



Agenda Item Summary

File #: 24-00738

Agenda Date: [Publish Date]

Agenda Item Name:

Newnans Lake Hydrologic Restoration Project Grant

Presenter:

Stacie Greco, Environmental Protection Department (EPD) Water Resources Program Manager, 352-264-6829

Description:

This agenda item is to approve a new grant agreement with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) for restoration work in the Newnans Lake Watershed

Recommended Action:

Approve and authorize the Chair to sign the agreement with FDEP and approve an inter-fund loan of \$1,100,000

Prior Board Motions:

- 8/24/2016 Board approves contract with FDEP for Phase 1 of the Newnans Lake Initiative.
- 4/5/2018 Board approves contract with FDEP for Phase 2 of the Newnans Lake Initiative and approves inter-fund loan from Stormwater Assessment to fund project.
- 2/28/2019 Board approves contract with Saint Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) for a second treatment weir on Little Hatchet Creek.
- 5/26/2019 Board approves inter-fund loan from Stormwater Assessment for the SJRWMD contract.
- 9/17/2019 Board requested a presentation regarding the Newnans Lake Initiative.
- 11/12/2019 Staff update to BOCC on Newnans Lake Initiative.

Fiscal Note:

\$1,100,000 in grant funding and \$400,000 matching funds from fund 146 have been identified in the FY25 budget. This is a reimbursement grant, so an inter-fund loan is required.

Project#3245502 Newnan's Lake Hydrologic Restoration

Revenues:

Water Conservation Fund: 260.55.5511.334.3000 State Grants- Physical Environment

Expenses:

Water Conservation Fund: 260.55.5511.537.31.00 Professional Services

Stormwater Management Fund: 146.55.5511.537.31.00 Professional Services

Strategic Guide:

Environment

Background:

Newnans Lake is impaired for nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus) and experiences algal blooms. Alachua County is required to reduce nutrient loading to the lake as outlined in the Orange Creek Basin Management Action Plan. This grant is for preconstruction activities for the Newnans Lake Hydrologic Restoration Project and is to be completed by 9/30/2026. The project will include stream restoration on Hatchet Creek (large tributary to the lake), including natural channel design, de-channelization, and reconnection of floodplain wetlands for enhanced water quality treatment. Geologic phosphatic contributions from erosion of the Hawthorne Formation will be addressed as part of this project. The goal is to optimize nutrient load reductions using nature-based solutions.