

TOWN OF PALM BEACH

Information for Town Council Meeting on: March 19, 2019

TO: Mayor and Town Council

VIA: Kirk W. Blouin, Town Manager

FROM: H. Paul Brazil, P. E., Director of Public Works

RE: Florida Inland Navigation District Grant Application for Town Marina Project
Resolution No. 18-2019

DATE: February 27, 2019

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Town staff recommends that the Town Council approve Resolution No. 18-2019, authorizing the Mayor to sign a Resolution supporting the Town's grant application for Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND), funding assistance for the construction costs associated with the Town of Palm Beach Town Docks Replacement Project.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Town staff and consultants met with applicable state and federal permitting agencies in preparation of submitting our environmental permit applications. Town staff additionally met with FIND in an effort to gain support for the placement of the docks. FIND staff informed Town staff that such a project would be eligible for cost sharing with FIND through the Waterways Assistance Program (WAP) per 66B-2.008, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.).

According to F.A.C., for financial assistance and support from FIND, eligible governmental agencies shall require equal matching funds, at a minimum, from the project sponsor. The Town's submittal will request 50% cost sharing, or \$16.15 million, for the estimated \$32.3 million construction cost. Town staff recognizes that each respective county is allotted a certain amount of funding each year for cost sharing through FIND's WAP. This amount will be determined in the summer time prior to the Town's presentation before the commission. Once the amount has been determined, the Town will adjust this request accordingly. The current projection from FIND staff is that projects in Palm Beach County will compete for an allotment of approximately \$4 million. Should the Town construct the project during two (2) annual grant cycles, the Town can submit another grant application for additional cost sharing. FIND participation from other marina projects suggest that the cost sharing could be on the order of \$1 to \$2 million each year for consecutive years totaling \$2 to \$4 million.

Should the Town be successful in obtaining a FIND cost share, permits must be issued no later than September 15, 2019. On February 22, 2019, state and federal permit applications were submitted to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and the USACE, respectively. Town staff, with assistance from lobbyists, are expediting the permit process as much as possible. Should it become evident that permits would not be received in time, the Town could withdraw the application and resubmit for the next grant cycle in 2020.

Resolution No. 18-2019 authorizes the Mayor to sign a FIND resolution supporting submittal of the grant application. If Town Council elects not to approve this Resolution, Town staff will notify FIND that we will not move forward with our application for this grant cycle. Should Town Council elect to approve this Resolution, Town staff will submit the grant application before the March 29, 2019 deadline.

Attachments

cc: Patricia Strayer, P.E., Town Engineer
Robert Weber, Coastal Program Manager
Dean Mealy, Purchasing Manager
Jane Le Clainche, Director of Finance