

**Agenda Item: Extension of Agreement**

**Title: Authorize Extension of Community Partner Appropriation for Laramie Soccer Club (LSC) to Support Irrigation Use for Turf Establishment of New Soccer Field**

**Recommended Council MOTION:**

I move to extend the Approve Community Partner award of for Youth Sports to the Laramie Soccer Club (LSC) for irrigation support to establish turf at the new soccer fields located directly south of the Albany County Fairgrounds. The City will directly pay for 75% of irrigation used by LSC water through outside agency funding up to 800 units per month with a maximum award of \$30,000 and appropriately amend the partnership agreement through 2024.

**Administrative or Policy Goal:**

Partnership with outside organizations

**Background:**

Laramie Soccer Club (LSC) is working to develop a youth sports complex to be located directly adjacent to and south of the current Albany County Fairgrounds buildings. The project was initiated a few years ago when LSC and Albany County partnered to apply for a federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant to build the first outdoor field. The grant covered \$300,000 of the project with the matching \$300,000 coming from LSC, Albany County Recreation Board grants, and Premier Bone and Joint Center.

During the spring of 2020, LSC and Albany County entered into a long-term lease and use agreement for approximately 20 acres of land owned by Albany County. Build out of the fields began shortly thereafter and the field was completed in September 2020. LSC's current plan for maintaining the field is to utilize city water initially to establish the sod turf, with wells being drilled to provide for long-term irrigation needs. LSC has now acquired the permits from the State sufficient to drill the wells and is working to secure permits from the City. The club is also working on grant funding for the wells and hopes to have the project started before the heat of the summer season in 2021. Future plans include the addition of an indoor field that will be serviced year-round. Four additional outdoor fields are planned and will be planted in a combination of sod and turf that will use the water from the wells.

As part of applying for the city well permit, staff came to understand LSC's immediate need for irrigation water in Spring 2021 in order to establish sod successfully; staff determined the most appropriate and timely way to address this matter is to treat it as a mid-year community partner allocation.

**Current State FY2022**

***Due to Covid-19 and supply chain issues, the club is experiencing problems with contracting for irrigation services. This request is to rebudget monies already allocated: \$30,000, less money spent-to-date of \$10,936 = a total rebudget of \$19,064 and extend out until 2024 to allow for all irrigation to be in place. This is not additional funding.***

**Staff recommendation:** Staff recommends in favor of this allocation of financial partnership with LSC to ensure the sod turf effectively establishes this year and, thereafter, will provide decades of opportunity for youth sports in Laramie. An allocation is recommended based on the estimated current water flow to be approximately 26 tgal per day, or approximately 800 units per month. The City will contribute a 75% discount on irrigation per month beginning in May and extending through December 31, 2022, to be reimbursed to the Water Fund from General Fund/5<sup>th</sup> Penny revenue.

LSC will be responsible for a 25% fee match on irrigation and will pay full cost for any usage exceeding 800 units per month. LSC will also be responsible for meter fees and other miscellaneous fees associated with their municipal services account. If LSC obtains wells, or does not use all the funding requested, monies not spent will revert back to the City. *The LSC is experiencing problems with contractors in development of their well and is requesting an extension to allow the program to be developed.*

**Legal/Statutory Authority:**

**BUDGET/FISCAL INFORMATION:**

**EXPENSE**

Proposed Project Cost.

Project Cost	\$30,000.00	Outside award maximum based on usage
Loans on Project	\$10,936.00	Actuals through FY2021
Grants for Project		
Other/Outside Projects		
City's Amount	\$19,064.00	
Contingency	0%	\$0.00
Total Amount	\$19,064.00	Remaining Budget

Amount spent to date (approved and adopted by Council)

**Responsible Staff:**

Malea Brown, COO

Shawn Klein, Deputy Director of Utilities and PW Business Operations