

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board Members

FROM: Terrie Bates, Director, Water Resources Division

DATE: November 10, 2011

SUBJECT: Approval to Initiate Design of Fodderstack Slough Restoration Features under Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Reimbursement Agreement for Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area Hydrologic Restoration Project

Background

The Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area Hydrologic Restoration Project is a joint initiative between the South Florida Water Management District (District) and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (Commission) to restore wetlands and historic flow patterns to the Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area. This project is a Northern Everglades Phase II Technical Plan management measure. The ultimate goal of the restoration project is to restore flow through Fodderstack Slough and improve the hydrology of over 6,000 acres of wetland area in this State-managed site of over 56,000 acres. Due to reduced Commission revenues, priority was given to the G-113 structure replacement component of the restoration plan because the G-113 structure was rendered "inactive" by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District in 2007.

The project is being implemented through reimbursement agreements between the District and the Commission. This reimbursement agreement specifies that the District procure contractual services for the project and the Commission reimburse the District for the cost of those services. Phase II of the project evaluated a number of restoration alternatives and identified a set of features to implement to achieve restoration goals. Phase III produced plans and specifications for construction of the G-113 replacement structure. Funds remain under the reimbursement contract that the Commission would like allocated towards design of the Fodderstack Slough restoration features. Approval is sought to proceed with this design.

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

Restoration of flow and associated wetlands within Fodderstack Slough is one of the Northern Everglades Phase II Technical Plan management measures.

Funding Source: The reimbursement agreement total under this contract is \$3,088,084. This amount includes funds already expended for Phase II and III (\$1,044,519) and funds committed for construction of the G-113 structure (\$1,348,545). Funds remaining for design of Fodderstack Slough restoration features are \$695,019.

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

The Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area is located in Osceola County, just north of the S-65 Water Control Structure, on the east side of Lake Kissimmee.

The Water Resources Division, Applied Science Bureau in cooperation with the Operations, Maintenance, and Construction Division are providing in-kind project management, engineering, modeling and procurement services.

What concerns could this Board item raise?

One possible concern would be District's ability to provide in-kind services to manage the contracts for this project given recent staff reductions; however, the in-kind service contribution required to date for the G-113 design phase has only totaled \$23,000.

Why should the Governing Board approve this item?

The Three Lakes Wildlife Management Hydrologic Restoration Project is one of the Northern Everglades Phase II Technical Plan management measures. Restoration of Fodderstack Slough will provide the majority of storage and water quality benefits referenced in the Phase II Technical Plan. Use of remaining funds for the design of the restoration features for Fodderstack Slough will produce cost estimates and plans and specifications for construction that can be initiated as soon as funds are available. This supports a District strategic priority at minimal cost to the District.

Staff Contact – Linda Lindstrom, Bureau Chief, Applied Science Bureau x6820.

MLC/clc
Separate Attachment – Resolution, Map