Forsyth, Illinois Program Management

Located north of Decatur, IL, the Village of Forsyth experienced tremendous growth in population. In 2003, the Village saw the need for a new water treatment plant to increase capacity and improve the quality of the community's drinking water. The new facility would be a two million gallon per day (GPD) water treatment and lime softening plant.

As with many municipal projects, the Village had experienced its fair share of project overruns due to change orders and unexpected challenges. While it may seem a lofty goal to **guarantee** a maximum project cost, Bowen Engineering joined forces with consultant Farnsworth Group, Inc. to offer the Village a project approach that does just that.

Program management is a unique alternative to the traditional design-bid-build project approach that offers municipalities numerous benefits. Program management gives clients greater flexibility, allows the client to shift financial risk to the project team, directs project savings back to the client and provides a single point of contact from project design to construction. Program management also allows the municipality to remain eligible for the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's revolving loan program.

Bowen's decision to partner with Farnsworth was advantageous for the Village, as the two firms had enjoyed a successful 20-year history of working together. Farnsworth Group provided initial design for the project, working in tandem with the Bowen team to determine the best approach and design for the project. This contractor/consultant relationship was especially valuable during the design phase, because it allowed the team, in partnership with the Village, to establish a scope of work that met the direct needs of the Village. The Bowen team also provided input on the feasibility and constructability of the project design.

During construction, Bowen provided onsite management of the various contracts and ensured that a quality project was provided to the Village. The project was completed under budget and ahead of schedule. Total change orders were held to less than half of the contingency funds and only 2.4% of the construction budget, a substantial savings to the client.

The success of this $5.9M GMP project allowed Village officials the peace of mind of getting needed improvements to the Village's water treatment facilities at a guaranteed maximum price.

CONTRACTOR OF CHOICE

HIGHLIGHTS

WTP Capacity
2 MGD

Total Contracts
$5,900,000

Project Location
Forsyth, Illinois

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