

Memo

To: Commissioners, Bill & PUD Staff
From: Mike Diller
Date: April 15, 2004
Re: Bids for Review of MDU's Compensation (Case No. PU-04-97)

Staff received five proposals ranging from a low of \$13,360 to a high of \$180,700. Because of the emphasis put on cost, Snavely King's bid of \$13,360 wins by default if the commission adheres to the point system used in the past. The firms and proposed cost are as follows:

Snavely King Majoros O'Connor & Lee, Inc.	\$ 13,360
Larkin & Associates, PLLC	\$ 24,990
Free State Synergies	\$ 49,920
Business Research Bureau	\$ 50,000
Barrington-Wellesley Group, Inc.	\$180,700

I have not reviewed the plans in detail but will be ready to discuss them tomorrow. I think the discussion or thought should include how much is too much to spend and what is it we want to accomplish. If for instance, we decide \$50k is too much to spend then we have two remaining proposals to pick from. The commission knows both of the remaining entities quite well and in my opinion the price differential would easily decide the choice in favor of King.

I'm sorry I don't have more time to devote to this today so if other staff members would like to write more this afternoon—it won't bother me. Otherwise, I will be prepared tomorrow to discuss each proposal as much as you wish.