



Agenda Item Summary

File #: 25-00785

Agenda Date: [Publish Date]

Agenda Item Name:

Intent to Pursue Grant Funds through Rebuild Florida Infrastructure Repair Program

Presenter:

Mary Szoka, Environmental Professional Engineer, Environmental Protection Department, 352-264-6831

Description:

Request approval for the Alachua County Environmental Protection Department (EPD) to apply for Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funding to elevate State Road 26 (SR-26) over Hatchet Creek.

Recommended Action:

Direct staff to apply for funding and allow for public comment.

Prior Board Motions:

N/A

Fiscal Note:

N/A, as there is no match required

Strategic Guide:

Environment, Public Safety, Infrastructure

Background:

The Rebuild Florida Infrastructure Repair Program (IRP) is a state initiative funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Community Development Block Grant—Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds are designed to restore and harden critical infrastructure in Florida communities impacted by disasters like hurricanes. Managed by Florida Commerce, the program offers funds to eligible local governments for projects such as repairing water and sewer facilities, roads, and bridges, and improving public facilities, prioritizing projects that build community resiliency and providing economic benefits.

The state of Florida has allocated this funding to support long-term disaster recovery following the 2023-2024 Storms. \$80,000,000 in funding is available for state designated Most Impacted and Distressed (MID) Counties, which include Alachua County.

Alachua County EPD is currently in the design phase for a different project that focuses on restoration

of a section of Hatchet Creek that is just downstream of the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) State Road 26 (SR-26) bridge crossing. SR-26 is an evacuation route for the county, was identified in our climate vulnerability analysis, and was impassable during last fall's storms due to flooding. EPD is requesting to apply for this Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funding to work with FDOT to raise the road from an infrastructure protection perspective while improving hydraulics/hydrology of the Hatchet Creek stream-crossing and enhancing overall system resiliency. EPD anticipates requesting up to \$38,000,000 in this grant application for this project.