

**INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA  
BOARD MEMORANDUM**

**CONSENT ITEM**

---

**TO:** Jason E. Brown,  
County Administrator

**THROUGH:** Richard B. Szyrka, P.E.  
Public Works Director

**THROUGH:** James D. Gray, Jr.  
Natural Resources Manager

**FROM:** Kendra Cope, M.S.  
Environmental Specialist

**SUBJECT:** **Habitat Conservation Plan -- Amendment No. 1**

**DATE:** September 20, 2018

---

**DESCRIPTION AND CONDITIONS**

The County's Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) was created in 2004 after applying for an Incidental Take Permit with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The HCP was developed using the best-known data available at the time, however prior to 2004 an annual County-wide sea turtle nest monitoring protocol did not exist. Beginning in 2005, the HCP created a uniform county-wide sea turtle monitoring program which allowed for a wealth of information about nesting success, hatching success, predation events, lighting impacts to be recorded over the last 13 sea turtle nesting seasons. The HCP was designed to be a rolling document which means it should be updated/amended throughout its 30-year lifetime as more information becomes available.

In 2017, staff began working on the HCP's first amendment. On February 7, 2017, a purchase order was issued to the County's environmental consultant, Ecological Associates, Inc, (EAI) to assist with the amendment, as they helped create the original HCP document in 2004. The proposed amendment underwent multiple rounds of edits between County Staff, County attorney, USFWS and EAI. The proposed updates to the HCP include a new outline of management areas along the County, updated maps, updated predator control plan, updated light management plan, updated standard protocol for daily nest monitoring and data collection, and the addition of education programs and sea turtle stranding response.

Page 2  
Agenda Item for 10-2-18 BCC Meeting  
Habitat Conservation Plan – Amendment No. 1  
September 20, 2018

The final draft was submitted to USFWS in October 2017 for local and regional approval. In August 2018, USFWS's regional office gave verbal approval of the amended document and will provide formal approval following County adoption of the amendment.

The subject of this agenda item is to request the Board's adoption of amendment No. 1 to the County HCP.

The strike-through version of the amended HCP will be available for review in the Board of County Commissioners office.

### **FUNDING**

Local funding for sea turtle monitoring and management of the Habitat Conservation Plan includes a portion of Local Option Tourist Tax Revenue as well as allocation of the One Cent Sales Tax. No additional funding is requested to amend the HCP.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends the Board approve the amended version of the HCP and authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the County. Following Board approval, the County will transmit the partially executed Amendment to the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Upon receipt of the fully executed original Amendment from the USFWS, staff will transmit to the Clerk to the Board of County Commission for recording.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Resolution

### **APPROVED AGENDA ITEM FOR OCTOBER 2, 2018**