

**INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA  
MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Board of County Commissioners

**THROUGH:** John A. Titkanich, Jr., County Administrator  
Nancy A. Bunt, Assistant County Administrator  
Kylie Yanchula, Natural Resources Director

**FROM:** Melissa Meisenburg, Senior Lagoon Environmental Specialist

**SUBJECT:** Approval of Amendment No. 4 – FDEP Grant Agreement No. S0839 for Construction of an Oyster Reef Along Foot Island in the Indian River Lagoon

**DATE:** October 18, 2024

**DESCRIPTION AND CONDITIONS**

On March 8, 2016, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) entered into grant Agreement No. S0839 with Indian River County, committing up to \$50,000 reimbursement for the construction of an oyster reef project in the Indian River Lagoon (IRL). No local match is required. The grant was initially designated for the construction of an oyster reef at 45<sup>th</sup> Street where stormwater runoff drains into the IRL.

Upon closer investigation, the 45<sup>th</sup> Street site was deemed unsuitable to support the proposed oyster reef and the project was relocated to Foot Island, a small spoil island south of S.R. 60 Bridge and west of Fire Rescue Station 2. The project also became a partnership with the City of Vero Beach, with the city providing bathometric and a seagrass survey, and the County providing the design drawings, permitting, and construction management services.

Additional delays were experienced obtaining the necessary permits from FDEP and United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), requiring an amendment extending the completion date to December 31, 2024. The County has received the necessary permits from FDEP and USACE. However, the initial design and materials would exceed the \$50,000.00 threshold by an estimated \$250,000. Staff coordinated with the permitting agencies to identify alternative materials and reduce the overall cost associated with the project. Staff located an oyster material manufacturer and is actively working to establish the manufacturer as an approved vendor with the County. Pending approval as a vendor, the manufacturer will supply the required materials by February 2025, requiring the County to request an extension from FDEP.

As a result of the County’s extension request, FDEP issued Amendment No. 4 which extends the Agreement expiration date to December 31, 2026. The purpose of this agenda item is to request approval of Amendment No. 4 to FDEP grant S0839 by the Board of County Commissioners.

**FUNDING**

The grant requires the County to construct the project prior to reimbursement. Funding for the grant and expenses is budgeted and approved in the current fiscal year.

Funding Source	Amount
General Fund/Indian River Lagoon Fund/ Other Professional Services. Account #00128337-033190	\$50,000.00

**RECOMMENDATION**

Approve Amendment No. 4 to FDEP Grant Agreement No. S0839 and authorize the Chairman to execute it on behalf of the County.

**ATTACHMENTS**

- S0839 Amendment No. 1
- S0839 Amendment No. 2
- S0839 Amendment No. 3
- S0839 Amendment No. 4
- S0839-IRC Oyster Bed Project

**APPROVED AGENDA ITEM FOR November 5, 2024**