

**INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA  
BOARD MEMORANDUM**

**CONSENT ITEM**

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**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 License Plate Grant Program  
“Mini-Grant”**

**DATE:** April 25, 2017

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**DESCRIPTION AND CONDITIONS**

Florida offers many specialty license plates at the Department of Motor Vehicles which support state and local government, academic and non-profit organizations. The sea turtle specialty license plate, the 2<sup>nd</sup> most popular plate in Florida, has a \$27 fee which is split 70/30 to fund the state-wide sea turtle research and conservation program and a grants program (managed by the Sea Turtle Conservancy). Students, researchers, and permit holders are encouraged to apply for various levels of grant funding annually.

Kendra Cope, Coastal Environmental Specialist, is the permit holder for the Indian River Sea Turtle Program, which made Indian River County eligible for a license plate grant. The registration for the mini-grant program was submitted in the fall of 2016. On April 17, 2017, the Indian River Sea Turtle Program was chosen as one of ten recipients of a \$1,000 mini-grant.

Staff is requesting the Board’s acceptance of the mini-grant, a non-competitive award given to marine turtle permit holders to support permit-related activities such as Nesting Beach Surveys, Stranding and Salvage, or Rehabilitation. The attached award notification from the Sea Turtle Conservancy, commits \$1,000 with zero cost share to the County.

**FUNDING**

No County funds will be expended to match funds accepted from the Sea Turtle License Plate Program. County staff will have one year from acceptance date to spend all funds and complete a 1-page letter reporting how funds were used. 100% of mini-grant funds will be used to supplement daily nest monitoring and stranding activities conducted by the Indian River Sea Turtle Program.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends the Board accept the Mini-Grant awarded from the Sea Turtle License Plate Grant Program and authorize Staff to submit the requested County W-9 to Dan Evans at the Sea Turtle Conservancy on behalf of the County.

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Mini-Grant Program Description
2. Grant Acceptance Instructions (4/17/17 email)

**APPROVED AGENDA ITEM FOR May 9, 2017**