



**Approval to Authorize a Contract to the South Carolina
Department of Natural Resources to Update the 2004 May River
Watershed Baseline Assessment (Fiscal Impact: \$155,000.00)**

Presentation to Town Council

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Background –



- The Town of Bluffton commissioned the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR), the United States Geological Service (USGS), and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration' (NOAA) to undertake a multidisciplinary study of the May River. The study was conducted to assess the water, sediment, and biological quality of the entire riverine system a final report was delivered to the Town in 2004.
- SCDNR is uniquely qualified to perform an update to the May River Watershed Baseline Assessment.
- Summary of May River Watershed Action Plan Advisory Committee (WAPAC) actions to date:

WAPAC Meeting Date	WAPAC Recommendation	Town Council Actions
2/10/22	Town Council include an update to the 2004 Baseline Assessment in the Town's Fiscal Year (FY) 23-24 Strategic Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Agreed to Add WAPAC's Strategic Plan Priorities and Will Consider Each Recommendation Once Prioritized
4/27/23	Town Council include FY24 funding to Update the Baseline Assessment (\$155,000)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approved WAPAC's Recommendation at the 5/09/23 Town Council Meeting• Adopted the FY 24 Consolidated Municipal Budget, including \$155,000 for the Baseline Assessment Update at the 6/13/23 Town Council Meeting

Request



Staff requests that Town Council authorize the Town Manager to execute a contract with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) to update the 2004 May River Watershed Baseline Assessment.

The total contract amount is \$155,000 and is within the approved budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024.

Next Steps



- Execution of this contract with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR).
- SCDNR performs work associated with the Baseline Assessment Update by December 31, 2024.
- SCDNR provides the Town with a final report containing its findings within sixty (60) days of final staff comments.



QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

Proposed Motion



*“I move to **approve** authorizing the Town Manager to execute a contract between the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources and the Town of Bluffton to update the 2004 May River Watershed Baseline Assessment for \$155,000.”*