



## Agenda Item Summary

---

**File #: 24-00429**

**Agenda Date: 5/14/2024**

---

### **Agenda Item Name:**

**Land acquisition reimbursement grant contract LPS0106 between Alachua County and the State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection**

### **Presenter:**

Andi Christman, Program Manager, Environmental Protection Department, Land Conservation and Management Program, 352-264-6803

### **Description:**

Request the Board to approve a Grant Contract Agreement (LPS0106) with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). This grant will provide reimbursement matching funds for the potential purchase of the High Springs - Shires Conservation Easement, Alachua County Forever (ACF) Acquisition Project, if the property is acquired.

### **Recommended Action:**

1. Approve and authorize the Chair to sign the Grant Contract Agreement LPS0106 between Alachua County and the FDEP (Exhibit 1), and associated; and
2. Adopt the Resolution to recognize unanticipated revenue from the grant award (Exhibit 5) and approve the attached Budget Amendment for unanticipated revenue for the grant award and project budget (Exhibit 2); and
3. Authorize the County Manager to execute all related documents and amendments as needed to receive grant approval and administer the grant, except any contract to purchase a conservation easement shall require BOCC approval.

### **Prior Board Motions:**

On June 28, 2022, the BoCC added the High Springs – Shires property to the Active Acquisition List as a bargain share, conservation easement acquisition.

### **Fiscal Note:**

If the High Springs -Shires property is acquired, the county will receive grant funding from the State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection. A budget amendment is needed to account for use of unanticipated revenues in the amount of \$190,575. This is a reimbursement grant to cover a portion of expenses of the potential purchase of the property. Additional partner funding may be necessary to meet the 50% bargain share funding requirement (pending property appraisal).

If the property is acquired, both the acquisition expenses and the grant reimbursement revenue will be associated with the Wild Spaces Public Places fund as follows:

Project #6914101 – High Springs – CE2 – Conservation Easement - Shires  
Revenue: 140.41.4160.334.3900  
Expense: 140.41.4160.537.68.00

**Strategic Guide:**

Environment

**Background:**

The approximately 99-acre High Springs –Shires property (Exhibit 3 and Exhibit 4) is on the Alachua County Active Acquisition List as a candidate for Bargain Share acquisition, as a conservation easement. Pursuant to Alachua County Board of County Commissioners Resolution 22-066, which details the Alachua County Forever Land Acquisition process, addition of any property to the Active Acquisition List authorizes staff to expend county resources to pursue acquisition, but does not guarantee acquisition. Properties on the Bargain Share list also must have a 50% funding partner for the property to move forward further as well.

A Springs Protection Program reimbursement grant was awarded for the project by the Suwannee River Water Management District and FDEP for \$190,575, providing the initial funding partnership needed for staff to continue pursuing potential acquisition of the property. For the purposes of the grant, the project name for this property is “Hornsby Horse Pasture”. Execution of the grant contract agreement number LPS0106 by the Board of County Commissioners (Grantee) will precede execution by FDEP (Grantor).

The Grant Agreement would provide the County with up to \$190,575 towards reimbursement of the costs associated with acquiring a conservation easement over the property (including access rights through ingress/egress easements, leases, license agreements, or other site access agreements; and/or obtaining record title ownership of real property through purchase). In order to receive payment under the Grant Agreement, the County’s request for payment must be supported by the following: Copies of Property Appraisals, Environmental Site Assessments, Surveys and Legal Descriptions, Boundary Maps, Acreage Certification, Title Search Reports, Title Insurance, Closing Statements/Documents, Deeds, Leases, Easements, License Agreements, or other legal instrument documenting acquired property interest and/or rights. If land acquisition costs are used to meet match requirements, Grantee agrees that those funds shall not be used as match for any other Agreement supported by State or Federal funds. The Grant Agreement will expire on October 31, 2026, but is eligible for an extension of time provided that the State agrees to said extension of time.