



Brevard County Board of County Commissioners

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson
Way
Viera, FL 32940

Legislation Text

File #: 5567, **Version:** 1

Subject:

Direction, Re: Tourism Development Council's Recommendation to suspend the Tourism + Indian River Lagoon Grant Program for the Fiscal Year 2023-24 and extend existing Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Indian River Lagoon Grants

Fiscal Impact:

\$1 million in Tourism Development Tax funds are budgeted annually for the Indian River Lagoon Grant Program from the Beach Fund (1442).

Dept/Office:

Tourism Development Office

Requested Action:

It is requested that the Board give direction to staff regarding the Tourist Development Council's recommendation to suspend the Tourism + Indian River Lagoon (IRL) Grant Program funded from the Tourism Development Tax (TDT) for the FY 2023-24 fiscal year due to the expenditures related to repairs necessary due to Hurricanes Ian and Nicole which will exhaust the Beach Fund in the Fiscal Year 2022-23, leaving no reserves available.

Secondly, it is requested that the Board grant authorization to Tourism Development Office Director to grant 1 (one) year extensions for 2022-23 grant recipients where funds have already been allocated.

Summary Explanation and Background:

On February 22, 2023, the Tourist Development Council voted 9-0 to recommend that the Board of County Commissioners suspend the Tourism + IRL grant program for the FY 2023-24 year due to the allocation of the remaining balance of the Beach Funds to pay for expenses related to beach repair after Hurricanes Ian and Nicole. Repairs for the storms will be \$22,488,179, which will utilize all Beach Funds and require an additional \$6,442,628 to be drawn from ARPA funds, as was approved by the Board on December 6, 2022. Therefore, these repairs will deplete funding in the reserves. If another storm event occurs during the 2023 hurricane season that requires repair, the Beach fund will be depleted. This requested action will allow the \$1 million IRL Grant funding for FY 2023-24 to be available for emergency repairs.

Staff is requesting 1 (one) year extension for projects award in FY 2022-23, the current guidelines only allow one year in which to expend the grant funds. In the future, staff will request from the Board that the grant guidelines will allow for projects to take up to 2 (two) years. Listed below are the grants that requested to be extended.

1. East Coast Zoological Society of Florida, Inc. Brevard Zoo Shuck & Share: Shell Recycling for Brevard County Oyster Restoration \$113,840
2. Marine Resource Council Innovative Solutions for Protecting our Public Spaces \$49,999
3. University of Florida Restoration of Native Clam Communities in the Indian River Lagoon for improved water quality and economic resiliency \$49,100
4. Brevard County Natural Resource Management Department Titusville Causeway Multi-trophic Shoreline Stabilization and Resiliency Action Project, Phase 2c \$250,000
5. Brevard County Natural Resource Management Department Derelict Vessel Removal \$49,300
6. City of Satellite Beach Samsons Island Submerged Lands Restoration Phase 3 \$49,839
7. Brevard County Natural Resource Management Department Restoring Seagrass for Improved Natural Resilience \$250,000
8. City of Satellite Beach Satellite Beach Adopt-A-Canal Program \$49,999
9. Sea Redwine New Swell Mangrove Restoration and Outreach Project \$37,266

Clerk to the Board Instructions:

Provide memo to Tourism Development Office and CAO.