

**INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA  
BOARD MEMORANDUM**

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**TO:** Jason E. Brown,  
County Administrator

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

**THROUGH:** James D. Gray, Jr. M.S.,  
Natural Resources Manager

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

**SUBJECT:** **Work Order No. 1 Ecological Associates, Inc.  
HCP Sea Turtle Monitoring North County**

**DATE:** February 9, 2018

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**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. 1 provides biological monitoring services relative to sea turtle nest monitoring and reporting along 3.5 miles of shoreline from Sebastian Inlet to the southern Ambersand beaches. Since 2003, this shoreline has been monitored by the County or the Sebastian Inlet District as a result of beach nourishment permitting requirements. 2018 represents a “gap year” in permit required sea turtle monitoring since a beach nourishment project has not occurred within this area of shoreline. However sea turtle monitoring as required under the County’s HCP, will still need to be completed to prevent interruptions in the County’s long-term data collection effort and to remain in compliance with the HCP Incidental Take Permit. Staff met with local stakeholders from the Sebastian Inlet State Park (SISP) and the Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge (ACNWR), to create a plan to avoid a gap in the 2018 sea turtle monitoring and violation of the Incidental Take Permit. This plan includes Park and Refuge staff conducting surveys three days a week with EAI conducting the surveys the remaining four days. EAI will also complete all nest evaluations and provide monitoring results to the County and State. County staff will coordinate all monitoring efforts.

Work Order No. 1 totals a lump sum amount of \$22,380.00 for sea turtle monitoring and reporting.

### **FUNDING**

The non-profit partners have agreed to support their government organization by fundraising or providing \$5,000 each. These funds will be provided directly to the County for the purpose of Work Order No.1. This will total \$10,000.

Funding for Work Order No. 1 and implementation of the County's HCP is budgeted and available in the Beach Preservation Fund, Other Professional Services Account No. 12814472-033190-99007.

Additionally, The Park and Refuge staff reached out to their non-profit partners, Friends of Sebastian Inlet State Park (FSISP) and Friends of the Carr Refuge (FOCR) to help raise up to \$10,000 to assist in this monitoring effort. Any funds received through this partnership will be provided directly to the County Finance office.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The recommendation of staff is for the Board to approve Work Order No. 1 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. 1  
Letter of Commitment – SISF  
Letter of Commitment – ACNWR  
Letter of Intent – FSISP  
Letter of Intent - FOCR

### **APPROVED AGENDA ITEM FOR: FEBRUARY 20, 2018**