

## **Agenda Item Summary**

**To:** Policy Board

**From:** Maureen Goulet, Principal Program Manager

**CC:** Matt Hart, Executive Director

**Meeting Date:** February 22, 2023

**Subject:** Contract with CIRCA to provide Regional Natural Hazard Mitigation Planning Services

**Background:** Since 2008, CRCOG and our member towns have prepared a regional natural hazard mitigation plan. The intent of this plan is to identify known or potential hazards, to develop a plan to mitigate those hazards, and to implement the mitigation plan. In January 2022, we received notice that CRCOG had received an earmark through DEMHS to update our existing plan that was adopted in Spring of 2019.

With the current plan expiring in 2024, CRCOG is beginning the process of updating the existing plan. CRCOG typically procures the services of a consultant through an RFP process to assist with the project. Due to the agency's expertise and its incorporation as a state entity, CRCOG would like to draft a Memorandum of Understanding to engage the Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation (CIRCA) to work with us to update the current Regional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan.

**Benefit to Member Towns/CRCOG:** To receive FEMA funds in the event of a natural disaster, municipalities must have an approved Regional Natural Hazard Mitigation plan in place. CIRCA's mission is to increase the resiliency and sustainability of communities vulnerable to the growing impact of climate change. CIRCA staff have performed many plans and assessments of the existing natural hazards in the State of Connecticut, and developed plans, policies, and toolkits to assist in enhancing sustainability and resilience.

CIRCA is already working on public engagement tasks using funds granted to CRCOG that will be used to inform our Regional Natural Hazard Mitigation plan update, which may reduce the number of meetings towns need to hold.

### **Financial/Operational Impact:**

CRCOG has received \$189,000.00 in funds from DEMHS to update our current hazard mitigation plan. We will leverage these funds against the \$63,000 from the Regional Services Grant for cost share and \$40,000 from CIRCA for public engagement activities required by the grant guidelines.

**Project Schedule:** Due to a significant delay in the receipt of the funding, the schedule will commence as soon as possible. We expect the work to be completed and approved by March of 2024.

**Recommendation:** In order to retain CIRCA to assist with the update to CRCOG's Regional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan, staff recommends that the Board approve the attached resolution.

**Attachments:**

- Resolution Authorizing CIRCA to Perform Planning Activities for the Capitol Region Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Update for 2024-2029

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CIRCA TO PERFORM PLANNING ACTIVITIES FOR  
THE CAPITOL REGION NATURAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE  
FOR 2024-2029**

**WHEREAS**, the Capitol Region Council of Governments was awarded \$189,000.00 in Congressionally Directed funds as a FEMA subgrant through the Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (CT DESPP/DEMHS), for the CRCOG Regional Natural Hazard Mitigation plan update for 2024-2029, with the purpose of this plan being to set forth mitigation strategies that will reduce the loss of life and property, economic disruptions, and the cost of post-disaster recovery for the thirty-eight Capitol Region communities; and

**WHEREAS** the FEMA grant requires a match of \$63,000.00; and

**WHEREAS**, CRCOG has received \$40,000.00 from the Connecticut Institute for Resilience & Climate Adaptation (CIRCA) to perform public engagement related to the Regional Natural Hazard Mitigation update as part of Resilient 2.0; and

**WHEREAS**, CRCOG desires to retain an experienced hazards mitigation planning and engineering consulting services firm to support the work necessary to undertake this planning project; and

**WHEREAS**, CRCOG has determined that CIRCA has the necessary expertise to perform the tasks involved in the Regional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan update; and

**WHEREAS**, CIRCA is a State agency and we do not require a competitive process to contract with a State agency;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the CRCOG Policy Board that its Executive Director is authorized to enter into a contract agreement for a total amount not to exceed \$292,000.00 with the services of CIRCA to carry out the professional services required by the Capitol Region under DEMHS NOTICE OF SUBGRANT AWARD CRCOG-NHMP Update, executed February 22, 2023.

I certify that the above is a true copy of the resolution adopted by the CRCOG Policy Board at its meeting on February 22, 2023. I further hereby certify that the above resolution has not been in any way altered, amended, or repealed, and is now in full force and effect.

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jason Bowsza, Secretary

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_