

**INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA
MEMORANDUM**

TO: Jason E. Brown, County Administrator

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

FROM: Eric Charest, Natural Resources Manager

SUBJECT: Approval of Amendment No. 3 – FDEP Grant Agreement No. S0839 for Construction of an Oyster Reef Along Foot Island in the Indian River Lagoon

DATE: May 23, 2022

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 on a cost reimbursement basis for construction of an oyster reef project in the Indian River Lagoon (IRL). No local match is required. The intent of the grant was to construct an oyster reef project as a way to improve water quality conditions of discharges from the 45th Street drainage ditch into the Indian River Lagoon and to construct new potential habitat for marine animals.

Upon closer investigation, the 45th Street site was deemed unsuitable to support the proposed oyster reef and the project was relocated to Foot Island, a small island in the IRL a short distance south of the S.R. 60 Bridge and west of the Fire Rescue Station 2. The project has also become a partnership with the City of Vero Beach, with the City providing bathometric survey services and a seagrass survey and the County providing design drawings, permitting, bidding, and construction management services.

Due to on-going delays experienced with obtaining the necessary permits and/or permit exemptions for the Foot Island Oyster Reef project, the County had requested an extension to the current grant terms identified in Amendment No. 2 which required the project be completed by March 31, 2022.

As a result of the County’s extension request, FDEP issued Amendment No. 3 which extends the construction completion date to June 30, 2024 and the Agreement expiration date to December 31, 2024. The purpose of this agenda item is to request Board of County Commissioner approval of Amendment No. 3 to FDEP grant S0839.

FUNDING

The grant requires the County to construct the project prior to reimbursement. Funding for the grant revenue and expense has been budgeted for \$50,000 in the General Fund/Indian River Lagoon Division.

Funding Source	Amount
General Fund/Indian River Lagoon Fund/ Other Professional Services/Foot Island Oyster Reef. Account #00128337-033190-16014	\$50,000.00

RECOMMENDATION

Approve Amendment No. 3 to FDEP Grant Agreement No. S0839 and authorize the Chairman to execute it on behalf of the County.

ATTACHMENTS

Amendment No. 3 to FDEP Agreement No. S0839

APPROVED AGENDA ITEM FOR JUNE 7, 2022