

RESOLUTION 2020-_____

AN RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE SUBMITTAL OF ONE HABITAT CONSERVATION PLANNING (HCP) ASSISTANCE GRANT FROM THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION COOPERATIVE ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND; AUTHORIZING A COST-SHARING PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION (“FWC”), NASSAU COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS (“COUNTY”) AND CITY OF FERNANDINA BEACH CITY COMMISSION (“CITY”); AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, a Habitat Conservation Plan is a plan to advance conservation and recovery of threatened species while maintaining and improving public access, recreation and economic activities associated with the state's beaches; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) has advised City of Fernandina Beach (City) and Nassau County (County) that the creation of an Amelia Island Habitat Conservation Plan (“Plan”) is recommended by a variety of environmental and permitting requirements; and

WHEREAS, production of an Amelia Island Habitat Conservation Plan will require extensive data collection, consensus building, mitigation design, economic analysis, and HCP documentation; and

WHEREAS, based on Habitat Conservation Plans completed in other jurisdictions, FWC has recommended a budget of \$179,500 to produce the Amelia Island Beach Habitat Conservation Plan, and

WHEREAS, of the total HCP cost of \$179,500, 75% (\$134,625) for the Habitat Conservation Plan could be requested from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund; and

WHEREAS, the remaining 25% (\$44,875) local match requirement can be met through in-kind services including staff hours working on the project by the City, the County, and FWC; and

WHEREAS, FWC has offered to provide \$11,000 of the matching requirement, leaving a balance of \$33,875 match to be shared equally between the City and County; and

WHEREAS, the City of Fernandina Beach has affirmed their willingness to share equally the cost of the remaining \$34,875 match requirement with the County; and

WHEREAS, the City and County have partnered with FWC staff to prepare a draft grant application proposed to be submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to help pay for the costs Amelia Island Beach Habitat Conservation Plan; and

WHEREAS, a grant application authorized by the City and County within the next thirty days will trigger a series of State and Federal review processes which, if resulting in a grant award, would provide grant funds with which to commence production of the Amelia Island Habitat Conservation Plan sometime between approximately June – September 2021; and

WHEREAS, should the County approve submission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service grant to help pay for the costs Amelia Island Beach Habitat

Conservation Plan, staff further recommends that a Memorandum of Understanding be developed and executed which stipulates the administrative and fiscal roles and responsibilities of the City and County on the project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED this _____ day of _____, 2020, by the Board of County Commissioners of Nassau County, Florida, that:

1. The Board hereby authorizes the submittal of one Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance Grant to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund.
2. The Board authorizes the development and execution of a Memorandum of Understanding which stipulates the administrative and fiscal roles and responsibilities between the City and County on the project.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA

DANIEL B. LEEPER
Its: Chairman

Attest as to Chairman's
Signature:

Approved as to form by the
Nassau County Attorney:

JOHN A. CRAWFORD
Its: Ex-Officio Clerk

MICHAEL S. MULLIN