

Lee County Board Of County Commissioners
Agenda Item Summary

Blue Sheet No. 20030024

1. REQUESTED MOTION:

ACTION REQUESTED: Authorize staff to work with Congressman Goss's office to request an extension of Section 214 in the new federal Water Resources Development Act (which allows non-federal agencies to contribute funds to pay the cost of increasing the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regulatory staff), and authorize the County expenditure of funds for this option if extended.

WHY ACTION IS NECESSARY: Board approval necessary for pursuing a Congressional member request and for expenditures of funds over \$50,000.

WHAT ACTION ACCOMPLISHES: Allows staff to pursue a member request through Congressman Goss's office to the House Subcommittee on Water Resources, for an option that could be beneficial for the numerous County and state road projects moving through the permitting process.

2. DEPARTMENTAL CATEGORY:
COMMISSION DISTRICT # All

A9A

3. MEETING DATE:

01-28-2003

4. AGENDA:

CONSENT
 ADMINISTRATIVE
 APPEALS
 PUBLIC
 WALK ON
TIME REQUIRED:

5. REQUIREMENT/PURPOSE:
(Specify)

STATUTE
 ORDINANCE
 ADMIN.
 CODE
 OTHER

 5 Min.

6. REQUESTOR OF INFORMATION:

A. COMMISSIONER _____
 B. DEPARTMENT Transportation
 C. DIVISION Administration

BY: Scott M. Gilbertson, Director

7. BACKGROUND:

This item was last before the Board on October 8, 2002 and was denied; however, at the January 6th Management and Planning Meeting, staff was directed to bring it back for reconsideration.

The House Subcommittee on Water Resources will be moving forward with the new Water Resources Development Act (the bill that will authorize Corps projects for the next two years) soon. It may include a continuation of Section 214, the section that allows non-federal agencies an option of contributing funds to pay the costs of increasing the Corps' regulatory staff. The continuation is strongly supported by representatives of the Washington state area, who have successfully utilized the program, but the request could use some additional support to ensure success.

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

8. MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

9. RECOMMENDED APPROVAL:

A Department Director	B Purchasing or Contracts	C Human Resources	D Other	E County Attorney	F Budget Services				G County Manager
<i>1/10/03</i> <i>[Signature]</i>	NA	NA		<i>[Signature]</i>	OA RK 1/14	QM 1/14/03	Risk 1/14/03	GC 1-14-03	<i>[Signature]</i> 1-10-03

10. COMMISSION ACTION:

_____ APPROVED
 _____ DENIED
 _____ DEFERRED
 _____ OTHER

Rec. by CoAtty
 Date: *1/13/03*
 Time: *1:20*

Forwarded To:
Budget
1/14/03 8:43 AM

RECEIVED BY
COUNTY ADMIN. RK
1-14-03
10.13
COUNTY ADMIN.
FORWARDED TO:
1/14/03

BLUE SHEET NO. 20030024 (Continued):

7. BACKGROUND: (CONTINUED)

The option could be very beneficial for road projects in Lee County, and we have several in the design process that will require Corps permits. The lack of Corps staff has been cited as a reason for some of the permitting delays we have recently experienced; for example, after more than two years of review and coordination with the other commenting agencies, the Corps reached conceptual agreement with staff on the permit conditions for Alico Road, but it still took an additional 5½ months to actually receive an executed permit due to staff shortages. Staff would like authorization to work through Congressman Goss's office to pursue the continuation of Section 214, and support from other groups such as SWFTI or the National Association of Counties should that be necessary. If the extension is approved by Congress, we also seek authorization to expend funds toward this mitigation option. We don't have specific cost estimates at this time or funds targeted in the CIP, but we feel we can fund this effort without impacting the CIP. We will work with the Florida Department of Transportation on possible cost-sharing efforts as we pursue this option.