

Indian River County, Florida  
Department of Utility Services  
Board Memorandum

**Date:** May 17, 2024

**To:** Indian River County Board of County Commissioners

**Through:** John A. Titkanich, Jr., County Administrator  
Sean C. Lieske, Director of Utility Services

**From:** Howard G. Richards, PE, Manager – Capital Projects

**Prepared by:** Robert J. Tobar, E.I., Associate Engineer

**Subject:** Amendment 3 to Work Order 14 to Bowman Consulting Group, Ltd., and Payment to Escape Ranch for North County 24-Inch Force Main Replacement  
IRCDUS Project ID: 21.23.503

**Background:**

Indian River County Department of Utility Services (IRCDUS) manages Lift Station 203, which is located at the decommissioned North Wastewater Treatment Facility (NWWTF). Lift Station 203 receives sewage from a 24-inch ductile iron force main that runs west to the facility from Old Dixie Highway. The 24-inch force main is the primary force main carrying sewage from Indian River County's north wastewater service area directly to Lift Station 203, then pumped to the IRCDUS Central Wastewater Treatment Facility (CWWTF). The pipeline is significantly corroded, and it has been determined that the likelihood of failure is very high. In addition, the consequences of failure include significant damage to private property thus exposing IRCDUS to high risk.

On February 21, 2023, the Indian River County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) approved Work Order No.14 (WO 14) to Bowman Consulting Group, Ltd. (Bowman) – pursuant to Bowman's CCNA 2018 contract, renewed, and extended in 2021 – in the amount of \$88,230.00 to provide design, bid support, and services during construction (SDC) for the North County 24-inch Force Main Replacement ("Project"). On October 17, 2023, the BCC approved Amendment 1 to WO 14, for Bowman to provide additional services to change the alignment of the force main, in the amount not-to-exceed \$20,296.34. Then on February 20, 2024, the BCC approved Amendment 2 to WO 14 in the amount of \$1,320.00, for additional tortoise survey, for a total contract price of \$109,846.34.

Design for the Project is now complete and is transitioning to the bid phase. However, additional project requirements have been identified that will impact Bowman's scope of service and the overall project budget. To proceed with the bid phase and subsequent construction phase, IRCDUS seeks to amend WO 14 to revise the bid document to provide off-site gopher tortoise relocation, and to request approval to pay management and monitoring fees to a permitted relocation site.

**Discussion:**

During development (preparation and reviews) of the standard agreement and specifications documents required for bidding, it was discovered that certain sections of the purchasing templates were not current with newer standards or require modifications to align with the bid items in the project plans. In addition, State Law requires any project involving development activity within 25 feet of gopher tortoise burrows to have a gopher tortoise relocation permit from Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. The initial survey discovered fourteen (14) gopher tortoise burrows that are within 25 feet of the Project activity limits that will require transporting to a permitted relocation site for management and monitoring.

Upon request by IRCDUS, Bowman provided the attached Amendment 3 to WO 14 to provide bid document revisions (\$4,500.00) and off-site gopher tortoise relocation (\$9,315.00) for the total amount of \$13,815.00. Bowman’s proposed Amendment 3 to WO 14, does not include the management and monitoring fees required by the gopher tortoise relocation site. Management and monitoring fees are estimated at \$6,000 per tortoise.

The number of gopher tortoises to be relocated is estimated between 14 and 21, and the work is anticipated to be completed by an entity called “Escape Ranch,” who was listed by Bowman in the FWC permit application. IRCDUS proposes to budget at the higher number with an estimated cost of \$126,000.00 (\$6,000 for a maximum of 21 gopher tortoises). The management and monitoring fees would be paid directly to Escape Ranch (Tier 1), the relocation site, upon relocation of the gopher tortoises from the Project activity limits. This vendor has not yet been reviewed and approved by the Purchasing Division, Risk Management Division, or the Clerk of the Circuit Court’s Comptroller Division. Because the cost of the relocation services exceeds both the quote and bid threshold, staff requests the Board waive the requirement for bids for these services. Should Escape Ranch not be able to comply with vendor requirements, a request for approval of another vendor will be brought before the Board.

The total estimated cost for Amendment 3 to WO 14 to Bowman for bid document revisions and off-site gopher tortoise relocation; and the estimated management and monitoring fees, the permitted relocation site, is \$139,815.00. This will bring the total contract price, including all amendments, to \$249,661.34.

**Funding:**

Expenses in the amount of \$139,815.00 for Amendment 3 to WO 14 will be recorded in the Utilities/WIP/NWWTF 24” FM Replacement account, number 471-169000-23503. Since this is an operating capital project, the funds will come from the fund balance. Operating funds are derived from water and sewer sales.

Description	Account Number	Amount
Utilities/WIP/NWWTF 24” FM Replacement	471-169000-23503	\$139,815.00

**Recommendation:**

Staff recommends the Indian River County Board of County Commissioners approve Amendment 3 to Work Order 14 to Bowman Consulting Group, Ltd., for bid document revisions and off-site gopher tortoise relocation in the amount of \$139,815.00, and authorize the Chair to execute Amendment No. 3 to Work Order 14, after review and approval by the County Attorney as to form and legal sufficiency, and authorize staff to make payments for the management and monitoring fees when due. So long as there are no

changes in the dollar amounts under the amounts approved, upon adequate completion of the work set forth in the work order, staff is directed to make final payment to Bowman Consulting Group, LTD after review and approval by the Purchasing Manager and the County Attorney's Office. Staff also recommends the Board waive the requirement for bids for the physical relocation of gopher tortoises from the site, in the not to exceed amount of \$126,000, and authorize the Purchasing Division to issue a purchase order, after review and approval of Escape Ranch as a vendor by the Purchasing and Risk Management Divisions, and the Comptroller.

**Attachments:**

- Bowman Amendment 3 to Work Order 14
- Email re estimate for gopher tortoise management and monitoring fees