at Project inception. Consultant will review the Client design standards and may recommend alternate standards considering the standard of care provision.

Independent Consultant Consultant is and shall be at all times during the term of this Agreement an independent consultant and not an employee or agent of the Client. Consultant shall retain control over the means and methods used in performing Consultant's services and may retain subconsultants to perform certain services as determined by Consultant.

Compliance with Laws Consultant shall perform its services consistent with sound professional practice and endeavor to incorporate laws, regulations, codes, and standards applicable at the time the work is performed. In the event that standards of practice change during the Project, Consultant shall be entitled to additional compensation where additional services are needed to conform to the standard of practice.

Permits and Approvals Consultant will assist the Client in preparing applications and supporting documents for the Client to secure permits and approvals from agencies having jurisdiction over the Project. The Client agrees to pay all application and review fees.

Limitation of Liability In recognition of the relative risks and benefits of the project to both the Client and Consultant, the risks have been allocated such that the Client agrees, to the fullest extent permitted by law, to limit the liability of Consultant and its subconsultants to the Client and to all construction contractors and subcontractors on the project for any and all claims, losses, costs, damages of any nature whatsoever or claims expenses from any cause or causes, so that the total aggregate liability of Consultant and its subconsultants to all those named shall not exceed \$50,000 or the amount of Consultant's total fee paid by the Client for services under this Agreement, whichever is the greater. Such claims and causes include, but are not limited to negligence, professional errors or omissions, strict liability, breach of contract or warranty.

Consequential Damages Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, and to the fullest extent permitted by law, neither the Client nor Consultant, their respective officers, directors, partners, employees, contractors or subconsultants shall be liable to the other or shall make any claim for any incidental, indirect or consequential damages arising out of or connected in any way to the project or to this Agreement. This mutual waiver of consequential damages shall include, but is not limited to, loss of use, loss of profit, loss of business, loss of income, loss of reputation or any other consequential damages that either party may have incurred from any cause of action including negligence, strict liability, breach of contract and breach of strict or implied warranty. Both the Client and Consultant shall require similar waivers of consequential damages protecting all the entities or persons named herein in all contracts and subcontracts with others involved in this project or with this Agreement.

Waiver of Subrogation Consultant shall endeavor to obtain a waiver of subrogation against the Client, if requested in writing by the Client, provided that Consultant will not increase its exposure to risk and Client will pay the cost associated with any premium increase or special fees.

Environmental Matters The Client warrants that they have disclosed all potential hazardous materials that may be encountered on the Project. In the event unknown hazardous materials are encountered, Consultant shall be entitled to additional compensation for appropriate actions to protect the health and safety of its personnel, and for additional services required to comply with applicable laws. The Client shall indemnify Consultant from any claim related to hazardous materials encountered on the Project except for those events caused by negligent acts of Consultant.

Cost Opinions Consultant shall prepare cost opinions for the Project based on historical information that represents the judgment of a qualified professional. The Client and Consultant acknowledge that actual costs may vary from the cost opinions prepared and that Consultant offers no guarantee related to the Project cost.

Contingency Fund The Client acknowledges the potential for changes in the work during construction and the Client agrees to include a contingency fund in the Project budget appropriate to the potential risks and uncertainties associated with the Project. Consultant may offer advice concerning the value of the contingency fund; however, Consultant shall not be liable for additional costs that the Client may incur beyond the contingency fund they select unless such additional cost results from a negligent act, error, or omission related to services performed by Consultant.

Safety Consultant shall be responsible solely for the safety precautions or programs of its employees and no other party.

Information from Other Parties The Client and Consultant acknowledge that Consultant will rely on information furnished by other parties in performing its services under the Project. Consultant shall not be liable for any damages that may be incurred by the Client in the use of third party information.

Force Majeure Consultant shall not be liable for any damages caused by any delay that is beyond Consultant's reasonable control, including but not limited to unavoidable delays that may result from any acts of God, strikes, lockouts, wars, acts of terrorism, riots, acts of governmental authorities, extraordinary weather conditions or other natural catastrophes, or any other cause beyond the reasonable control or contemplation of either party.

Waiver of Rights The failure of either party to enforce any provision of these terms and conditions shall not constitute a waiver of such provision nor diminish the right of either party to the remedies of such provision.

Warranty Consultant warrants that it will deliver services under the Agreement within the standard of care. No other expressed or implied warranty is provided by Consultant.

Severability Any provision of these terms later held to be unenforceable shall be deemed void and all remaining provisions shall continue in full force and effect. In such event, the Client and Consultant will work in good faith to replace an invalid provision with one that is valid with as close to the original meaning as possible.

Survival All obligations arising prior to the termination of this Agreement and all provisions of these terms that allocate responsibility or liability between the Client and Consultant shall survive the completion or termination of services for the Project.

Assignments Neither party shall assign its rights, interests, or obligations under the Agreement without the express written consent of the other party.

Governing Law The terms of Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the state where the services are performed provided that nothing contained herein shall be interpreted in such a manner as to render it unenforceable under the laws of the state in which the Project resides.

Collection Costs In the event that legal action is necessary to enforce the payment provisions of this Agreement if Client fails to make payment within sixty (60) days of the invoice date, Consultant shall be entitled to collect from the Client any judgment or settlement sums due, reasonable attorneys' fees, court costs, and expenses incurred by Consultant in connection therewith and, in addition, the reasonable value of Consultant's time and expenses spent in connection with such collection action, computed at Consultant's prevailing fee schedule and expense policies.

Equal Employment Opportunity Consultant will comply with federal regulations pertaining to Equal Employment Opportunity. Consultant is in compliance with applicable local, state, and federal regulations concerning minority hiring. It is Consultant's policy to ensure that applicants and employees are treated equally without regard to race, creed, sex, color, religion, veteran status, ancestry, citizenship status, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, or disability. Consultant expressly assures all employees, applicants for employment, and the community of its continuous commitment to equal opportunity and fair employment practices.

Attorney Fees Should there be any suit or action instituted to enforce any right granted in this contract, the substantially prevailing party shall be entitled to recover its costs, disbursements, and reasonable attorney fees from the other party. The party that is awarded a net recovery against the other party shall be deemed the substantially prevailing party unless such other party has previously made a bona fide offer of payment in settlement and the amount of recovery is the same or less than the amount offered in settlement. Reasonable attorney fees may be recovered regardless of the forum in which the dispute is heard, including an appeal.

Third Party Beneficiaries Nothing in this Agreement shall create a contractual relationship with or a cause of action in favor of a third party against either the Client or the Consultant. The Consultant's services under this Agreement are being performed solely for the Client's benefit, and no other entity shall have any claim against the Consultant because of this Agreement or the performance or nonperformance of services hereunder. The Client agrees to include a provision in all contracts with contractors and other entities involved in this project to carry out the intent of this paragraph.

Lien Rights Consultant may file a lien against the Client's property in the event that the Client does not make payment within the time prescribed in this Agreement. The Client agrees that services by Consultant are considered property improvements and the Client waives the right to any legal defense to the contrary.

Captions The captions herein are for convenience only and are not to be construed as part of this Agreement, nor shall the same be construed as defining or limiting in any way the scope or intent of the provisions hereof.