

Grand River Conservation Authority

Report number: GM-12-23-94

Date: December 15, 2023

To: Members of Grand River Conservation Authority

Subject: Supply of Computer Storage Equipment

Recommendation:

THAT the Grand River Conservation Authority award the supply of HPE Alletra 5030 computer storage equipment to CDW Canada Corporation of Etobicoke, Ontario in the amount of \$103,979.80 excluding HST.

Summary:

Following a Request for Proposal (RFP) process, staff recommend the purchase of computer storage equipment to replace existing equipment which has reached end of life. Typical storage life is 7-10 years. The equipment being replaced (Nimble CS220 and CS260 units) was purchased in 2012.

Report:

The Grand River Conservation Authority's programs and services rely on information technology (IT) and these programs and services generate large volumes of data.

In early 2012 GRCA staff began working on analyzing the impact to the organization's programs and services in the event of a fire or some other catastrophic event at the GRCA's Administration Centre. Early work focused specifically on minimizing data loss and minimizing disruption of computing and data services. Several options were considered and in late 2012 GRCA started implementing enterprise grade data storage and data backup technology including the purchase of two Nimble storage arrays, namely a CS220 and CS260 unit.

In 2013, a backup Data Centre was constructed at Shades Mills Dam. The disaster recovery (DR) site was connected to the head office Data Centre using a high-speed fibre link. The DR site is designed with a recovery objective of one hour and can retain backup files for six years. The Nimble CS220 and CS260 were deployed at the DR site and head office Data Centre respectively. In 2015, a third Nimble CS300 storage array was purchased to address capacity at both Head Office and the DR site, with the CS260 being relocated to add capacity to the DR site. In 2015 the data storage arrays were designed to accommodate about 6-8 years of growth. The typical service life for an enterprise storage is between 7 to 10 years.

The Nimble CS220 and CS260 storage arrays, purchased in 2012, are now well beyond end of life, with replacement parts no longer available beyond 2023. Hewlett Packard has also discontinued support for the Nimble CS300 storage array purchased in 2015, although 3rd party maintenance and parts remains available. Like the 2015 strategy, the Nimble CS300 will be used to replace the current storage at the DR site and a new HPE Alletra (Nimble) 5030 storage array will be deployed at the head office Data Centre. The Nimble CS220 and CS260 units will be retired.

The RFQ document for the 'HPE ALLETRA 5030 128TB HYBRID STORAGE AND SUPPORT' equipment was posted to biddingo.com. The RFQ packages were opened at 2:05 pm on Friday,

November 3, 2023, at GRCA's Administration Centre. The RFQ opening committee consisted of Sonja Radoja, Manager of Corporate Services, Kayleigh Keighan, Financial Controller, and Mark McKinnon, Supervisor of IT Operations.

The results of the RFQ process are shown below:

Vendor Name	RFQ Amount	HST	Total RFQ Amount
CDW	\$103,979.80	\$13,517.37	\$117,497.17
Powerland Computer	\$167,169.18	\$21,731.99	\$188,901.17

The bid from CDW meets all of the requirements outlined in the RFQ package.

Financial Implications:

The cost associated with the acquisition of the computer storage equipment is to be funded from the IS & T reserve. As of December 31, 2022, the Information System and Technology Reserve balance was approximately \$1.3 million.

Other Department Considerations:

The Information Systems and Technology department manages and supports the GRCA's computing infrastructure on behalf of the entire organization.

Prepared by:

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Approved by:

Karen Armstrong
Deputy CAO/Secretary-Treasurer