

Board of County Commissioners

Agenda Request

Date of Meeting: February 17, 2009

Date Submitted: February 3, 2009

To: Honorable Chairman and Members of the Board

From: Benjamin H. Pingree, County Administrator
Dale Dransfield, Eutaw Consultant

Subject: Request Board Review and Approval of Negotiations with Wildwood Golf Course, Approval of the Reclaimed Water Use Agreement and to Authorize the Chairman to Execute the Agreement

Statement of Issue:

This agenda item proposes to update the Board about the final negotiations with the owners of the Wildwood Golf Course regarding their acceptance of and payment for Reuse Water from the Otter Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Background:

The Board directed the planning and design of an upgrade to the County's Wastewater Treatment Plant to provide an increase in capacity to 1.6 mgd and effluent treatment to public access reuse standards. In order to obtain a permit for the additional disposal, the County has sought to find an acceptable reuse customer. The sprayfield currently owned and operated by the County at the Otter Creek facility has a permitted disposal capacity of 600,000 gallons per day. The Wildwood Golf Course makes a perfect customer for reuse, because of several factors. First they have lined ponds already installed on their property that will act as disposal sites. They have the ability to receive and use water even in wet weather conditions, and are willing to contract to do so. This is a very important factor, not found in all reuse customers. The Golf Course is willing to pay for the portion of the reuse water that meets their needs for irrigation, but would allow the County to dispose of additional amounts up to a million gallons per day, if it became necessary to do so. Negotiations with County staff have been ongoing for over a year and staff feels that each concern of the County and each concern of the Golf Course is adequately addressed in this final version of the Agreement.

Analysis:

As presented in the background section above, the latest draft Agreement between the County and Wildwood is attached for Board review (Attachment #1). The elements of this Agreement represent significant progress and concessions from both sides and stem from over a year of ongoing discussions and negotiations. The County absolutely needs to enter into this Agreement before progress can be made in obtaining a permit to construct the new plant. The views of the owners of the Golf Course mirror those of the County when it comes to preservation of our valuable water resources. The Northwest Florida Water Management District has reviewed this proposal and has agreed that it is indeed a beneficial arrangement and has committed to help fund its construction by signing a \$500,000 grant to the County for that express purpose.

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Summary:

After much negotiation and thought given to every possible outcome projected for the next 20 years, staff recommends that this Agreement is in the best interest of the County and necessary in order to construct the needed upgrade to the County's Wastewater Treatment Facility.

Options:

1. Approve the proposed Reclaimed Water Use Agreement with Wildwood Golf Course and authorize the Chairman to execute.
2. Do not approve the proposed Reclaimed Water Use Agreement with Wildwood Golf Course and do not authorize the Chairman to execute.
3. Board direction.

Recommendation:

Option #1

Attachment:

1. Reclaimed Water Use Agreement