



Office of Consent 05/02/2017  
**INDIAN RIVER COUNTY**  
**ATTORNEY**

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of County Commissioners

THROUGH: Roland DeBlois, Chief, Environmental Planner

FROM: William K. DeBraul, Deputy County Attorney *WKB*

DATE: April 26, 2017

SUBJECT: Agreement for Improvement and Maintenance of Joe Earman Island

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Joe Earman Island is a spoil island in the Indian River Lagoon, located about 1 mile north of the Merrill Barber Bridge. The island is jointly owned by the County, the City of Vero Beach and the Town of Indian River Shores. It is the northernmost island of what is known as the Lost Tree Islands. An aerial photo of the island is attached to this memorandum.

The island is named after Joe Earman, Sr., a long time Vero Beach resident who was active in the community for over 60 years. Earman Island is improved with a boat dock, paths and two picnic pavilions. The island is accessible only by boat and vegetation consists mostly of mangroves and Australian pine trees. A link to photos of the improvements can be found here:  
[http://www.ircgov.com/Departments/General\\_Services/Parks/Joe Earman Island Park.htm](http://www.ircgov.com/Departments/General_Services/Parks/Joe_Earman_Island_Park.htm)

The Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) is a nationwide not for profit corporation whose stated purpose is to advise and educate the public on conservation of marine resources. The objective of CCA is to conserve, promote, and enhance the present and future availability of those coastal resources for the benefit and enjoyment of the general public. On a local level, the CCA initiates scientific studies, funds marine-science scholarships, builds artificial reefs, creates finfish hatcheries and monitors the quality and quantity of freshwater inflows. The CCA has local chapters throughout the United States and Florida, including a Treasure Coast Chapter.

The Treasure Coast Chapter of the CCA (Association) approached staff and has offered to enter into an agreement where the Association will provide volunteer services to clean-up and maintain Earman Island. The Association will provide volunteers at least once every three months, to remove trash, brush and small tree debris from the useable areas of Earman Island, and generally maintain those areas. Additional services may be provided by the Association as agreed upon by the County Conservation Lands Manager. The Association will keep a log of volunteer services and provide copies of the log to the Conservation Lands Manager upon request.

The term of the agreement is for one year and the Association may post a sign on the island identifying the volunteer work done. The CCA has provided proof of insurance as required by the Agreement.

Similar to the agreement with Grand Harbor Property Owners Association for maintenance of Head Island, the County recognizes this arrangement will result in a public – private cooperative effort which will benefit, and provide increased recreational opportunities for the residents of and visitors to Indian River County.

**Funding.** There is no expenditure of County funds for this agreement.

**Recommendation.** Staff recommends the Board of County Commissioners approve the Agreement for Improvement and Maintenance of Joe Earman Island with the Coastal Conservation Association and authorize the Chairman to execute the agreement on behalf of the Board.

Attachments: Aerial photo  
Agreement