

BOARD MANAGEMENT AND PLANNING AGENDA
MONDAY – DECEMBER 1, 2008
1:00 – 4:00 P.M. COMMISSION CHAMBER

- 1. DISCUSSION ON STATE LOBBYISTS**
PRESENTER: Holly Schwartz, County Administration
TIME REQUIRED: 30 Minutes

- 2. PRESENTATION OF STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LEHIGH ACRES BY CONSULTANT**
PRESENTER: Jim Mudd, Planning
Wallace, Roberts & Todd, Consultant
TIME REQUIRED: 50 Minutes

- 3. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE**
PRESENTER: Jim Moore, Economic Development
TIME REQUIRED: 20 Minutes

- 4. 2009 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**
PRESENTER: Holly Schwartz, County Administration
TIME REQUIRED: 15 Minutes

BOARD COMMENTS/DISCUSSION

ADJOURN

**MANAGEMENT & PLANNING COMMITTEE
AGENDA REQUEST FORM
COMMISSION DISTRICT #**

PRESENTED BY: Holly Schwartz, **REQUESTED BY:** BoCC
 Asst. Co. Manager
Name/Department

TITLE OF ITEM FOR AGENDA: Discussion on State Lobbyists

1. DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVE OF THE ISSUE

The Board requested a general discussion on the lobbyists we employ at the State level. To aid the discussion, attached you will find a chart enumerating each lobbyist's scope and term and contract amount.

2. PROPOSED POLICY, PROCEDURE OR PLAN OF ACTION

3. OPTIONS (List Advantages/Disadvantages of Each Option Listed)

4. FINANCIAL IMPACTS/FUNDING SOURCE

5. STAFF RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION FOR RECOMMENDATION

6. MANDATED? Y N BY WHAT AUTHORITY?

DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR SIGNATURE	COUNTY MANAGER SIGNATURE	MEETING DATE	TIME REQUIRED
		12/01/08	30 min.

EXHIBIT A

Date: May 30, 2006

SCOPE OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICESFor RFQ-05-15 Legislative and Agency Lobbying & Other Services for Lee County;BASIC SERVICESSection 1. GENERAL SCOPE STATEMENT

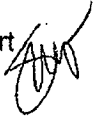
The Consultant shall provide and perform the following professional services, which shall constitute the GENERAL SCOPE of the BASIC SERVICES under the covenants, terms, and provisions of this PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT or SERVICE PROVIDER AGREEMENT:

- Provide a weekly written communication to the 5 County Commissioners, County Administration and the County Attorney, beginning with the two (2) months prior to the start of the legislative session, listing and briefly describing pre-filled Bills that may affect County Governments.
- Provide a minimum of one, written report weekly, during the legislative session, analyzing session activity.
- One legislative session wrap-up report, summarizing legislative activity in relation to the Client Policy Statement and the effect that approved legislation will have on Client members.
- Provide a list of any significant legislatively approved unfunded mandates that may affect Lee County and compare to any net increases granted by the legislature at the end of the session. Present written findings to the County once bills have been passed.
- Attend as many local meetings with the Legislative Delegation as may be necessary during formulation of the legislative policy statement and at other times during the year as required by any County Commissioner at no additional charge to the County. Represent the County at all regular and special sessions of the Florida Legislature as well as attend legislative committee meetings throughout the year, at no additional charge to the County. It is the expectation of the County that the Consultant, in addition to representing the County as a whole through the Legislative Policy Statement, may also perform duties for individual Commissioners. These duties include, but are not limited to:
 - Working on local issues which are before State agencies;
 - Seeking grant funds and revenues for specific projects and general purpose;
 - Providing daily contact with County Representatives during sessions on matters of particular interest to the County;
 - Advising when County Representatives may be required in person in Tallahassee to address issues of particular interest to the County;
 - Coordinate closely with the County Manager (and designees) and County Attorney (and designees) on matters of particular County interest during and following session.

the beaches of
FORT MYERS  **SANIBEL**

MEMORANDUM

TO: Cindy Logan

FROM: Suya Davenport 

DATE: September 8, 2008

RE: Request for Bid Waiver – LLW Consultants, LLC

In 2004 the Lee County Tourist Development Council decided to take an 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 and its estuaries, along with and the proper management of Lake Okeechobee.

This decision was an acknowledgment of the critical relationship between a strong tourism based economy and the protection of our natural resources. With Lee County tourism contributing nearly \$3 billion to the local economy each year, it is imperative that we make every effort to communicate with the agencies managing Lake Okeechobee – the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The lead consultant for LLW, John Fumero, previously served as General Counsel for the SFWMD, as well as Director of the SFWMD's Office of Legislative and Governmental Affairs (OLGA). Mr. Fumero's insight to the organization has been of immense benefit in guiding us through the bureaucracy of the SFWMD, Army Corps and other natural resources agencies.

Since we began utilizing their services, LLW has been a strong advocate on our behalf. Attached is a list of the accomplishments since this water resources initiative began.

We feel it is in the best interest of Lee County to continue to use the unique services of LLW Consultants. The relationships developed during the last four years have been a critical part of our success to this point. We do not want to lose the valuable ground we have gained, and ask that a bid waiver be granted in order to proceed with this effort.

The cost of this contract will not exceed \$200,000 annually.

Attachement: Water Resource Initiative Accomplishments

Lee County Tourism Development Council: Water Resource Initiative Accomplishments Report

Over three years ago the Lee County Tourism Development Council (TDC) launched its Water Resource Initiative (WRI). At the time, Lee County's beaches, as well as the Caloosahatchee River and Estuary, were in dire condition. From alga blooms to red tide, the environmental condition of the County's precious natural resources were under attack. One of the overarching goals of the WRI has been to focus both governmental agency, and public awareness, of these conditions, and focus the attention and funding of various federal, state and regional agencies on improving and protecting the County's natural resources.

Set forth below is a brief summary of the various activities and accomplishments of the WRI. While a great deal has been accomplished, continued efforts are critical. We are at a crossroads.

2004-2008 Activities & Accomplishments

- We are now working to obtain Congressional Authorization for the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan ("CERP") Caloosahatchee West Basin Storage Reservoir Project (C-43). We have scheduled a County Delegation trip to Washington D.C. on from September 16th through the 18th, 2008.
- To develop and include a water quality treatment component for the C-43 Project, we successfully lobbied both the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to begin development of a Phase II/water quality component for the C-43 Project. Obtaining the agreement of both the Corps and the SFWMD to address a water quality component for the C-43 Project remains a momentous accomplishment.
- Lobby for, and pursue, continued C-43 Project development and Corps approval of the Chief of Engineers Report at the Washington D.C./Corps Headquarters level.
- Completion of Southwest Florida Feasibility Study remains a priority. We have overcome agency funding shortfalls and continue to press forward on expedited completion.
- Lobby for, and track acquisition of, strategic lands involved in the U.S. Sugar / SFWMD land acquisition. Should the U.S. Sugar land deal move forward, there are certain lands within U.S. Sugar's land portfolio that have strategic significance to Caloosahatchee River Watershed Protection Plans.
- Earlier this year, we successfully negotiated a historic agreement with the SFWMD to acquire 2,000 acres of land in Glades County in order to construct a water quality treatment area (WQTA). This is commonly referred to as the BOMA property. The WQTA is an approximately \$200 million project to which Lee County contributed \$10 million to the land acquisition component.

- Perhaps the most significant WRI accomplishment is the passage Northern Everglades Estuary Protection Act. We drafted, and worked with numerous interest groups and industries, on several key components of the Northern Everglades Estuary Protection Act (NEEPA) legislation, including the Caloosahatchee Watershed Protection Plan (CWPP). NEEPA provides several programs for the Caloosahatchee River and Estuary Protection Plans, monitoring and research programs for coastal estuaries, projects to increase water storage opportunities on lands to alleviate harmful discharges, and annual reporting to the Florida Legislature on the progress of the legislation.
- NEEPA allows the County to triple its investment in funding CWPP projects by requiring the State of Florida and the SFWMD to match County funding within certain monetary constraints.
- As a part of the NEEPA, track and pursue development of the Caloosahatchee River Watershed Protection Plan by January 2009 and further funding and construction.
- Seek increased state and federal funding for Everglades, Lake Okeechobee and Caloosahatchee Basin restoration projects required.
- Continued efforts to expedite development of, and selection of an alternative for, the Caloosahatchee Watershed Protection Plan required pursuant to NEEPA.
- As part of NEEPA funding to Lee County, the County and SFWMD entered into a Memorandum of Agreement for the purchase of the 1,770 acre BOMA property in Glades County. The land purchase will be used for a water quality treatment and testing facility.
- Organized the first, formal "Consultation Meeting" with the Corps and the SFWMD on the status of the C-43 Project. The County was the first local government to request "Consultation meeting" using the Federal Regulations that guide the implementation of CERP.
- Continued advocacy with state and federal agencies implementing CERP projects focusing on finalizing Project Implementation Report for C-43, Chief's Report for C-43, Congressional authorization for the C-43 project and expediting completion of the Southwest Florida Feasibility Study project. The County provides comment on the Draft and Final Project Implementation Report/Environmental Impact Statement in 2007.
- Continued meetings with, and reporting to, decision-makers and leadership at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Department of Environmental Protection, the South Florida Water Management District and other state and federal elected officials to gain letters of continued support for, and resolve obstacles to finalizing, the C-43 and Southwest Florida Feasibility Study Projects.
- Prepared briefing packages and status reports for Florida Congressional delegation and the Florida legislature on need for funding of Caloosahatchee Basin, Lake Okeechobee and Everglades Restoration projects.
- Continued regular briefings with South Florida Water Management District Governing Board members.
- A tentatively selected plan (reservoir feature) for the C-43 Project of CERP was chosen by the Corps and the SFWMD. The tentatively selected plan cost is \$418.5 million and it provides 170,000 acre-feet of water storage.

- Received commitment from the Corps and SFWMD to address water quality and water storage features for the C-43 Project in a Phase II of the Project Implementation Report ("PIR") for the project.
- Received commitments from Corps staff that the Southwest Florida Feasibility Study schedule will be expedited and the Draft Study will be released for public comment in March of 2009.
- A new lower Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule was implemented to avoid high volume discharges to the Caloosahatchee Estuary.
- Passed resolutions of support for U. S. Sugar land acquisition and continued support for C-43 Project.
- Supported development and sponsorship of Annual Conference of the Everglades Coalition, an organization of 42 separate environmental non-profit organizations. The Annual Conference in Captiva this year feature Commissioners Judah and Hall.
- Over \$2,300,000 in state funding secured for Lee County water projects. Almost \$200,000,000 in appropriations secured for implementation of NEEPA and Lake Okeechobee projects over past two years, including, \$50 million of funding for Everglades, Lake Okeechobee and Northern Everglades Estuary Protection Plan in difficult 2008 state budget year where environmental funding was initially zeroed out.
- Negotiated with the DEP and the SFWMD on a Memorandum of Understanding regarding specific permit conditions applying to the Caloosahatchee River and Estuary for the Lake Okeechobee Operating Permit.
- Lee County, the SFWMD, the DEP, and the City of Sanibel then entered into a Memorandum of Agreement to resolve concerns regarding the issuance of the Lake Okeechobee Operating Permit. The parties agree to (1) develop a Caloosahatchee Estuary Research and Water Quality/Habitat Monitoring Program, (2) monitor surface water quality in the Caloosahatchee River and Estuary, receiving discharges from the S-77, S-78 and S-79 structures, (3) develop best management practices, and (4) assess water storage opportunities in the Lake Okeechobee and Caloosahatchee watersheds.
- In 2008, Lee County representatives also participated in numerous panels and speaking opportunities at the Annual Everglades Coalition conference, the Visitor and Convention Bureau sponsored the event and Commissioner Judah made opening remarks.

STATE LOBBYIST TEAM

	SCOPE OF SERVICE	CONTRACT PAYMENT	CONTRACT TERM
J. Keith Arnold and Assoc. (supports broad legislative priority list)	Attachment A	FY ' 06 \$90,000 FY ' 07 \$72,000 FY ' 08 \$75,000	' 06 - Sept ' 08 contract rebid spring ' 09
Sarah Bleakley , NABORS, Giblin, Nickerson, P.A. (Growth Management, Finance & Tax)	Only retained on an as needed/per issue basis	FY ' 07-' 08 \$30,000 *	Administratively approved annually through the County Attorney's Office
John Fumero , Lewis, Longman & Walker, P.A. (Water Quality Corps/SFWMD/Everglades Issues)	Attachment B	FY ' 06 \$157,039 FY ' 07 \$180,164 FY ' 08 \$125,606 ** (paid for with Tourist Development funds)	04 - December ' 08 BoCC to vote on contract renewal January ' 09
* NABORS Giblin is retained by the county for legal work relating to school impact fees, solid waste issues, bond counsel for MSTBU services and other misc. legal services		** Lewis, Longman & Walker is retained by the county for legal services related the North Lee County R.O. Wellfield Challenge, an Agripartners case, the Corkscrew Wellfield case and other misc environmental issues	

**MANAGEMENT & PLANNING COMMITTEE
AGENDA REQUEST FORM
COMMISSION DISTRICT # CW**

INITIATED BY: Jim Mudd

REQUESTED BY: DCD/Planning

TITLE OF ITEM FOR THE AGENDA Presentation of study recommendations for Lehigh Acres by consultant.

1. DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVE OF THE ISSUE

Wallace, Roberts & Todd (WRT), the consultant hired to perform the Lehigh Acres Comprehensive Planning Study will present the findings and recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners.

2. PROPOSED POLICY, PROCEDURE OR PLAN OF ACTION

The Lehigh Acres Comprehensive Planning began in September, 2006 when the County hired the consulting firm of Wallace, Roberts and Todd. After numerous community meetings and meetings with the planning panel, the study is nearly complete. The study recommends amendments to both the Lee Plan and the Land Development Code. A place holder has been included in the current round of Lee Plan amendments to begin implementing the planning study recommendations.

3. OPTIONS (List Advantages/Disadvantages of Each Option Listed)

N/A

4. FINANCIAL IMPACTS/FUNDING SOURCE

Financial implications vary widely depending on the recommendations that the Board decides to implement and any potential funding is severely limited due to the economic downturn.

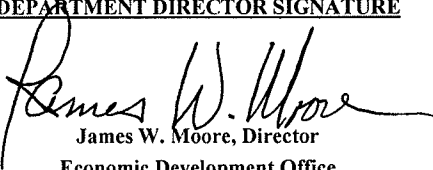

5. STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS, AND JUSTIFICATION FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

Implement short term recommendations as appropriate and evaluate longer term recommendations for funding ramifications.

6. MANDATED? Y **N** BY WHAT AUTHORITY?

DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR SIGNATURE	COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR SIGNATURE	MEETING DATE	TIME REQUIRED
<i>Mary Gibbs</i>	<i>COA 11-21-08</i>	12/01/08	50 mins.

**MANAGEMENT & PLANNING COMMITTEE
AGENDA REQUEST FORM
COMMISSION DISTRICT # COUNTYWIDE**

PRESENTED BY: Jim Moore, Economic Development	REQUESTED BY:		
TITLE OF ITEM FOR THE AGENDA: Economic Development Update			
1. <u>DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVE OF THE ISSUE</u> At the Budget workshop on 9/22/08 and the BOCC Meeting on 10/21, it was requested that the Economic Development Office provide further information on initiatives by their department to promote economic diversification. The Economic Development Office will provide an overview of the focus of their office and their vision for promoting the retention, expansion and recruitment of high-wage, high skill industry to Lee County.			
2. <u>PROPOSE POLICY, PROCEDURE OR PLAN OF ACTION</u> N/A			
3. <u>OPTIONS (List advantages/Disadvantages of Each Option Listed)</u> Information Item			
4. <u>FINANCIAL IMPACTS/FUNDING SOURCE</u> N/A			
5. <u>STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS, AND JUSTIFICATION FOR RECOMMENDATIONS</u> N/A			
6. Mandated: No	BY WHAT AUTHORITY?		
<u>DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR SIGNATURE</u>  James W. Moore, Director Economic Development Office	<u>COUNTY MANAGER SIGNATURE</u>  Donald Stilwell County Manager	<u>MEETING DATE</u> December 1, 2008	<u>TIME REQUIRED</u> 20 minutes

**MANAGEMENT & PLANNING COMMITTEE
AGENDA REQUEST FORM
COMMISSION DISTRICT #**

PRESENTED BY: Holly Schwartz, **REQUESTED BY:** _____
 Asst. Co. Manager

 Name/Department

TITLE OF ITEM FOR AGENDA: 2009 Legislative Priorities

1. DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVE OF THE ISSUE

Establish legislative priorities and give direction to County lobbyists.

2. PROPOSED POLICY, PROCEDURE OR PLAN OF ACTION

Attached is a list of proposed legislative issues that will affect Lee County as identified by staff and by Commissioner request. Lee County's Legislative liaison will present some of the Lee County specific issues to the local Delegation at the Jan. 15th Delegation meeting. Attached also is a memo from the Senate President and House Speaker stating that due to declining State revenues, they will not accept any special member budget requests this year.

3. OPTIONS (List Advantages/Disadvantages of Each Option Listed)

4. FINANCIAL IMPACTS/FUNDING SOURCE

5. STAFF RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION FOR RECOMMENDATION

6. MANDATED? Y N BY WHAT AUTHORITY?

DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR SIGNATURE	COUNTY MANAGER SIGNATURE	MEETING DATE	TIME REQUIRED
	<i>Holly Schwartz</i>	12/01/08	15min.

District Office
12811 Kenwood Lane, Suite 212
Fort Myers, FL 33907
(239) 433-6775
www.myfloridahouse.gov

Capitol Office
402 South Monroe Street, Suite 1401
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 488-2047
Trudi.williams@myfloridahouse.gov

FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Trudi K. Williams
Representative, District 75

October 24, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Agencies of Local Government, Interested Parties and SW Florida Media
FROM: Representative Trudi Williams, Chair, Lee County Legislative Delegation
SUBJECT: Lee County Legislative Delegation Meeting and Public Hearing
cc: Lee County Legislative Delegation

The Lee County Legislative Delegation Meeting and Public Hearing has been set for Thursday, January 15, 2009, 10:00AM – 6:00PM, (Taeni Hall) Room S-117 at Edison State College.

The Delegation will conduct local business including a public hearing on local bills, community budget issue requests and other issues for which people have registered to speak.

The deadline for submitting local bills and community budget issue requests (CBIRS) with the Delegation is 5:00pm on Monday, January 5, 2009. All local bills and community budget issue requests must be accompanied by completed paperwork required by the Florida Legislature, including original signatures of the legislative sponsors, and should be forwarded to Representative Trudi Williams at 12811 Kenwood Lane, Suite 212, Fort Myers, FL 33907.

The deadline to register to make a general presentation (not related to local bills) to the Delegation is also 5:00pm on January 5, 2009. All requests for time on the agenda must be submitted in writing to the address listed above. The agenda for the meeting will be set by Tuesday, January 6, 2009 and will be changed only to accommodate unforeseen emergencies.

For more information or to request required forms, please contact Sheri Davie, Legislative Aide to Representative Trudi Williams, at 239/433-6775.

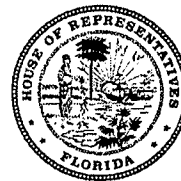
All meetings of the Lee County Legislative Delegation are open to the public

COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES
Agriculture and Environment Appropriations
Economic Development, Trade & Banking
Joint Intergovernmental Relations
Water & Natural Resources
Commerce Council
Transportation

THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE



Jeff Atwater
President of the Senate



Ray Sansom
*Speaker of the House
of Representatives*

TO: All Legislators

FROM: Senate President Jeff Atwater and
House Speaker Ray Sansom

SUBJECT: Community Budget Issue Request System (CBIRS)

DATE: November 18, 2008

In light of the fiscal challenges our state is facing and our need to focus efforts on solutions to balance the state's budget, we will not be opening the Community Budget Issue Request System (CBIRS) this year. We also hope to avoid creating unrealistic funding expectations in our communities given the further declining state revenues.

We look forward to working together with you during this biennium in seizing the opportunities and tackling the great challenges that lie ahead.

JA/RS/Ksm

-Proposed-
Lee County 2009 Legislative Priorities

1. Strongly **support Home Rule** and oppose any legislation that preempts local control of important issues particularly those that establish mining or fertilizer rules.
2. **Oppose** any **raid of state trust funds** to operate reoccurring state expenses.
3. Support a special act that would exclude certain lands known as Hickey Creek Mitigation Park from the East County Water Control District (ECWCD).
4. **Human Services** – **Support** the Florida Assoc. of Counties priorities for **Medicaid Nursing Home Services** by (1) support legislation that **provides flexibility at the local level** for counties to actively participate in the state's efforts to reduce unnecessary nursing home placement by allowing counties to re-direct their Medicaid match to fund local health care services/community based care programs that will divert nursing home placement. (2) Support legislation that will **increase the state's cigarette tax** per pack to bring Florida closer to the national average. Support earmarking the resulting revenue for health care services. (3) **Support** maintaining state general **revenue funding for county health departments** and oppose any state reductions to the county health dept. trust funds.
5. **Support** legislation that favors easier **reassembly of antiquated plats** such as in parts of Lehigh Acres and Cape Coral. At the 11/08 Management and Planning meeting, the BoCC supported the development of a common approach among these communities to present a joint legislative approach that would consider the need for flexibility in determining concurrency, land use balance, approached for development and innovations in financing.
6. **Animal Services** – **Support** legislation that **requires a security bond** be posted by owners whose animals have been confiscated for cruelty to reimburse the animal control agency for expenses incurred to provide housing until trial. In one recent case, Lee County incurred a \$70,000 expense in six weeks to care for over 80 animals. There are 16 other states have this security bond requirement in their state statutes.
7. **Public Safety** – (1) **Support** changes to the Emergency Management Preparedness and Assistance Trust Fund that would provide **additional revenue for local emergency management programs**. The proposal would amend F.S. 252.372 to broaden the base of policies which the fee is imposed on to include all insurance policies. (2) **Support** amending Florida Statutes 119.07(i)(1-3) **adding "certified Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics" for the purpose of public records exemptions**.
8. **Transit** – (1) **Support** full **funding for the Transportation Disadvantaged** program. (2) **Support** the FL Public Transportation Association's legislative priority list of **indexing local option fuel taxes, sales taxes or taxes on rental cars**.
9. **Natural Resources** – **Support** the implementation of the **Caloosahatchee River Watershed Protection Plan**. (attachment A)
10. **Sports Authority** – **Support** securing state **grant funds for Lee Co. Spring Training Facilities**. (attachment B)

Additional consideration: Support Horizon Council **Economic Development** Priorities. (attachment C)

Provided by Lee County Natural Resources:

For the 2009 Legislative Session, the County's focus will be on support and implementation of the Caloosahatchee River Watershed Protection Plan. By statute, the Caloosahatchee River Watershed Protection Plan must be submitted to the legislature for their review by January 2009. This Plan is the culmination of multiple years of work by the County advocating for its development, funding and implementation. Support for the Plan by the legislature is key to its success.

Due to the current economic climate, funding and appropriations for specific County projects will be extremely limited and competitive this year. The primary vehicle for funding water projects, the Community Budget Issue Request process, will not be undertaken this year by the State and project requests under this program will not be solicited. Many of the County's priority projects have been funded under this program in previous years.

The County's approach this year is to harmonize its efforts in support, funding and implementation for the Caloosahatchee River Watershed Protection Plan with the projects it would typically seek funding for under the Community Budget Issue Request process. The County is currently developing a list of priority projects that will include those from the Natural Resources Section (focusing on implementation of the Caloosahatchee River Watershed Protection Plan), as well as projects from Lee County Water Utilities. Collectively, the County will seek funding for this slate of projects led by the legislative delegation. The County has also been coordinating its project priorities with the South Florida Water Management District, among other agencies and local governments. Priority projects include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Northeast Lee County Hydrological Restoration (Four Corners)
- Projects listed in the Surface Water Management Study for North Ft. Myers
- Fichter Creek Restoration
- Waterway Estates Wastewater Treatment Plant / City of Cape Coral Interconnect
- Lee County Integrated Alternative Resource Expansion of the Olga Water Treatment Plant
- Lee County Utilities Fiesta Village Advanced Wastewater Treatment Facility / Fort Myers Beach Reclaimed Water Aquifer Storage and Recovery



MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairman Ray Judah, Dist. 3

CC: Commissioner Bob Janes, Dist. 1
 Commissioner Brian Bigelow, Dist. 2
 Commissioner Tammy Hall, Dist. 4
 Commissioner Frank Mann, Dist. 5
 Don Stilwell, County Manager
 Bill Hammond, Deputy County Manager

FROM: Jeff Mielke, Sports Development Director

DATE: November 30, 2008

RE: **Update** - Lee County's Efforts in Receiving State Grant Monies for Retained Spring Training Teams (Boston Red Sox)

Now that Lee County has secured the Red Sox for the next 30 years, we should turn our attention to state funding opportunities. As you know, we applied for a state grant in 2006 to reimburse Lee County for up to \$6.8 million of facility renovations to City of Palms Park. We competed against five other communities for five grant slots, where each community could receive up to a maximum of \$15 million to help build or renovate a Spring Training facility. We were ranked sixth, thus eliminating Lee County from any grant monies. Following that decision, we tried to amend the statute to allow for a sixth community to receive grant monies since there was \$7.2 million left within the allocated \$75 million spending allocation. Again, we were unsuccessful.

The following are points to consider as we now look to the state for financial assistance in retaining the Boston Red Sox and possibly bringing a 3rd team to Lee County:

- Of the five communities that were certified by the Office of Tourism, Trade and Economic Development (OTTED) in 2006, only three were able to retain their teams. Sarasota will lose the Cincinnati Reds to Arizona in 2009, and Fort Lauderdale has been unable to secure property that was critical in retaining the Baltimore Orioles.
- We feel it is the responsibility of OTTED to de-certify either/both Sarasota and Fort Lauderdale and redirect those funds to Lee County.

- Earlier this week, OTTED attorneys determined that even if they de-certified either Sarasota or Fort Lauderdale, Lee County would still not be eligible for the 2006 grant monies due to the way the statute reads. There is language in Florida Statute 288.1162(5)(c)2.(2006) that says a community must be certified by Jan. 1, 2007 to receive grant monies. We were not, thus are ineligible for any assistance.
- In my opinion, we have two choices.
 - A. Try to get the language amended in the statute that would change the date of certification. At that point, we could possibly become eligible to receive the original \$6.8 million grant.
 - B. Go for the entire \$15 million grant. This would require creating a new Spring Training franchise subsidy law which could be quite challenging during these economic times.

HORIZON COUNCIL
Economic Development – 2009 Proposed Legislative
Priorities

1. **Support funding Florida's Economic Development TOOL KIT including:**
(a) Qualified Target Industry Tax Refund Program (QTI);
(b) Economic Development Transportation Fund (Road Fund), without offsets; (c) the Quick Response Training Program (QRT) and Incumbent Worker Training Program (IWT). *((These investments are critical after a community is "short listed" in the site selection process. Short list competitors are usually equal and incentives offered by the competing states often tip the scale toward a single location.)*

2. **Support reinstatement of funds for the Innovation Incentive.** *(This State grant helps in attracting and expanding companies that are high-wage, high-skill catalyst projects; could also serve as match to local projects qualified for the \$25 M incentive)*

3. **Support funding of the Quick Action Closing Fund.** *(This State fund assists communities in attracting or expanding high-wage, high-skill major projects and helps "Close the Deal"; could also serve as match to local \$25 M incentive)*