

**INDIAN RIVER COUNTY
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
PURCHASING DIVISION**

DATE: September 13, 2023

TO: BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

THROUGH: John A. Titkanich, Jr., County Administrator
Kristin Daniels, Director, Office of Management and Budget
Jennifer Hyde, Purchasing Manager

FROM: Shelby Ball, Purchasing Specialist

SUBJECT: Award of RFP 2023064 for Ecological Services in Support of the
Environmental Land Acquisition Bond Process

BACKGROUND:

On March 8, 2022, Board approved Resolution 2022-016, authorizing an Environmental Land Bond Referendum for the November 8, 2022 ballot. The Resolution called for a Bond Referendum Election for the issuance of general obligation bonds as follows:

"To acquire and permanently preserve environmentally significant lands to restore the Indian River Lagoon, protect water resources, natural areas, wildlife habitat, drinking water resources, and construct public access improvements related thereto, shall Indian River County be authorized to issue general obligation bonds up to \$50,000,000, maturing within 20 years from each issuance, not exceeding the legal maximum interest rate, payable from ad valorem taxes, with full public disclosure of all spending through annual independent audits."

The Referendum was passed by voters in Indian River County as part of the November 8, 2022 election. On behalf of the Parks, Recreation, & Conservation Department, a Request for Proposals ("RFP") was issued for Ecological Consulting Services in Support of the Environmental Land Acquisition Bond Process. The term of award is three years, with a single-year renewal available.

DISCUSSION:

A selection committee comprised of Wendy Swindell, Conservation Lands Manager, Andy Sobczak, Interim Community Development Director, Beth Powell, Parks, Recreation, & Conservation Director and Ashley Lingwood, Conservation Lands Program Director independently reviewed and scored the received proposals. The committee then met to compile an initial ranking of firms. After the initial ranking, the committee agreed to interview the top 4 ranked firms. After the interviews, the committee declared their ranking as final, and recommended award to the two top ranked consultants.

Firm
1. Water & Air Research, Inc.
2. The Transit Group, Inc. dba Ecological Associates, Inc.
3. Terracon Consultants, Inc.
4. GreenSource Environmental Professionals, Inc.
5. Royal Consulting Services, Inc.
6. RES Florida Consulting, LLC

FUNDING:

Funding for work performed under the agreements will come from the Land Acquisition 2023/Land Acquisition/Other Professional Services account, number 15514639-033190. These services will be charged on a per hour, per use basis and may vary. These funds will be made available once the bond proceeds are received.

Account Name	Account Number	Amount
Land Acquisitions 2023/Land Acquisition/Other Professional Services	15514639-033190	TBD

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Board approve the final ranking of firms, award the RFP to Water & Air Research, Inc. as Primary Consultant, and The Transit Group, Inc. dba Ecological Associates, Inc. as Secondary Consultant, approve the Sample Agreement and price proposals, and authorize the Chairman to execute them, after review and approval by the County Attorney as to form and legal sufficiency.

ATTACHMENT

Sample Agreement and Price Proposals