



MEMORANDUM

Date: Jan 25, 2023
To: Board of Commissioners
From: Robin I. Gomez, City Manager
Subject: UPDATE ON JOHN'S PASS DREDGING

Background

After January 2023 meetings with the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the John's Pass Dredging project utilizing the services of the Pinellas County Professional Coastal Management Environmental Consultant, Aptim Environmental & Infrastructure, Inc, is progressing to a point of finalizing an agreement to use said consultant, adopt Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FL DEP) grant agreement, and proceed into the design and permitting processes of the dredging project.

Discussion

The City was awarded a \$1.556 Million grant by the 2022 Florida Legislature, through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (available until June 30, 2024), to assist with the dredging of a section of the John's Pass channel/waterway, more specifically an approximate 1.61 acres area on the northern side of the channel/waterway adjacent to a FDOT right-of-way, City property, and private property to the east (as more specifically identified in the enclosed Project Description documentation). In September City staff began preliminary discussions with the referenced Pinellas County contractor and in October began finalizing the grant documentation required by the State (FL Department of Environmental Protection), both documents enclosed.

At the Feb 8 Commission Regular Meeting, staff will ask for Commission approval to utilize the Pinellas County continuing professional services agreement for Coastal Management Environmental Consulting Services, Aptim Environmental & Infrastructure, Inc. We were notified last week that Pinellas County in February will be approving a similar agreement with Aptim for a period to begin in March 2023. If we need to approve that agreement, we will bring it back at the March or April Commission regular meeting. The agreement is to provide a variety of tasks, including:

1. Agency Pre-Application Meeting
2. Topographic and Hydrographic Survey
3. Engineering and Design
4. FEDEP and USACE Permitting

5. Request for Additional Information Phase
6. Final Permit Application Process
7. Construction Plans/Specifications
8. Bidding Assistance

We will then bring a contractor to the Commission for approval to complete the dredging.

All Aptim consulting tasks are estimated at \$136,727.00

At the same Feb 8 Commission Regular meeting, staff will also ask for Commission approval of the City's grant award of \$1.556 M, with the FDEP.

Both the USACE and FDEP commented that all our information is in order and on track to be permitted provided there are no delays with the federal process which typically takes about 120 – 180 days with the project possibly permitted by June. Bidding and construction would then occur within 120 days, likely October to November.

We are monitoring weekly and providing all follow-up as requested and will continue to do so until project completion.