



INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA
AGENDA ITEM
Parks, Recreation & Conservation Department
Conservation Lands Division

Date: August 1, 2024
To: The Honorable Board of County Commissioners
Thru: John A. Titkanich, Jr., County Administrator
Michael C. Zito, Deputy County Administrator
Beth Powell, Parks, Recreation & Conservation Director
From: Wendy Swindell, Conservation Lands Manager
Subject: Earman Island Phase IV Revegetation – Final Completion and Payment of the 180-day Maintenance Period

BACKGROUND:

The Lost Tree Island Conservation Area (LTICA) was purchased in 2003 with funds from the Florida Communities Trust. The 508-acre site is in the Central Indian River Lagoon approximately 0.75 miles north of the SR 60 Bridge. The County has designed an enhancement and restoration project on the three main islands: (1) the 68.6-acre Joe Earman Island; (2) the 60.4-acre Duck Head Island; and (3) the 48.4-acre Hog's Head Island. In 2023, the County completed the restoration of approximately 20 acres of habitat along the western boundary of Duck Head Island.

In 2022, the County was awarded a \$50,000 grant from the Indian River Lagoon Council towards the restoration of habitat on Earman Island. The County completed the removal of non-native vegetation from what is designated as the "Phase IV Restoration Area" during late 2022 and early 2023. On April 18, 2023, the Board awarded Bid 2023032 to Sandhill Environmental Services LLC in the amount of \$258,353.18 for the installation of native plants along the western shore of Earman Island (Phase IV Restoration Area).

DESCRIPTION AND CONDITIONS:

Native vegetation was installed by Sandhill Environmental Services in August and September of 2023. Upon inspection by County staff the initial planting was approved. Based on the contractor's agreement with the County, a 180-day maintenance period was initiated. The County re-inspected the plantings in the Spring of 2023 and found that the survivorship did not meet the standard established in the project agreement. The contractor replanted materials sufficient to meet the standards, and recent inspection has shown that the planted areas meet the survivorship criteria.

Sandhill Environmental Services, LLC has therefore completed the plant installation on Earman Island, and is requesting a final payment of \$47,421.25, which represents the amount for the 180-day

maintenance period. Payment in the amount of \$47,421.25 (Invoice #3611) will complete the County's obligation to the contractor.

FUNDING:

Funding for the Earman Island Phase IV Revegetation is budgeted and available in the Optional Sales Tax/Parks/Lost Tree Islands Conservation Improvement account, number 31521072-066510-20001, in the amount of \$47,421.25 for the 180-day maintenance period.

Account Description	Account Number	Amount
Optional Sales Tax/Parks/Lost Tree Island Conservation Improvements	31521072-066510-20001	\$47,421.25

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff respectfully recommends approval of Invoice #3611, in the amount of \$47,421.25, to Sandhill Environmental Services, LLC, which will release any further obligations of the County from the Contractor.

ATTACHMENTS:

Invoice #3611 – Sandhill Environmental Services, LLC

APPROVED AGENDA ITEM FOR AUGUST 20, 2024