

From: [Francine Ramaglia](#)
To: [Geoff Sluggett & Mary McNicholas](#)
Cc: [Project Coordinator](#); [Town Clerk Assistant](#); [Amber Schneider](#)
Subject: Fw: Agreement for Services W/ Mary McNicholas
Date: Thursday, September 19, 2024 5:18:19 PM
Attachments: [Agreement for Professional Services \(Mary c. - Sluggetts\).docx](#)
[signature.jpg](#)
Importance: High

Mary,

Attached is a draft agreement for your firm to represent the Town and assist is obtaining/negotiating funding and interlocal agreements—the scope needs your fine touch and refinement for sure.

In addition to trying to position for a variety of grants, we wish to partner locally and anywhere else we can to address some of our long standing issues---we are talking with TPA about re-application next year (have to start now and are trying to get meeting scheduled with them in October---they have been very supportive so far).

I think we need to split the ask up into some pieces if possible as costs have risen, etc. Plan to try for RTP and FRDAP and whatever else we can think of.

We also have some interagency and local issues to tackle and would love your help with them, especially where there may be a conflict. For instance, we would love for you to help the county to understand we want okeechobee off their plans and hope you can work the magic you have in the past.

Finally, some big water asks with regard to water quality which we can no longer skirt around:

- We would love to enter into an agreement to use land either within or adjacent to the town (for example, the existing impoundment area north of the Town in RPB) to create vegetative wetlands & nature preserve, hydraulically connecting to the canal system that will ultimately provide much needed water quality treatment, create additional surface water capacity and improve ground water recharge and filtration. The property could be anywhere from \$1 million to \$10 million and depending on the design of the filtration etc could be several million. This project would require intergovernmental cooperation and grant awards from state and federal government. We want to look at doing something similar to Wellington's Marjorie Stoneman Douglas Preserve. Of course, if we can use the impoundment area, no problem! except we also would need a pump station and control structures to move the water north as recommended in the 2000 study and still has not been done!
- All canals are currently maintained at elevation 16 ft. The natural grading of the District produces a grade differential of approximately 2 feet from the north end to the south

end. During the year---especially during the drier seasons of the year, the north end experiences low water levels in the canals. The ability to maintain higher water levels for the agricultural uses is necessary and urgent and can only be accomplished by installation of control structures north of Okeechobee Boulevard. Each structure needs to be telemetry controlled to allow for discharge of stormwater during peak rainfall events. The control elevation in the northern canal system should be maintained at elevation 17 ft at least during the dry season. Again, it would be oh so great to be able to use the impoundment area. We have spoken to Keshavarz briefly as well as to Paul Linton as part of our VA project. We would love your insight and assistance.

I have authority to do a contract of 25K for now and if we need to go higher, I will take to council once we have a specific range or pricing. Right now though, I would like to make sure we at least have a basic contract in place so we can start moving forward.

I did try to call earlier and missed you. Did not leave a message so I am sending this email. Looking forward to talking with you.

