

**Lee County Board Of County Commissioners
Agenda Item Summary**

Blue Sheet No. 20041587

1. REQUESTED MOTION:

ACTION REQUESTED: Approve waiving of the formal process for BW-05-05 for Consulting Representation Services, for Lee County Visitor & Convention Bureau, to LLW Consultants, in the amount of \$63,000.00 for 1 full year of service. Further authorize Chairman to execute the Service Provider Agreement upon receipt.

WHY ACTION IS NECESSARY: Board approval is required.

WHAT ACTION ACCOMPLISHES: Provides for a continuation of lobbying services with an experienced consultant with the South Florida Water Management District and taking an active role in water resource management.

2. DEPARTMENTAL CATEGORY:

1. County Administration
COMMISSION DISTRICT #:

AIB

3. MEETING DATE:

12-14-2004

4. AGENDA:

- CONSENT
- ADMINISTRATIVE
- APPEALS
- PUBLIC
- WALK ON
- TIME REQUIRED:

5. REQUIREMENT/PURPOSE:

- (Specify)
- STATUTE
- ORDINANCE
- ADMIN. CODE AC-4-4
- OTHER

6. REQUESTOR OF INFORMATION:

- A. COMMISSIONER *[Signature]*
- B. DEPARTMENT Visitor & Convention
- C. DIVISION
- BY: D.T. Minich, Director

7. BACKGROUND:

When the Tourist Development Council decided to take a more active role in water resource management (as it relates to Lake Okeechobee), the County wanted a consultant that had a solid background in working with the agency that has oversight of the Lake Okeechobee - South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD).

VCB has been utilizing the services of LLW Consultants for the past 6 months. to help develop an approach that would give us the best opportunity to make an impact. In order to continue this effort it will be in the best interest of Lee County to make a full year commitment to using the unique services of LLW Consultants as we seek a stronger voice with SFWMD with regard to the management of Lake Okeechobee. We do not want to lose the valuable ground gained in the last few months, and request that a bid waiver be granted in order to proceed.

Funds are available in Account # ~~HB552017400.503490~~

Attachment 1. Justification Memo # ~~HB552017400.503490~~ *JRD*

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
					OM	Risk	GC	
<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>			<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>
					11/23/04	11/23/04	11/23/04	

10. COMMISSION ACTION:

- APPROVED
- DENIED
- DEFERRED
- OTHER

Rec. by CoAtty
Date: 11/23/04
Time: 3:05
Forwarded To: Admin 11/23/04

RECEIVED BY COUNTY ADMIN: <i>[Signature]</i>
11-23-04
3:25
COUNTY ADMIN FORWARDED TO: <i>[Signature]</i>
11-23-04
SDM

MEMORANDUM

TO: Cindy Logan

FROM: D.T. Minich, CDME

DATE: October 22, 2004

RE: Request for Bid Waiver – LLW Consultants, LLC

The Lee County Tourist Development Council decided to take a much more active role in water resource management as it relates to identifying and protecting the water resources upon which Lee County, its residents, and our economy rely upon. These water resources include our beaches, the Caloosahatchee River at its estuaries, and the proper management of Lake Okeechobee.

Although the VCB has always recognized the relationship between a strong tourism based economy and the protection of our natural resources, the decision to take a more active role in water resource management decisions came as the direct result of the massive amounts of red drift algae that washed up along our shorelines during the later part of 2003 and early 2004. With Lee County tourism directly contributing over \$1 billion to the local economy each year, the stakes are very high.

After a number of meetings with municipal and County representatives, a plan of attack was devised. It was recognition that the expertise to best define and represent our interests did not exist within the available staff resources. The need for a consultant to represent our area before the South Florida Water Management District and other state and federal natural resources agencies was deemed a necessity. As we sought a firm to help raise our voice, LLW Consultants was suggested over and over again.

The lead consultant for LLW, John Fumero, previously served as General Council for the South Florida Water Management District, as well as Director of the District's Office of Legislative and Governmental Affairs (OLGA). Mr. Fumero's insight to the organization is immense. We felt confident that this was the perfect choice to help guide us through the bureaucracy of the SFWMD as well as other natural resources agencies.

Since we began utilizing their services this summer, LLW has been attending a number of meetings on our behalf. These meetings include:

- South Florida Water Management District Governing Board meetings
- South Florida Water Management District Water Resource Advisory Commission meetings
- South Florida Water Management District Regional Water Supply Plan Committee meetings – both the Lower East Coast and Lower West Cost meetings

In addition LLW has:

- Worked closely with Lee County's staff to identified and prioritize issues
- Begun developing a strategic plan to address these issues and best represent Lee County's interest
- Established a reporting system by which key County staff is provided monthly reports on meetings and events of interest to the County

We feel it is in the best interest of Lee County to make a full year commitment to using the unique services of LLW Consultants as we continue to seek a stronger voice with the SFWMD and the other agencies that impact our water resources. We believe the South Florida Water Management District has taken notice of our recent efforts. We do not want to lose the valuable ground we have gained in the last few months, and ask that a bid waiver be granted in order to proceed with this effort.

The estimated cost of this contract for a full year will be \$63,000.

Patricia Geren - Bluesheet #20041587

From: Patricia Geren
To: Logan, Cindy; Minich, DT; Piret, Rosame
Date: 11/24/04 8:29 AM
Subject: Bluesheet #20041587

This bluesheet was received after the 10-23-04, 10:00 AM deadline. The agenda is complete. If this must be heard on 12-07-04, it will need to be a Walk On. Please advise.

Thank you,

Kathy

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