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**CITY OF PORT LAVACA**

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**MEETING:** FEBRUARY 10, 2025 **AGENDA ITEM** \_\_\_\_

**DATE:** 2.04.2025

**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

**FROM:** JODY WEAVER, INTERIM CITY MANAGER

**SUBJECT:** **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE MATAGORDA BAY MITIGATION TRUST CONTRACT 084 FOR THE CITY OF PORT LAVACA MID-COAST BIRDING FESTIVAL FLOATING CLASSROOM AND BOAT TOURS**

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**Background:**

On January 8, I received notice from the MBMT that our submitted proposal entitled “The R/V Archimedes Research Vessel Floating Classroom Tours of Chester Island AND Education Outreach boat tours as part of the 1<sup>st</sup> 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:

Several hundred bird enthusiasts are expected to travel to Port Lavaca to attend the 1<sup>st</sup> annual Mid-Coast Birding Festival on May 1 – 5, 2025.

Chester Island is a bird rookery off the coast of Port O’Connor that played a significant role in the restoration of the Brown Pelican species, who neared extinction in the 1960s. This proposal aims to bring in a large boat (designed for educational tours) to transport birders and local students to/from the island so they can experience its historical significance, the 22 species of birds and over 22,000 birds who inhabit the island.

16 participants can sign up for each set of various boat tours. So this is a total of 64 participants. They will gain first-hand knowledge of our waterways and how important our estuaries are, what estuaries provide and how to keep them healthy.

This is the same contract language that has been used for our previous contracts with MBMT. The ending date is contractually set at July 31, 2025.

**Financial Implication:**

The total project budget is \$20,050 with \$3800 being registration fees. The grant will reimburse up to \$16,250.00.

**Recommendation:**

Approve Contract 084 with the Matagorda Bay Mitigation Trust Fund.