
CITY OF PORT LAVACA

COUNCIL MEETING: FEBRUARY 9, 2026

DATE: 01.29.2026

TO: JODY WEAVER, INTERIM CITY MANAGER

FROM: KATERYNA THOMAS, GRANTS & CIP COORDINATOR

SUBJECT: CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE MATAGORDA BAY MITIGATION TRUST CONTRACT # 105 FOR THE CITY OF PORT LAVACA MID-COAST BIRDING FESTIVAL AND EDUCATION OUTREACH BOAT TOURS AS PART OF THE 2ND ANNUAL CITY OF PORT LAVACA MIDCOAST TEXAS BIRD FESTIVAL

Background:

On January 6, 2026, the City received notice from MBMT that our submitted proposal titled “The RN Archimedes Research Vessel floating classroom Tours of Chester Island during the 2nd Annual City of Port Lavaca Mid-Coast Birding Festival” was approved.

Attached is the contract providing for \$16,250.00 of grant funds for the project, which is summarized as follows:

Task 1: Educational Boat Tours – Mid-Coast Birding Festival (Port Lavaca)
As part of the Annual City of Port Lavaca Mid-Coast Birding Festival, educational boat tours will showcase the waterways and birdlife of Calhoun County.

- Friday, April 10: Six educational boat tours will be offered, with three distinct tour routes. Each tour will run once in the morning and once in the evening.
- Saturday, April 11: The same three tours will be offered in the morning. The photography tour will travel through Hog Bayou or the Guadalupe River via Highway 35.
- Sunday, April 12: The three tours from Friday morning will be repeated.

Task 2: R/V Archimedes Floating Classroom Tours of Chester Island
During the 151st Annual City of Port Lavaca Mid-Coast Birding Festival (April 9–12, 2026), the R/V *Archimedes* Research Vessel will provide floating classroom tours to Chester Island, a nationally significant bird rookery near Port O’Connor.

Several hundred birding enthusiasts are expected to attend the festival. Chester Island, formerly Sundown Island, played a critical role in the restoration of the Brown Pelican, which faced near extinction in the 1960s. Created from dredge material in 1962, the island is now home to over 22,000 birds representing 22 species, including more than 2,000 Brown Pelicans—approximately 120 participants, including festival attendees, local students, and community leaders.

This is the same contract language that has been used for our previous contracts with MBMT. The Contract period is from February 1st, 2026, until July 31st, 2026.

Financial Implication:

The total project cost is \$20,050.00, with \$3,800.00 allocated for registration fees. The grant reimbursement is \$16,250.00

Recommendation:

Review and approve Contract #105 with Matagorda Bay Mitigation Trust Fund.