

**INDIAN RIVER COUNTY
M E M O R A N D U M**

TO: Jason E. Brown
County Administrator

THROUGH: Stan Boling, AICP
Community Development Director

FROM: Roland M. DeBlois, AICP
Chief, Environmental Planning

DATE: May 9, 2017

RE: Board Approval of Resolution Authorizing Grant Application to the Florida Inland Navigation District for Public Access Improvements at the Oyster Bar Marsh Conservation Area

It is requested that the Board of County Commissioners formally consider the following information at the Board's regular meeting of May 16, 2017.

DESCRIPTION AND CONDITIONS

On April 4, 2017, the Board of County Commissioners approved a partnership agreement with the Indian River Land Trust (IRLT) to develop public access improvements at the Oyster Bar Marsh Conservation Area and on adjacent IRLT-owned land on the south barrier island. As a part of that agreement, the County committed to applying for a grant from the Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND) and/or other government grant agencies for funding assistance for the improvements.

To that end, county staff has submitted a Waterways Assistance Program (WAP) grant application to FIND for cost-share funding for the project for FY 2017-18. For a complete application, FIND requires that the applicant (Indian River County) provide a resolution authorizing the project and ensuring that terms of the grant will be met (if awarded). Attached is the grant application resolution for the Board's approval consideration.

ANALYSIS

The attached resolution (Attachment E-7 of the FIND grant application) is in a standardized format as required by FIND. The resolution indicates that the County is applying for 50% (\$140,850) of the total estimated construction costs of the Oyster Bar Marsh project (\$281,700). (Note: the grant application costs do not include design, engineering and permitting costs, which the IRLT is contributing to prior to FY 2017-18). Attachment 2 to this report provides a breakdown of estimated costs by project elements.

Funding

As presented to and authorized by the Board on April 4, 2017, the funding source for the County's match for the grant (\$140,850) is to come from Optional Sales Tax and Land Acquisition Bond proceeds that are budgeted and available in the adopted 5-year Capital Improvements Program. As indicated in the partnership agreement with the IRLT, the IRLT has committed \$100,000 towards costs of the overall project, including design, engineering and permitting.

Regarding ongoing maintenance costs once the improvements are constructed, an estimate of \$21,200 in annual costs was provided to the Board at the April 4 meeting, with funding for such maintenance costs to be accounted for in the Parks Division's future operating budgets.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board of County Commissioners approve the attached resolution (FIND grant application "Attachment E-7") for the Oyster Bar Marsh Trail Improvements project described herein, and authorize the Board Chairman to sign the resolution on behalf of the County.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Maps of ownership and proposed project improvements.
2. Table of cost estimates (by project element) for the project.
3. Proposed resolution for the Oyster Bar Marsh Improvements (FIND grant application "Attachment E-7").
4. County grant application summary form.