

IRP Update/Engagement Contract

Gainesville City Commission
Dec. 1, 2022





Integrated Resource Plan (IRP)

Inside an IRP

- Assessment of future energy needs & plan to meet those needs
- 20-year-or-more horizon
- Road map for decision making
 - New generation, generation retirements, electric grid improvements, policies & programs
- Completed every 3-5 years
 - Reflects changes in technology, costs, customer trends, community needs, etc.
- Industry best-practice



IRP: GRU Priorities

- 2045 net-zero greenhouse-gas emissions goal
 - Consider setting incremental carbon reduction goals
- Rate concerns
- Aging generation fleet
- Industry transformations
- Must maintain reliability, financial stability, regulatory compliance
- Need long-term plan to drive decisions



IRP: Major Milestones

- Define goals and priorities
- Forecast future demands
- Develop and evaluate alternatives to meet demands
- Select alternative(s) to meet goals
- *Involves significant technical analysis*



IRP: Challenges and Opportunities

- Renewable energy
- Distributed Energy (e.g. rooftop solar)
- Batteries
- Electric Vehicles
- Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI)
- Increase in conventional fuel costs
- Potential funding opportunities
- Stakeholder Buy-in



IRP: GRU Process

- Technical Analysis
- Community Engagement
- City Commission and Utility Advisory Board (UAB) Engagement



IRP: Technical Analysis

- The Energy Authority (TEA) will complete the technical analysis based on goals and priorities the utility establishes with input from the community, Commission and UAB
- Complex computer modeling
- GRU is a member-owner of TEA, which is a non-profit based in Jacksonville
 - No added cost for IRP Technical Analysis
- TEA has produced IRPs for many utilities, including GRU





Community Engagement

Community Engagement: Holistic Approach

- Broad outreach to entire community
 - During onset & throughout process to conclusion
 - Educate & get input on goals, priorities, etc.
 - In-person and online meetings
 - Surveys
- Focused outreach to Stakeholder Advisory Group
- Periodic updates to UAB and City Commission



Community Engagement: Proven Method

- Industry best practice for IRPs
- Industry best practice for water supply plans and other complex planning processes with multiple stakeholders and interests
- Robust stakeholder education and input throughout process
- Greater buy-in of result



Advisory Group: Framework

- Group of individuals representing a cross-section of stakeholder groups
- Regularly scheduled meetings throughout IRP process
 - Generally every 2 months for about 2 hours
- In-depth presentation of IRP inputs, outputs and progress
- Facilitated discussion and input
- Presentation materials posted on website



Advisory Group: Member Functions

- Attend meetings throughout process
- Follow rules of engagement & provide meaningful input
- Provide information and receive comment from their respective groups and others
- Information presented will be in-depth but will not require technical expertise



Advisory Group: Diverse Perspectives

- Environmental
- Business
- Low-income residents
- Environmental justice
- Industry
- Church/faith-based
- Local government
- Large power customers





Public Engagement Consultant

Why Have a Public Engagement Consultant?

- Specialized work
- GRU has never completed an IRP with community engagement
- Third party helps with potential or perceived biases from GRU and city staff
- Industry best practice
 - JEA, OUC, and City of Tallahassee all recently completed IRPs and used third-party Community Engagement Consultants
- Results in an IRP with more input and community buy-in



Consultant: Primary Roles

- Assist in developing outreach plan
- Develop educational materials
- Assist in outreach
- Gather and compile public input
- Lead stakeholder advisory group process
- Interact with and translate information between technical team and Stakeholder Advisory Group
- Proposed consultant also has significant technical expertise & IRP experience which will help with all aspects of the IRP



Consultant: How We Got Here

- GRU issued Invitation to Negotiate (ITN) on August 10, 2022
- ITN process respondents described IRP and community engagement experience and outlined proposed approach & approximate cost
- Final scope and cost negotiated as part of final contract
- Received three responses from qualified firms:
 - Acuity Design Group (ADG)
 - HDR
 - Ready Kilo
- Similar cost range for all three



Procurement Process (continued)

- Firms were evaluated on their proposed high-level community engagement plan, their experience, and their proposed project management plan
- All three firms presented virtually to GRU
- ADG was evaluated to be the best overall choice for GRU
- GRU and ADG negotiated a scope of services and not to exceed price of \$248,100 plus travel and reimbursable expenses
- Funds identified in existing budget



Recommendation

- Authorize the General Manager or his designee to execute an agreement with Acuity Design Group, LLC to provide professional services in support of the Integrated Resource Plan subject to approval by the City Attorney as to form and legality for an amount not to exceed \$248,100.

