

**INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA
BOARD MEMORANDUM**

TO: Jason E. Brown, County Administrator

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

FROM: Quintin Bergman, M.S., Environmental Specialist

SUBJECT: **Work Order No. 5 Ecological Associates, Inc.
HCP Sea Turtle Monitoring North and South County**

DATE: Friday, February 14, 2020

BACKGROUND AND DESCRIPTION

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. On October 15, 2019 the Board approved a renewal of the continuing services contract with EAI for environmental and biological support services for another two year term, through October 15, 2021. 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. 5 provides biological monitoring services relative to sea turtle nest monitoring and reporting along approximately 10 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 2020 nesting season represents the immediate post-construction monitoring required by the Sector 5 Beach nourishment project. Sea turtle monitoring is required under the County’s Habitat Conservation Plan for Sea Turtles, 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 two times per week throughout the nesting season.

Work Order No. 5 services will be performed by the consultant at a fixed rate cost not to exceed \$82,461.75 for sea turtle monitoring and reporting.

Page 2
BCC Agenda Item for March 3, 2020
HCP Sea Turtle Nest Monitoring
February 14, 2020

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. Funding for Work Order No. 5, in the amount of \$82,461.75 is budgeted and available in Other Professional Services Account No. 12814472-033190-99007.

RECOMMENDATION

The recommendation of staff is for the Board to approve Work Order No. 5 to the contract with Ecological Associates, Inc. in the amount of \$82,461.75, and authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the County.

ATTACHEMENT

Ecological Associates Inc., Work Order No. 5
Attachment B

APPROVED AGENDA ITEM FOR: March 3, 2020