



**INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA  
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

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

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**Date: June 10, 2021**

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

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

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

**Subject: Notice of Grant Award from the Indian River Lagoon Council – Small Grants  
Program Contract Number 2021SG-06**

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**DESCRIPTIONS AND CONDITIONS**

Over the last four years staff has been working on the development and implementation of improvements to the Jones' Pier Conservation Area, which include repairs from Hurricane Matthew. These public use improvements include: a living shoreline project; creation of a 4-acre saltmarsh; restoration of coastal hammock; trails and boardwalks; picnic/restroom facilities; and renovation of the historic buildings on site. Future plans for the small concrete cottage on site were identified as renovating and re-purposing the building to accommodate a facility for staff, volunteers, docents and researchers associated with projects and volunteer work. As part of this effort, staff has been developing working relationships with project partners, scientific organizations, and academic groups with the goal of promoting environmental education and research opportunities. To that end, County staff met with Indian River State College's (IRSC) Biological Sciences Department staff to discuss opportunities for their environmental and marine science students to complete research projects within the County's various conservation areas.

The IRLNEP Small Projects Grant will provide funding towards the conversion of the kitchen within the concrete cottage into a wet lab suitable for use by the IRSC students, as well as for future science organizations and school groups. The grant provides funding for equipment and kitchen improvements that will be completed using staff, student groups, and volunteer assistance. More specifically, this project will include the purchase of a refrigerator, dissecting microscope, macroinvertebrate sampling equipment, materials to build storage shelving, and a new countertop. The County has recently re-roofed the building, and is making additional minor repairs as part of the overall improvements to the site. Upon completion of the renovation, the IRSC students will be completing ecological sampling and assessment on the site and within the adjacent Lagoon.

Funding from the Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program’s small matching grant program will further the County’s efforts to provide environmental education opportunities for students, researchers, and volunteers, and facilitate the engagement of these groups in meaningful educational research efforts focused on Lagoon health.

**FUNDING**

Grant funding in the amount of \$3,816.49 will be/is matched with funding for improvements to the kitchen area and equipment which will be converted to a wetlab. IRSC will provide a minimum of \$200 in equipment through their Environmental Science Club and a portion of the County’s match is through the purchase of water monitoring equipment that has already been purchased through the Conservation Lands operating budget FY20/21. The remaining grant’s matching funds of \$500 will be funded through Optional Sales Tax as identified in the Capital Improvement Element of the Comprehensive Plan adopted on December 1, 2020. A revenue account will be established for the grant funds.

| <b>Description:</b>   | <b>Account Number:</b> | <b>Amount:</b>    |
|---|------------------------|-------------------|
| IRL NEP Small Matching Grant                                      |                        | \$3,816.49        |
| IRC Matching Funds  | 31521072-066510-18010  | \$500.00          |
| IRC Matching Funds<br>(pre-purchased water sampling<br>equipment) | 00121572-035290        | \$2,238.15        |
| IRSC Matching Funds   | N/A                    | \$200.00          |
| <b>Total:</b>   |                        | <b>\$6,754.64</b> |

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends the Board approve and authorize the Chairman to execute the IRL Council Small Grants Program Agreement Contract # 2021SG-06/Encumbrance # GL01-2013.

**ATTACHMENT**

- IRL Council Small Grants Program Agreement Contract # 2021SG-06/Encumbrance # GL01-2013.
- IRC Grant Form

**APPROVED AGENDA ITEM FOR JUNE 22, 2021**