

Ali Tretheway

From: Wantland, Gary <gary.wantland@stantec.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 1, 2022 5:07 PM
To: Ali Tretheway
Cc: lorrie.viola; Douglas Stoker; Quigley, Diane; Whitmore, Cameron; Panozzo, Stephen; Kremer, Tim
Subject: RE: Informal Request - Opinion - Scope of Work - Community Action Plan for "Engineering Evaluation of Inglis Dam and Inglis Bypass"

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Ms. Ali Tretheway,

Good afternoon. Thank you for speaking with me this afternoon regarding your request for informal feedback on the proposed scope of work to evaluate restoring flow to the Lower Withlacoochee River. The Town of Inglis received a grant from the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (FDEO) to develop a Community Action Plan to address this issue. It is our understanding the FDEO grant is cost-reimbursable with no matching funds currently available. Further, the Town of Inglis and Levy County are in early discussions regarding administration of the grant. Discussions are anticipated to be ongoing for the near-term.

Based on a preliminary review of available information, the solution to increased flows in the Lower Withlacoochee River is a complex problem. Previous studies by the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) in 2020 included evaluation of increased flows in this segment of the river. It is our understanding that additional studies may have been performed by USACE and other private entities.

Two potential scenarios were evaluated in the SWFWMD study; 1) doubling the width of the Bypass Channel, and 2) redirecting flow from Ingles Dam to the upstream side of the Bypass Structure. Modeling results indicated both options resulted in a modest increase in flow down stream of the Bypass structure (5 percent or 9 percent for Options 1 and 2, respectively). It is not clear if these increased flows will be sufficient to mitigate existing conditions. One outcome of these studies was the realization that improvement in flow within the Lower Withlacoochee was only achieved during the wet season when river flows were generally higher. It should be added that the greatest need for improved flow in the Lower Withlacoochee will be in the dry season.

Regarding the proposed budget for the Community Action Plan included in the FDEO Grant, the proposed funding will likely provide a review of previous studies and proposed solutions. It is our opinion the proposed budget will not support an assessment of new alternative solutions. We believe a greater level of funding will be required. It is also our understanding there is a significant level of local interest in finding a viable solution that will address the community's concerns. This implies greater interaction with stakeholders and more public workshops to identify and respond to concerns. Models generated as part of the previous evaluations may not be appropriate to develop an engineering solution to increase flows. In addition, modification to the current flow regime will require assessment of impacts on minimum flow requirements in the watershed. These and other factors would not be included in the development of a Community Action Plan given the proposed funding level.

Thank you for the opportunity to be of service. If you have any questions or wish to discuss further please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards

Gary

Gary Wantland, PE, D.GE.

Vice President
Civil Engineer, Energy & Resources
Board Certified in Geotechnical Engineering

Main: 813.221.1981
Direct: 813.204.3328
Mobile: 813.463.3487
gary.wantland@stantec.com

Registered Professional Engineer in
TX, FL, SC, AL, IL, OH, OK

Stantec
777 S Harbour Island Boulevard Suite 600
Tampa FL 33602-5729



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From: Douglas Stoker <Doug.Stoker@cardno.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 19, 2022 3:08 PM
To: Lorrie Viola <lorrie.viola@cardno.com>; Bryan Zarlenga <Bryan.Zarlenga@cardno.com>
Subject: FW: Informal Request - Opinion - Scope of Work

Any interest?

Doug Stoker, PE

Vice President, Cardno, Inc.

Direct +1 727 431 1550 **Mobile** +1 813 382 6668
Address 380 Park Place Blvd. Suite 300, Clearwater, Florida 33759
Email doug.stoker@cardno.com

From: Ali Tretheway <tretheway-ali@levycounty.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 19, 2022 12:27 PM
To: Cory Nichols <cory@aeengineeringinc.com>; Joe Williams <jjw@arc-arc.com>; ASR Engineering <asr@asrengineering.net>; Doug Barlowe <dbarlowe@bfbsa.com>; Claire Varnedoe <cvarnedoe@bfbsa.com>; Douglas Stoker <Doug.Stoker@cardno.com>; RBEST@CHENMOORE.COM; BRUTHERFORD@CRAARCHITECTS.COM; davis@dinkinsengineering.com; stephanie@dinkinsengineering.com; Covington, Travis <TCovington@Dewberry.com>; CRischar@drmp.com; SREYES@EDAFL.COM; Akker, Jim <akker@georgefyoung.com>; PZAK@GLEASSOCIATES.COM; A. J. 'Jay' Brown, Jr., PE <jay.brown@jbpro.com>; JSBell@jonesedmunds.com; Chris.Towne@kimley-horn.com; Megan Carter <mcarter@nfps.net>; Brad Wente <bwente@passero.com>; Aldrich, Gregory <GAldrich@trccompanies.com>; Keith Butts, P.E. <kbutts@universalengineering.com>; Brittany Dunn <BDunn@universalengineering.com>; Dennis Davis <dennis.davis@wright-pierce.com>
Subject: Informal Request - Opinion - Scope of Work

Good Afternoon All,

This is an informal request on your opinion of the Scope of Work that is attached. To give you a little background the Town of Inglis applied and was awarded a CPTA grant to develop a Community Action Plan. It was brought to our Board yesterday for consideration of Levy County taking over the grant, pending if DEO would transfer the grant to the County (I have put in a request with DEO to see if they will even do this). We did not agree to anything yesterday. My Board asked me to contact our list of engineering firms to take a look at the Scope of Work/deliverables/costs to determine if

what they are wanting to do is even feasible. Levy County does not want to take on a project that was submitted by another entity if we cannot meet the requirements they set out in their grant proposal. If this is not in your engineering disciplines, please disregard the email. I will be going back to my Board with your responses at the next BOCC meeting November 8th, so if you could kindly respond by the 1st of November it would be much appreciated. If you have additional questions, please let me know.

Thank you,

Alicia Tretheway, MPA
Procurement Coordinator/ADA Coordinator
Levy County Board of County Commission
310 School Street
P.O. Box 310
Bronson, Florida 32621
Cell: 352-441-0964
Phone: 352-486-5218, Ext 2
Fax: 352-486-5167

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