

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board Members

FROM: Tommy B. Strowd, P.E., Director, Operations, Maintenance & Construction Division

DATE: April 12, 2012

SUBJECT: Aquatic Mowing Boat

Background

Big Cypress Basin (BCB) Field Station has identified the need for a compact work boat that is capable of mowing canal banks, cutting and removing submersed vegetation, and quickly clearing canal blockages. Much of BCB's system consists of relatively narrow, shallow canals which are inaccessible to the existing larger equipment for much of the year. Furthermore transporting existing equipment is comparatively time consuming and labor intensive. This is a significant problem during storm events because it constrains BCB's ability to rapidly respond to multiple concurrent problems. Research by BCB and Fleet has determined that the equipment that best meets the needs of the field station is the Conver C485 Mowing Boat. It is far superior to other products and the staff therefore recommends a sole source procurement and purchase of the C485 from Florida Aquatic Lake Management, the sole North American distributor.

How this helps meet the District's 10-year Strategic Plan:

The BCB Field Station serves the water resource management needs of the Big Cypress Basin. Its core function is flood control. This purchase will enable the field station to improve normal maintenance of several canals and markedly improve the ability of the field station to respond to problems during storm events.

Funding Source:

The cost of this purchase is \$145,507, ad valorem funds. The funding source is the FY12 Big Cypress Basin budget.

This Board item impacts what areas of the District, both resource areas and geography:

The Big Cypress Basin area, which is primarily in Collier County, will be impacted by this item. The equipment will be used to perform operations and maintenance work in canals, on canal banks, and at pump station intake bays.

What concerns could this Board item raise?

If this purchase is not made the ability of the BCB field station to perform maintenance on narrow, shallow canals would continue to be limited. Furthermore, BCB's ability to respond to storm related problems would not improve.

If the Sole Source Procurement is not authorized, the possibility of purchasing an inferior boat that is more costly to operate, less reliable, and not as versatile as the C485, would exist.

Why should the Governing Board approve this item?

The purchase of the C485 will significantly improve the ability of the BCB Field Station to perform its core function; flood control for the Big Cypress Basin.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at extension 6998.