

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA BOARD MEMORANDUM

TO: Jason E. Brown,
County Administrator

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

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

SUBJECT: **Work Order No. 4 Ecological Associates, Inc.
HCP Sea Turtle Monitoring North and South County**

DATE: January 24, 2019

DESCRIPTION AND CONDITIONS

On October 10, 2017 the Board approved a continuing services contract with Ecological Associates Inc., (EAI) for environmental and biological support services for a two year term, through October 10, 2019. EAI is the selected consultant for professional environmental services related to the County sea turtle Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP).

The HCP requires the County to coordinate continuous sea turtle nest monitoring with local stakeholders and/or property managers annually from March 1 – October 31.

The proposed Work Order No. 4 provides biological monitoring services relative to sea turtle nest monitoring and reporting along approximately 11 miles of intermittent shoreline from FDEP R-17-R38 and R86-Southern County Line. Since 2010, the northern shoreline has been monitored by the County as a result of beach nourishment permitting requirements and the southern shoreline by volunteers under direction from staff. The upcoming 2019 nesting season represents a “gap year” in permit required sea turtle monitoring in the northern County shoreline since post-construction monitoring has been completed and volunteer assistance in the southern County shoreline will be interrupted by pre-construction monitoring in Sector 5. However, sea turtle monitoring is required under the County’s HCP, and will still need to be completed to prevent interruptions in the County’s long-term data collection effort and to remain compliant with the HCP Incidental Take Permit. To stay compliant with the HCP and minimize costs, staff will conduct survey three times per week throughout the nesting season.

Work Order No. 4 services will be performed by the consultant at a fixed rate cost not to exceed \$70,300.00 for sea turtle monitoring and reporting.

FUNDING

Local funding for implementing the County's HCP is budgeted through the Beach Restoration Fund which includes a portion of Local Option Tourist Tax Revenue as well as allocation of the One Cent Sales Tax. Funding for Work Order No. 4, in the amount of \$70,300.00 is budgeted and will be made available in Other Professional Services Account No. 12814472-033190-99007.

RECOMMENDATION

The recommendation of staff is for the Board to approve Work Order No. 4 to the contract with Ecological Associates, Inc. and authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the County.

ATTACHMENT

Ecological Associates Inc., Work Order No. 4

APPROVED AGENDA ITEM FOR: FEBRUARY 5, 2019