



## Agenda Item Summary

---

**File #: 23-00576**

**Agenda Date: 9/26/2023**

---

**Agenda Item Name:**

**Agreement 13944 with Alachua Conservation Trust for Land Conservation for Negotiator Services for Environmental Protection, Land Conservation & Management.**

**Presenter:**

Stephen Hofstetter, Director of Environmental Protection, 352-264-6811  
Theodore White Jr., Procurement Manager, 352-374-5202

**Description:**

Agreement 13944 with Alachua Conservation Trust for Land Conservation for Negotiator Services, not to exceed \$132,000.00 per year for the 1<sup>st</sup> year with a 2% increase annually thereafter, for Environmental Protection, Land Conservation & Management.

**Recommended Action:**

Approve and authorize Chair to Execute Agreement 13944 with Alachua Conservation Trust for Land Conservation for Negotiator Services, not to exceed \$132,000.00 for the 1<sup>st</sup> year with a 2% increase annually thereafter. Additionally, authorize the County Manager or designee to sign future amendments which do not increase the annual cost of the Agreement.

**Prior Board Motions:**

August 8, 2017, the Board of County Commissioners executed a Professional Services Agreement #10648 between Alachua County and Alachua Conservation Trust for Negotiator Services.

**Fiscal Note:**

There are sufficient funds in the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) budget. This is a three-year agreement with payment not to exceed \$132,000 per year with a 2% annual increase starting October 1, 2024.

Wild Spaces Public Places (WSPP) Fund: 021.41.4160.537.31.00, Project 6184160 – WSPP General Operating & Due Diligence. Funding from the 1-cent Infrastructure Surtax (Fund 140) may be used in the future for part of this Agreement.

**Strategic Guide:**

Environment

**Background:**

The mission of the Alachua County Forever (ACF) Program is to acquire, improve, and manage environmentally significant lands that protect water resources, wildlife habitats and natural areas

suitable for resource-based recreation. Since program inception in 2000, Alachua County has protected 33,037 acres of environmentally significant lands through fee simple lands purchases, purchase of conservation easements, and generous landowner donations. The ACF Program was established in 2000 after the Alachua County Forever Bond referendum was approved by the voters of Alachua County. In addition, the program has been supported by voters in three subsequent Wild Spaces and Public Places ballot referenda, in 2008, 2016, and most recently in 2022.

Since 2003, Alachua County has utilized the services of a contract land conservation negotiator to assist the County in the implementation, coordination, and promotion of the Alachua County Forever Land Conservation Program. From 2017 to 2023, Alachua Conservation Trust has successfully provided Negotiator Services in support of the ACF Program, enhancing the mission and success of ACF program operations and conservation land protection in Alachua County.

This purchase is exempt from the County's competitive bidding requirements pursuant to Section 22.3-302(21) of the Alachua County Procurement Code, Purchases of Supplies or Services from a non-profit organization or charitable youth organization made in accordance with §255.60, Florida Statutes; however, since the dollar amount of the purchase exceeds the purchasing authority of the Procurement Manager, this is being submitted for Board consideration and approval.