

**AGENDA ITEM REPORT**

DATE: September 21, 2021
DEPARTMENT: Natural Resources
REQUESTER: Roland Ottolini
TITLE: Award Contract for Water Resources & Environmental Policy Support Consulting Services

I. MOTION REQUESTED

A) Award Competitive Negotiation Request for Proposal No. CN210298TRD, Consulting Services for Water Resources and Environmental Policy Support to DeLisi, Inc. to provide consulting services for water resources and environmental policy support to the Lee County Natural Resources department related to administrative, environmental, land use and water law matters, on an as needed basis, for an initial term of three (3) years as approved in the departments' annual adopted budget. Individual projects in excess of \$100,000.00 will be presented to the Board for approval.

B) Authorize the Chair to execute the contract documents on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners.

C) Grant the County Manager or designee the authority to renew the contract, for up to three (3) additional one-year (1) periods, and to execute all associated documents, as approved in the departments' annual adopted budgets, if doing so is in the best interest of Lee County, and there are no cost increases associated with the renewal(s).

II. ITEM SUMMARY

Awards a contract for Water Resources and Environmental Policy Support, with the top ranked firm, DeLisi, Inc. to provide consulting services for water resources and environmental policy support. Due to the need for extensive technical support for review and analysis of the Lake Okeechobee System Operating Manual, (LOSOM) the budget for this contract has increased. It is critical to the County to have this professional expertise for the LOSOM analysis as this final plan selected will influence water quality for the Caloosahatchee for the next decade. Total expenditures for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 are approximately \$140,363. This item was planned for and budgeted in the current fiscal year.

III. BACKGROUND AND IMPLICATIONS OF ACTIONA) Board Action and Other History

The Department of Procurement Management solicited submittals for consulting services for water resources and environmental policy support to Lee County staff related to administrative, environmental, land use, and water law matters for the project known as CN210298TRD Consulting Services for Water Resources and Environmental Policy Support. A total of three submittals were considered at the first Competitive Negotiations Committee meeting held on July 09, 2021. During their evaluation, the Committee considered the firms' qualifications, relevant experience and reference, plan of approach, and personnel. At the second Competitive Negotiations Committee meeting held on July 30, 2021, after interviews were conducted, it is the consensus of the committee to recommend to the Board the ranking as follows: 1) DeLisi, Inc.; 2) Applied Technology & Management, Inc.; 3) Environmental Risk Management, Inc. Total expenditures for these services for Fiscal Year 2020 were \$99,157.67.

Staff successfully negotiated a Professional Services Agreement with DeLisi, Inc., to provide the required professional consulting services.

B) Policy Issues

With continuing competition for limited funding resources from other local, state and federal stakeholders, continued use of a specialized team of resource professionals will ensure that the County will continue to be a major force in creating legislative policy that is in the best interest of Lee County. Additionally, continued interaction with implementing regulatory agencies will help to make the BoCC objectives clear. Working with these agencies has proven to be a successful way to elevate County objectives, and will continue under this contract.

C) BoCC Goals

Water Quality

D) Analysis

Protection and restoration of the natural resources of Lee County has been a consistent goal and objective of the Lee County Board of County Commissioners. To this end, the Natural Resources Division has worked over the years with consultants specializing in natural resources policymaking and policy implementation. The use of these consultants has helped the County BoCC to achieve its goals and to compete with many other entities with resource needs to fund and construct programs and projects to carry out the their objectives of the County.

The need for continued emphasis on protection of Lee County natural resources has not subsided. As growth continues, it is critical to take all actions necessary to protect the resource. Lee County is faced with challenges in water quality improvements, water supply demands and flood control. The BoCC has made these issues a priority with its policy making and funding. The use of specific subject-expert consultants has helped to further the initiatives of the BoCC. This contract will continue to utilize this expertise to further the objectives of the BoCC.

As water quality is a top priority of the Lee County Commission, paramount to that effort is ensuring the health of the Caloosahatchee River and Estuary (CRE). To effectively advocate for the CRE the scope of this contract will in large part be devoted to safeguarding the CRE through use of technical experts as the federal LOSOM process is undertaken. To complete this function the County has established a team of highly specialized professional experts to guide the County through the LOSOM process. This team is currently working for the County on these issues and continuity in representing the interests of the County is critical and has necessitated the increase in budget.

Since this is a multi year contract, funding will be requested in future year budgets as needed.

E) Options

IV. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

A)	Current year dollar amount of item:	\$150,000
B)	Is this item approved in the current budget?	Yes
C)	Is this a revenue or expense item?	Expense
D)	Is this Discretionary or Mandatory?	Discretionary
E)	Will this item impact future budgets? If yes, please include reasons in III(D) above.	Yes
F)	Fund: General Fund & CIP General Fund Program: Natural Resources – Ground Water Management & Caloosahatchee TMDL Compliance Project: Caloosahatchee TMDL Account Strings: OC5370700100 20858830100	
G)	Fund Type?	General Fund, Other: General Fund - CIP
H)	Comments:	

V. RECOMMENDATION

Approve

VI. TIMING/IMPLEMENTATION

If approved, services under this agreement are tentatively scheduled to begin in October of this year.

VII. FOLLOW UP

ATTACHMENTS:

Description	Upload Date	Type
DeLisi, Inc Executed Contract	8/31/2021	Contract

REVIEWERS:

Department	Reviewer	Action	Date
Natural Resources	Tucker, Mary	Approved	9/10/2021 - 10:21 AM
Natural Resources	Ottolini, Roland	Approved	9/10/2021 - 10:50 AM
Budget Services	Guttery, Angela	Approved	9/12/2021 - 7:44 PM
Budget Services	Winton, Peter	Approved	9/13/2021 - 8:46 AM
County Attorney	Adams, Joseph	Approved	9/13/2021 - 11:00 AM
County Manager	Harner, David	Approved	9/13/2021 - 1:48 PM