



Brevard County Board of County Commissioners

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson
Way
Viera, FL 32940

Legislation Text

File #: 2385, Version: 1

Subject:

Permission to Accept a Grant from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and Matching Fund Donations for Artificial Reef Construction

Fiscal Impact:

FY 20/21 - \$60,000 in Grant Funds and \$6,000 in donations used as local match for the grant. Funds 1700 (grants) and 0032 (Beaches, Boating and Waterways), respectively.

FY 21/22 - No Fiscal Impact.

Dept/Office:

Natural Resources Management Department (NRM)

Requested Action:

It is requested that the Board: 1) Authorize the Chair to execute an Artificial Reef Construction Grant Agreement between Brevard County and FWC; 2) Accept matching fund donations; 3) Authorize staff to competitively bid and the County Manager to execute a construction contract with the lowest responsive and qualified bidder; and 4) authorize associated Budget Change Requests.

Summary Explanation and Background:

The Brevard County Boating & Waterways Program is actively pursuing funding to deploy artificial reef material at the County permitted *Brevard County Artificial Reef Site 2*. Artificial reefs link ecological, recreational and economic objectives. By developing a well-managed artificial reef site, the County seeks to increase viable habitat for key recreational and commercial fish species along Florida's Central Atlantic coast. It has been shown that well managed artificial reef sites can be a driving factor for recreational and commercial fishing as well as diving. Regional growth in recreational and commercial use directly increases expenditures at regional waterfront businesses such as bait shops, fishing and diving charters/businesses, and boat rental/sales locations, thus motivating the economy of the associated shoreline community and the region.

The permitted Brevard County reef site is located approximately 15.5 nautical miles due east of Port Canaveral. Site depths range from 76 ft. to 88 ft. This 3085-acre site was selected due to its lack of hard bottom features and its expanse of open sandy bottom. The site is mostly uninhabited, with the exception of scattered starfish, sea urchins, and calico scallops. The FWC grant is for the construction and deployment of at least 21 prefabricated artificial reef modules at the County's site. Materials will be placed in a single patch reef cluster within the County's permitted site. This project will be the sixth in a series of patch reefs the county intends to create within the larger permitted site.

Current project partners include the Florida Sports Fishing Association (FSFA), Central Florida Offshore Anglers (CFOA), the Coastal Conservation Association (CCA), the University of Central Florida (UCF), the Florida Institute of Technology (FIT), and the UF/IFAS Brevard County Marine Extension Service. The FSFA, CFOA and CCA have each pledged \$2,000 to cover the local match requirement for the grant funds.

Staff requests permission to accept the FWC Artificial Reef Construction Grant and associated donations, authorize any necessary budget change requests, and authorize staff to advertise for bids and the County Manager to execute a construction contract with the lowest responsive and qualified bidder.

Clerk to the Board Instructions:

Please execute and attest one (1) original copy of the attached FWC Grant Agreement (FWC-20010). Contact Matt Culver at matt.culver@brevardfl.gov for pick-up of the executed document.