



**INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

**Parks & Recreation /
Department of General Services**

Date: May 7, 2021

To: Jason E. Brown, County Administrator

Thru: Michael C. Zito, Assistant County Administrator
Dylan Reingold, County Attorney
Kevin Kirwin, Director Parks & Conservation Resources

From: Beth Powell, Asst. Director Parks & Conservation Resources

Subject: 2021/22 FIND Waterways Assistance Program Grant Application, Resolution and Third Modification of Lease for Replacement of the Environmental Learning Center Main Dock

DESCRIPTIONS AND CONDITIONS

In February 1965, Indian River County received title to 51 acres on Orchid Island located south of County Road 510 on Live Oak Road. Dedication No. 23919 from the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund, State of Florida (TIFFF), contained standard restriction for the use of the property as public park and for recreation purposes. On December 20, 1977, the Dedication was amended to provide for the property to be utilized for public educational purposes. Subsequently the Pelican Island Audubon Society, Inc. (PIAS) entered into a Lease with the County on March 6, 1987, for the period of 99 years for the exclusive purpose of providing an environmental learning center and accessory uses. The Lessee agreed to make all necessary improvements to the property for that purpose including design, development, construction, and maintenance at their own expense. The PIAS assigned the lease on January 4, 1988, to the Environmental Learning Center, Inc. (ELC).

On July 2, 1991, the Board approved a modification to the lease and sponsored the ELC in a grant application to the Florida Inland Navigation District for the purposes constructing a public environmental education center. On January 25, 1991, the Board approved and entered into an agreement with the Florida Inland Navigation District (IR-90-17) for initial award of \$175,000 for project assistance. The County further agreed that the center would be readily accessible, on a non-exclusive basis, to the general public for a minimum period of 25 years (also included in each of the subsequent awards and agreements).

Since that time, the County has sponsored grant applications to the Florida Inland Navigation District on behalf of the Environmental Learning Center for the purposes of developing the campus of the ELC. A summary of these grant funding resolutions are listed below:

Year	Funding Amount	Resolution #	Resolution Date	FIND Grant #	FIND Grant Date	Purpose
1990	\$175,000	90-7R; 90-32	3/6/90	IR-90-7	1/25/91	Construction of a FIND sponsored nature center, boat dock, displays, informational signs

1992	\$30,000	92-79	10/1/92	IR-92-11	10/1/92	Amended redirection to spoil island revegetation project (10/22/92)
1993	\$30,000	92-79	5/12/92	IR-93-12	10/6/93	Interpretive trails, wooden boardwalk, signage
1994	\$73,926	94-57	4/14/94	IR-94-15	11/15/94	Dry lab, classroom, pavilion, boardwalks
1995	\$17,265	95-56	6/15/93	IR-95-18	10/1/95	Installation of water and electric to boat dock, pontoon boat lift, foot bridge, nature trails, rest area, interpretive signs
1996	\$43,933	96-48	4/16/96	IR-96-20	10/1/96	Lighting and computers

In 1989, The Environmental Learning Center began working with County staff to obtain a small portion of the Wabasso Causeway right of way to build an educational dock for the purpose of providing weekly river tours as well as for the purpose of providing public fishing. A lagoon-side dock was constructed in 1992 with funding assistance from FIND Agreement IR-90-7. As the dock is now 29 years old, it has successfully met its expected lifespan and is in need of replacement. ELC has prepared and submitted a grant application to FIND under the Waterways Assistance Program for FY2021-22. The funding assistance request from FIND is \$100,000 with an equal cash match provided through private donations raised and in hand by the ELC. The purpose of the funds will be for a complete replacement of the existing dock in the same footprint. The ELC will provide all engineering design and environmental permits necessary to complete the construction of the dock, and the County will complete the procurement of the dock based on the engineered plans and bid specifications provided by ELC. Indian River County Parks and Recreation staff will serve as the project sponsor and the Indian River County Purchasing Division will serve to bid the construction. Staff has prepared and the ELC board has reviewed the Third Modification to Lease which provides an outline of the roles and responsibilities of each party for the purpose of receiving the FIND grant should it be awarded.

FUNDING

Upon the FIND grant being awarded, a budget amendment will be posted funding \$100,000 from the Florida Boating Improvements Fund/Cash Forward to cover the cost of the project until reimbursed by FIND.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Board approve the attached Third Modification to Lease, adopt the corresponding Resolution, and authorize the Chairman to execute said documents. Staff further recommends that the Board authorize the County Administrator to execute the FIND Grant Application and authorize staff to respond to any requests by FIND to complete ministerial amendments to the grant application.

ATTACHMENT

- Third Modification to Lease between the Environmental Learning Center and Indian River County
- Resolution No. 2021- Resolution of the Board of County Commissioners Authorizing Application to FIND Waterways Assistance Program
- Grant Application submitted to FIND by ELC March 26, 2021

APPROVED AGENDA ITEM FOR MAY 18, 2021