

**INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA
BOARD MEMORANDUM**

CONSENT ITEM

TO: Jason E. Brown,
County Administrator

THROUGH: Richard B. Szpyrka, P.E.
Public Works Director

THROUGH: James D. Gray, Jr.
Coastal Engineer

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

SUBJECT: **Sea Turtle Education Grant**
“Darker Skies Darker Beaches”

DATE: July 31, 2017

DESCRIPTION AND CONDITIONS

Using a grant received from Inwater Research Group and accepted by the Board of County Commissioners on July 12th, 2016, staff implemented the Florida Traveling Turtle Trunk grant program. During the 2016-2017 school year the Florida Traveling Turtle Trunk grant program provided 6 public elementary schools in Indian River County with a free trunk filled with ready-made materials and educational lesson plans for teachers to teach 5th grade students about sea turtles. These lesson plans met multiple desired science curriculum standards. The program was so successful the first year that five (5) additional schools have asked to join the traveling trunk program for the 17/18 school year.

Inwater Research Group has offered the County another grant opportunity similar to traveling trunk program, but with a different message. The new program provides lesson plans which align with 7th grade science standards focusing on sea turtle nesting, impacts from beachfront lighting, and the engineering of innovative ideas to minimize these impacts.

Agenda Item for 8-15-17 BCC Meeting
Darker Skies Darker Beaches
July 31, 2017

The subject of this agenda item is to request the Board's approval of the Darker Skies Dark Beaches education program grant in an effort to expand the current Traveling Trunk program implemented under the County's Habitat Conservation Plan for the protection of sea turtles. The attached agreement from Inwater Research Group commits up to \$2,000 with no local cost share and a three (3) year program commitment at no expense to the County.

The Florida's Travelling Trunk Program is for a three (3) year period beginning with the 2017/2018 school year. All materials, instructions, and teacher agreement forms are provided with the trunk which will travel among middle schools throughout the County. Staff will be responsible for training the teachers on the trunk contents and lesson plans, organizing the trunk's travel plans across County schools, and collecting teacher surveys about the program.

FUNDING

No County funds will be expended during the lifetime of this program. The County will also have an opportunity to keep all traveling trunk materials at the end of the 3-year program.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Board approve the Darker Skies Darker Beaches education program grant with Inwater Research Group and authorize the Chairman to sign the Agreement on behalf of the County.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Darker Skies Darker Beaches Grant Application
2. Grant Acceptance Instructions
3. Grant Consent Form
4. Indian River County Grant Form

APPROVED AGENDA ITEM FOR AUGUST 15, 2017