

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board Members
FROM: Deena Reppen, Deputy Executive Director, Government and Public Affairs
DATE: December 10, 2007
SUBJECT: Indian River Lagoon License Plate Projects – RFP# 6000000108

Background: In 1995, the Florida Legislature established the Florida Indian River Lagoon License Plate to help support Indian River Lagoon environmental projects. The legislation requires the South Florida Water Management District to administer funds generated from the sales of these license plates to support habitat restoration, water quality improvements and environmental education projects in St. Lucie, Martin, and Palm Beach counties. At least 80 percent of the funds must be used for habitat restoration projects and not more than 20 percent may be used for environmental education projects. Funding amounts available per county are based on the number of license plates sold in each county, and are awarded through a competitive grant process. For the FY2007 IRL Grant, five applications were reviewed, and four projects were selected for funding.

Palm Beach County		
Palm Beach County ERM	Oxbow Construction Limestone Creek	\$ 78,270
The Nature Conservancy	Habitat Restoration/Exotic Removal	\$ 15,622
Martin County		
The Nature Conservancy	Habitat Restoration/Exotic Removal	\$ 17,334
St. Lucie County		
St. Lucie Co. Mosquito Control	Habitat Restoration/Exotic Removal and Quality improvement	\$ 40,758

How this helps meet the District’s 10-year Strategic Plan: These projects support the Coastal Watersheds Program’s goal, as outlined in the District’s 10-Year Strategic Plan, to restore coastal watersheds and estuaries.

Funding Source: The grant total for the four projects selected is \$150,272, for which \$200,000 in dedicated funds (IRL License Tag Fund) is budgeted in FY08. Grant award per count is: Palm Beach County, \$93,892; St. Lucie County, \$40,758; and Martin County, \$15,622.

This Board item impacts what areas of the District, both resource areas and geography: Martin/St. Lucie Service Center Staff will be responsible for reviewing all project deliverables. The main area of impact is the Indian River Lagoon in St. Lucie, Martin and Palm Beach counties.

What concerns could this Board item raise? Funds for the IRL License Plate Program must be dedicated to a project(s) within two years. All selected projects are scheduled for completion within one year.

Why should the Governing Board approve this item? This item is mandated by Florida Statute 320.08058(10), which requires the SFWMD to administer the IRL License Plate Program funds in St. Lucie, Martin and Palm Beach counties.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at ext. 6232.

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