

Winter Park Outlook 4/23/87

Lake pollution study awarded to consultants

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WINTER PARK—After lengthy discussions during the commission work session and meeting last week, the city decided to award Phase I of a comprehensive lakes study and improvement project to the Professional Engineering Consultants Inc.

The primary objective of Phase I study will be to define in specific terms the city's goals and objectives for the lakes system and to determine which of the forces affecting the water quality are important enough to warrant further study. The study will also include a preliminary investigation of the effectiveness and feasibility of various alternatives for improving water quality in the lakes.

PEC is the city's contracted engineering consultant and, although some commissioners suggested the city solicit competitive price quotes from other firms, City Manager David Harden recommended that PEC be awarded the contract, and three of the five commissioners agreed.

Commissioners Tom Ivey and Peter Gottfried dissented, Ivey saying the city needs to be sure it is getting the very best services possible for studying and improving the condition of the lakes. Gottfried said that, although he was not opposed to PEC's getting the contract, he believed the city should open the project up for bids so that it can obtain not only top-quality service but also a competitive price.

The commission agreed that, once the Phase I study is completed and it is time to act on PEC's recommendations, the city should solicit price quotes from other companies.

Tom Kelley, a partner in PEC who was present at the work session, said his company plans to review existing data from Rollins College's monitoring of the lakes and to work with Rollins in studying the lakes' contamination and ways to pay for cleaning it up. Kelley said his firm will hire a nationally known expert on water quality to participate in the study. Breedlove, Dennis & Associates, a local environmental firm, will also participate.

Phase I is expected to be completed in 90-120 days, after which a list of results and recommendations will be submitted to the city commission and the lakes and waterways board.

Members of that board were present at the work session and presented the commission with a list of "interim and immediate" objectives for working toward improving the water quality in the lakes. Among the list of objectives was a recommendation to contract with PEC to determine what the city wants to accomplish and how to go about it.

Other objectives on the list included the following: restoring the \$150,000 taken from the Save Our Lakes fund last year to pay for a parking study and tax millage reduction; concentrating on determining the source of fecal pollution at Dinky Dock; adding new equipment to the city's street-sweeping system and contracting for additional equipment and services during the heavy leaf season.