

# **TOWN OF PALM BEACH**

Information for Town Council Meeting on: February 14, 2019

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TO: Mayor and Town Council

VIA: Kirk W. Blouin, Town Manager

VIA: Jane Le Clainche, CPA, Director of Finance

FROM: Dean Mealy, II CPPO, Town Purchasing Manager

RE: Approve Award of Bid No. 2019-05 for Supply, Delivery and Installation of Dune Vegetation to Aquatic Plants of Florida, Inc., in the amount of \$80,586.75, and establish a project budget of \$85,000.

**Resolution No. 02-2019**

DATE: January 22, 2019

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## **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends the approval of Resolution No. 02-2019 awarding Invitation to Bid No. 2019-05 for Supply, Delivery and Installation of Dune Vegetation to Aquatic Plants of Florida, Inc., in the amount of \$80,586.75, and establish a project budget of \$85,000.

## **SUMMARY EXPLANATION/BACKGROUND**

Purchasing issued Invitation to Bid (ITB) 2019-05 for Supply, Delivery and Installation of Dune Vegetation on November 15, 2018. The ITB was published on Demand Star to 222 suppliers, Public Purchase to 286 suppliers in addition to the Palm Beach Post and the Town Website.

Five (5) firms responded to the ITB as reflected in the attached bid tabulation. Public Works and Purchasing had the apparent low bidder, Aquatic Plants provide samples of the Sea Oat Plants for review and inspection by Public Works. Purchasing noted that the low responsive, responsible bidder, Aquatic Plants be the recommended awardee for a total bid of \$80,586.75 after the review of sample plants and references.

The current Town Council-adopted 10-year plan for the Coastal Management Program, revised in 2015, includes an annual item of \$10,000 for Dune Vegetation Maintenance. Due to the construction of the Gulfstream Road groin in Mid-Town early in 2018, no dune vegetation maintenance was performed. The scope of work for Bid Recommendation No. 2019-05 includes dune maintenance to remove exotic and invasive vegetation from the Clarke Avenue and Mid-Town Municipal Beach areas. For several years, the Town was instructed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) that we could not remove invasive vegetation that was considered native. Rather, we were to trim that vegetation to its base at the level of the sand and not remove the root and the plant below the sand. Town staff was able to demonstrate the continued nuisance of the native plants that were invasive to the other dune plants and FDEP

has informed that we now can completely remove such vegetation. This effort should reduce the long-term work and cost of dune maintenance in Mid-Town. Exotic/Invasive vegetation is not necessary in Reaches 7 and 8.

Sea oat planting is typically performed following construction of dune restoration or beach nourishment projects. More than 85,000 sea oats and diversity plants were placed in 2016 in Reaches 3, 4, 7, and 8 by Earth Balance for approximately \$57,000. Impacts from both hurricanes and nor'easters have left void areas in the planted dunes. Natural vegetation has pioneered seaward of the dunes in some areas, leaving an opportunity to plant more sea oats in the dunes that will not be buried with upcoming sand placement projects.

On December 6, 2017, the Shore Protection Board listed an interim dune planting effort as a project recommended for 2018. Since then, on multiple occasions, the Mayor and Town Council have directed Town staff to move forward with a dune planting effort in all project areas that specifically includes more mature plants and a tighter spacing between the plants. To accommodate this direction, the Bid No. 2019-05 scope of work required the planting of approximately 106,000 sea oats that are of 72 cell liner size or larger (96 cell liner size in 2016), 18 inches of height from root ball to outstretched end of leaf blade (12 inches in 2016), and planted 12 inches on center (18 inches on center in 2016). These modifications are above typical industry standards and will provide the Town with a planting effort that should meet the expectations from the community.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT/FUNDING SOURCE**

The fiscal impact for the Contract will be \$85,000. Public Works budgeted \$10,000 in FY 2019 to accommodate a portion of this request. While the exotic and invasive plant removal task is included within the FY 2019 Coastal Management Program budget, the planting effort is not. No maintenance has been performed in Mid-Town since 2016. FY 2017, FY 2018, and FY 2019 budgets totaling \$30,000 remain mostly unspent. A sufficient amount of unappropriated and unreserved funds exists in the Coastal Fund which can be used to accommodate the cost of this project.

#### **USER DEPARTMENT CONCURRENCE**

Public Works is in full concurrence with this recommendation.

#### **DUE DILIGENCE**

Due Diligence was conducted to determine vendor responsibility, including corporate status and that there are no performance and compliance issues. The review included conducting market research.

#### **TOWN ATTORNEY REVIEW**

This format has been utilized by the Town in previous recommendations and was approved by the Town Attorney.

CC:               Shore Protection Board  
                    Jay Boodheshwar, Deputy Town Manager

Paul Brazil, P.E., Director of Public Works  
Robert Weber, Coastal Program Manager