

TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

MEMORANDUM

To: Council Members

AGENDA ITEM 8F

From: Staff

Date: May 20, 2016 Council Meeting

Subject: Chain of Lakes/C-51 Boat Lift Agreement with the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity

Introduction

The state's budget for Fiscal Year 2016-2017 appropriates \$286,900 for the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (FDEO) to fund Council to complete preliminary engineering analyses and design work for the Chain of Lakes Blueway Trail Access project. Staff is requesting authorization from Council to enter into an agreement with FDEO to conduct the work.

Background and Analysis

The project will provide Intracoastal Waterway access to the 26-mile long Chain of Lakes freshwater canal and lake system in central Palm Beach County. The project is located at the S-155 control structure of the C-51 Canal (see attached maps). It mainly includes installation of a two-way boatlift and portage facilities to allow small boats and non-motorized watercraft access between the Chain of Lakes and the Intracoastal Waterway. Preliminary project design and engineering work will include: channel scour analysis; hydraulic analysis; geotechnical engineering and design; structural engineering and design; site survey and civil design; and environmental review. Construction of the project is expected to cost \$1.5 million.

Conclusion

The Chain of Lakes Blueway and Trail Access project is an opportunity to restore an historic boating connection via the C-51 regional canal – between properties west of the S-155 control structure and the Intracoastal Waterway. The concept is supported by the affected local governments who have been working together for more than a year to explore the idea. The concept hinges on the construction of a boat lift with a staging canal on the "Spillway Park" property located in Lake Worth. The project would service properties primarily in Lake Worth, Lake Clarke Shores, and West Palm Beach, with enhanced boating access benefits extended to additional properties in unincorporated Palm Beach County, the Town of Glen Ridge and others beyond.

Recommendation

Council should authorize staff in consultation with Council's attorney to enter into a funding agreement with Florida Department of Economic Opportunity for the Chain of Lakes Blueway Trail Access project.

Attachments

PROJECT LOCATION MAP



