Tab 1	**SB 100** by **Garcia (CO-INTRODUCERS) Calatayud, Avila**; (Identical to H 00561) Mangrove Replanting and Restoration

Tab 2	**SB 546** by **Avila**; (Identical to H 00641) Restoration of Osborne Reef

Tab 3	**SB 602** by **Burton**; (Similar to H 00557) Land Acquisition Trust Fund

Tab 4	**SB 458** by **Rodriguez**; (Similar to H 00827) Wastewater Grant Program

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Tab 5	**SB 506** by **Stewart**; (Identical to H 01427) Comprehensive Waste Reduction and Recycling Plan

The Florida Senate

COMMITTEE MEETING EXPANDED AGENDA

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Senator Rodriguez, Chair
Senator Harrell, Vice Chair

MEETING DATE: Monday, March 6, 2023
TIME: 1:00—3:00 p.m.
PLACE: 301 Senate Building

MEMBERS: Senator Rodriguez, Chair; Senator Harrell, Vice Chair; Senators Albritton, Martin, Mayfield, Polsky, Powell, Stewart, and Wright

TAB	BILL NO. and INTRODUCER	BILL DESCRIPTION and SENATE COMMITTEE ACTIONS	COMMITTEE ACTION
1	**SB 100** Garcia (Identical H 561)	Mangrove Replanting and Restoration; Requiring the Department of Environmental Protection to adopt rules for mangrove replanting and restoration; providing requirements for the rules, etc. EN 03/06/2023 Favorable AEG RC	Favorable Yeas 9 Nays 0
2	**SB 546** Avila (Identical H 641)	Restoration of Osborne Reef; Requiring the Department of Environmental Protection to submit a status report on the Osborne Reef cleanup and tire removal project to the Legislature by a specified date; requiring the department to develop a restoration plan for the reef by a specified date; providing requirements for the restoration plan; requiring the department to submit a report to the Legislature upon completion of the plan; providing requirements for the report, etc. EN 03/06/2023 Favorable AEG AP	Favorable Yeas 9 Nays 0
3	**SB 602** Burton (Similar H 557)	Land Acquisition Trust Fund; Providing an annual appropriation to the Department of Environmental Protection to implement the Heartland Headwaters Protection and Sustainability Act; requiring the funds to be used and distributed for specified purposes, etc. EN 03/06/2023 Favorable AEG AP	Favorable Yeas 9 Nays 0
4	**SB 458** Rodriguez (Similar H 827)	Wastewater Grant Program; Authorizing the Department of Environmental Protection to provide wastewater grant program grants to projects directed at or focused on a water body included on a specified list of impaired waters, etc. EN 03/06/2023 Fav/CS AEG FP	Fav/CS Yeas 8 Nays 0

TAB	BILL NO. and INTRODUCER	BILL DESCRIPTION and SENATE COMMITTEE ACTIONS	COMMITTEE ACTION
5	**SB 506** Stewart (Identical H 1427)	Comprehensive Waste Reduction and Recycling Plan; Requiring the Department of Environmental Protection to develop a comprehensive waste reduction and recycling plan for this state by a specified date, based on certain department recommendations; requiring the department to convene a technical assistance group for a specified purpose; providing minimum requirements for the comprehensive plan, etc. EN 03/06/2023 Favorable AEG FP	Favorable Yeas 8 Nays 0

TAB	OFFICE and APPOINTMENT (HOME CITY)	FOR TERM ENDING	COMMITTEE ACTION
	Senate Confirmation Hearing: A public hearing will be held for consideration of the below-named executive appointments to the offices indicated.		
	Governing Board of the St. Johns River Water Management District		
6	Oliver, John Cole (Merritt Island)	03/01/2026	Recommend Confirm Yeas 8 Nays 0
	Price, Janet (Fernandina Beach)	03/01/2026	Recommend Confirm Yeas 8 Nays 0
	Governing Board of the Suwannee River Water Management District		
7	Keith, Charles G. ()	03/01/2026	Recommend Confirm Yeas 8 Nays 0
	Sessions, Larry C. (Live Oak)	03/01/2026	Recommend Confirm Yeas 8 Nays 0

TAB	BILL NO. and INTRODUCER	BILL DESCRIPTION and SENATE COMMITTEE ACTIONS	COMMITTEE ACTION
	Other Related Meeting Documents		

The Florida Senate

APPEARANCE RECORD

Deliver both copies of this form to
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

3/6/23
Meeting Date

ENVIR
Committee

SB 100
Bill Number or Topic

MANAGERS
Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name JON MOYLE

Phone 850-681-3828

Address 118 N. Gadsden St
Street

Email jmoyle@moylelaw.com

Tallahassee FL. 32301
City State Zip

Speaking: ☑ For ☐ Against ☐ Information **OR** Waive Speaking: ☐ In Support ☐ Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

☐ I am appearing without compensation or sponsorship.

☑ I am a registered lobbyist, representing: Florida Inland Navigation District

☐ I am not a lobbyist, but received something of value for my appearance (travel, meals, lodging, etc.), sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. 2020-2022JointRules.pdf (flsenate.gov)

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate

APPEARANCE RECORD

Deliver both copies of this form to
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

3/6/2023
Meeting Date

Envir & Nat
Committee

SB 106
Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Trish Neely

Phone 850 322 3317

Address 2024 SHANGRI LA
Street

Email

TALLY FL 32303
City State Zip

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☐ Information **OR** Waive Speaking: ☒ In Support ☐ Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

☐ I am appearing without compensation or sponsorship.

☐ I am a registered lobbyist, representing:

League Women Voters

☐ I am not a lobbyist, but received something of value for my appearance (travel, meals, lodging, etc.), sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. 2020-2022JointRules.pdf (flsenate.gov)

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate

Committee Agenda Request

To: Senator Ana Maria Rodriguez, Chair
Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

Subject: Committee Agenda Request

Date: January 17, 2023

I respectfully request that **Senate Bill #100**, relating to Mangrove Replanting and Restoration, be placed on the:

☒ committee agenda at your earliest possible convenience.

☐ next committee agenda.

Senator Ileana Garcia
Florida Senate, District 36

File signed original with committee office

S-020 (03/2004)

The Florida Senate

BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

BILL:	SB 100
INTRODUCER:	Senator Garcia and others
SUBJECT:	Mangrove Replanting and Restoration
DATE:	March 3, 2023
REVISED:	

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Barriero	Rogers	EN	**Favorable**
2.			AEG	
3.			RC	

I. Summary:

SB 100 requires the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to adopt rules for mangrove replanting and restoration. The bill requires the rules to address significant erosion in areas of critical state concern, protect barrier and spoil islands, assist Everglades restoration and Biscayne Bay revitalization efforts, promote public awareness, and identify vulnerable properties along the coastline and encourage partnerships with local governmental entities to create mangrove protection and restoration zone programs.

II. Present Situation:

Mangroves

Mangrove forests are a distinct saltwater woodland that thrive in tidal estuaries and low-energy shorelines throughout the tropics and sub-tropics. Florida is home to three types of native mangrove species—red (*Rhizophora mangle*), black (*Avicennia germinans*), and white (*Laguncularia racemosa*)—and has an estimated 600,000 acres of mangrove forests, the majority of which is found south of Cedar Key on the Gulf Coast and south of Cape Canaveral on the Atlantic Coast.[1]

Mangroves play an important ecological role as a habitat for various species of marine and estuarine vertebrates, invertebrates, and other wildlife,[2] including endangered and threatened

[1] Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), *Florida's Mangroves*, https://floridadep.gov/rcp/rcp/content/floridas-mangroves (last visited Feb. 15, 2023). However, mangroves are gaining ground along their northern Florida habitat limits, and as winter cold snaps decrease, mangroves are expected to expand further north into new territory. Kristen Minogue & Heather Dewar, Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, *With Fewer Hard Frosts, Tropical Mangroves Push North*, 1 (2013), *available at* https://sercblog.si.edu/with-fewer-hard-frosts-tropical-mangroves-push-north/.

[2] Section 403.9322(2), F.S.

species such as the manatee, hawksbill sea turtle, American crocodile, Key deer, and Florida panther—all of which rely on this habitat during some stage of their life cycle.[3] Mangrove branches act as bird rookeries and nesting areas for coastal wading birds, including egrets, herons, brown pelicans, and roseate spoonbills.[4] Their intricate root systems provide critical nursery habitats for fish, crustaceans, shellfish, and other marine life, allowing them to forage and grow while remaining protected from predators.[5] The roots also make ideal underwater perches for barnacles, oysters, crabs, and other marine organisms.[6] These organisms, in turn, provide food for juvenile fish, birds, reptiles, and other wildlife both above and below the water's surface.[7] Florida's important recreational and commercial fisheries would drastically decline without healthy mangrove forests.[8]

Mangroves also help maintain water quality and clarity by trapping sediments, absorbing nutrients, and removing pollutants that would otherwise end up in estuaries and coastal waters.[9] Their roots provide attachment surfaces for various marine organisms that filter water through their bodies and, in turn, trap and cycle nutrients.[10] Without natural filters like mangroves, dangerous conditions like red tide, sargassum, and algal blooms can proliferate.[11]

In addition, mangroves capture massive amounts of carbon dioxide emissions and other greenhouse gases from the atmosphere.[12] Wetlands primarily store carbon in the soils, where it can remain for centuries. This buried carbon is known as "blue carbon" because it is sequestered via photosynthesis and stored underwater in coastal ecosystems like mangrove forests, seagrass beds, and salt marshes.[13] Current studies suggest that mangroves and coastal wetlands annually sequester carbon at a rate 10 times greater than mature tropical forests, making them some of the most efficient natural carbon sinks in the world.[14]

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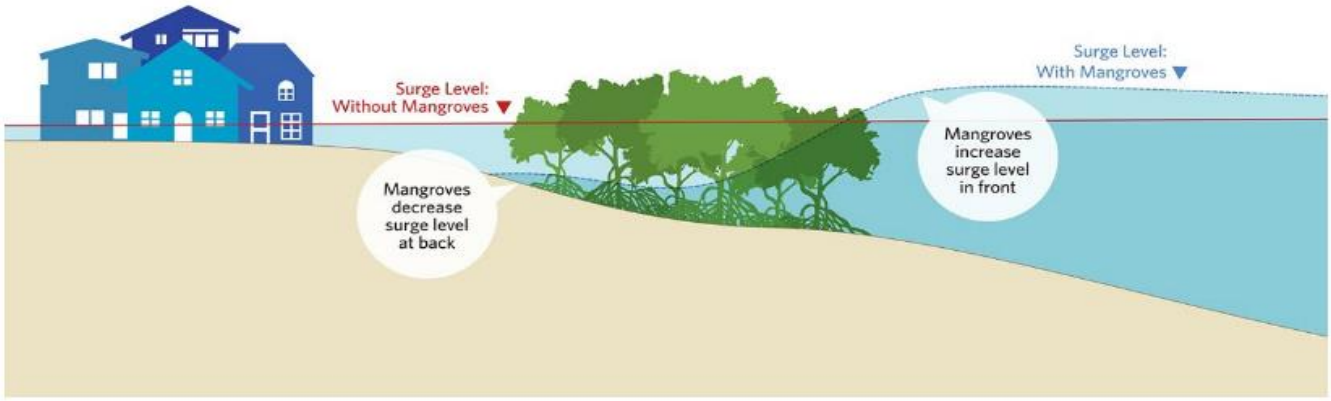
[3] Florida Museum, University of Florida, *South Florida Aquatic Environments: Mangrove Life*, https://www.floridamuseum.ufl.edu/southflorida/habitats/mangroves/mangrove-life/ (last visited Feb. 23, 2023). *See also* Teresa O'Reilly, University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, *Mangroves in Florida*, https://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/flaglerco/2018/02/09/mangroves-in-florida/ (last visited Feb. 23, 2023).
[4] Florida Museum, *South Florida Aquatic Environments: Mangrove Life*; DEP, *Florida's Mangroves*.
[5] Tiffany Duong, World Economic Forum, *Why planting mangroves can help save the planet* (2021), *available at* https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2021/08/planting-mangroves-helps-the-planet/.
[6] Hannah Waters, Smithsonian Institution, *Mangrove Restoration: Letting Mother Nature Do the Work* (2016), *available at* https://ocean.si.edu/ocean-life/plants-algae/mangrove-restoration-letting-mother-nature-do-work.
[7] *Id.*
[8] DEP, *Florida's Mangroves*.
[9] Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), *Mangrove Forests*, https://myfwc.com/research/habitat/coastal-wetlands/mangroves/ (last visited Feb. 23, 2023).
[10] DEP, *Florida's Mangroves*.
[11] Duong, *Why planting mangroves can help save the planet*.
[12] *See* Jean Brodeur et al., National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), *NOAA Blue Carbon White Paper*, 1 (2022), *available at* https://repository.library.noaa.gov/view/noaa/40456; NOAA, *Coastal Blue Carbon*, https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/ecosystems/coastal-blue-carbon/ (last visited Feb. 21, 2023); Jessica Merzdorf, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), *NASA Study Maps the Roots of Global Mangrove Loss* (2020), *available at* https://www.nasa.gov/feature/goddard/2020/nasa-study-maps-the-roots-of-global-mangrove-loss.
[13] NOAA, *NOAA Blue Carbon White Paper* at 1.
[14] *Id.*

Mangroves' specialized root system can help prevent erosion by stabilizing shorelines.[15] They also protect against damage from storm surge by reducing wind and wave energy[16] in shallow shoreline areas.[17] According to one study by the Nature Conservancy, in Florida, mangroves prevented $1.5 billion in direct flood damages and protected over half a million people during Hurricane Irma in 2017, reducing damages by nearly 25 percent in counties with mangroves.[18] In Collier County, some regions immediately behind the county's mangroves receive annual risk reduction benefits of over $1 million.[19] Another study suggests that without the mangroves on Florida's coast, the storm surge of Hurricane Wilma would have extended up to 70 percent further inland.[20]



MANGROVE BENEFITS Surge is reduced behind mangroves, helping ease flooding to land and properties. © The Nature Conservancy

The amount of protection afforded by mangroves depends on the width of the forest. A narrow fringe of mangroves offers limited protection, while a wide fringe can considerably reduce wave and flood damage to landward areas by enabling overflowing water to be absorbed into the expanse of forest.[21] Notably, the Legislature has found that in Florida, many areas of mangroves occur as narrow riparian fringes that do not provide all the functions of mangrove forests or provide such functions to a lesser degree.[22]

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[15] DEP, *Florida's Mangroves*; NASA, *NASA Study Maps the Roots of Global Mangrove Loss*.
[16] On average, mangroves reduce wave heights by 31 percent. Siddharth Narayan et al., *The Effectiveness, Costs and Coastal Protection Benefits of Natural and Nature-Based Defenses*, 4 (2016), *available at* https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0154735.
[17] United States Army Corp of Engineers, *Engineering with Nature: An Atlas*, 110 (2018), *available at* https://erdc-library.erdc.dren.mil/jspui/handle/11681/27929; DEP, *What is a Mangrove?*, https://floridadep.gov/water/submerged-lands-environmental-resources-coordination/content/what-mangrove (last visited Feb. 15, 2023); NASA, *NASA Study Maps the Roots of Global Mangrove Loss*.
[18] Siddharth Narayan et al., The Nature Conservancy, *Valuing the Flood Risk Reduction Benefits of Florida's Mangroves*, 2, *available at* https://www.nature.org/content/dam/tnc/nature/en/documents/Mangrove_Report_digital_FINAL.pdf.
[19] *Id.* at 10. Worldwide, mangroves reduce risk to more than 15 million people and prevent more than $65 billion in property damages each year. Duong, *Why planting mangroves can help save the planet*.
[20] Jodie Berezin et al., University of Massachusetts Amherst, *Using Mangroves to Mitigate Hurricane Damage to the Southern US Coast*, (2018), *available at* https://blogs.umass.edu/natsci397a-eross/using-mangroves-to-mitigate-hurricane-damage-to-the-southern-us-coast/.
[21] DEP, *Florida's Mangroves*.
[22] Section 403.9322, F.S.

Human activities such as coastal development are responsible for destroying more mangrove forests worldwide than any other type of coastal habitat.[23] The Florida Marine Research Institute has reported up to 86 percent loss of mangroves in some areas of Florida since the 1940s.[24] Climate change, which results in higher sea levels and more intense droughts and storms, is also increasing the rate of mangrove loss.[25] In Florida, mangrove loss is compounded by the regional water management system that was built in south Florida between the late 19th and mid-20th centuries, which has reduced the natural flow of water through the Everglades to Florida Bay and other coastal bays.[26] Drier conditions can slow or stop the natural buildup of organic peat soils like those in the Everglades and cause the peat soils to collapse.[27]

State Regulation of Mangroves

In 1996, the Florida Legislature passed the Mangrove Trimming and Preservation Act (the Act) in ss. 403.9321 - 403.9333, F.S., to protect mangroves from unregulated removal, defoliation, and destruction.[28] The Act is implemented by DEP as well as several delegated local governments, including Broward, Hillsborough, Miami-Dade, and Pinellas Counties, the City of Sanibel, and the Town of Jupiter Island.[29]

Under the Act, a permit is generally required to alter or trim mangroves,[30] though certain statutory exemptions exist.[31] Property owners do not need a permit to trim their mangroves when the mangroves are in a riparian mangrove fringe (RMF)[32] and are no more than 10 feet in height, so long as the homeowner does not trim the mangroves below six feet in height and does not defoliate any mangrove. If the mangroves are more than 10 feet in height, the homeowner will need to hire a professional mangrove trimmer,[33] but they still may be exempt from permit requirements. However, if the mangroves are not in an RMF, the property owner will need to get a permit and a professional mangrove trimmer.[34]

Riparian property owners can obtain a permit from DEP to trim mangroves if:

- The trimming is conducted in an area where DEP has not delegated the authority to regulate mangroves to a local government;

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[23] FWC, *Mangrove Forests*.
[24] DEP, *Mangrove Trimming Guidelines for Homeowners*, 4, *available at* https://floridadep.gov/sites/default/files/Mangrove-Homeowner-Guide-sm_0.pdf.
[25] Miriam C. Jones et al., *Rapid inundation of southern Florida coastline despite low relative sea-level rise rates during the late-Holocene*, 1, 10 (2019), *available at* https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-019-11138-4.
[26] United States Geological Survey, *Rising Sea Levels Could Accelerate Florida Bay Mangrove Loss* (2019), *available at* https://www.usgs.gov/news/national-news-release/rising-sea-levels-could-accelerate-florida-bay-mangrove-loss#:~:text=Florida%20has%20lost%20much%20of%20the%20mangrove%20forests,USGS%20research%20published%20in%20the%20journal%20Nature%20Communications.
[27] *Id*.
[28] Section 403.9322(1), F.S.
[29] *See* DEP, *Mangrove Trimming – Delegated Local Governments*, https://floridadep.gov/water/submerged-lands-environmental-resources-coordination/content/mangrove-trimming-delegated-local (last visited Feb. 21, 2023).
[30] Section 403.9328(1), F.S.
[31] Section 403.9326, F.S.
[32] RMF is defined as mangroves growing along the shoreline on private property, property owned by a governmental entity, or sovereign submerged land, the depth of which does not exceed 50 feet. Section 403.9324(7), F.S.
[33] Section 403.9329, F.S., delineates the criteria for which persons may be considered a professional mangrove trimmer.
[34] DEP, *Mangrove Frequently Asked Questions*, no. 8, https://floridadep.gov/water/submerged-lands-environmental-resources-coordination/content/mangrove-frequently-asked#whyimportant (last visited Feb. 21, 2023).

- The trimming is supervised or conducted exclusively by a professional mangrove trimmer;
- The mangroves subject to trimming under the permit do not extend more than 500 feet waterward;
- No more than 65 percent of the mangroves along the shoreline which exceed six feet in pretrimmed height will be trimmed, and no mangrove will be trimmed so that the overall height of any mangrove is reduced to less than six feet; and
- No herbicide or other chemical will be used to remove the leaves of a mangrove.[35]

A general permit can also be obtained for the limited trimming of mangroves within existing navigational channels, basins, or canals to provide clearance for the navigation of watercraft if certain conditions are met.[36]

DEP may require mitigation if mangroves are to be trimmed or altered under a permit issued pursuant to s. 403.9238, F.S.[37] In such cases, DEP must establish reasonable mitigation requirements that allow the use of mitigation banks as an option, where appropriate.[38] Restoration or mitigation is required for any area in which five percent or more of the mangrove trees have been trimmed below six feet in height.[39] Restoration must be accomplished by replanting mangroves to achieve within five years a canopy area equivalent to the area destroyed.[40] Any replanting for restoration and mitigation must result in at least 80 percent survival of the planted mangroves one year after planting, otherwise additional mangroves must be planted and maintained until 80 percent survival is achieved.[41]

Where restoration or mitigation is not practicable, the impacts resulting from the destruction, defoliation, removal, or trimming of mangroves must be offset by donating an amount equivalent to the cost of creating mangrove wetlands at a 2-to-1 created versus affected ratio based on canopy area. The donation may not be less than $4 per square foot of created wetland area. Payments received as mitigation must be sufficient to offset impacts and be used for mangrove creation, preservation, protection, or enhancement.[42]

Any person who fails to obtain a permit before trimming or altering mangroves commits a first degree misdemeanor (or a second degree misdemeanor if the violation is due to reckless indifference or gross careless disregard), punishable by a fine of not more than $10,000 and/or 60 days in jail for each offense.[43] For second and subsequent violations, additional monetary penalties for each illegally trimmed mangrove are imposed as follows:
- Up to $100 for each mangrove illegally trimmed; or
- Up to $250 for each mangrove illegally altered.[44]

[35] Section 403.9327(1)(a), F.S.
[36] Section 403.9327(1)(b), F.S.
[37] Section 403.9332(1)(c), F.S.
[38] *Id.*
[39] Section 403.9332(1)(a), F.S.
[40] *Id.*
[41] Section 403.9332(1)(d), F.S.
[42] Section 403.9332(1)(c), F.S.
[43] Section 403.9332(2), F.S.
[44] Section 403.9332(3), F.S.

Areas of Critical State Concern

The Areas of Critical State Concern Program was created by the Florida Environmental Land and Water Management Act of 1972.[45] The program is intended to protect resources and public facilities of major statewide significance within designated geographic areas from uncontrolled development that would cause substantial deterioration of such resources.[46]

Designated areas of critical state concern include:
- Big Cypress Area (portions of Collier, Miami-Dade, and Monroe Counties);[47]
- Green Swamp Area (portions of Polk and Lake Counties);[48]
- City of Key West and the Florida Keys (Monroe County);[49]
- Apalachicola Bay Area (Franklin County).[50]

Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve

Biscayne Bay is the largest estuary in Florida, and the only large, subtropical, protected bay within the continental United States. Biscayne Bay is home to two state aquatic preserves, collectively known as Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserves. The first, Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve, was established in 1974 and runs the length of Biscayne Bay proper, from the headwaters of the Oleta River down to Card Sound near Key Largo. Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve is about 64,607 submerged acres. This aquatic preserve is split in half by what is now called Biscayne National Park.[51] The second aquatic preserve within the Biscayne Bay area—Biscayne Bay-Cape Florida to Monroe County Line Aquatic Preserve—was established in 1975.[52]

Biscayne Bay provides habitat for a variety of juvenile and adult marine species, as well as several of Florida's imperiled species, including the Florida manatee, the smalltooth sawfish, the American crocodile, and Johnson's seagrass. Johnson's seagrass is the first and only marine plant to be listed as threatened on the Endangered Species List and lives in northern Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve.[53]

Living Shorelines

"Living shoreline" is a broad term that encompasses a range of shoreline stabilization techniques along estuarine coasts, bays, sheltered coastlines, and tributaries. A living shoreline has a footprint made up mostly of native material. It incorporates vegetation or other living, natural

[45] *See* section 380.05, F.S.
[46] Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, *Area of Critical State Concern Program*, https://www.floridajobs.org/community-planning-and-development/programs/community-planning-table-of-contents/areas-of-critical-state-concern (last visited Feb. 22, 2023).
[47] Section 380.055, F.S.
[48] Section 380.0551, F.S.
[49] Section 380.0552, F.S.
[50] Section 380.0555
[51] DEP, *Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserves*, https://floridadep.gov/rcp/aquatic-preserve/BiscayneBayAquaticPreserves (last visited Feb. 22, 2023).
[52] *Id.*; section 258.397, F.S.
[53] DEP, *Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserves.*

"soft" elements alone or in combination with some type of harder shoreline structure (e.g. oyster reefs or rock sills) for added stability.[54]

There is evidence that living shorelines with intact natural coastal habitats (e.g., wetlands, dunes, mangroves, and coral reefs) experience less damage from severe storms and are more resilient than hardened shorelines. Areas with natural coastal habitats also have higher populations of fish and other living organisms important for shorebirds and for recreation and commercial purposes.[55]

Living shorelines provide several benefits:
- Cost efficiency for structural stabilization in low-energy environments;
- Increased wildlife access in critical habitat areas;
- A natural buffer that reduces coastal erosion by absorbing wave energy;
- Decrease in harmful nutrients/pollutants entering coastal waters; and
- Increased aesthetic value and privacy.[56]

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1 amends s. 403.9324, F.S., to require the Department of Environmental Protection to adopt rules for mangrove replanting and restoration. The rules must:
- Address significant erosion in areas of critical state concern;
- Protect barrier and spoil islands;
- Assist Everglades restoration and Biscayne Bay revitalization efforts, including the development of living shoreline design options for the Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve that are ecologically acceptable and consistent with s. 258.397, F.S., which establishes the Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve and sets requirements for its maintenance;
- Promote public awareness of the value of mangroves statewide and support mangrove education campaigns conducted by local governmental entities; and
- Identify vulnerable public and private properties along the coastline and encourage partnerships with local governmental entities to create local mangrove protection and restoration zone programs for implementing the rules developed by DEP.

Section 2 provides an effective date of July 1, 2023.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

[54] NOAA, *Guidance for Considering the Use of Living Shorelines*, 5 (2015), *available at* https://www.habitatblueprint.noaa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/NOAA-Guidance-for-Considering-the-Use-of-Living-Shorelines_2015.pdf.
[55] *Id.*
[56] DEP, *Resilient Florida Program – Living Shorelines*, https://floridadep.gov/rcp/resilient-florida-program/content/resilient-florida-program-living-shorelines (last visited Feb. 22, 2023).

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The bill may have an indeterminate negative fiscal impact on the Department of Environmental Protection related to the costs associated with the rulemaking requirements of the bill.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends section 403.9324 of the Florida Statutes.

IX. Additional Information:

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:
(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.

By Senator Garcia

36-00289A-23 2023100__

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to mangrove replanting and restoration; amending s. 403.9324, F.S.; requiring the Department of Environmental Protection to adopt rules for mangrove replanting and restoration; providing requirements for the rules; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Subsection (7) is added to section 403.9324, Florida Statutes, to read:

403.9324 Mangrove protection rule; delegation of mangrove protection to local governments.—

(7) The department shall adopt rules for mangrove replanting and restoration. The rules must do all of the following:

(a) Address significant erosion in areas of critical state concern.

(b) Protect barrier and spoil islands.

(c) Assist Everglades restoration and Biscayne Bay revitalization efforts, including the development of living shoreline design options for the Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve which are ecologically acceptable and consistent with s. 258.397.

(d) Promote public awareness of the value of mangroves statewide and support mangrove education campaigns conducted by local governmental entities.

(e) Identify vulnerable public and private properties along

the coastline and encourage partnerships with local governmental entities to create local mangrove protection and restoration zone programs for implementing the rules developed by the department pursuant to this subsection.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.

Rogers, Ellen

From: Kernan (Bickley), Alex <Alex.Kernan@floridadep.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:11 PM
To: Rogers, Ellen
Subject: bill questions

Hey Ellen,

I have staff working on the recycling question, I'll let you know as soon as I have an answer.

On Osbourne Reef: In 2019, we completed a high level survey map of the area that took 6 months and cost ~$300k. To develop a restoration plan, there would need to be a lot of in-water assessments of the habitats to confirm the 2019 survey information and to map it in finer detail. Those assessments would inform development of the actual restoration actions /plan and would include clean-up of the tires on the reef before out planting could occur. Full in water assessments resulting in a finer detail survey and restoration plan would probably take another $500k and 6-9 months. So if the desire is a full restoration plan with site specific restoration detail, it would be a minimum of 1 year if everything goes according to plan and depending on how much funding can go towards the effort.

We could develop a restoration plan and budget based on the 2019 survey; however, the plan would not be fully accurate since we know that tires have migrated beyond the scope of the 2019 survey. That survey was only designed to be a snapshot around the border of the sandy area where tires are being removed. We learned that many tires have migrated much further across the reef than we expected.

Without a broader survey, we would be potentially providing inadequate estimates since we already know the actual restoration area is much bigger. We can develop a phased approach to the restoration effort if leadership are comfortable with the uncertainty re: the full scope of area and costs.

Alex (Bickley) Kernan
Director of Legislative and Governmental Affairs
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Alex.Kernan@FloridaDEP.gov
Office: 850-245-2092
Cell: 850-408-4507

The Florida Senate

APPEARANCE RECORD

Deliver both copies of this form to
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

03/06/23
Meeting Date

Environment & Natural Resources
Committee

SB 546
Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Michael Mejia

Phone (954) 319-0724

Address 100 S Andrews Ave
Street

Email mmejia@broward.org

Ft. Lauderdale FL 33301
City State Zip

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☐ Information **OR** Waive Speaking: ☑ In Support ☐ Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

☐ I am appearing without compensation or sponsorship.

☑ I am a registered lobbyist, representing: Broward County

☐ I am not a lobbyist, but received something of value for my appearance (travel, meals, lodging, etc.), sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. 2020-2022JointRules.pdf (flsenate.gov)

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (08/10/2021)

SENATOR Bryan Avila
39th District

THE FLORIDA SENATE

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

COMMITTEES:
Government Oversight and Accountability, Chair
Appropriations
Appropriations Committee on Education
Appropriations Committee of Health and Human Services
Education Pre-K 12
Ethics and Elections
Health Policy
Select Committee on Resiliency
Joint Select Committee on Collective Bargaining

February 20, 2023

Honorable Senator Ana Maria Rodriguez
Chair
Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

Honorable Chair Rodriguez,

I respectfully request SB 546 Restoration of Osborne Reefs be placed on the next committee agenda.

The bill requires the Department of Environmental Protection to submit a status report on the Osborne Reef cleanup and tire removal project to the Legislature by a specified time. It requires the department to develop a restoration plan for the reef by a specified date, and it requires for the restoration plan. The department must submit a report to the Legislature upon completion of the plan.

Sincerely,

Senator Bryan Avila
Florida Senate, District 39

CC: Robert Rogers, Staff Director
Kim Bonn, Committee Administrative Assistant

REPLY TO:
❒ 10001 Northwest 87th Avenue, Hialeah Gardens, Florida 33016 (305) 364-3073
❒ 326 Senate Building, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100 (850) 487-5039

Senate's Website: *www.flsenate.gov*

Kathleen Passidomo
President of the Senate

Dennis Baxley
President Pro Tempore

The Florida Senate

BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

BILL:	SB 546
INTRODUCER:	Senator Avila
SUBJECT:	Restoration of Osborne Reef
DATE:	March 3, 2023
REVISED:	

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Barriero	Rogers	EN	**Favorable**
2.			AEG	
3.			AP	

I. Summary:

SB 546 requires the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to submit a report to the Legislature on the status of the Osborne Reef cleanup and tire removal project. The report must include:

- A description of the condition of the remaining Osborne Reef structure;
- Any restoration efforts undertaken to restore the reef structure;
- The number of tires that have been retrieved and the number that still need to be retrieved; and
- The estimated timeline for the completion of the project.

The bill directs DEP to develop a comprehensive restoration plan for Osborne Reef by July 1, 2024, upon completion of the cleanup and tire removal project. The restoration plan must include:

- A preliminary plan for the restoration of the existing reef;
- The restoration of any nearby natural reefs that were destroyed by the tire installation;
- The shifting of resources from tire retrieval to reef restoration; and
- Coordination with other coral reef restoration projects and resources.

Upon completion of the plan, DEP must provide a report to the Legislature. The report must include an update on the status of the restoration plan and any recommendations for statutory changes necessary to achieve the identified restoration goals.

The bill also contains legislative findings regarding the enactment and purposes of the Act.

II. Present Situation:

Coral Reefs

Florida is the only state in the continental United States with extensive shallow coral reef formations near its coasts.[1] The state's coral reef extends over 350 nautical miles from the Dry Tortugas to the St. Lucie Inlet in Martin County. Coral reefs create specialized habitats that provide shelter, food and breeding sites for numerous plants and animals. This includes ones important to fishing like spiny lobster, snapper, and grouper. Fish rely on corals to build the reef structure where they can breed and grow. Current medicines that combat cancer, pain, and inflammation have been derived from coral reef organisms. In addition, South Florida's economy is inextricably linked to the coral reef ecosystem: coral reefs are estimated to annually support 71,000 jobs in South Florida, and the total tourism value of Florida's Coral Reef is estimated at $1.1 billion annually.[2]

Healthy and resilient coral reefs safeguard against extreme weather, shoreline erosion, and coastal flooding.[3] Florida's Coral Reef provides more than $355 million per year in flood protection benefits to buildings and protects nearly $320 million in annual economic activity.[4]

Artificial Reefs

An artificial reef is a manmade structure that mimics some of the characteristics of a natural reef.[5] Submerged shipwrecks are the most common form of artificial reef. Oil and gas platforms, bridges, lighthouses, and other offshore structures also function as artificial reefs. Materials used to construct these reefs have included rocks, cinder blocks, wood, and old tires. Several companies specialize in the design, manufacture, and deployment of long-lasting artificial reefs that are typically constructed of limestone, steel, and concrete.[6]

The Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary contains several decommissioned vessels that were sunk in specific areas for diving or fishing opportunities prior to the area's designation as a national marine sanctuary.[7] One such ship is the *Thunderbolt*, which was intentionally sunk four miles south of Marathon and Key Colony Beach in 1986. The ship is now home to sponges, corals, and hydroids that provide food and habitat for a variety of sea creatures.[8]

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[1] Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), *Florida's Coral Reefs*, https://floridadep.gov/rcp/rcp/content/floridas-coral-reefs (last visited Feb. 28, 2023); DEP, *Coral Reef Conservation Program*, https://floridadep.gov/rcp/coral (last visited Feb. 28, 2023).
[2] *Id.*
[3] *Id.*
[4] *Id.*
[5] National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), *What is an artificial reef?*, https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/artificial-reef.html#:~:text=Oil%20and%20gas%20platforms%2C%20bridges%2C%20lighthouses%2C%20and%20other,the%20fishes%20and%20invertebrates%20that%20live%20among%20them. (last visited Feb. 27, 2023).
[6] *Id.*
[7] *Id.*
[8] *Id. See also* Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, NOAA, *The Thunderbolt*, https://floridakeys.noaa.gov/shipwrecktrail/thunderbolt.html#:~:text=The%20Thunderbolt%20was%20intentionally%20sunk%20on%20March%206%2C,Key%20Colony%20Beach.%20History%20Archaeology%20Site%20Map%20History (last visited Feb. 27, 2023).

Planned manmade reefs may provide local economic benefits because they attract fish to a known location and are therefore popular attractions for commercial and recreational fishermen, divers, and snorkelers.[9] However, the increase in illegal dumping for the purpose of creating habitat has led to significant poaching in the Florida Keys and subsequent high-profile arrests.[10]

The Osborne Reef Tire Removal Project

During the 1970s, between one and two million tires were placed in the ocean off Broward County to create an artificial reef.[11] Over the years, many of the tires—which were held together only with nylon rope and steel clips—came loose and were moved by tropical storms and hurricanes, causing damage to existing nearby coral reefs.[12] Several programs have attempted to remove the tires. For example, in 2001, a small tire retrieval program was conducted by Dr. Robin Sherman of Nova Southeastern University with a $30,000 grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).[13] Approximately 1,600 tires were retrieved at a cost of over $17 per tire.[14] Due to the magnitude and cost of such projects, however, most of the tires have not been removed.[15]

In 2006, the NOAA Marine Debris Program was created to develop a plan for the removal and proper disposal of the tires.[16] The following year, a group of federal, county, and state agencies, including the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), was convened to explore retrieval techniques, sample retrieved tires for processing suitability, and consider end uses and handling, staging, and transportation methods. Because there had not previously been a recovery of tires from the ocean of this scale, it was determined that a pilot program was needed to test diver retrieval productivity, loading and transport methods, and tire processing and use. It was also determined that complete removal required federal funding for military diver salvage operations and watercraft, as well as state funding for processing and disposing of the recovered tires.[17]

[9] NOAA, *What is an artificial reef?*
[10] *Id.*
[11] DEP, *History and Overview of the Osborne Reef Waste Tire Removal Project*, 1 (2016), *available at* https://floridadep.gov/waste/permitting-compliance-assistance/content/osborne-reef-waste-tire-removal-project.
[12] *Id.*
[13] *Id.*
[14] *Id.*
[15] *Id.*
[16] *Id.*
[17] *Id.*

The team designated approximately 30 acres containing 651,565 tires as the highest priority area for tire removal.[18] Based on the results of the pilot program, they estimated that approximately 20,000 tires could be recovered per month based on the conservative assumption that military divers can remove 1,000 tires per day using 40 divers and one Landing Craft Utility.[19]

Between 2008 and 2016, the program conducted dive operations to remove tires from the high priority area.[20] The operations were broken into three phases:

- In April 2008, approximately 66 military personnel worked 27 days to remove 44,000 tires.[21]
- In July 2009, approximately 50 military personnel worked 16 days to remove an estimated 15,000 to 18,000 tires.[22]
- Between May 2015 and August 2016, divers[23] removed an additional 67,000 tires.[24]

As of August 2016, an estimated 207,843 tires had been removed from Osborne Reef.[25] In 2019, DEP completed a high-level survey map of the area, a process that took 6 months and cost approximately $300,000.[26] Additional in-water assessments of the affected habitats are needed to assess any movement of the tires since the 2019 survey and to plan for full restoration of the area.[27] DEP estimates such a process may take 6 to 9 months and cost approximately $500,000.[28]

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1 provides the following legislative findings and intent:

- More than 1 million tires were deposited in the ocean off the coast of Broward County during the 1970s to create an artificial reef habitat by providing structures to which coral could attach and attract additional marine life; however, many of the tires have corroded, broken loose, and dislodged along the coastline, damaging the existing fragile coral reef system and prompting the Legislature to appropriate millions of dollars to retrieve the tires; and
- Coral reefs are an important part of this state's coastal ecosystem, creating habitats that provide shelter, food, and breeding grounds for plants and animals.
- The Legislature intends to restore Osborne Reef to being capable of creating a habitat for plants and animals and dedicate resources toward restoring the artificial reef and the nearby natural coral reef systems once the cleanup of the site has been completed.

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[18] *Id.* at 2.
[19] Landing Craft Utility is a type of boat used by amphibious forces to transport equipment, troops, and cargo to the shore. They are also used to support civilian humanitarian/maritime operations. *See* America's Navy, Department of Defense, *Landing Craft, Mechanized and Utility – LCM/LCU* (2019), https://www.navy.mil/Resources/Fact-Files/Display-FactFiles/Article/2171588/landing-craft-mechanized-and-utility-lcmlcu/ (last visited Feb. 27, 2023).
[20] DEP, *History and Overview of the Osborne Reef Waste Tire Removal Project* at 2.
[21] *Id.* at 3.
[22] *Id.*
[23] DEP did not provide the number of days worked or personnel employed during this phase.
[24] DEP, *Osborne Reef Waste Tire Removal Project*, 2 (2016), *available at* https://floridadep.gov/sites/default/files/OsborneReefProject_09Aug16_0.pdf.
[25] *Id.*; DEP, *History and Overview of the Osborne Reef Waste Tire Removal Project* at 3.
[26] Email from Alex Kernan, DEP, to Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources (Mar. 1, 2023) (on file with the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources).
[27] *Id.*
[28] *Id.*

The bill requires DEP to submit a report to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives on the status of the Osborne Reef cleanup and tire removal project. The report, at a minimum, must include:

- A description of the condition of the remaining Osborne Reef structure;
- Any restoration efforts undertaken to restore the reef structure;
- The number of tires retrieved since the project began and number of tires that still need to be retrieved; and
- The estimated timeline for the completion of the project.

The bill directs DEP, upon completion of the cleanup and tire removal project, to develop a comprehensive restoration plan for Osborne Reef by July 1, 2024. At a minimum, the restoration plan must include:

- A preliminary plan for the restoration of the existing reef;
- The restoration of any nearby natural reefs that were destroyed by the tire installation;
- The shifting of resources from tire retrieval to reef restoration; and
- Coordination with other coral reef restoration projects and resources.

Upon completion of the plan, DEP must provide a report to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The report must include an update on the status of the restoration plan and any recommendations for statutory changes necessary to achieve the identified restoration goals.

Section 2 provides an effective date of July 1, 2023.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) may incur costs to survey the Osborne Reef area, report on the status of the tire removal project, and develop a comprehensive coral reef restoration plan. DEP estimates a cost of approximately $500,000 to conduct additional in-water assessments necessary for the development of the restoration plan.[29] Alternatively, DEP could develop a restoration plan based on a 2019 survey of the reef; however, the plan would likely not be accurate because the tires have migrated beyond the scope of the 2019 survey.[30]

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill creates an undesignated section of Florida law.

IX. Additional Information:

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:
(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.

[29] Email from Alex Kernan, DEP, to Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources (Mar. 1, 2023) (on file with the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources).
[30] *Id.*

By Senator Avila

39-00227-23 2023546__

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to the restoration of Osborne Reef; providing legislative findings and intent; requiring the Department of Environmental Protection to submit a status report on the Osborne Reef cleanup and tire removal project to the Legislature by a specified date; requiring the department to develop a restoration plan for the reef by a specified date; providing requirements for the restoration plan; requiring the department to submit a report to the Legislature upon completion of the plan; providing requirements for the report; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Osborne Reef; restoration plan.—

(1) LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT.—

(a) The Legislature finds that:

1. More than 1 million tires were deposited in the ocean off the coast of Broward County during the 1970s to create an artificial reef habitat by providing structures to which coral could attach and attract additional marine life; however, many of the tires have corroded, broken loose, and dislodged along the coastline, damaging the existing fragile coral reef system and prompting the Legislature to appropriate millions of dollars to retrieve the tires.

2. Coral reefs are an important part of this state's coastal ecosystem, creating habitats that provide shelter, food,

and breeding grounds for plants and animals.

(b) The Legislature intends to restore Osborne Reef to being capable of creating a habitat for plants and animals, and to dedicate resources toward restoring the artificial reef and the nearby natural coral reef systems once the cleanup of the site has been completed.

(2) STATUS REPORT.—By December 1, 2023, the Department of Environmental Protection shall submit a report to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives on the status of the Osborne Reef cleanup and tire removal project. At a minimum, the report must include a description of the condition of the remaining Osborne Reef structure, any restoration efforts undertaken to restore the reef structure, the number of tires retrieved since the project began and the number of tires that still need to be retrieved, and an estimated timeline for the completion of the cleanup and tire removal project.

(3) RESTORATION PLAN.—

(a) By July 1, 2024, the Department of Environmental Protection shall develop a comprehensive coral reef restoration plan for Osborne Reef to be commenced, subject to appropriation by the Legislature, upon the completion of the cleanup and tire removal project. At a minimum, the restoration plan must include a preliminary plan for the restoration of the existing reef, the restoration of any nearby natural reefs that were destroyed by the tire installation, the shifting of resources from tire retrieval to reef restoration, and coordination with other coral reef restoration projects and resources.

(b) Upon completion of the plan, the department shall

provide a report to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The report must include an update on the status of the restoration plan and any recommendations for statutory changes necessary to achieve the identified restoration goals.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.

Heartland Headwaters Protection and Sustainability Act

Annual Comprehensive Water Resources Report

FY 2023-24

Polk Regional

Annual Comprehensive Water Resources Report

Executive Summary

In early 2017, the Florida Legislature passed HB 573, better known as the Heartland Headwaters Protection and Sustainability Act (Chapter No. 2017-111, Laws of Florida). The Act statutorily recognizes the vital importance of those portions of the Green Swamp Area of Critical State Concern that lie within the jurisdictional bounds of Polk and Lake counties and designates Polk County's aquifers as the headwaters for six of Florida's major rivers: the Alafia, Hillsborough, Kissimmee, Ocklawaha, Peace, and Withlacoochee Rivers. Furthermore, it acknowledges the critical importance of Polk County's aquifers to the economic and ecological health of the surrounding regions. The Act declared that fostering partnerships between Regional Water Supply Authorities (RWSA) and local governments is in the state interest. [1]

For the purposes of fostering such partnerships, the Act requires that the Polk Regional Water Cooperative, an RWSA created through inter-local agreement between Polk County and the county's 15 municipal governments, prepare an annual comprehensive report listing projects that are needed to protect and restore the region's water resources so that these may be considered for state funding support.

Consistent with the provisions of the Act, the Polk Water Cooperative has identified 48 drinking water, wastewater, stormwater & flood control, and environmental restoration & conservation projects submitted by its member governments, prioritized them and is

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[1] Fla. Stat. § 373.462 (2017)

requesting $36,564,682 in state funding support for their implementation in FY 2023-24. The Cooperative now presents these to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and the Southwest Florida Water Management District for funding consideration.

Background

Green Swamp Area of Critical State Concern

The Green Swamp, as a whole, is spread out over 560,000 acres of Southwest Florida.[2] In 1979, the Florida Legislature designated a large area of these wetlands, roughly 322,690 acres that encompasses northern Polk and Southern Lake County, as the Green Swamp Area of Critical State Concern.[3] This hydrologic zone serves as the headwaters for the following rivers: the Hillsborough (drainage area: 690 sq. miles), the Withlacoochee (drainage area: 2,000 sq. miles), the Ocklawaha (drainage area: 2,120 sq. miles), and the Peace (Drainage area: 2,300 sq. miles).[4] The Withlacoochee and Ocklawaha are both designated as Outstanding Florida Waters, while the Peace and Hillsborough rivers both serve as primary potable drinking water sources for the Tampa Bay Area and Sarasota. [5]

The Green Swamp Area is an integral part of the Floridan Aquifer, a 100,000 sq. mile freshwater system that is among the largest and most productive sources of potable water in the world. Cities from Savannah, Georgia on the Atlantic Coast, to St. Petersburg, Florida in the Gulf of Mexico, rely upon this aquifer for most of their water needs.[6] The

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[2] Southwest Florida WMD. Green Swamp Wilderness Preserve, http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/recreation/areas/greenswamp.html (Accessed Aug. 10, Mar. 2, 2017)

[3] DEO. *Green Swamp Area*, http://www.floridajobs.org/community-planning-and-development/programs/community-planning-table- of-contents/areas-of-critical-state-concern/the-green-swamp (Accessed Aug. 10, 2017)

[4] Southwest Florida WMD. *Green Swamp Interactive*, https://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/education/interactive/greenswamp/rivers.html (Accessed August 10, 2017)

[5] DEO, *supra*.

[6] USGS. *Floridan Aquifer System*, https://pubs.usgs.gov/ha/ha730/ch_g/G-text6.html (last visited Mar. 2, 2017)

Aquifer reaches its highest elevation in the Green Swamp, which makes it vital to the health of the aquifer system as a whole since it acts as a pressure head to all the areas and riverine chains surrounding it. The swamp's flood basins are the linchpin to maintaining the region's water table during peak rain and flood seasons, while keeping the aquifer freshly recharged. However, the same limestone sub-strata that allows water to flow freely through the region also makes the aquifer highly susceptible to groundwater pollution.[7]

The Southern Water Use Caution Area (SWUCA)

In 1998, the state's five Water Management District's (WMDs) conducted an evaluation of the state's aquifers in order to assess whether these resources were adequate enough to meet two decades worth of consumption needs. With the exception of the assessment done by the Suwannee River Water Management District (which must be re-evaluated periodically), all the WMDs ruled that natural water supplies were inadequate. In response to these findings, the WMDs began the process of developing Regional Water Supply Plans (RWSPs)[8] and forming partnerships with local governments and regulative agencies (as well as coordinating more closely with each other) to come up with region-wide planning strategies.

Six years earlier, in 1992, the Southwest Florida Water Management District declared 5,100 sq. miles of wetlands south of Tampa Bay as the Southern Water Use Caution Area (SWUCA), which encompasses a large portion of southwest Polk County along its northern regions, as well as the whole of Manatee, Hardee, Desoto, and Sarasota County, and parts of Charlotte, Hillsborough, and Highland County. The SWUCA was designated in order to address reduced flows in the upper Peace River, reduced lake levels in the Ridge Lakes Area that extends 90 miles across Hillsborough and Polk County, and an increasing level of saltwater intrusion along the coast of southern Hillsborough, Manatee and northwestern

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[7] DEO, *supra.*

[8] DEP. *Regional Water Supply Planning*, http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/waterpolicy/rwsp.htm (last visited Mar. 5, 2017).

Sarasota counties, some 708 sq. miles of which has been declared a Most Impacted Area (MIA). In some areas of the aquifer, groundwater fluctuations exceeded as much as 50 ft.[9]

Historically, the primary use for water in the SWUCA has been for agricultural purposes, (with some supplies also used for phosphate mining activities, though these activities are on the decline). Due to high salt content in the coastal aquifers, most freshwater withdrawals come from the Floridan Aquifer further inland, which has put heavy strain on that natural source.[10]

In 2006, the Southwest WMD adopted its 20-year SWUCA Recovery Strategy, with the aim of meeting the minimum flows and levels established for the Peace River and Ridge Lake, as well as the longer term goal of slowing saltwater intrusion into the aquifer over a period of 50 years, all while maintaining a sufficient supply of water for all projected beneficial and reasonable uses within the 8-county area This plan is made up of two components: (1) the control of withdrawals from the aquifer, and (2) the development of water resource projects to restore the aquifer to its historical flows.[11]

The regional water supply plan developed under SWUCA calls for the following conditions:

(1) Restore minimum levels to priority lakes in the Ridge area by 2025.

(2) Restore minimum flows to the upper Peace River by 2025.

(3) Reduce the rate of saltwater intrusion in coastal Hillsborough, Manatee and Sarasota counties by achieving the proposed minimum aquifer level for saltwater intrusion by 2025; once achieved, future efforts should seek further reductions in the rate of saltwater intrusion and the ultimate stabilization of the saltwater-freshwater interface.

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[9] Southwest Florida WMD. *Southern Water Use Caution Area*, https://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/projects/swuca/ (Accessed Aug. 12, 2017)

[10] Southwest Florida WMD. *Southern Water Use Caution Area Recovery Strategy* (Mar. 2006), https://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/documents/plans/swuca_recovery_strategy.pdf (Accessed Aug. 12, 2017), at pg. 8.

[11] Id at pg. 43.

(4) Ensure that there are sufficient water supplies for all existing and projected reasonable-beneficial uses.

To meet the minimum flows for reduction of saltwater intrusion, the SWFWMD estimated at that time that an annual average reduction of 50 mgd from the Floridan aquifer must be achieved, though they also estimated that a significantly smaller reduction would be needed if water withdrawals were optimally increased in less impacted areas while being reduced in heavily impacted areas.

Public water use was estimated in this report to be the largest growing area of demand, with a projected annual increase of 105.2 mgd by 2025 (111.8 mgd in drought years), with the largest increases expected in Polk County, where water needs during drought conditions are anticipated to go up by 22.1 mgd.

Recreational water use, meanwhile, was projected to grow to 19.6 mgd by 2025, (25.3 during drought years). The total additional need for water throughout the entire SWUCA was thus estimated to be 181.7 in average conditions and 193.7 mgd during drought conditions. Over half that must be allocated to public use, while the remainder, 50 mgd, must be reserved for the purposes of restoring minimum flows and levels.[12]

The FY2012-2016 SWUCA 5-Year Assessment concluded that the District has made progress towards recovery, but continued to support the need to reduce overall groundwater withdrawals through LFA investigations, AWS project prioritization, supporting regional water supply entities and other initiatives.

The Central Florida Water Initiative (CFWI).

In 2006, around the same time that the SWFWMD was releasing its SWUCA Recovery Plan, the St. John's River, South Florida, and Southwest Florida WMD agreed to a Central Florida Coordination Area (CFCA) Action Plan to address the near-term and long-term

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[12] Id at pg. 54-55

development of water supplies in the central Florida region, including southern Lake, Orange, Osceola, Seminole and Polk counties.

The Action Plan, which was originally set to be carried out in two phases, only covered those areas of northeast Polk that were not already within the SWUCA.[13]

The first phase of the action plan, an interim set of regulations for water withdrawals and alternative supply development, sunsetted on Dec. 31, 2012. The second phase, which was to rely on data gathered through hydrological studies and local stakeholder input, was halted due to the unexpected technical complexity of performing the studies, a sudden downturn in the local economy, and the inability of stakeholders to reach a consensus. As a result, the 2012 rule-making deadlines could not be met.[14]

The three WMDs, along with their associated stakeholders, developed a new process for rulemaking, which they dubbed the Central Florida Water Initiative (CFWI), led by a steering committee composed of the three representatives for the three member WMDs, a representative for the water utilities, one DEP representative, and another from DACS.[15]

The CFWI's 2015 Guiding Document created a number of collaborative technical teams to undertake the necessary scientific hydrologic analysis to support decision making for the CFWI and create accurate estimates of water supplies needs through 2035.

In 2016, the CFWI released a new guiding document, assigning technical teams to following respective areas:

- Conservation
- Regulation
- CFWI Water Supply Development

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[13] CFWI. *Central Florida Water Initiative Guiding Document* (Jan. 2015), http://cfwiwater.com/pdfs/CFWI_Guiding_Document_2015-01-30.pdf (Accessed Aug. 14, 2017), at pg. 2.
[14] Id at pg. 3.
[15] Id at pg. 5.

- Water Resource Developments
- Communication Outreach[16]

The work product of all these teams became the 2015 Regional Water Supply Plan and Water Supply Strategies Plan and the 2035 Water Resources Protection and Water Supply Strategies Plan, and have since been updated with the publication of the 2020 Regional Water Supply Plan.

CFWI 2020 Regional Water Supply Plan

Overall, the updated 2020 CFWI RSWP estimates that the total population within the CFWI Planning Area, some 2.9 million people, will grow to about 4.4 million by 2040. In that same period, the total average water use within the CFWI area will grow from the current 667 mgd to 908 mgd in 2040, with public supply being the largest and fastest growing use, followed by agricultural and commercial consumption.[17] In Polk County alone, public supply is projected to grow from 69.74 mgd in 2015 to the 5-in-10 average of 99.81 by 2040. In Osceola, one of the faster growing counties in the region, that demand is expected to double, from a 2015 usage of 34.81 mgd to 72.67 mgd in the same time period.[18]

The CFWI estimates that at most, 760 mgd may be safely drawn from traditional natural sources without harming the aquifer, and only through carefully coordinated management strategies amongst the stakeholders involved. Much of the region's water supply is already being provided through these traditional sources, with the rest of the remaining burden taken on through wastewater recycling efforts. 95% of the wastewater in the CFWI Area, some 215 mgd on average, is already being recycled for agricultural and industrial uses.[19]

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[16] CFWI. *Central Florida Water Initiative 2020 Guiding Document* (April 1, 2016), pdf (Accessed Aug. 30, 2017), at pg. 5-6.
[17] CFWI, *Regional Water Supply 2020*, Public Review Draft. (Accessed Oct. 8, 2020) https://cfwiwater.com/pdfs/CFWI_2020%20Public_Review_Draft_VolI_Rpt_3-8-2020R8.pdf, at page ii
[18] Id at Appendix pg. A-20
[19] Id at pg. 7.

MFLs have been established in 54 waterbodies within the CFWI Area, 13 of which are not being met and many more projected to fall below those levels if alternative sources are not developed to meet the growing demand. While the monitoring wells in the Lake Wales Ridge are currently meeting their targets, SWUCA's Saltwater Intrusion Minimum Aquifer Level is not being met. [20]

Through the RWSP planning process, CFWI stakeholders have identified up to 85 potential water supply projects for meeting the demands, including 11 involving non-traditional groundwater/brackish water sources, 48 reclaimed water, 17 surface water, 2 stormwater, and 7 management strategies projects, all of which have the potential to increase available public water supplies not covered by traditional sources. [21] It is anticipated that the 95 MGD of needed alternative water supplies can be achieved to meet 2040 demands.

FDEP CFWI Rulemaking

In 2016, the Florida Legislature enacted 373.0465(2)(d) requiring the adoption of uniform rulemaking in the CFWI area. Rulemaking has since concluded with Rules 62-41.300 through 62-41.305 F.A.C. and the CFWI Supplemental Applicant's Handbook, both which apply to consumptive use permit application and permittees with withdrawal points within the CFWI area.

With this rulemaking, public suppliers in the CFWI would have their upper Floridan allocations limited to 2025 demonstrated demands, resulting in a need to explore alternative water supplies.

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[20] SWFWMD, *Southern Water Use Caution Area Five Year Assessment for 2012-2016*, April 2019 (Accessed October 10, 2020). https://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/sites/default/files/medias/documents/SWUCA%20Five-Year%20Assessment%20FY2012-16.pdf at page 19

[21] CFWI, *Regional Water Supply 2020*, Public Review Draft. (Accessed Oct. 8, 2020) https://cfwiwater.com/pdfs/CFWI_2020%20Public_Review_Draft_VolI_Rpt_3-8-2020R8.pdf, at page 69

Polk County Regional Water Cooperative

Carrying out both the findings and guiding principles outlined by the SWUCA and CFWI will require the cooperation, assistance, and technical expertise that can be provided by the Polk County Regional Water Cooperative. The Cooperative is a Regional Water Supply Authority (RWSA) that was created on March 1, 2016 by inter-local agreement between Polk County and 15 member municipalities.[22]

It is the intent and purpose of the Cooperative to study, plan, develop, improve, and maintain water projects within its jurisdiction, with the powers granted to it under Fla. Stat. § 373.713(1) and 163.01 (Florida Inter-local Cooperation Act).[23]

FY 2022-23 was a year of particular significance for the Cooperative. In early 2021, the Cooperative member engaged with the University of Florida's (UF's) IFAS Extension Center to support the execution of a Conservation Implementation Strategy. This partnership with UF/IFAS continued into 2022 and is intended to enable the Cooperative Conservation Project Team to advance programs which provide the most savings for their dollar and provide resources to enhance participation. The Conservation Team continues to work collaboratively with UF/IFAS to provide indoor incentives such as low flow toilet rebates and conservation kits, to develop outdoor BMPs like Florida Friendly landscaping rebates and smart irrigation controllers, and to obtain funding.

In October of 2017, the Cooperative retained a professional services team to implement feasibility studies for four alternative water supply projects. Two of the projects involve the use of the brackish lower Floridan aquifer as a water supply, and the other two involve surface water capture for use as a water supply through treatment and direct use or through groundwater offset.

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[22] Polk Regional Water Cooperative. *Inter-local Agreement Relating to the Establishment of the Polk Regional Water Cooperative*. http://www.prwcwater.org/docs/default-source/documents/16-06-07-prwc-interlocal-agreement2.pdf?sfvrsn=4. (Accessed Aug. 14, 2017)

[23] Id at pg. 14.

Through that program, the Cooperative contractor completed aquifer performance testing of the test wells drilled at two of the brackish groundwater project sites: the Southeast and West Polk wellfields. Preliminary designs for the water production facilities and transmission systems were completed in 2021, and Third Party Reviews were conducted by the SWFWMD. Through this process it was determined that these two projects could provide the alternative water supplies to the members soonest. To demonstrate the importance of these projects, the members entered into implementation agreements for the final design and construction of the Southeast and West Polk Lower Floridan Aquifer wellfield projects. Final design initiated in April of 2022.

The two surface water site studies will be completed in 2023, with the Peace Creek Preliminary Design and Peace River Concept Plan to conclude with recommendations for future water supplies.

The Cooperative continues to work diligently to advance these critical alternative water supply projects, update its member demands, and determine the most practical approaches to meet the region's long-term water supply needs.

The Heartland Headwaters Protection and Sustainability Act of 2017

In 2017, the Florida Legislature passed HB 573, better known as the Heartland Headwaters Protection and Sustainability Act. The Act recognizes the vital importance of those portions of the Green Swamp Area of Critical State Concern that lie within the jurisdictional bounds of Polk and Lake Counties. It designates Polk County's aquifers as the headwaters for six of Florida's major rivers: the Alafia, Hillsborough, Kissimmee, Ocklawaha, Peace, and Withlacoochee Rivers.

Furthermore, it recognizes the findings of the Central Florida Water Initiative Guiding Document dated January 30, 2015, and the Southern Water Use Caution Area Recovery Strategy dated March 2006, both of which layout the critical importance of Polk County's aquifers to the economic and ecological health of the surrounding regions. Lastly the Act

declares that fostering partnerships between RWSAs and local governments is now in the state interest. [24]

For the purposes of fostering such partnerships and addressing the hydrologic needs of the region, the Act requires that the Polk Regional Water Cooperative prepare an annual comprehensive report identifying and prioritizing all the water resource projects of its constituent member counties and local governments so that these may be considered for state funding support.

The list of projects must be divided into the following categories:

1. Drinking Water
2. Wastewater
3. Stormwater and Flood Control
4. Environmental Restoration
5. Conservation

(Note: A project may be listed under multiple categories)

The Act requires that a priority ranking be given to each project that is ready to proceed in the upcoming fiscal year. Each listed project must have an estimated cost and completion date, as well as a breakdown of each source of financial assistance (the water cooperative, member counties & local government, etc.) and what their total contribution is. This report must be submitted to the Governor, both Legislative Chambers, the DEP, and to all the appropriate WMDs by Dec. 1 of every year.[25]

(Note: The Act also requires the cooperative to submit an annual status report to the appropriate WMD regarding all the projects that have received priority state funding in the prior year, for the purpose of including these same projects the WMD's consolidated district annual report. See Fla. Sta. § 373.036(7).[26]

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[24] Fla. Stat. § 373.462 (2017)
[25] Fla. Stat. § 373.463 (2017)
[26] *Id.*

The Legislature appropriated $20,000,000 for the projects in FY 2022-2023. These funds are currently being used towards advancing the PRWC alternative water supply projects currently underway and to support a number of other member projects.

Past appropriations have been critical to members advancing a number of projects. For example:

- The **Auburndale-Lakeland Interconnect** project is complete and operational. The project provides increased reliability for Auburndale and Lakeland water customers, including Florida Polytech. The interconnect has the potential to serve to wheel water from the PRWC. This was made possible in part by funds appropriated in the 2019 Legislative session.
- The **Winter Haven Pollard Road Water Treatment Plant Phase 1** water main is complete and was permitted in September 2022. This was made possible by funds appropriated in the 2019 Legislative session.
- The **Winter Haven Boggy Bottom Septic to Sewer** construction will be completed in 2022. Area 6A is at 90% design and in the process of permitting. These activities were made possible by funds appropriated in the 2021 Legislative session.

Heartland Headwaters Protection and Sustainability Act - Implementation

Water Resources Project Identification

In July of 2022, the PRWC members were asked to identify the water resources projects that they planned on implementing in the upcoming fiscal year (FY 2023-24) for the five water resource management categories as shown in Table A. A total of 48 projects were submitted. Consistent with the regional challenge to develop and maximize the efficient use of the existing water resources, the projects were mostly drinking water (25) and wastewater (16), but also included stormwater and flood control (1), environmental restoration (4) and conservation (4) projects. One project provided multiple benefits so fell

into multiple categories. A general description of the need for each project submitted can be found in Table B.

The total cost (all years) of the projects submitted was $977,305,218. For Fiscal Year 2023-24, $100,447,824 will be required to implement those aspects of the projects which are ineligible for District funding. PRWC governments are collectively committing $63,883,142 (66.5%), leaving a state request of $36,564,682 (33.5%) for FY 23-24 (Table C).

Project Evaluation Criteria and Prioritization

The top three projects listed in Table C (noted as Approved in the column titled "Priority Ranking") are regionally the most important projects to the PRWC members. Two of these projects have been submitted to the water management districts and the Department of Environmental Protection for inclusion in the Central Florida Water Initiative (CFWI) Alternative Water Supply funding request to the legislature. The PRWC strongly supports and urges the legislature to fund this request in its entirety.

The PRWC also encourages legislative support for those PRWC member projects that allow for the acceptance and use of alternative water supplies provided by the PRWC. Each PRWC member government has identified the receiving facility where PRWC water will be provided. Each member government has also been developing plans for the necessary infrastructure improvements needed to accept this water from the PRWC. These projects are important in the overall development of reliable and secure alternative water supplies for the region.

In order to rank the projects for which state funding is being requested, the PRWC underwent an exercise which a) established a set of project criteria most important to each member government and the PRWC as a whole and b) scored each of the projects on those criteria. These two elements were used in combination to develop an overall project ranking.

Heartland Headwaters Protection and Sustainability Act
Table A - Water Resource Project Category Summary

Project Name	Member Government	Drinking Water	Wastewater (+ Reuse)	Stormwater & Flood Control	Environmental Restoration	Conservation
Southeast Wellfield Construction and Land Acquisition	PRWC	1				
West Polk Wellfield Final Design and Construction	PRWC	1				
Demand Management Implementation Program	PRWC					1
Berkely Rd Water Treatment Plant Expansion	City of Auburndale	1				
Gapway Watermain Expansion	City of Auburndale	1				
Main St / Recker Hwy Loop	City of Auburndale	1				
North Auburndale Sewer Upgrades	City of Auburndale		1			
Utility System Rehabilitation (Lake protection phase I)	City of Auburndale		1			
Water Treatment Plant Sodium Hypochlorite Conversion Project	City of Bartow	1				
Water Treatment Plant Finished Water Control Valves and Discharge Line Upgrade Project	City of Bartow	1				
Water Treatment Plant Lime Sludge Disposal - Drying Beds Project	City of Bartow	1				
Water Treatment Plant Lime Silo Dust Collection System Upgrade Project	City of Bartow	1				
Wastewater Treatment Plant Enhanced Nutrient Removal & Dynasand Filter Replacement	City of Bartow		1			
Wastewater Treatment Upgrades	City of Davenport		1			
City of Davenport Water Plant #1 Ground Storage	City of Davenport	1				
Water Inter-Connection Upgrades	Town of Dundee	1				
Water Plant Resiliency Project	Town of Lake Hamilton	1				
Dredging and Sediment Management	City of Lakeland		1			
E Lake Parker AC Replacement	City of Lakeland	1				
Edgewood Ext. Pump Station Rehabilitation	City of Lakeland		1			
Effluent Ditch Rehabilitation	City of Lakeland		1			
Grit Classifier and Pumps Upgrade	City of Lakeland		1			
Indian Trails Subdivision AC Replacement and Fire Improvement	City of Lakeland	1				
Inflow Reduction	City of Lakeland		1			
Service Laterals CIPP Lining	City of Lakeland		1			
Manhole Rehabilitation	City of Lakeland		1			
Northside Sludge Holding Tank Blowers and Aeration System	City of Lakeland		1			
Redwood Av. 6" AC Replacement	City of Lakeland	1				
Rehabilitate Sewer Lines	City of Lakeland		1			
Williams WTP Filter Replacement	City of Lakeland	1				
Undesignated Generator Replacements	City of Lakeland		1			
Undesignated Generator Installations	City of Lakeland		1			
W. Lake Parker 6" AC Replacement	City of Lakeland	1				
Wet Well Rehabilitation	City of Lakeland		1			
Upper Peace River Corridor Protection	PCU			1	1	1
CRUSA AWS Receiving Facilities	PCU	1				
ERUSA AWS Receiving Facility	PCU	1				
NERUSA AWS Receiving Facility	PCU	1				
Sapphaire Necklace Creation: Resilient Solutions for Central Florida	City of Winter Haven				1	

Heartland Headwaters Protection and Sustainability Act
Table A - Water Resource Project Category Summary

Project Name	Member Government	Drinking Water	Wastewater (+ Reuse)	Stormwater & Flood Control	Environmental Restoration	Conservation
Alternate Water Supply Receiving Facility (Pollard Road Water Production Facility)	City of Winter Haven	1				
Lake Idyl Water Quality Improvement	City of Winter Haven				1	
Septic-to-Sewer	City of Winter Haven	1				
ASR Wellfield at WWTP #3	City of Winter Haven	1				
Cypresswood Water Treatment Plant	City of Winter Haven	1				
Lake May - Lake Shipp Restoration Phase 1	City of Winter Haven				1	
Wastewater Treatment Plant #3 Expansion	City of Winter Haven	1				
Alternative Water Supply Transmission Main	City of Winter Haven					1
Water Resource Center	City of Winter Haven					1
Total Number of Projects		**25**	**16**	**1**	**4**	**4**

Heartland Headwaters Protection and Sustainability Act Implementation
Table B - FY 2023-24 Project Descriptions

Project Name	Member Government	Project Description
Southeast Wellfield Construction and Land Acquisition	PRWC	The Southeast Wellfield brackish water supply project has been identified as the first project which could be implemented to meet needs of the members within Polk County which cannot be met by traditional, upper Floridan supplies. A preliminary design report is now complete, and the PRWC is moving forward with the final design and construction of the Phase 1, 7.5 MGD reverse osmosis treatment facility, wellfield, and transmission system. Initial work requested under this application include land acquisition (including any legal fees) for the wells and transmission system.
West Polk Wellfield Final Design and Construction	PRWC	The West Polk Wellfield brackish water supply project has been identified as the second project which could be implemented to meet needs of the members within Polk County which cannot be met by traditional, upper Floridan supplies. A preliminary design report is now complete, and the PRWC is moving forward with the final design and construction of the Phase 1, 2.5 MGD reverse osmosis treatment facility, wellfield, and transmission system. Initial work requested under this application include land acquisition (including any legal fees) for the wells and transmission system.
Demand Management Implementation Program	PRWC	The project was developed to product the upper Floridan aquifer and water resources of the state, and to defer the development of costly AWS phases. This project would allow the PRWC to provide much-needed staff support to member governments with no dedicated conservation staff. The goal of this project is to increase participation in conservation, expand implementations, and reduce total demands for the entire county.
Berkely Rd Water Treatment Plant Expansion	City of Auburndale	This project will increase the capacity (storage and pumping) of the City's Berkely Rd WTF. This increases the plants capability of wheeling water for the PRWC needs.
Gapway Watermain Expansion	City of Auburndale	This project will increase system reliability by completing a vital loop in the distribution system. It will also provide a necessary transmittal main for potential wheeling of water for the PRWC.
Main St / Recker Hwy Loop	City of Auburndale	This project completes a 12" water main loop that will increase system reliability and the capability of accepting transfer of water from PRWC to the city's highest use industrial customers.
North Auburndale Sewer Upgrades	City of Auburndale	This project upgrades the sewer system in the North Auburndale service area and helps to prevent sanitary sewer overflows, thus protecting the environment and public health.
Utility System Rehabilitation (Lake protection phase I)	City of Auburndale	This project involves lining of existing sewer lines and manholes adjacent to area lakes. This will decrease inflow and infiltration to the sewer system and protect water quality of area lakes. These lakes have heavy recreation uses and this will serve to help protect public health.
Water Treatment Plant Sodium Hypochlorite Conversion Project	City of Bartow	This project involves the conversion of the disinfection system from gas chlorine to sodium hypochlorite. Using sodium hypochlorite will reduce the risk of exposure of plant staff and nearby public facilities to potentially toxic chemicals in the event of an unexpected release. The improvements will bring the chlorination system into compliance with the latest OSHA/FDEP regulations. With the sharply increasing cost of gas chlorine, this project will allow for substantial savings in our chemical budget.
Water Treatment Plant Finished Water Control Valves and Discharge Line Upgrade Project	City of Bartow	The existing discharge piping system at the City's WTP is missing (2) 30"dia valves that are critical in controlling the pipe system configuration. The 30" lines that these valves need to be inserted on are live lines and cannot be shutdown, therefore they must be installed by live insertion. The plant currently has only one discharge point into the distribution system, we would like to have a redundant feed (24" dia. piping) to give this redundancy. This system improvement is critical to the efficient operation of the water plant.
Water Treatment Plant Lime Sludge Disposal - Drying Beds Project	City of Bartow	The City's WTP is in need of drying beds for our lime sludge disposal. Previously there was an issue with disposing of lime sludge. Power plants stopped using lime sludge in their operations for a little while, pushing the sludge basin to capacity. Drying the lime sludge will assist in improving water loss. Instead of a truck load hauling out sludge with the load being 55% water, the City can dry the sludge with the water under drains, sending the water back into the WTP.
Water Treatment Plant Lime Silo Dust Collection System Upgrade Project	City of Bartow	The dust collection box and motor at the WTP need to be replaced, along with all the filter racks and collection bags. The dust collection system is not functioning properly and is allowing lime dust to leak into the atmosphere. This is an environmental hazard that needs to be mitigated. It is also a health and safety concern for the community and our worker at the plant, addressing this will bring the plant into better compliance with the latest OSHA/FDEP regulations.
Wastewater Treatment Plant Enhanced Nutrient Removal & Dynasand Filter Replacement	City of Bartow	The City of Bartow wishes to upgrade its existing filters to achieve enhanced nutrient removal at their regional domestic wastewater treatment facility. Grant funds are for design and construction of filtration improvements to meet growth and water quality demands. The old filter system was intended to remove a wide variety of impurities in the discharge effluent, but never achieved that goal. Safety issues in the cleaning and maintenance of the Dyna-sand Filters are also a factor.
Wastewater Treatment Upgrades	City of Davenport	This project involves decommissioning the private wastewater treatment plant, upgrading two private lift stations to City of Davenport standards, and upsizing the forcemain to wastewater treatment plant.
City of Davenport Water Plant #1 Ground Storage	City of Davenport	This project will add firm capacity and reliability to ensure water pressure for the citizens of Davenport.
Water Inter-Connection Upgrades	Town of Dundee	This project will provide a 750,00- gallon ground storage tank and several upgrade items to the Town of Dundee that will be necessary for the PRWC plant interconnect.
Water Plant Resiliency Project	Town of Lake Hamilton	This project involves the design and construction an additional ground water storage tank and necessary equipment for pumping for redundancy to avoid unnecessary issues for the residents during times of maintenance, repair or storms and hurricanes. We only have one water plant with a single ground storage tank. This will allow us to begin planning for blending water we will receive from the PRWC in the future as well.
Dredging and Sediment Management	City of Lakeland	Dredging will take place at two locations in the City's wastewater treatment wetland. A buildup of organic materials and muck has occurred near two of the control structures that allow for movement of the water throughout the wetland. This buildup is causing issues with excess total suspended solids measurements. Dredging will remove those excess materials, and the materials will be used to stabilize existing berms at compromised areas.
E Lake Parker AC Replacement	City of Lakeland	The existing water main has reached the end of its life cycle and does not provide dependable and reliable water service to Lakeland customers. This project involves replacement of the existing 6" AC water main on East Lake Parker St., between Lake View St. and Idlewild St.
Edgewood Ext. Pump Station Rehabilitation	City of Lakeland	This project is designed to repair and upgrade an existing aging and structurally deficient pump station owned and maintained by the City of Lakeland. Benefits for this project will help eliminate potential sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) which protects our citizens health and improves the environment.
Effluent Ditch Rehabilitation	City of Lakeland	This project is designed to rehabilitate the City's wastewater treatment wetland's effluent ditch which moves water from the wetland to the north prong of the Alafia River. The ditch has steep sides that are conducive to washouts and erosion. The rehabilitation of this ditch would reduce the grade of the ditch's sides, remove excess vegetation, stabilize the system, and allow for better movement of water into the Alafia River.

Heartland Headwaters Protection and Sustainability Act Implementation
Table B - FY 2023-24 Project Descriptions

Project Name	Member Government	Project Description
Grit Classifier and Pumps Upgrade	City of Lakeland	This project will replace 1 grit classifier and 2 grit pumps. The existing grit classifier and pumps have reached the end of their useful life. The goal of this project is to have more reliable grit pumps and a classifier with a higher capture rate.
Indian Trails Subdivision AC Replacement and Fire Improvement	City of Lakeland	The existing 4" and 6" AC water mains have reached the end of their life cycle and are also not providing adequate fire protection for the area. Hydraulic modeling has shown that existing water mains are inadequate to provide sufficient fire protection and therefore need replacing. The following roads will be included in the project: Indian Trail, Indian Trail Ct, Calusa Dr, Timucuans.
Inflow Reduction	City of Lakeland	This project is designed to help discover and repair aging or structurally deficient sanitary sewer assets owned and maintained by the City of Lakeland that currently have significant Inflow and Infiltration problems. Benefits for this project will help eliminate potential sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) which protects our citizens health and improves the environment.
Service Laterals CIPP Lining	City of Lakeland	This project is designed to rehabilitate aging and\or structural deficient sanitary sewer laterals owned and maintained by the City of Lakeland through a Cured In Place Pipe (CIPP) lining system. Benefits for this project will help eliminate potential sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) which protects our citizens health and improves the environment.
Manhole Rehabilitation	City of Lakeland	This project is designed to rehabilitate aging and\or structural deficient sanitary sewer manholes owned and maintained by the City of Lakeland through replacement or with a structural lining process. Benefits for this project will help eliminate potential sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) which protects our citizens health and improves the environment.
Northside Sludge Holding Tank Blowers and Aeration System	City of Lakeland	This project will replace the existing blowers, electrical panels, and aeration system with more energy efficient equipment. The current blowers and electrical panels have reached the end of their useful life. The goal of this project is to have a more energy efficient and operationally functional system for sludge handling.
Redwood Av. 6" AC Replacement	City of Lakeland	This project will replace an existing 6" AC water main on Reddwood Av., between E. Edgewood Drive and Glendale St. The existing water main has failed several times and is near the end of its life cycle. The proposed water main will provide more dependable and reliable water service to our customers.
Rehabilitate Sewer Lines	City of Lakeland	This project is designed to rehabilitate aging and\or structurally deficient sanitary sewer lines owned and maintained by the City of Lakeland through a Cured In Place Pipe (CIPP) lining system. Benefits of this project will include the elimination of potential sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) which protects our citizens health and improves the environment.
Williams WTP Filter Replacement	City of Lakeland	This project will remove and replace the existing dual filter media (sand and anthracite) and coating system for the filters at the TB Williams WTP.
Undesignated Generator Replacements	City of Lakeland	This project is designed to replace aging backup power generators at pump stations owned and maintained by the City of Lakeland. Benefits for this project will include the elimination of potential sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) which protects our citizens health and improves the environment.
Undesignated Generator Installations	City of Lakeland	This project is designed to install backup power at pump stations owned and maintained by the City of Lakeland. Benefits for this project will help eliminate potential sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) which protects our citizens health and improves the environment.
W. Lake Parker 6" AC Replacement	City of Lakeland	This project will replace an existing 6" water main on West Lake Parker Dr., between Valencia st and Bonaire st.. The existing water main has reached the end of its life cycle and is not providing dependable and reliable water service to our customers.
Wet Well Rehabilitation	City of Lakeland	This project is designed to rehabilitate aging and\or structural deficient pump station wet wells owned and maintained by the City of Lakeland through replacement or with a structural lining process. Benefits for this project will include the elimination of potential sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) which protects our citizens health and improves the environment.
Upper Peace River Corridor Protection	PCU	The Peace River Restoration Project will focus on restoration of natural systems and hydrology within wetland floodplain forests along the Peace River. This will improve water quality through assimilation of pollutant loads, particularly nitrogen and phosphorus, and attenuate flood waters through natural processes. Water quality treatment infrastructure is also proposed within impaired waterbodies contributing to the Peace River. Removal of historically-placed fill in floodplain forests will restore the river's attenuative capacity and reduce potential flooding impacts on communities with underserved neighborhoods along the river. This Upper Peace River phase 1 will provide funding for acquisition and design of restoration of projects in the Bartow to Homeland stretch of this project.
CRUSA AWS Receiving Facilities	PCU	This project is required for access to the alternative water supply (AWS) from the Southeast Wellfield Project for the County's Central Regional Utility Service Area (CRUSA). The project consists of a 1 MG ground storage tank, upgrades to existing chemical feed and high service pumping facilities, and associated yard piping. The project will reduce reliance on the upper Floridan aquifer for public water supply consistent with the CFWI Regional Water Supply Plan.
ERUSA AWS Receiving Facility	PCU	This project is required for access to the alternative water supply (AWS) from the Southeast Wellfield Project for the County's East Regional Utility Service Area (ERUSA). The Project consists of a ground storage tank, chemical feed facilities, high service pumping, standby power, and related site improvements. The project will reduce reliance on the upper Floridan aquifer for public water supply consistent with the CFWI regional Water Supply Plan.
NERUSA AWS Receiving Facility	PCU	This project is required for access to the alternative water supply (AWS) from the Southeast Wellfield Project for the County's Northeast Regional Utility Service Area (NERUSA). The Project consists of a 1 MG ground storage tank, chemical feed facilities, high service pumping, standby power, and related site improvements. The project will reduce reliance on the upper Floridan aquifer for public water supply consistent with the CFWI Regional Water Supply Plan.
Sapphire Necklace Creation: Resilient Solutions for Central Florida	City of Winter Haven	The City of Winter Haven is in the final stages of developing a long-term plan to implement wetland restoration projects, in conjunction with other water supply, flooding, water quality, natural system and community benefit projects, called the One Water Master Plan (1WMP). The name given to this string of interconnected historical wetland/water storage features is the Sapphire Necklace. Preliminary findings of the Watershed Optimization Study, co-funded by the SWFWMD, indicate that 5,000 acres of historical wetlands need to be restored in order to achieve a sustainable water budget.

Heartland Headwaters Protection and Sustainability Act Implementation Table B - FY 2023-24 Project Descriptions		
Project Name	**Member Government**	**Project Description**
Alternate Water Supply Receiving Facility (Pollard Road Water Production Facility)	City of Winter Haven/PRWC	The Pollard Road Water Production Facility (WPF) will incorporate components included in Winter Haven's One Water Master Plan (1WMP), a long-term (50-year) strategy for ensuring a sustainable water supply, beneficial reclaimed water use and ecologically balanced stormwater management. The Pollard Road Water WPF will be the alternate water supply receiving facility for receiving potable water from the Polk Regional Water Cooperative (PRWC) as part of the Implementation Plan. In addition to serving customers in the immediate service area, the Pollard Road WPF will be one of the foundational components of the City's regional water supply network. With the receiving facility in place, the City will be able to supply adjoining municipal utilities potable water through the Winter Haven distribution system that was supplied by the PRWC.
Lake Idyl Water Quality Improvement	City of Winter Haven	In 2019, the City of Winter Haven initiated a Stormwater Assessment and Improvement Project (SAIP) that identified several areas throughout the City that could benefit from stormwater enhancements to reduce flooding and improve water quality. The City is in the process of completing a 4e restoration plan for Lake Idyl, and has identified this project as having significant value in providing potential water quality improvements. The objectives of this project is to create new stormwater infrastructure in the neighborhood north of Lake Idyl, to provide enhanced treatment of stormwater, exfiltration and flood control. The project will consist of installing nearly 2000 linear feet of exfiltration pipe and the construction of nutrient separating baffle boxes. The overall goal of this project is to reduce the amount of nutrients going into Lake Idyl, which may cause declining water quality trends to reverse.
Septic-to-Sewer	City of Winter Haven	The City of Winter Haven completed its Septic to Sewer Master Plan in January 2021. The plan recommended priority areas to convert to sewer and evaluate quantities of wastewater that if converted serve as water supply benefits (reuse irrigation as well as direct and indirect potable reuse) and improvements to lake water quality. The result of this project will remove pollution discharges from septic tanks that currently enter the groundwater system, lakes and drinking water aquifers. Expected benefits include, improved lake water quality, new water supplies and improved water quality of the Upper Floridan Aquifer.
ASR Wellfield at WWTP #3	City of Winter Haven	The project will construct new Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) wells as recommended by an ASR Evaluation, Design and Permitting study, which is currently under design. The water will be pumped from the Peace Creek during flood conditions, stored in the Lower Floridan Aquifer (LFA) and then be treated for multiple future uses. Flood waters will be pumped from Peace Creek near City-owned property, treated (if necessary), and recharged into the LFA. During drought or low water conditions, the water will be pumped from the LFA and used for a number of potential purposes, including water supply, reuse augmentation, wetland restoration, recharging the Upper Floridan Aquifer (UFA), lake level enhancement (Ridge Lake MFLs and others) and improvements to the Peace River MFL.
Cypresswood Water Treatment Plant	City of Winter Haven	The existing Cypresswood Water Treatment Facility was constructed in 1975 and is in need of replacement. Advantages of a new Cypresswood Water Treatment Facility include: possibly increasing the City's permitted capacity by acquiring golf course and orange grove irrigation permits as reuse lines are extended and residential development happens; providing a modern water processing and distribution center to the rapidly growing area; reducing stress to area lakes from other well location; reducing number for small, outdated water treatment facilities in East Winter haven; and reducing overall maintenance costs. The proposed site design includes dedicated land for future reclaimed water direct and indirect potable recharge development.
Lake May - Lake Shipp Restoration Phase 1	City of Winter Haven	This project will remove organic sediment from Lakes May and Shipp, part of Winter Haven's Chain of Lakes, a SWIM Priority Waterbody. Currently, the organic sediment on the bottom of these lakes is up to 12 feet thick and contributes to poor water quality. Both of these lakes are listed as impaired for water quality, largely due to these legacy sediments. Removing sediments will also improve habitat for wildlife, enhance the fishery, and improve navigation on these important lakes. Both lakes have TMDL requirements that could be met with this project. Phase 1 targets 100,000 cubic yards of muck in Lake May.
Wastewater Treatment Plant #3 Expansion	City of Winter Haven	The City of Winter Haven Wastewater Treatment Plant #3's current permitted capacity is 7.5 MGD and the planned expansion will bring the plant to 12 MGD. Another critical factor is that Winter Haven is located in the CFWI and Southern Water Use Caution Area because of limitations to traditional groundwater supplies and the effluent from WWTP #3 will be used as a drinking water source in the future. The proposed project will combine the flows from the two existing WWTPs, construct a new WWTP at the Pollard Road site where there is available land, and design the new plants to create a high quality reuse water product that can help meet future water demands.
Alternative Water Supply Transmission Main	City of Winter Haven	This project will involve completion of an ongoing 1-A CFI Project (Q271). The Lake Ashton Reclaimed Water Transmission Project allows for the construction and permitting of approximately 17,600 feet of reclaimed water transmission mains and other necessary appurtenances to construct a portion of a transmission loop. The loop will supply approximately 500 single family residential homes, common areas and medians, and 2 golf courses in the southeast reuse portion of Winter Haven. The benefit is the supply of 0.590 mgd of reclaimed water for irrigation customers for an anticipated 0.388 mgd of water savings in the "Ridge Lakes" area of the Central Florida Water Initiative (CFWI).
Water Resource Center	City of Winter Haven	The Water Resource Center will be the example of how a community can create multi-benefits through collaborative and innovative approaches. It will open connections to new trails for recreation, provide an educational space for area school groups and businesses as well as the general public to learn about sustainable practices while promoting the health of the City's iconic Chain of Lakes. An outdoor classroom experience, with real life examples of sustainable development. It will also include office spaces for City staff as well as volunteers that will advocate for the City's mission. The Water Resource Center will be a phased project: feasibility study is complete and has offered the City an idea of which properties that could be used for this project. The group anticipates moving forward with the design phase and ultimately construction will follow.

Heartland Headwaters Protection and Sustainability Act Implementation
Table C - FY 2023-24 Project Cost and Rank

Priority Ranking	Project Name	Member Government	Estimated Completion Date	Total Project Cost (All Years)	Total Project Cost (FY 23-24)	State Funding Requested (FY 23-24)	Local Gov. Funding (FY 22-23)
1	Southeast Wellfield Construction and Land Acquisition	PRWC	January 2027	$ 406,000,000	$ 14,153,000	$ 7,076,500	$ 7,076,500
2	West Polk Wellfield Final Design and Construction	PRWC	August 2028	$ 155,000,000	$ 3,477,000	$ 1,738,500	$ 1,738,500
3	Demand Management Implementation Program	PRWC	N/A	N/A	$ 140,000	$ 70,000	$ 70,000
			PRWC PRIORITY TOTAL:	**$ 561,000,000**	**$ 17,770,000**	**$ 8,885,000**	**$ 8,885,000**
4	Water Inter-Connection Upgrades	Town of Dundee	June 2024	$ 6,629,000	$ 6,629,000	$ 2,799,058	$ 3,829,942
5	Berkely Rd Water Treatment Plant Expansion	City of Auburndale	June 2024	$ 4,200,000	$ 4,200,000	$ 2,100,000	$ 2,100,000
6	Water Plant Resiliency Project	Town of Lake Hamilton	December 2024	$ 700,000	$ 560,000	$ 560,000	$ -
7	Alternate Water Supply Receiving Facility (Pollard Road Water Production Facility)	City of Winter Haven	2025	$ 2,987,424	$ 2,987,424	$ 2,987,424	$ -
8	NERUSA AWS Receiving Facility	PCU	Fall 2026	$ 4,610,000	$ 150,000	$ 150,000	$ -
9	ERUSA AWS Receiving Facility	PCU	Fall 2026	$ 3,465,000	$ 210,000	$ 210,000	$ -
10	CRUSA AWS Receiving Facilities	PCU	Fall 2026	$ 2,257,500	$ 105,000	$ 105,000	$ -
11	Main St / Recker Hwy Loop	City of Auburndale	June 2024	$ 120,000	$ 120,000	$ 60,000	$ 60,000
12	Wastewater Treatment Upgrades	City of Davenport	June 2024	$ 1,100,000	$ 1,100,000	$ 550,000	$ 550,000
13	Wastewater Treatment Plant Enhanced Nutrient Removal&Dynasand Filter Replacement	City of Bartow	August 2024	$ 2,500,000	$ 2,000,000	$ 1,000,000	$ 1,000,000
14	Indian Trails Subdivision AC Replacement and Fire Improvement	City of Lakeland	June 2024	$ 265,000	$ 265,000	$ 132,500	$ 132,500
15	Rehabilitate Sewer Lines	City of Lakeland	September 2024	$ 2,400,000	$ 1,200,000	$ 600,000	$ 600,000
16	Inflow Reduction	City of Lakeland	Septmeber 2024	$ 150,000	$ 75,000	$ 37,500	$ 37,500
17	Service Laterals CIPP Lining	City of Lakeland	September 2024	$ 300,000	$ 150,000	$ 75,000	$ 75,000
18	Manhole Rehabilitation	City of Lakeland	September 2024	$ 150,000	$ 75,000	$ 37,500	$ 37,500
19	Water Treatment Plant Lime Silo Dust Collection System Upgrade Project	City of Bartow	August 2024	$ 1,000,000	$ 75,000	$ 37,500	$ 37,500
20	Lake Idyl Water Quality Improvement	City of Winter Haven	March 2024	$ 1,000,000	$ 1,000,000	$ 500,000	$ 500,000
21	Septic-to-Sewer	City of Winter Haven	2025	$ 6,000,000	$ 3,000,000	$ 1,500,000	$ 1,500,000
22	Gapway Watermain Expansion	City of Auburndale	December 2023	$ 1,200,000	$ 1,200,000	$ 600,000	$ 600,000
23	E Lake Parker AC Replacement	City of Lakeland	June 2024	$ 115,000	$ 115,000	$ 57,500	$ 57,500
24	Redwood Av. 6" AC Replacement	City of Lakeland	June 2024	$ 174,000	$ 174,000	$ 87,000	$ 87,000
25	W. Lake Parker 6" AC Replacement	City of Lakeland	June 2024	$ 258,400	$ 258,400	$ 129,200	$ 129,200
26	Dredging and Sediment Management	City of Lakeland	August 2024	$ 783,894	$ 680,000	$ 340,000	$ 340,000
27	Edgewood Ext. Pump Station Rehabilitation	City of Lakeland	September 2024	$ 350,000	$ 300,000	$ 150,000	$ 150,000
28	Water Treatment Plant Sodium Hypochlorite Conversion Project	City of Bartow	August 2024	$ 200,000	$ 100,000	$ 50,000	$ 50,000
29	Utility System Rehabilitation (Lake protection phase I)	City of Auburndale	June 2024	$ 500,000	$ 500,000	$ 250,000	$ 250,000
30	Upper Peace River Corridor Protection	PCU	Fall 2026	$ 3,300,000	$ 300,000	$ 150,000	$ 150,000
31	Undesignated Generator Replacements	City of Lakeland	September 2024	$ 160,000	$ 80,000	$ 40,000	$ 40,000
32	Undesignated Generator Installations	City of Lakeland	September 2024	$ 300,000	$ 150,000	$ 75,000	$ 75,000
33	Northside Sludge Holding Tank Blowers and Aeration System	City of Lakeland	March 2024	$ 1,400,000	$ 900,000	$ 450,000	$ 450,000
34	City of Davenport Water Plant #1 Ground Storage	City of Davenport	September 2024	$ 1,400,000	$ 1,400,000	$ 700,000	$ 700,000
35	Water Treatment Plant Finished Water Control Valves and Discharge Line Upgrade Project	City of Bartow	August 2024	$ 650,000	$ 400,000	$ 200,000	$ 200,000
36	Wet Well Rehabilitation	City of Lakeland	September 2024	$ 300,000	$ 150,000	$ 75,000	$ 75,000
37	North Auburndale Sewer Upgrades	City of Auburndale	June 2024	$ 100,000	$ 1,000,000	$ 500,000	$ 500,000
38	Sapphire Necklace Creation: Resilient Solutions for Central Florida	City of Winter Haven	2025	$ 146,000,000	$ 21,000,000	$ 1,500,000	$ 19,500,000
39	Cypresswood Water Treatment Plant	City of Winter Haven	2024	$ 15,000,000	$ 6,500,000	$ 1,500,000	$ 5,000,000
40	Wastewater Treatment Plant #3 Expansion	City of Winter Haven	2026	$ 160,000,000	$ 4,000,000	$ 1,000,000	$ 3,000,000
41	Lake May - Lake Shipp Restoration Phase 1	City of Winter Haven	March 2024	$ 30,000,000	$ 9,500,000	$ 1,500,000	$ 8,000,000
42	Alternative Water Supply Transmission Main	City of Winter Haven	2024	$ 2,820,000	$ 1,820,000	$ 910,000	$ 910,000
43	ASR Wellfield at WWTP #3	City of Winter Haven	2024	$ 5,500,000	$ 2,750,000	$ 1,375,000	$ 1,375,000
44	Water Treatment Plant Lime Sludge Disposal - Drying Beds Project	City of Bartow	August 2024	$ 360,000	$ 230,000	$ 115,000	$ 115,000
45	Effluent Ditch Rehabilitation	City of Lakeland	December 2024	$ 300,000	$ 269,000	$ 134,500	$ 134,500
46	Williams WTP Filter Replacement	City of Lakeland	December 2024	$ 1,700,000	$ 1,500,000	$ 750,000	$ 750,000
47	Grit Classifier and Pumps Upgrade	City of Lakeland	December 2024	$ 300,000	$ 200,000	$ 100,000	$ 100,000
48	Water Resource Center	City of Winter Haven	2025	$ 3,300,000	$ 3,300,000	$ 1,500,000	$ 1,800,000
			PRWC MEMBER PROJECTS:	**$ 416,305,218**	**$ 82,677,824**	**$ 27,679,682**	**$ 54,998,142**
			GRAND TOTAL	**$ 977,305,218**	**$ 100,447,824**	**$ 36,564,682**	**$ 63,883,142**

The criteria selected by participating member government vote were:

1) Improvement of the environment
2) Is regional/multi-jurisdictional
3) Protection of public health
4) Enhances infrastructure
5) Addresses a state or regional initiative

Each of the projects were then scored for each of the 5 criteria using the justifications below:

- Improves the environment
    - **HIGH** designations were given to nutrient removal stormwater projects, sewer projects which take septic tanks offline, and energy conservation projects.
    - **MEDIUM** designations were given to construction projects involving reclaimed water offsets, upper Floridan offsets, wastewater facility and conveyance upgrades that minimize nutrient flows to sensitive areas, and conservation projects.
    - **LOW** designations were given to studies, traditional potable water projects, and flood protection projects.
- Is regional/multi-jurisdictional: projects were assigned as "Yes" or "No" for this category.
- Protects public's health
    - **HIGH** designations were given to projects that allow for a PRWC member government to accept alternative water supplied by PRWC. High designations were also given to potable water projects which improve water quality or reliability of a potable supply.
    - **MEDIUM** designations were given to water quality improvements to the environment and water system expansions for growth.
    - **LOW** designations were given to studies, wastewater operational improvements, reuse system extensions, and conservation projects.
- Protects infrastructure

- **HIGH** designations were given to projects that allow for a PRWC member government to accept alternative water supplied by the PRWC. High designations were also given for infrastructure reliability improvements which prevent major failure and flood protection construction projects, especially those which create storm resiliency.
- **MEDIUM** designations were given to flood protection studies, infrastructure reliability improvements which prevent moderate failures or major systems, and alternative water supply projects that avoid environmental failures.
- **LOW** designations were given to sewer extensions, conservation projects, and water quality improvements.

- Addresses a state or regional initiative: projects were assigned as "Yes" or "No" for projects that addressed such initiatives as storm resiliency and regional alternative water supplies.

The scores were converted to a numerical value (1 is low, 2 is medium, 3 is high) and the voted weighting factors were applied to obtain a resulting project ranking. Table D summarizes how each project performed based on the above scoring justification.

Pursuant to the provisions of Sec. 373.463, F.S. and based on the methodology described herein, the member governments of the Polk Regional Water Cooperative respectfully submit the following list of projects for funding consideration during the 2023 Regular Session of the Florida Legislature:

Table D – Project Rankings

Priority Ranking	Project Name	Member Government
1	Southeast Wellfield Construction and Land Acquisition	PRWC
2	West Polk Wellfield Final Design and Construction	PRWC
3	Demand Management Implementation Program	PRWC
4	Water Inter-Connection Upgrades	Town of Dundee
5	Berkely Rd Water Treatment Plant Expansion	City of Auburndale
6	Water Plant Resiliency Project	Town of Lake Hamilton
7	Alternate Water Supply Receiving Facility (Pollard Road Water Production Facility)	City of Winter Haven
8	NERUSA AWS Receiving Facility	PCU
9	ERUSA AWS Receiving Facility	PCU
10	CRUSA AWS Receiving Facilities	PCU
11	Main St / Recker Hwy Loop	City of Auburndale
12	Wastewater Treatment Upgrades	City of Davenport
13	Wastewater Treatment Plant Enhanced Nutrient Removal&Dynasand Filter Replacement	City of Bartow
14	Indian Trails Subdivision AC Replacement and Fire Improvement	City of Lakeland
15	Rehabilitate Sewer Lines	City of Lakeland
16	Inflow Reduction	City of Lakeland
17	Service Laterals CIPP Lining	City of Lakeland
18	Manhole Rehabilitation	City of Lakeland
19	Water Treatment Plant Lime Silo Dust Collection System Upgrade Project	City of Bartow
20	Lake Idyl Water Quality Improvement	City of Winter Haven
21	Septic-to-Sewer	City of Winter Haven
22	Gapway Watermain Expansion	City of Auburndale
23	E Lake Parker AC Replacement	City of Lakeland
24	Redwood Av. 6" AC Replacement	City of Lakeland
25	W. Lake Parker 6" AC Replacement	City of Lakeland
26	Dredging and Sediment Management	City of Lakeland
27	Edgewood Ext. Pump Station Rehabilitation	City of Lakeland
28	Water Treatment Plant Sodium Hypochlorite Conversion Project	City of Bartow
29	Utility System Rehabilitation (Lake protection phase I)	City of Auburndale

Priority Ranking	Project Name	Member Government
30	Upper Peace River Corridor Protection	PCU
31	Undesignated Generator Replacements	City of Lakeland
32	Undesignated Generator Installations	City of Lakeland
33	Northside Sludge Holding Tank Blowers and Aeration System	City of Lakeland
34	City of Davenport Water Plant #1 Ground Storage	City of Davenport
35	Water Treatment Plant Finished Water Control Valves and Discharge Line Upgrade Project	City of Bartow
36	Wet Well Rehabilitation	City of Lakeland
37	North Auburndale Sewer Upgrades	City of Auburndale
38	Sapphire Necklace Creation: Resilient Solutions for Central Florida	City of Winter Haven
39	Cypresswood Water Treatment Plant	City of Winter Haven
40	Wastewater Treatment Plant #3 Expansion	City of Winter Haven
41	Lake May - Lake Shipp Restoration Phase 1	City of Winter Haven
42	Alternative Water Supply Transmission Main	City of Winter Haven
43	ASR Wellfield at WWTP #3	City of Winter Haven
44	Water Treatment Plant Lime Sludge Disposal - Drying Beds Project	City of Bartow
45	Effluent Ditch Rehabilitation	City of Lakeland
46	Williams WTP Filter Replacement	City of Lakeland
47	Grit Classifier and Pumps Upgrade	City of Lakeland
48	Water Resource Center	City of Winter Haven

For the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2023 and ending on June 30, 2024 the amount of state funding support required to implement these projects is $36,564,682. Additional information on each of these projects can be found in Appendix A.

Appendix A

Member-government Project Forms

Polk Regional Water Cooperative
FY 2024 Water Project Form
(July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024)

BASIC INFORMATION

Project Name:	Southeast Wellfield Construction and Land Acquisition

APPLICANT

Agency Name:	Polk Regional Water Cooperative

CONTACT

Name:	Eric DeHaven	**Title:**	Executive Director
Email Address:	ericdehaven@prwcwater.com		
Mailing Address:	300 W. Church Street, Bartow FL 33831		
Office Phone:	N/A	**Mobile Phone:**	813-323-7061

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Type (please choose the one that best describes the project:

- ■ Drinking Water
- ☐ Wastewater
- ☐ Conservation
- ☐ Stormwater and Flood Control
- ☐ Environmental Restoration

Project Description: Objectives, benefits, purpose, goals.	In partnership with the Southwest Florida Water Management District, the PRWC has completed a feasibility study which considered 4 different alternative water supply approaches to meet the growing demands of the communities within Polk County. Alternative water supplies, including brackish and surface water supplies, diversify water consumptions away from the extensively-used upper Floridan aquifer system. The Southeast Wellfield brackish water supply project has been identified as the first project which could be implemented to meet needs of the members within Polk County which cannot be met by traditional, upper Floridan supplies. A preliminary design report is now complete, and the PRWC is moving forward with the final design and construction of the Phase 1, 7.5 MGD reverse osmosis treatment facility, wellfield, and transmission system. Initial work requested under this application include land acquisition (including any legal fees) for the wells and transmission system.
Other member governments if a multi-jurisdictional project:	Polk Regional Water Cooperative Participating Members and Associates (Polk County and Cities of Auburndale, Bartow, Davenport, Eagle Lake, Fort Meade, Haines City, Lake Alfred, Lake Wales, Lakeland, Mulberry, Winter Haven, Dundee, and the Town of Lake Hamilton.
Did this project receive previous State appropriations?	Yes
If so, when and how much?	N/A
Funding sources, if outside funding sought.	N/A
Estimated Completion Date:	2027

PROJECT COST INFORMATION

Total estimated project cost (includes capital, construction, land acquisition, planning, permitting, design costs).	$411,136,646
Portion of total project cost which occurs from July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 (FY 2024); must add up to the total of the following three questions.	$14,152,667
Portion of FY 2023 cost requested from State Legislature, July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023	$7,076,334
Applicant's share of FY 2023 cost.	$7,076,334
Outside share of FY 2023 cost.	$0

Note that failure to complete this form in its entirety will result in a forfeiture of scoring. The project will be included in the Annual Heartland Report, but will not be ranked for funding consideration.

Polk Regional Water Cooperative
FY 2024 Water Project Form
(July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024)

BASIC INFORMATION

Project Name:	West Polk Wellfield Final Design and Construction

APPLICANT

Agency Name:	Polk Regional Water Cooperative

CONTACT

Name:	Eric DeHaven	**Title:**	Executive Director
Email Address:	ericdehaven@prwcwater.com		
Mailing Address:	300 W. Church Street, Bartow FL 33831		
Office Phone:	N/A	**Mobile Phone:**	813-323-7061

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Type (please choose the one that best describes the project:

- ■ Drinking Water
- ☐ Wastewater
- ☐ Conservation
- ☐ Stormwater and Flood Control
- ☐ Environmental Restoration

Project Description: Objectives, benefits, purpose, goals.	In partnership with the Southwest Florida Water Management District, the PRWC has completed a feasibility study which considered 4 different alternative water supply approaches to meet the growing demands of the communities within Polk County. Alternative water supplies, including brackish and surface water supplies, diversify water consumptions away from the extensively-used upper Floridan aquifer system. The West Polk Wellfield brackish water supply project has been identified as the second project which could be implemented to meet needs of the members within Polk County which cannot be met by traditional, upper Floridan supplies. A preliminary design report is now complete, and the PRWC is moving forward with the final design and construction of the Phase 1, 2.5 MGD reverse osmosis treatment facility, wellfield, and transmission system. Initial work requested under this application include land acquisition (including any legal fees) for the wells and transmission system.
Other member governments if a multi-jurisdictional project:	Polk Regional Water Cooperative Participating Members and Associates (Polk County and Cities of Auburndale, Bartow, Eagle Lake, Haines City, Polk City, Lake Alfred, Lakeland, Mulberry, Winter Haven).
Did this project receive previous State appropriations?	No
If so, when and how much?	N/A
Funding sources, if outside funding sought.	N/A
Estimated Completion Date:	2027

PROJECT COST INFORMATION

Total estimated project cost (includes capital, construction, land acquisition, planning, permitting, design costs).	$155,729,458
Portion of total project cost which occurs from July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023 (FY 2023); must add up to the total of the following three questions.	$3,476,500
Portion of FY 2023 cost requested from State Legislature, July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023	$1,738,250
Applicant's share of FY 2023 cost.	$1,738,250
Outside share of FY 2023 cost.	$0

Note that failure to complete this form in its entirety will result in a forfeiture of scoring. The project will be included in the Annual Heartland Report, but will not be ranked for funding consideration.

Polk Regional Water Cooperative
FY 2024 Water Project Form
(July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024)

BASIC INFORMATION

Project Name:	Demand Management Implementation Program

APPLICANT

Agency Name:	Polk Regional Water Cooperative

CONTACT

Name:	Eric DeHaven	**Title:**	Executive Director
Email Address:	ericdehaven@prwcwater.com		
Mailing Address:	300 W. Church Street, Bartow FL 33831		
Office Phone:	N/A	**Mobile Phone:**	813-323-7061

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Type (please choose the one that best describes the project:

- ☐ Drinking Water
- ☐ Wastewater
- ■ Conservation
- ☐ Stormwater and Flood Control
- ☐ Environmental Restoration

Project Description: Objectives, benefits, purpose, goals.	The project was developed to product the upper Floridan aquifer and water resources of the state, and to defer the development of costly AWS phases. A Demand Management Plan was formulated in 2019 which made recommendations for programs and staffing to support the impementation of conservation measures. This project would allow the PRWC to provide much-needed staff support to member governments with no dedicated conservation staff. The goal of this project is to increase participation in conservation, expand implementations, and reduce total demands for the entire county.
Other member governments if a multi-jurisdictional project:	Polk Regional Water Cooperative Participating Members and Associates (Polk County and Cities of Auburndale, Bartow, Davenport, Eagle Lake, Fort Meade, Haines City, Lake Alfred, Lake Wales, Lakeland, Mulberry, Winter Haven, Dundee, and the Town of Lake Hamilton.
Did this project receive previous State appropriations?	Yes
If so, when and how much?	N/A
Funding sources, if outside funding sought.	N/A
Estimated Completion Date:	2027

PROJECT COST INFORMATION

Total estimated project cost (includes capital, construction, land acquisition, planning, permitting, design costs).	$140,000
Portion of total project cost which occurs from July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 (FY 2024); must add up to the total of the following three questions.	$140,000
Portion of FY 2023 cost requested from State Legislature, July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023	$70,000
Applicant's share of FY 2023 cost.	$70,000
Outside share of FY 2023 cost.	$0

Note that failure to complete this form in its entirety will result in a forfeiture of scoring. The project will be included in the Annual Heartland Report, but will not be ranked for funding consideration.

Polk Regional Water Cooperative
FY 2023/2024 Water Project Form

BASIC INFORMATION

Project Name:	Berkely Rd Water Treatment Plant Expansion

APPLICANT

Agency Name:	City of Auburndale

CONTACT

Name:	John Dickson	**Title:**	Director Of Public Works
Email Address:	jdickson@auburndalefl.com		
Mailing Address:	PO Box 186, Auburndale, FL 22823		
Office Phone:	863-965-5511	**Mobile Phone:**	863-412-0259

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Type (please choose the one that best describes the project:

- ☒ Drinking Water
- ☐ Wastewater
- ☐ Conservation
- ☐ Stormwater and Flood Control
- ☐ Environmental Restoration

How many project are you submitting for Heartland funding?	5
How does this project rank amongst your submitted projects?	3
Project Description: Objectives, benefits, purpose, goals.	This project will increase the capacity (storage and pumping) of the City's Berkely Rd WTF. This increases the plants capability of wheeling water for the PRWC needs.
Other member governments if a multi-jurisdictional project:	Lakeland/ Lake Alfred / Polk City
Funding sources, if outside funding sought.	City of Auburndale - CIP
Estimated Completion Date:	Jun-24

PROJECT COST INFORMATION

Total estimated project cost (includes capital, construction, land acquisition, planning, permitting, design costs).	$4,200,000
Portion of total project cost which occurs from July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 (FY 2023); must add up to the total of the following three questions.	$4,200,000
Portion of FY 2023 cost requested from State Legislature, July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024	$2,100,000
Applicant's share of FY 2023-2024 cost.	$2,100,000
Outside share of FY 2023-2024 cost.	0

Note that failure to complete this form in its entirety will result in a forfeiture of scoring. The project will be included in the Annual Heartland Report, but will not be ranked for funding consideration.

Polk Regional Water Cooperative
FY 2023/2024 Water Project Form

BASIC INFORMATION

Project Name:	Gapway Watermain Expansion

APPLICANT

Agency Name:	City of Auburndale

CONTACT

Name:	John Dickson	**Title:**	Director of Public Works
Email Address:	jdickson@auburndalefl.com		
Mailing Address:	PO Box 186, Auburndale, FL 22823		
Office Phone:	863-965-5511	**Mobile Phone:**	864-412-0259

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Type (please choose the one that best describes the project:

- ☒ Drinking Water
- ☐ Wastewater
- ☐ Conservation
- ☐ Stormwater and Flood Control
- ☐ Environmental Restoration

How many project are you submitting for Heartland funding?	5
How does this project rank amongst your submitted projects?	4
Project Description: Objectives, benefits, purpose, goals.	This project will increase system reliability by completing a vital loop in the distribution system. It will also provide a necessary transmittal main for potential wheeling of water for the PRWC.
Other member governments if a multi-jurisdictional project:	Lakeland / Lake Alfred
Funding sources, if outside funding sought.	City of Auburndale - CIP
Estimated Completion D:	Dec-23

PROJECT COST INFORMATION

Total estimated project cost (includes capital, construction, land acquisition, planning, permitting, design costs).	$1,200,000
Portion of total project cost which occurs from July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 (FY 2023); must add up to the total of the following three questions.	$1,200,000
Portion of FY 2023 cost requested from State Legislature, July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024	$600,000
Applicant's share of FY 2023-2024 cost.	$600,000
Outside share of FY 2023-2024 cost.	0

Note that failure to complete this form in its entirety will result in a forfeiture of scoring. The project will be included in the Annual Heartland Report, but will not be ranked for funding consideration.

Polk Regional Water Cooperative
FY 2023/2024 Water Project Form

BASIC INFORMATION

Project Name:	Main St / Recker Hwy Loop
APPLICANT	
Agency Name:	City of Auburndale
CONTACT	
Name:	John Dickson
Title:	Director of Public Works
Email Address:	jdickson@auburndalefl.com
Mailing Address:	PO Box 186, Auburndale, FL 22823
Office Phone:	863-965-5511
Mobile Phone:	864-412-0259

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Type (please choose the one that best describes the project:

- ☒ Drinking Water
- ☐ Wastewater
- ☐ Conservation
- ☐ Stormwater and Flood Control
- ☐ Environmental Restoration

How many project are you submitting for Heartland funding?	5
How does this project rank amongst your submitted projects?	5
Project Description: Objectives, benefits, purpose, goals.	This project completes a 12" water main loop that will increase system reliability and the capability of accepting transfer of water from PRWC to the city's highest use industrial customers.
Other member governments if a multi-jurisdictional project:	Polk County/ PRWC
Funding sources, if outside funding sought.	City of Auburndale - CIP
Estimated Completion Date:	Jun-24

PROJECT COST INFORMATION

Total estimated project cost (includes capital, construction, land acquisition, planning, permitting, design costs).	$120,000
Portion of total project cost which occurs from July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 (FY 2023); must add up to the total of the following three questions.	$120,000
Portion of FY 2023 cost requested from State Legislature, July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024	$60,000
Applicant's share of FY 2023-2024 cost.	$60,000
Outside share of FY 2023-2024 cost.	0

Note that failure to complete this form in its entirety will result in a forfeiture of scoring. The project will be included in the Annual Heartland Report, but will not be ranked for funding consideration.

Polk Regional Water Cooperative
FY 2023/2024 Water Project Form

BASIC INFORMATION

Project Name:	North Auburndale Sewer Upgrades

APPLICANT

Agency Name:	City of Auburndale

CONTACT

Name:	John Dickson	**Title:**	Director of Public Works
Email Address:	jdickson@auburndalefl.com		
Mailing Address:	PO Box 186, Auburndale, FL 22823		
Office Phone:	863-965-5511	**Mobile Phone:**	864-412-0259

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Type (please choose the one that best describes the project:

- ☐ Drinking Water
- ☐ Stormwater and Flood Control
- ■ Wastewater
- ☐ Environmental Restoration
- ☐ Conservation

How many project are you submitting for Heartland funding?	5
How does this project rank amongst your submitted projects?	2
Project Description: Objectives, benefits, purpose, goals.	This project upgrades the sewer system in the North Auburndale service area and helps to prevent sanitary sewer overflows, thus protecting the environment and public health.
Other member governments if a multi-jurisdictional project:	N/A
Funding sources, if outside funding sought.	City of Auburndale - CIP
Estimated Completion Date:	Jun-24

PROJECT COST INFORMATION

Total estimated project cost (includes capital, construction, land acquisition, planning, permitting, design costs).	$1,000,000
Portion of total project cost which occurs from July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 (FY 2023); must add up to the total of the following three questions.	$1,000,000
Portion of FY 2023 cost requested from State Legislature, July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024	$500,000
Applicant's share of FY 2023-2024 cost.	$500,000
Outside share of FY 2023-2024 cost.	0

Note that failure to complete this form in its entirety will result in a forfeiture of scoring. The project will be included in the Annual Heartland Report, but will not be ranked for funding consideration.

Polk Regional Water Cooperative
FY 2023/2024 Water Project Form

BASIC INFORMATION

Project Name:	Utility System Rehabilitation (Lake protection phase I)

APPLICANT

Agency Name:	City of Auburndale

CONTACT

Name:	John Dickson	**Title:**	Director of Public Works
Email Address:	jdickson@auburndalefl.com		
Mailing Address:	PO Box 186, Auburndale, FL 22823		
Office Phone:	863-965-5511	**Mobile Phone:**	864-412-0259

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Type (please choose the one that best describes the project:

- ☐ Drinking Water
- ☐ Stormwater and Flood Control
- ■ Wastewater
- ☐ Environmental Restoration
- ☐ Conservation

How many project are you submitting for Heartland funding?	5
How does this project rank amongst your submitted projects?	1
Project Description: Objectives, benefits, purpose, goals.	This project involves lining of existing sewer lines and manholes adjacent to area lakes. This will decrease inflow and infiltration to the sewer system and protect water quality of area lakes. These lakes have heavy recreation uses and this will serve to help protect public health.
Other member governments if a multi-jurisdictional project:	N/A
Funding sources, if outside funding sought.	City of Auburndale - CIP
Estimated Completion Date:	Jun-24

PROJECT COST INFORMATION

Total estimated project cost (includes capital, construction, land acquisition, planning, permitting, design costs).	$500,000
Portion of total project cost which occurs from July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 (FY 2023); must add up to the total of the following three questions.	$500,000
Portion of FY 2023 cost requested from State Legislature, July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024	$250,000
Applicant's share of FY 2023-2024 cost.	$250,000
Outside share of FY 2023-2024 cost.	0

Note that failure to complete this form in its entirety will result in a forfeiture of scoring. The project will be included in the Annual Heartland Report, but will not be ranked for funding consideration.

Polk Regional Water Cooperative
FY 2023/2024 Water Project Form

BASIC INFORMATION

Project Name:	Water Treatment Plant Sodium Hypochlorite Conversion Project
	APPLICANT
Agency Name:	City of Bartow - Water and Wastewater Department
	CONTACT
Name:	Tony McKenley
Title:	Water & Wastewater Director
Email Address:	tmckenley@cityofbartow.net
Mailing Address:	2500 Highway 17 N, Bartow, Florida, 33830
Office Phone:	863-534-6862
Mobile Phone:	863-251-4360

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Type (please choose the one that best describes the project:

- ● Drinking Water
- ☐ Wastewater
- ☐ Conservation
- ☐ Stormwater and Flood Control
- ☐ Environmental Restoration

Gallons per day conserved/alternative water supplied:

Project Description: Objectives, benefits, purpose, goals.

Conversion of the disinfection system from gas chlorine to sodium hypochlorite. Using sodium hypochlorite will reduce the risk of exposure of plant staff and nearby public facilities to potentially toxic chemicals in the event of an unexpected release. The improvements will bring the chlorination system into compliance with the latest OSHA/FDEP regulations. With the sharply increasing cost of gas chlorine, this project will allow for substantial savings in our chemical budget.

Other member governments if a multi-jurisdictional project:

Polk County Utilities, City of Eagle Lakes

Did this project receive previous State appropriations?	No
If so, when and how much?	N/A
Funding sources, if outside funding sought.	SRF
Estimated Completion Date:	Aug-24

PROJECT COST INFORMATION

Total estimated project cost (includes capital, construction, land acquisition, planning, permitting, design costs).	$200,000.00
Portion of total project cost which occurs from July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 (FY 2023); must add up to the total of the following three questions.	$100,000
Portion of FY 2023 cost requested from State Legislature, July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024	$75,000
Applicant's share of FY 2023 -2024 cost.	$25,000
Outside share of FY 2023 - 2024 cost.	$0

Note that failure to complete this form in its entirety will result in a forfeiture of scoring. The project will be included in the Annual Heartland Report, but will not be ranked for funding consideration.

Polk Regional Water Cooperative
FY 2023/2024 Water Project Form

BASIC INFORMATION

Project Name:	Water Treatment Plant Lime Silo Dust Collection System Upgrade Project

APPLICANT

Agency Name:	City of Bartow - Water and Wastewater Department

CONTACT

Name:	Tony McKenley	**Title:**	Water & Wastewater Director
Email Address:	tmckenley@cityofbartow.net		
Mailing Address:	2500 Highway 17 N, Bartow, Florida, 33830		
Office Phone:	863-534-6862	**Mobile Phone:**	863-251-4360

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Type (please choose the one that best describes the project:

- ● Drinking Water
- ☐ Wastewater
- ☐ Conservation
- ☐ Stormwater and Flood Control
- ☐ Environmental Restoration

Project Description: Objectives, benefits, purpose, goals.	The dust collection box and motor at the City's WTP need to be replaced, along with all the filter racks and collection bags. The dust collection system is not functioning properly and is allowing lime dust to leak into the atmosphere. This is an environmental hazard that needs to be mitigated. It is also a health and safety concern for the community and our worker at the plant, addressing this will bring the plant into better compliance with the latest OSHA/FDEP regulations.
Other member governments if a multi-jurisdictional project:	N/A
Did this project receive previous State appropriations?	No
If so, when and how much?	N/A
Funding sources, if outside funding sought.	TBD
Estimated Completion Date:	Aug-24

PROJECT COST INFORMATION

Total estimated project cost (includes capital, construction, land acquisition, planning, permitting, design costs).	$100,000
Portion of total project cost which occurs from July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 (FY 2023); must add up to the total of the following three questions.	$75,000
Portion of FY 2023 cost requested from State Legislature, July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024	$37,500
Applicant's share of FY 2023 -2024 cost.	$37,500
Outside share of FY 2023 - 2024 cost.	0

Note that failure to complete this form in its entirety will result in a forfeiture of scoring. The project will be included in the Annual Heartland Report, but will not be ranked for funding consideration.

Polk Regional Water Cooperative
FY 2023/2024 Water Project Form

BASIC INFORMATION

Project Name:	Wastewater Treatment Plant Enhanced Nutrient Removal & Dynasand Filter Replacement
	APPLICANT
Agency Name:	City of Bartow - Water and Wastewater Department
	CONTACT
Name:	Tony McKenley — **Title:** Water & Wastewater Director
Email Address:	tmckenley@cityofbartow.net
Mailing Address:	2500 Highway 17 N, Bartow, Florida, 33830
Office Phone:	863-534-6862 — **Mobile Phone:** 863-251-4360

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Type (please choose the one that best describes the project:

- ☐ Drinking Water
- ☐ Stormwater and Flood Control
- ● Wastewater
- ☐ Environmental Restoration
- ☐ Conservation

Project Description: Objectives, benefits, purpose, goals.	The City of Bartow has accepted operation of a regional domestic wastewater treatment facility. Regional users are Bartow, Polk County, Eagle Lake, and Polk State College. These additional sources of wastewater have increased both flow and nutrient loading to the plant. The city wishes to upgrade its existing filters to achieve enhanced nutrient removal. Grant funds are for design and construction of filtration improvements to meet growth and water quality demands. In 1994, the City of Bartow put in service a 4mgd SBR Fluidyne Water Reclamation Facility with a Parkson Dyna-sand Filtration system. This filter system was intended to remove a wide variety of impurities in the discharge effluent, but never achieve that goal and along with the Safety Issues in the cleaning and maintenance of the Dyna-sand Filter management decided to take this system offline. The Filtration system was a bottom feed filter which resulted in having to clean trash and rags out from under the Lower Sand Distribution Cone that could cause injury or death of the employee if the supports for the sand to failed. One aspect of this program will be to evaluate which elements must be upgraded to address storm resiliency in the aftermath of Hurrine Ian.
Other member governments if a multi-jurisdictional project:	Polk County, City of Eagle Lake
Did this project receive previous State appropriations?	No
If so, when and how much?	N/A
Funding sources, if outside funding sought.	TBD
Estimated Completion Date:	Aug-24

PROJECT COST INFORMATION

Total estimated project cost (includes capital, construction, land acquisition, planning, permitting, design costs).	$2,500,000
Portion of total project cost which occurs from July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 (FY 2023); must add up to the total of the following three questions.	$2,000,000
Portion of FY 2023 cost requested from State Legislature, July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024	$1,000,000
Applicant's share of FY 2023 -2024 cost.	$1,000,000
Outside share of FY 2023 - 2024 cost.	0

Note that failure to complete this form in its entirety will result in a forfeiture of scoring. The project will be included in the Annual Heartland Report, but will not be ranked for funding consideration.

Polk Regional Water Cooperative
FY 2023/2024 Water Project Form

BASIC INFORMATION

Project Name:	Water Treatment Plant Finished Water Control Valves and Discharge Line Upgrade Project

APPLICANT

Agency Name:	City of Bartow - Water and Wastewater Department

CONTACT

Name:	Tony McKenley	**Title:**	Water & Wastewater Director
Email Address:	tmckenley@cityofbartow.net		
Mailing Address:	2500 Highway 17 N, Bartow, Florida, 33830		
Office Phone:	863-534-6862	**Mobile Phone:**	863-251-4360

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Type (please choose the one that best describes the project:

- ☒ Drinking Water
- ☐ Wastewater
- ☐ Conservation
- ☐ Stormwater and Flood Control
- ☐ Environmental Restoration

Project Description: Objectives, benefits, purpose, goals.	The City of Bartow (City) owns and operates a Water Treatment Plant (WTP) that supplies water to the City's water service area. The WTP consists of four (4) Upper Floridan wells. The treated water is then pumped into the distribution system. The existing discharge piping system is missing (2) 30"dia valves that are critical in controlling the pipe system configuration. The 30" lines that these valves need to be inserted on are live lines and cannot be shutdown, therefore they must be installed by live insertion. The plant currently has only one discharge point into the distribution system, we would like to have a redundant feed (24" dia. piping) to give this redundancy. This system improvement is critical to the efficient operation of the water plant.
Other member governments if a multi-jurisdictional project:	N/A
Did this project receive previous State appropriations?	No
If so, when and how much?	N/A
Funding sources, if outside funding sought.	TBD
Estimated Completion Date:	Aug-24

PROJECT COST INFORMATION

Total estimated project cost (includes capital, construction, land acquisition, planning, permitting, design costs).	$650,000
Portion of total project cost which occurs from July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 (FY 2023); must add up to the total of the following three questions.	$400,000
Portion of FY 2023 cost requested from State Legislature, July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024	$200,000
Applicant's share of FY 2023 -2024 cost.	$200,000
Outside share of FY 2023 - 2024 cost.	0

Note that failure to complete this form in its entirety will result in a forfeiture of scoring. The project will be included in the Annual Heartland Report, but will not be ranked for funding consideration.

Polk Regional Water Cooperative
FY 2023/2024 Water Project Form

BASIC INFORMATION

Project Name:	Water Treatment Plant Lime Sludge Disposal - Drying Beds Project

APPLICANT

Agency Name:	City of Bartow - Water and Wastewater Department

CONTACT

Name:	Tony McKenley	**Title:**	Water & Wastewater Director
Email Address:	tmckenley@cityofbartow.net		
Mailing Address:	2500 Highway 17 N, Bartow, Florida, 33830		
Office Phone:	863-534-6862	**Mobile Phone:**	863-251-4360

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Type (please choose the one that best describes the project:

- (●) Drinking Water
- ( ) Wastewater
- ( ) Conservation
- ( ) Stormwater and Flood Control
- ( ) Environmental Restoration

Project Description: Objectives, benefits, purpose, goals.	The City of Bartow (City) owns and operates a Water Treatment Plant (WTP) which needs drying beds for our lime sludge disposal. Previously we had an issue with disposing of our lime sludge. Power plants stopped using lime sludge in their operations for a little while, our sludge basin was at capacity. Drying our lime sludge will assist us in improving our water loss. Instead of a truck load hauling out our sludge with the load being 55% water, we will dry our sludge with the water under drains sending the water back into our Water Treatment facility. These improvements will provide substantial savings to our sludge disposal budget.
Other member governments if a multi-jurisdictional project:	N/A
Did this project receive previous State appropriations?	No
If so, when and how much?	N/A
Funding sources, if outside funding sought.	TBD
Estimated Completion Date:	August 2024

PROJECT COST INFORMATION

Total estimated project cost (includes capital, construction, land acquisition, planning, permitting, design costs).	$360,000
Portion of total project cost which occurs from July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 (FY 2023); must add up to the total of the following three questions.	$230,000
Portion of FY 2023 cost requested from State Legislature, July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024	$115,000
Applicant's share of FY 2023 -2024 cost.	$115,000
Outside share of FY 2023 - 2024 cost.	0

Note that failure to complete this form in its entirety will result in a forfeiture of scoring. The project will be included in the Annual Heartland Report, but will not be ranked for funding consideration.

Polk Regional Water Cooperative
FY 2023/2024 Water Project Form

BASIC INFORMATION

Project Name:	City of Davenport Center Crest Sewer Conversion

APPLICANT

Agency Name:	City of Davenport

CONTACT

Name:	Michael Stripling	**Title:**	Utilities Director
Email Address:	mstripling@mydavenport.org		
Mailing Address:	1 S. Allapaha Avenue, Davenport, FL 33837		
Office Phone:	863.419.3300 Ext. 143	**Mobile Phone:**	863.557.1749

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Type (please choose the one that best describes the project:

- ☐ Drinking Water
- ■ Wastewater
- ☐ Conservation
- ☐ Stormwater and Flood Control
- ☐ Environmental Restoration

How many project are you submitting for Heartland funding?	2
How does this project rank amongst your submitted projects?	1
Project Description: Objectives, benefits, purpose, goals.	This project involves decommissioning the private wastewater treatment plant, upgrading two private lift stations to City of Davenport standards, and upsizing the forcemain to the wastewater treatment plant. This plant experienced severe flooding during Hurricane Ian, and the improvements will not only provide storm resilience, but will eliminate the recurrence of frequent sanitary sewer overflows. The anticipated outcome is significant nutrient reduction loading to nearby Lake Davenport.
Other member governments if a multi-jurisdictional project:	N/A
Funding sources, if outside funding sought.	N/A
Estimated Completion Date:	Jun-24

PROJECT COST INFORMATION

Total estimated project cost (includes capital, construction, land acquisition, planning, permitting, design costs).	$1,100,000
Portion of total project cost which occurs from July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 (FY 2023); must add up to the total of the following three questions.	$1,100,000
Portion of FY 2023 cost requested from State Legislature, July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024	$550,000
Applicant's share of FY 2023-2024 cost.	$550,000
Outside share of FY 2023-2024 cost.	0

Note that failure to complete this form in its entirety will result in a forfeiture of scoring. The project will be included in the Annual Heartland Report, but will not be ranked for funding consideration.

Polk Regional Water Cooperative
FY 2023/2024 Water Project Form

BASIC INFORMATION

Project Name:	City of Davenport Water Plant #1 Ground Storage

APPLICANT

Agency Name:	City of Davenport

CONTACT

Name:	Michael Stripling	**Title:**	Utilities Director
Email Address:	mstripling@mydavenport.org		
Mailing Address:	1 S. Allapaha Avenue, Davenport, FL 33837		
Office Phone:	863.419.3300 Ext. 143	**Mobile Phone:**	863.557.1749

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Type (please choose the one that best describes the project:

- ■ Drinking Water
- ☐ Wastewater
- ☐ Conservation
- ☐ Stormwater and Flood Control
- ☐ Environmental Restoration

How many project are you submitting for Heartland funding?	1
How does this project rank amongst your submitted projects?	2
Project Description: Objectives, benefits, purpose, goals.	This project will add firm capacity and reliability to ensure water pressure for the citizens of Davenport.
Other member governments if a multi-jurisdictional project:	N/A
Funding sources, if outside funding sought.	N/A
Estimated Completion Date:	Sep-24

PROJECT COST INFORMATION

Total estimated project cost (includes capital, construction, land acquisition, planning, permitting, design costs).	$1,400,000
Portion of total project cost which occurs from July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 (FY 2023); must add up to the total of the following three questions.	$1,400,000
Portion of FY 2023 cost requested from State Legislature, July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024	$700,000
Applicant's share of FY 2023-2024 cost.	$700,000
Outside share of FY 2023-2024 cost.	0

Note that failure to complete this form in its entirety will result in a forfeiture of scoring. The project will be included in the Annual Heartland Report, but will not be ranked for funding consideration.

Polk Regional Water Cooperative
FY 2023/2024 Water Project Form

BASIC INFORMATION

Project Name:	Water Inter-Connection Upgrades

APPLICANT

Agency Name:	Town of Dundee

CONTACT

Name:	Tracy Mercer	**Title:**	Special Projects Director
Email Address:	tmercer@townofdundee.com		
Mailing Address:	202 Main Street, Dundee Florida 33838		
Office Phone:	863-438-8330 ext. 242	**Mobile Phone:**	863-370-2996

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Type (please choose the one that best describes the project:

- ■ Drinking Water
- ☐ Wastewater
- ☐ Conservation
- ☐ Stormwater and Flood Control
- ☐ Environmental Restoration

How many project are you submitting for Heartland funding?	1
How does this project rank amongst your submitted projects?	1
Project Description: Objectives, benefits, purpose, goals.	This project will provide a 750,00- gallon ground storage tank and several upgrade items to the Town of Dundee that will be necessary for the PRWC plant interconnect.
Other member governments if a multi-jurisdictional project:	Polk Regional Water Cooperative, SWFWMD and Town of Dundee
Funding sources, if outside funding sought.	N/A
Estimated Completion Date:	Sep-24

PROJECT COST INFORMATION

Total estimated project cost (includes capital, construction, land acquisition, planning, permitting, design costs).	$5,598,116
Portion of total project cost which occurs from July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 (FY 2023); must add up to the total of the following three questions.	$5,598,116
Portion of FY 2023 cost requested from State Legislature, July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024	$2,799,058
Applicant's share of FY 2023-2024 cost.	$2,799,058
Outside share of FY 2023-2024 cost.	0

Note that failure to complete this form in its entirety will result in a forfeiture of scoring. The project will be included in the Annual Heartland Report, but will not be ranked for funding consideration.

Polk Regional Water Cooperative
FY 2023/2024 Water Project Form

BASIC INFORMATION

Project Name:	Water Plant Resiliency Project

APPLICANT

Agency Name:	Town of Lake Hamilton

CONTACT

Name:	Michael Teague/ Angie Hibbard	**Title:**	Town Administrator/Assc Planner
Email Address:	teaguem@townoflakehamilton.com/ angie@townoflakehamilton.com		
Mailing Address:	PO Box 126, Lake Hamilton, FL 33851		
Office Phone:	863.439.1910	**Mobile Phone:**	863.439.1910

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Type (please choose the one that best describes the project:

- ■ Drinking Water
- ☐ Wastewater
- ☐ Conservation
- ☐ Stormwater and Flood Control
- ☐ Environmental Restoration

How many project are you submitting for Heartland funding?	1
How does this project rank amongst your submitted projects?	1
Project Description: Objectives, benefits, purpose, goals.	This project involves the design and construction an additional ground water storage tank and necessary equipment for pumping for redundancy to avoid unnecessary issues for the residents during times of maintenance, repair or storms and hurricanes. We only have one water plant with a single ground storage tank. This will allow us to begin planning for blending water we will receive from the PRWC in the future as well. The objective and benefit will be to allow the town to provide potable water consistently and without interruption to our residents during times of difficulties.
Other member governments if a multi-jurisdictional project:	N/A
Funding sources, if outside funding sought.	N/A
Estimated Completion Date:	End of 2024

PROJECT COST INFORMATION

Total estimated project cost (includes capital, construction, land acquisition, planning, permitting, design costs).	$700,000
Portion of total project cost which occurs from July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 (FY 2023); must add up to the total of the following three questions.	$560,000
Portion of FY 2023 cost requested from State Legislature, July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024	$560,000
Applicant's share of FY 2023-2024 cost.	$0
Outside share of FY 2023-2024 cost.	0

Note that failure to complete this form in its entirety will result in a forfeiture of scoring. The project will be included in the Annual Heartland Report, but will not be ranked for funding consideration.

Polk Regional Water Cooperative
FY 2023/2024 Water Project Form

BASIC INFORMATION

Project Name:	Northside Sludge Holding Tank Blowers and Aeration System

APPLICANT

Agency Name:	CITY OF LAKELAND WATER UTILITIES

CONTACT

Name:	Robert Kniss	**Title:**	Mgr of Engineering
Email Address:	robert.kniss@lakelandgov.net		
Mailing Address:	501 E. Lemon Street, Lakeland, FL 33801		
Office Phone:	(863) 834-6389	**Mobile Phone:**	(863) 834-6389

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Type (please choose the one that best describes the project:

- ☐ Drinking Water
- ■ Wastewater
- ☐ Conservation
- ☐ Stormwater and Flood Control
- ☐ Environmental Restoration

How many project are you submitting for Heartland funding?	17
How does this project rank amongst your submitted projects?	2
Project Description: Objectives, benefits, purpose, goals.	This project will replace the existing blowers, electrical panels, and aeration system with more energy efficient equipment. The current blowers and electrical panels have reached the end of their useful life. The goal of this project is to have a more energy efficient and operationally functional system for sludge handling.
Other member governments if a multi-jurisdictional project:	N/A
Funding sources, if outside funding sought.	N/A
Estimated Completion Date:	Mar-24

PROJECT COST INFORMATION

Total estimated project cost (includes capital, construction, land acquisition, planning, permitting, design costs).	$1,400,000
Portion of total project cost which occurs from July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 (FY 2023); must add up to the total of the following three questions.	$900,000
Portion of FY 2023 cost requested from State Legislature, July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024	$450,000
Applicant's share of FY 2023-2024 cost.	$450,000
Outside share of FY 2023-2024 cost.	$0

Note that failure to complete this form in its entirety will result in a forfeiture of scoring. The project will be included in the Annual Heartland Report, but will not be ranked for funding consideration.

Polk Regional Water Cooperative
FY 2023/2024 Water Project Form

BASIC INFORMATION

Project Name:	Effluent Ditch Rehabilitation
	APPLICANT
Agency Name:	CITY OF LAKELAND WATER UTILITIES
	CONTACT
Name:	Robert Kniss
Title:	Mgr of Engineering
Email Address:	robert.kniss@lakelandgov.net
Mailing Address:	501 E. Lemon Street, Lakeland, FL 33801
Office Phone:	(863) 834-6389
Mobile Phone:	(863) 834-6389

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Type (please choose the one that best describes the project:

- ☐ Drinking Water
- ■ Wastewater
- ☐ Conservation
- ☐ Stormwater and Flood Control
- ☐ Environmental Restoration

How many project are you submitting for Heartland funding?	17
How does this project rank amongst your submitted projects?	4
Project Description: Objectives, benefits, purpose, goals.	This project is designed to rehabilitate the City's wastewater treatment wetland's effluent ditch which moves water from the wetland to the north prong of the Alafia River. The ditch has steep sides that are conducive to washouts and erosion. The rehabilitation of this ditch would reduce the grade of the ditch's sides, remove excess vegetation, stabilize the system, and allow for better movement of water into the Alafia River.
Other member governments if a multi-jurisdictional project:	N/A
Funding sources, if outside funding sought.	N/A
Estimated Completion Date:	Dec-23

PROJECT COST INFORMATION

Total estimated project cost (includes capital, construction, land acquisition, planning, permitting, design costs).	$300,000
Portion of total project cost which occurs from July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 (FY 2023); must add up to the total of the following three questions.	$269,000
Portion of FY 2023 cost requested from State Legislature, July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024	$134,500
Applicant's share of FY 2023-2024 cost.	$134,500
Outside share of FY 2023-2024 cost.	0

Note that failure to complete this form in its entirety will result in a forfeiture of scoring. The project will be included in the Annual Heartland Report, but will not be ranked for funding consideration.

Polk Regional Water Cooperative
FY 2023/2024 Water Project Form

BASIC INFORMATION

Project Name:	Rehabilitate Sewer Lines

APPLICANT

Agency Name:	CITY OF LAKELAND WATER UTILITIES

CONTACT

Name:	Robert Kniss	**Title:**	Mgr of Engineering
Email Address:	robert.kniss@lakelandgov.net		
Mailing Address:	501 E. Lemon Street, Lakeland, FL 33801		
Office Phone:	(863) 834-6389	**Mobile Phone:**	(863) 834-6389

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Type (please choose the one that best describes the project:

- ☐ Drinking Water
- ■ Wastewater
- ☐ Conservation
- ☐ Stormwater and Flood Control
- ☐ Environmental Restoration

How many project are you submitting for Heartland funding?	17
How does this project rank amongst your submitted projects?	1
Project Description: Objectives, benefits, purpose, goals.	This project is designed to rehabilitate aging and\or structural deficient sanitary sewer lines owned and maintained by the City of Lakeland through a Cured In Place Pipe (CIPP) lining system. Benefits for this project will help eliminate potential sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) which protects our citizens health and improves the environment.
Other member governments if a multi-jurisdictional project:	N/A
Funding sources, if outside funding sought.	N/A
Estimated Completion Date:	Reoccurring Annual Project; September 2023

PROJECT COST INFORMATION

Total estimated project cost (includes capital, construction, land acquisition, planning, permitting, design costs).	$2,400,000
Portion of total project cost which occurs from July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 (FY 2023); must add up to the total of the following three questions.	$1,200,000
Portion of FY 2023 cost requested from State Legislature, July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024	$600,000
Applicant's share of FY 2023-2024 cost.	$600,000
Outside share of FY 2023-2024 cost.	0

Note that failure to complete this form in its entirety will result in a forfeiture of scoring. The project will be included in the Annual Heartland Report, but will not be ranked for funding consideration.

Polk Regional Water Cooperative
FY 2023/2024 Water Project Form

BASIC INFORMATION

Project Name:	Dredging and Sediment Management
	APPLICANT
Agency Name:	CITY OF LAKELAND WATER UTILITIES
	CONTACT
Name:	Robert Kniss
Title:	Mgr of Engineering
Email Address:	robert.kniss@lakelandgov.net
Mailing Address:	501 E. Lemon Street, Lakeland, FL 33801
Office Phone:	(863) 834-6389
Mobile Phone:	(863) 834-6389

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Type (please choose the one that best describes the project:

- ☐ Drinking Water
- ■ Wastewater
- ☐ Conservation
- ☐ Stormwater and Flood Control
- ☐ Environmental Restoration

How many project are you submitting for Heartland funding?	17
How does this project rank amongst your submitted projects?	3
Project Description: Objectives, benefits, purpose, goals.	Dredging will take place at two locations in the City's wastewater treatment wetland. A buildup of organic materials and muck has occurred near two of the control structures that allow for movement of the water throughout the wetland. This buildup is causing issues with excess total suspended solids measurements. Dredging will remove those excess materials, and the materials will be used to stabilize existing berms at compromised areas.
Other member governments if a multi-jurisdictional project:	N/A
Funding sources, if outside funding sought.	N/A
Estimated Completion Date:	Aug-24

PROJECT COST INFORMATION

Total estimated project cost (includes capital, construction, land acquisition, planning, permitting, design costs).	$783,894
Portion of total project cost which occurs from July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 (FY 2023); must add up to the total of the following three questions.	$680,000
Portion of FY 2023 cost requested from State Legislature, July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024	$340,000
Applicant's share of FY 2023-2024 cost.	$340,000
Outside share of FY 2023-2024 cost.	0

Note that failure to complete this form in its entirety will result in a forfeiture of scoring. The project will be included in the Annual Heartland Report, but will not be ranked for funding consideration.

Polk Regional Water Cooperative
FY 2023/2024 Water Project Form

BASIC INFORMATION

Project Name:	Indian Trails Subdivision AC Replacement and Fire Improvement

APPLICANT

Agency Name:	CITY OF LAKELAND WATER UTILITIES

CONTACT

Name:	Robert Kniss	**Title:**	Mgr of Engineering
Email Address:	robert.kniss@lakelandgov.net		
Mailing Address:	501 E. Lemon Street, Lakeland, FL 33801		
Office Phone:	(863) 834-6389	**Mobile Phone:**	(863) 834-6389

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Type (please choose the one that best describes the project:

- ■ Drinking Water
- ☐ Wastewater
- ☐ Conservation
- ☐ Stormwater and Flood Control
- ☐ Environmental Restoration

How many project are you submitting for Heartland funding?	17
How does this project rank amongst your submitted projects?	5
Project Description: Objectives, benefits, purpose, goals.	The existing 4" and 6" AC water mains have reached the end of their life cycle and are also not providing adequate fire protection for the area. Hydraulic modeling has shown that existing water mains are inadequate to provide sufficient fire protection and therefore need replacing. The following roads will be included in the project: Indian Trail, Indian Trail Ct, Calusa Dr, Timucuans.
Other member governments if a multi-jurisdictional project:	N/A
Funding sources, if outside funding sought.	N/A
Estimated Completion Date:	6/30/2024

PROJECT COST INFORMATION

Total estimated project cost (includes capital, construction, land acquisition, planning, permitting, design costs).	$265,000
Portion of total project cost which occurs from July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 (FY 2023); must add up to the total of the following three questions.	$265,000
Portion of FY 2023 cost requested from State Legislature, July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024	$132,500
Applicant's share of FY 2023-2024 cost.	$132,500
Outside share of FY 2023-2024 cost.	0

Note that failure to complete this form in its entirety will result in a forfeiture of scoring. The project will be included in the Annual Heartland Report, but will not be ranked for funding consideration.

Polk Regional Water Cooperative
FY 2023/2024 Water Project Form

BASIC INFORMATION

Project Name:	Inflow Reduction
	APPLICANT
Agency Name:	CITY OF LAKELAND WATER UTILITIES
	CONTACT
Name:	Robert Kniss — **Title:** Mgr of Engineering
Email Address:	robert.kniss@lakelandgov.net
Mailing Address:	501 E. Lemon Street, Lakeland, FL 33801
Office Phone:	(863) 834-6389 — **Mobile Phone:** (863) 834-6389

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Type (please choose the one that best describes the project:

- ☐ Drinking Water
- ■ Wastewater
- ☐ Conservation
- ☐ Stormwater and Flood Control
- ☐ Environmental Restoration

How many project are you submitting for Heartland funding?	17
How does this project rank amongst your submitted projects?	17
Project Description: Objectives, benefits, purpose, goals.	This project is designed to help discover and repair aging or structurally deficient sanitary sewer assets owned and maintained by the City of Lakeland that currently have significant Inflow and Infiltration problems. Benefits for this project will help eliminate potential sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) which protects our citizens health and improves the environment.
Other member governments if a multi-jurisdictional project:	N/A
Funding sources, if outside funding sought.	N/A
Estimated Completion Date:	Recurring Annual Project; September 2024

PROJECT COST INFORMATION

Total estimated project cost (includes capital, construction, land acquisition, planning, permitting, design costs).	$150,000
Portion of total project cost which occurs from July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 (FY 2023); must add up to the total of the following three questions.	$75,000
Portion of FY 2023 cost requested from State Legislature, July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024	$37,500
Applicant's share of FY 2023-2024 cost.	$37,500
Outside share of FY 2023-2024 cost.	0

Note that failure to complete this form in its entirety will result in a forfeiture of scoring. The project will be included in the Annual Heartland Report, but will not be ranked for funding consideration.

Polk Regional Water Cooperative
FY 2023/2024 Water Project Form

BASIC INFORMATION

Project Name:	Service Laterals CIPP Lining
	APPLICANT
Agency Name:	CITY OF LAKELAND WATER UTILITIES
	CONTACT
Name:	Robert Kniss
Title:	Mgr of Engineering
Email Address:	robert.kniss@lakelandgov.net
Mailing Address:	501 E. Lemon Street, Lakeland, FL 33801
Office Phone:	(863) 834-6389
Mobile Phone:	(863) 834-6389

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Type (please choose the one that best describes the project:

- ☐ Drinking Water
- ■ Wastewater
- ☐ Conservation
- ☐ Stormwater and Flood Control
- ☐ Environmental Restoration

How many project are you submitting for Heartland funding?	17
How does this project rank amongst your submitted projects?	9
Project Description: Objectives, benefits, purpose, goals.	This project is designed to rehabilitate aging and\or structural deficient sanitary sewer laterals owned and maintained by the City of Lakeland through a Cured In Place Pipe (CIPP) lining system. Benefits for this project will help eliminate potential sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) which protects our citizens health and improves the environment.
Other member governments if a multi-jurisdictional project:	N/A
Funding sources, if outside funding sought.	N/A
Estimated Completion Date:	Recurring Annual Project; September 2024

PROJECT COST INFORMATION

Total estimated project cost (includes capital, construction, land acquisition, planning, permitting, design costs).	$300,000
Portion of total project cost which occurs from July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 (FY 2023); must add up to the total of the following three questions.	$150,000
Portion of FY 2023 cost requested from State Legislature, July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024	$75,000
Applicant's share of FY 2023-2024 cost.	$75,000
Outside share of FY 2023-2024 cost.	0

Note that failure to complete this form in its entirety will result in a forfeiture of scoring. The project will be included in the Annual Heartland Report, but will not be ranked for funding consideration.

Polk Regional Water Cooperative
FY 2023/2024 Water Project Form

BASIC INFORMATION

Project Name:	Grit Classifier and Pumps Upgrade

APPLICANT

Agency Name:	CITY OF LAKELAND WATER UTILITIES

CONTACT

Name:	Robert Kniss	**Title:**	Mgr of Engineering
Email Address:	robert.kniss@lakelandgov.net		
Mailing Address:	501 E. Lemon Street, Lakeland, FL 33801		
Office Phone:	(863) 834-6389	**Mobile Phone:**	(863) 834-6389

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Type (please

- ☐ Drinking Water
- ■ Wastewater
- ☐ Conservation
- ☐ Stormwater and Flood Control
- ☐ Environmental Restoration

How many project are you submitting for Heartland funding?	17
How does this project rank amongst your submitted projects?	13
Project Description: Objectives, benefits, purpose, goals.	This project will replace 1 grit classifier and 2 grit pumps. The existing grit classifier and pumps have reached the end of their useful life. The goal of this project is to have more reliable grit pumps and a classifier with a higher capture rate.
Other member governments if a multi-jurisdictional project:	N/A
Funding sources, if outside funding sought.	N/A
Estimated Completion Date:	Dec-24

PROJECT COST INFORMATION

Total estimated project cost (includes capital, construction, land acquisition, planning, permitting, design costs).	$300,000
Portion of total project cost which occurs from July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 (FY 2023); must add up to the total of the following three questions.	$200,000
Portion of FY 2023 cost requested from State Legislature, July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024	$100,000
Applicant's share of FY 2023-2024 cost.	$100,000
Outside share of FY 2023-2024 cost.	$0

Note that failure to complete this form in its entirety will result in a forfeiture of scoring. The project will be included in the Annual Heartland Report, but will not be ranked for funding consideration.

Polk Regional Water Cooperative
FY 2023/2024 Water Project Form

BASIC INFORMATION

Project Name:	Edgewood Ext. Pump Station Rehabilitation

APPLICANT

Agency Name:	CITY OF LAKELAND WATER UTILITIES

CONTACT

Name:	Robert Kniss	**Title:**	Mgr of Engineering
Email Address:	robert.kniss@lakelandgov.net		
Mailing Address:	501 E. Lemon Street, Lakeland, FL 33801		
Office Phone:	(863) 834-6389	**Mobile Phone:**	(863) 834-6389

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Type (please choose the one that best describes the project:

- ☐ Drinking Water
- ■ Wastewater
- ☐ Conservation
- ☐ Stormwater and Flood Control
- ☐ Environmental Restoration

How many project are you submitting for Heartland funding?	17
How does this project rank amongst your submitted projects?	11
Project Description: Objectives, benefits, purpose, goals.	This project is designed to repair and upgrade an existing aging and structurally deficient pump station owned and maintained by the City of Lakeland. Benefits for this project will help eliminate potential sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) which protects our citizens' health and improves the environment.
Other member governments if a multi-jurisdictional project:	N/A
Funding sources, if outside funding sought.	N/A
Estimated Completion Date:	Sep-24

PROJECT COST INFORMATION

Total estimated project cost (includes capital, construction, land acquisition, planning, permitting, design costs).	$350,000
Portion of total project cost which occurs from July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 (FY 2023); must add up to the total of the following three questions.	$300,000
Portion of FY 2023 cost requested from State Legislature, July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024	$150,000
Applicant's share of FY 2023-2024 cost.	$150,000
Outside share of FY 2023-2024 cost.	$0

Note that failure to complete this form in its entirety will result in a forfeiture of scoring. The project will be included in the Annual Heartland Report, but will not be ranked for funding consideration.

Polk Regional Water Cooperative
FY 2023/2024 Water Project Form

BASIC INFORMATION

Project Name:	Manhole Rehabilitation

APPLICANT

Agency Name:	CITY OF LAKELAND WATER UTILITIES

CONTACT

Name:	Robert Kniss	**Title:**	Mgr of Engineering
Email Address:	robert.kniss@lakelandgov.net		
Mailing Address:	501 E. Lemon Street, Lakeland, FL 33801		
Office Phone:	(863) 834-6389	**Mobile Phone:**	(863) 834-6389

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Type (please choose the one that best describes the project:

- ☐ Drinking Water
- ■ Wastewater
- ☐ Conservation
- ☐ Stormwater and Flood Control
- ☐ Environmental Restoration

How many project are you submitting for Heartland funding?	17
How does this project rank amongst your submitted projects?	10
Project Description: Objectives, benefits, purpose, goals.	This project is designed to rehabilitate aging and\or structural deficient sanitary sewer manholes owned and maintained by the City of Lakeland through replacement or with a structural lining process. Benefits for this project will help eliminate potential sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) which protects our citizens health and improves the environment.
Other member governments if a multi-jurisdictional project:	N/A
Funding sources, if outside funding sought.	N/A
Estimated Completion Date:	Reoccurring Annual Project; September 2024

PROJECT COST INFORMATION

Total estimated project cost (includes capital, construction, land acquisition, planning, permitting, design costs).	$150,000
Portion of total project cost which occurs from July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 (FY 2023); must add up to the total of the following three questions.	$75,000
Portion of FY 2023 cost requested from State Legislature, July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024	$37,500
Applicant's share of FY 2023-2024 cost.	$37,500
Outside share of FY 2023-2024 cost.	0

Note that failure to complete this form in its entirety will result in a forfeiture of scoring. The project will be included in the Annual Heartland Report, but will not be ranked for funding consideration.

Polk Regional Water Cooperative
FY 2023/2024 Water Project Form

BASIC INFORMATION

Project Name:	Redwood Av. 6" AC Replacement

APPLICANT

Agency Name:	CITY OF LAKELAND WATER UTILITIES

CONTACT

Name:	Robert Kniss	**Title:**	Mgr of Engineering
Email Address:	robert.kniss@lakelandgov.net		
Mailing Address:	501 E. Lemon Street, Lakeland, FL 33801		
Office Phone:	(863) 834-6389	**Mobile Phone:**	(863) 834-6389

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Type (please choose the one that best describes the project:

- ■ Drinking Water
- ☐ Wastewater
- ☐ Conservation
- ☐ Stormwater and Flood Control
- ☐ Environmental Restoration

How many project are you submitting for Heartland funding?	17
How does this project rank amongst your submitted projects?	7
Project Description: Objectives, benefits, purpose, goals.	This project will replace an existing 6" AC water main on Redwood Av., between E. Edgewood Drive and Glendale St. The existing water main has failed several times and is near the end of its life cycle. The proposed water main will provide more dependable and reliable water service to our customers.
Other member governments if a multi-jurisdictional project:	N/A
Funding sources, if outside funding sought.	N/A
Estimated Completion Date:	6/1/2024

PROJECT COST INFORMATION

Total estimated project cost (includes capital, construction, land acquisition, planning, permitting, design costs).	$174,000
Portion of total project cost which occurs from July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 (FY 2023); must add up to the total of the following three questions.	$174,000
Portion of FY 2023 cost requested from State Legislature, July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024	$87,000
Applicant's share of FY 2023-2024 cost.	$87,000
Outside share of FY 2023-2024 cost.	0

Note that failure to complete this form in its entirety will result in a forfeiture of scoring. The project will be included in the Annual Heartland Report, but will not be ranked for funding consideration.

Polk Regional Water Cooperative
FY 2023/2024 Water Project Form

BASIC INFORMATION

Project Name:	E Lk Parker AC Replacement
	APPLICANT
Agency Name:	CITY OF LAKELAND WATER UTILITIES
	CONTACT
Name:	Robert Kniss — **Title:** Mgr of Engineering
Email Address:	robert.kniss@lakelandgov.net
Mailing Address:	501 E. Lemon Street, Lakeland, FL 33801
Office Phone:	(863) 834-6389 — **Mobile Phone:**

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Type (please choose the one that best describes the project:

- ■ Drinking Water
- ☐ Wastewater
- ☐ Conservation
- ☐ Stormwater and Flood Control
- ☐ Environmental Restoration

How many project are you submitting for Heartland funding?	*17*
How does this project rank amongst your submitted projects?	*13*
Project Description: Objectives, benefits, purpose, goals.	Replacing existing 6" AC water main on East Lake Parker St., between Lake View St. and Idlewild St.. Existing water main has reached the end of its life cycle and does not provide dependable and reliable water service to our customers.
Other member governments if a multi-jurisdictional project:	N/A
Funding sources, if outside funding sought.	N/A
Estimated Completion Date:	6/30/2024

PROJECT COST INFORMATION

Total estimated project cost (includes capital, construction, land acquisition, planning, permitting, design costs).	115000
Portion of total project cost which occurs from July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 (FY 2023); must add up to the total of the following three questions.	115000
Portion of FY 2023 cost requested from State Legislature, July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024	57500
Applicant's share of FY 2023-2024 cost.	57500
Outside share of FY 2023-2024 cost.	0

Note that failure to complete this form in its entirety will result in a forfeiture of scoring. The project will be included in the Annual Heartland Report, but will not be ranked for funding consideration.

Polk Regional Water Cooperative
FY 2023/2024 Water Project Form

BASIC INFORMATION

Project Name:	W. Lake Parker 6" AC Replacement
	APPLICANT
Agency Name:	CITY OF LAKELAND WATER UTILITIES
	CONTACT
Name:	Robert Kniss — **Title:** Mgr of Engineering
Email Address:	robert.kniss@lakelandgov.net
Mailing Address:	501 E. Lemon Street, Lakeland, FL 33801
Office Phone:	(863) 834-6389 — **Mobile Phone:**

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Type (please choose the one that best describes the project:

- ☑ Drinking Water
- ☐ Wastewater
- ☐ Conservation
- ☐ Stormwater and Flood Control
- ☐ Environmental Restoration

How many project are you submitting for Heartland funding?	*17*
How does this project rank amongst your submitted projects?	*6*
Project Description: Objectives, benefits, purpose, goals.	*Replacing an existing 6" water main on West Lake Parker Dr., between Valencia st and Bonaire st.. The existing water main has reached the end of its life cycle and is not providing dependable and reliable water service to our customers.*
Other member governments if a multi-jurisdictional project:	N/A
Funding sources, if outside funding sought.	N/A
Estimated Completion Date:	6/30/2024

PROJECT COST INFORMATION

Total estimated project cost (includes capital, construction, land acquisition, planning, permitting, design costs).	258400
Portion of total project cost which occurs from July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 (FY 2023); must add up to the total of the following three questions.	258400
Portion of FY 2023 cost requested from State Legislature, July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024	129200
Applicant's share of FY 2023-2024 cost.	129200
Outside share of FY 2023-2024 cost.	0

Note that failure to complete this form in its entirety will result in a forfeiture of scoring. The project will be included in the Annual Heartland Report, but will not be ranked for funding consideration.

Polk Regional Water Cooperative
FY 2023/2024 Water Project Form

BASIC INFORMATION

Project Name:	Williams WTP Filter Replacement
	APPLICANT
Agency Name:	CITY OF LAKELAND WATER UTILITIES
	CONTACT
Name:	Robert Kniss
Title:	Mgr of Engineering
Email Address:	robert.kniss@lakelandgov.net
Mailing Address:	501 E. Lemon Street, Lakeland, FL 33801
Office Phone:	(863) 834-6389
Mobile Phone:	(863) 834-6389

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Type (please choose the one that best describes the project:

- ■ Drinking Water
- ☐ Wastewater
- ☐ Conservation
- ☐ Stormwater and Flood Control
- ☐ Environmental Restoration

How many project are you submitting for Heartland funding?	17
How does this project rank amongst your submitted projects?	8
Project Description: Objectives, benefits, purpose, goals.	This project will remove and replace the existing dual filter media (sand and anthracite) and coating system for the filters at the TB Williams WTP.
Other member governments if a multi-jurisdictional project:	N/A
Funding sources, if outside funding sought.	N/A
Estimated Completion Date:	Dec-24

PROJECT COST INFORMATION

Total estimated project cost (includes capital, construction, land acquisition, planning, permitting, design costs).	$1,700,000
Portion of total project cost which occurs from July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 (FY 2023); must add up to the total of the following three questions.	$1,500,000
Portion of FY 2023 cost requested from State Legislature, July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024	$750,000
Applicant's share of FY 2023-2024 cost.	$750,000
Outside share of FY 2023-2024 cost.	0

Note that failure to complete this form in its entirety will result in a forfeiture of scoring. The project will be included in the Annual Heartland Report, but will not be ranked for funding consideration.

Polk Regional Water Cooperative
FY 2023/2024 Water Project Form

BASIC INFORMATION

Project Name:	Undesignated Generator Replacements
	APPLICANT
Agency Name:	CITY OF LAKELAND WATER UTILITIES
	CONTACT
Name:	Robert Kniss — **Title:** Mgr of Engineering
Email Address:	robert.kniss@lakelandgov.net
Mailing Address:	501 E. Lemon Street, Lakeland, FL 33801
Office Phone:	(863) 834-6389 — **Mobile Phone:** (863) 834-6389

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Type (please choose the one that best describes the project:

- ☐ Drinking Water
- ■ Wastewater
- ☐ Conservation
- ☐ Stormwater and Flood Control
- ☐ Environmental Restoration

How many project are you submitting for Heartland funding?	17
How does this project rank amongst your submitted projects?	14
Project Description: Objectives, benefits, purpose, goals.	This project is designed to replace aging backup power generators at pump stations owned and maintained by the City of Lakeland. Benefits for this project will help eliminate potential sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) which protects our citizens health and improves the environment.
Other member governments if a multi-juristictional project:	N/A
Funding sources, if outside funding sought.	N/A
Estimated Completion Date:	Recurring Annual Project; September 2024

PROJECT COST INFORMATION

Total estimated project cost (includes capital, construction, land acquisition, planning, permitting, design costs).	$160,000
Portion of total project cost which occurs from July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 (FY 2023); must add up to the total of the following three questions.	$80,000
Portion of FY 2023 cost requested from State Legislature, July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024	$40,000
Applicant's share of FY 2023-2024 cost.	$40,000
Outside share of FY 2023-2024 cost.	0

Note that failure to complete this form in its entirety will result in a forfeture of scoring. The project will be included in the Annual Heartland Report, but will not be ranked for funding consideration.

Polk Regional Water Cooperative
FY 2023/2024 Water Project Form

BASIC INFORMATION

Project Name:	Undesignated Generator Installations
	APPLICANT
Agency Name:	CITY OF LAKELAND WATER UTILITIES
	CONTACT
Name:	Robert Kniss
Title:	Mgr of Engineering
Email Address:	robert.kniss@lakelandgov.net
Mailing Address:	501 E. Lemon Street, Lakeland, FL 33801
Office Phone:	(863) 834-6389
Mobile Phone:	(863) 834-6389

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Type (please choose the one that best describes the project:

- ☐ Drinking Water
- ■ Wastewater
- ☐ Conservation
- ☐ Stormwater and Flood Control
- ☐ Environmental Restoration

How many project are you submitting for Heartland funding?	17
How does this project rank amongst your submitted projects?	12
Project Description: Objectives, benefits, purpose, goals.	This project is designed to install backup power at pump stations owned and maintained by the City of Lakeland. Benefits for this project will help eliminate potential sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) which protects our citizens health and improves the environment.
Other member governments if a multi-jurisdictional project:	N/A
Funding sources, if outside funding sought.	N/A
Estimated Completion Date:	Recurring Annual Project; September 2024

PROJECT COST INFORMATION

Total estimated project cost (includes capital, construction, land acquisition, planning, permitting, design costs).	$300,000
Portion of total project cost which occurs from July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 (FY 2023); must add up to the total of the following three questions.	$150,000
Portion of FY 2023 cost requested from State Legislature, July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024	$75,000
Applicant's share of FY 2023-2024 cost.	$75,000
Outside share of FY 2023-2024 cost.	0

Note that failure to complete this form in its entirety will result in a forfeiture of scoring. The project will be included in the Annual Heartland Report, but will not be ranked for funding consideration.

Polk Regional Water Cooperative
FY 2023/2024 Water Project Form

BASIC INFORMATION

Project Name:	Wet Well Rehabilitation
	APPLICANT
Agency Name:	CITY OF LAKELAND WATER UTILITIES
	CONTACT
Name:	Robert Kniss
Title:	Mgr of Engineering
Email Address:	robert.kniss@lakelandgov.net
Mailing Address:	501 E. Lemon Street, Lakeland, FL 33801
Office Phone:	(863) 834-6389
Mobile Phone:	(863) 834-6389

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Type (please choose the one that best describes the project:

- ☐ Drinking Water
- ■ Wastewater
- ☐ Conservation
- ☐ Stormwater and Flood Control
- ☐ Environmental Restoration

How many project are you submitting for Heartland funding?	17
How does this project rank amongst your submitted projects?	14
Project Description: Objectives, benefits, purpose, goals.	This project is designed to rehabilitate aging and\or structural deficient pump station wet wells owned and maintained by the City of Lakeland through replacement or with a structural lining process. Benefits for this project will help eliminate potential sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) which protects our citizens health and improves the environment.
Other member governments if a multi-jurisdictional project:	N/A
Funding sources, if outside funding sought.	N/A
Estimated Completion Date:	Recurring Annual Project; September 2023

PROJECT COST INFORMATION

Total estimated project cost (includes capital, construction, land acquisition, planning, permitting, design costs).	$300,000
Portion of total project cost which occurs from July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 (FY 2023); must add up to the total of the following three questions.	$150,000
Portion of FY 2023 cost requested from State Legislature, July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024	$75,000
Applicant's share of FY 2023-2024 cost.	$75,000
Outside share of FY 2023-2024 cost.	0

Note that failure to complete this form in its entirety will result in a forfeiture of scoring. The project will be included in the Annual Heartland Report, but will not be ranked for funding consideration.

Polk Regional Water Cooperative
FY 2023/2024 Water Project Form

BASIC INFORMATION

Project Name:	Upper Peace River Corridor Protection

APPLICANT

Agency Name:	Polk County Utilities Division, Polk County BoCC

CONTACT

Name:	Tabitha Biehl	**Title:**	Land & Water Natural Areas Manager
Email Address:	tabithabiehl@polk-county.net		
Mailing Address:	4177 Ben Durrance Road Bartow, FL 33830		
Office Phone:	863-534-7377	**Mobile Phone:**	863-899-8157

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Type (please choose the one that best describes the project:

- ☐ Drinking Water
- ☐ Wastewater
- ■ Conservation
- ■ Stormwater and Flood Control
- ■ Environmental Restoration

How many project are you submitting for Heartland funding?	4
How does this project rank amongst your submitted projects?	4

Project Description: Objectives, benefits, purpose, goals.

The Peace River Restoration Project was initiated by Polk County based on the need for restoration of natural systems, water quality and flood protection within the Peace River Basin. The project study area encompasses 176 square miles along the Peace River, from Lake Hancock to the Polk/Hardee County Line, in Polk County, Florida. The Peace River is the largest contributing watershed to Charlotte Harbor, which is a Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) Program priority waterbody, and a component of the National Estuary Program. The Project will focus on restoration of natural systems and hydrology within wetland floodplain forests along the Peace River. This will improve water quality through assimilation of pollutant loads, particularly nitrogen and phosphorus, and attenuate flood waters through natural processes. Water quality treatment infrastructure is also proposed within impaired waterbodies contributing to the Peace River. Removal of historically-placed fill in floodplain forests will restore the river's attenuative capacity and reduce potential flooding impacts on communities with underserved neighborhoods along the river, including Bartow, Homeland, Ft. Meade, Bowling Green, Wauchula, Zolfo Springs, Gardner, Brownville, Arcadia, Nocatee, and Ft. Ogden. Phase 1 will provide funding for acquisition and design of restoration of projects in the Bartow to Homeland stretch of this project.

Other member governments if a multi-jurisdictional project:	Benefits Bartow, Fort Meade, Homeland and unincorporated Polk County
Funding sources, if outside funding sought.	Seeking BRIC funding from EPA
Estimated Completion Date:	Fall 2026

PROJECT COST INFORMATION

Total estimated project cost (includes capital, construction, land acquisition, planning, permitting, design costs).	$3,300,000
Portion of total project cost which occurs from July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 (FY 2023); must add up to the total of the following three questions.	$300,000
Portion of FY 2023 cost requested from State Legislature, July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024	$150,000
Applicant's share of FY 2023-2024 cost.	$150,000
Outside share of FY 2023-2024 cost.	$0

Note that failure to complete this form in its entirety will result in a forfeiture of scoring. The project will be included in the Annual Heartland Report, but will not be ranked for funding consideration.

Polk Regional Water Cooperative
FY 2023/2024 Water Project Form

BASIC INFORMATION

Project Name:	CRUSA AWS Receiving Facilities
	APPLICANT
Agency Name:	Polk County Utilities Division, Polk County BoCC
	CONTACT
Name:	Mark Addison, PE
Title:	CIP Manager
Email Address:	markaddison@polk-county.net
Mailing Address:	1011 Jim Keene Boulevard, Winter Haven, FL 33880
Office Phone:	863-298-4214
Mobile Phone:	863-370-3667

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Type (please choose the one that best describes the project:

- ■ Drinking Water
- ☐ Wastewater
- ☐ Conservation
- ☐ Stormwater and Flood Control
- ☐ Environmental Restoration

How many project are you submitting for Heartland funding?	3
How does this project rank amongst your submitted projects?	3
Project Description: Objectives, benefits, purpose, goals.	This project is required for access to the alternative water supply (AWS) from the Southeast Wellfield Project for the County's Central Regional Utility Service Area (CRUSA). The project consists of a 1 MG ground storage tank, upgrades to existing chemical feed and high service pumping facilities, and associated yard piping. The project will reduce reliance on the upper Floridan aquifer for public water supply consistent with the CFWI Regional Water Supply Plan.
Other member governments if a multi-jurisdictional project:	N/A
Funding sources, if outside funding sought.	ARPA $1,500,000
Estimated Completion Date:	Fall 2026

PROJECT COST INFORMATION

Total estimated project cost (includes capital, construction, land acquisition, planning, permitting, design costs).	$2,257,500
Portion of total project cost which occurs from July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 (FY 2023); must add up to the total of the following three questions.	$105,000
Portion of FY 2023 cost requested from State Legislature, July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024	$105,000
Applicant's share of FY 2023-2024 cost.	$0
Outside share of FY 2023-2024 cost.	$0

Note that failure to complete this form in its entirety will result in a forfeiture of scoring. The project will be included in the Annual Heartland Report, but will not be ranked for funding consideration.

Polk Regional Water Cooperative
FY 2023/2024 Water Project Form

BASIC INFORMATION

Project Name:	ERUSA AWS Receiving Facility

APPLICANT

Agency Name:	Polk County Utilities Division, Polk County BoCC

CONTACT

Name:	Mark Addison, PE	**Title:**	CIP Manager
Email Address:	markaddison@polk-county.net		
Mailing Address:	1011 Jim Keene Boulevard, Winter Haven, FL 33880		
Office Phone:	863-298-4214	**Mobile Phone:**	863-370-3667

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Type (please choose the one that best describes the project:

- ■ Drinking Water
- ☐ Wastewater
- ☐ Conservation
- ☐ Stormwater and Flood Control
- ☐ Environmental Restoration

How many project are you submitting for Heartland funding?	4
How does this project rank amongst your submitted projects?	2
Project Description: Objectives, benefits, purpose, goals.	This project is required for access to the alternative water supply (AWS) from the Southeast Wellfield Project for the County's East Regional Utility Service Area (ERUSA). The Project consists of a ground storage tank, chemical feed facilities, high service pumping, standby power, and related site improvements. The project will reduce reliance on the upper Floridan aquifer for public water supply consistent with the CFWI regional Water Supply Plan.
Other member governments if a multi-jurisdictional project:	N/A
Funding sources, if outside funding sought.	ARPA $2,110,000
Estimated Completion Date:	Fall 2026

PROJECT COST INFORMATION

Total estimated project cost (includes capital, construction, land acquisition, planning, permitting, design costs).	$3,465,000
Portion of total project cost which occurs from July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 (FY 2023); must add up to the total of the following three questions.	$210,000
Portion of FY 2023 cost requested from State Legislature, July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024	$210,000
Applicant's share of FY 2023-2024 cost.	$0
Outside share of FY 2023-2024 cost.	$0

Note that failure to complete this form in its entirety will result in a forfeiture of scoring. The project will be included in the Annual Heartland Report, but will not be ranked for funding consideration.

Polk Regional Water Cooperative
FY 2023/2024 Water Project Form

BASIC INFORMATION

Project Name:	NERUSA AWS Receiving Facility

APPLICANT

Agency Name:	Polk County Utilities Division, Polk County BoCC

CONTACT

Name:	Mark Addison, PE	**Title:**	CIP Manager
Email Address:	markaddison@polk-county.net		
Mailing Address:	1011 Jim Keene Boulevard, Winter Haven, FL 33880		
Office Phone:	863-298-4214	**Mobile Phone:**	863-370-3667

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Type (please choose the one that best describes the project:

- ■ Drinking Water
- ☐ Wastewater
- ☐ Conservation
- ☐ Stormwater and Flood Control
- ☐ Environmental Restoration

How many project are you submitting for Heartland funding?	4
How does this project rank amongst your submitted projects?	1
Project Description: Objectives, benefits, purpose, goals.	This project is required for access to the alternative water supply (AWS) from the Southeast Wellfield Project for the County's Northeast Regional Utility Service Area (NERUSA). The Project consists of a 1 MG ground storage tank, chemical feed facilities, high service pumping, standby power, and related site improvements. The project will reduce reliance on the upper Floridan aquifer for public water supply consistent with the CFWI Regional Water Supply Plan.
Other member governments if a multi-jurisdictional project:	N/A
Funding sources, if outside funding sought.	N/A
Estimated Completion Date:	Fall 2026

PROJECT COST INFORMATION

Total estimated project cost (includes capital, construction, land acquisition, planning, permitting, design costs).	$4,610,000
Portion of total project cost which occurs from July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 (FY 2023); must add up to the total of the following three questions.	$150,000
Portion of FY 2023 cost requested from State Legislature, July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024	$150,000
Applicant's share of FY 2023-2024 cost.	$0
Outside share of FY 2023-2024 cost.	$0

Note that failure to complete this form in its entirety will result in a forfeiture of scoring. The project will be included in the Annual Heartland Report, but will not be ranked for funding consideration.

Polk Regional Water Cooperative
FY 2023/2024 Water Project Form

BASIC INFORMATION

Project Name:	Sapphaire Necklace Creation: *Resilient Solutions for Central Florida*

APPLICANT

Agency Name:	City of Winter Haven

CONTACT

Name:	Mark Bombard	**Title:**	Water Assistant Director
Email Address:	mbombard@mywinterhaven.com		
Mailing Address:	PO Box 2277, Winter Haven, FL 33883		
Office Phone:	863-298-5351	**Mobile Phone:**	863-837-9726

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Type (please choose the one that best describes the

- ☐ Drinking Water
- ☐ Wastewater
- ☐ Conservation
- ☐ Stormwater and Flood Control
- ■ Environmental Restoration

How many project are you submitting for Heartland funding?	10
How does this project rank amongst your submitted projects?	1

Project Description: Objectives, benefits, purpose, goals.

Preliminary findings of the Watershed Optimization Study, co-funded by the SWFWMD, indicate that 5,000 acres of historical wetlands need to be restored in order to achieve a sustainable water budget. A Watershed Restoration Projects TM identified up to 18 cost/beneficial wetland restoration projects that will define water sustainability for the Peace Creek Watershed and significantly improve the hydrology in the Peace River Watershed, Charlotte Harbor and the Floridan Aquifer. The costs presented in this recommendation are summarized from this report. The City of Winter Haven is recommending that 3 projects be funded in the first phase of this effort: A 240 acre project with a willing land owner that would restore 220 acres of wetlands; Land Costs: $12M, Restoration Construction Costs: $7M, Recharge Well: $2M, Total Cost is $21M. • A 105 acre project with a cooperative private developer that would restore 100 acres of wetlands: Land cost: $3M, Restoration Construction Costs: $3.2M, Total Cost 7.2M. Total cost of all three projects is $33.7M.

Other member governments if a multi-juristictional project:

Haines City, Dundee, Lake Hamilton, Lake Wales, Bartow, Eagle Lake, Lake Alfred, Polk County.

Funding sources, if outside funding sought.	Private Developers
Estimated Completion Date:	2025

PROJECT COST INFORMATION

Total estimated project cost (includes capital, construction, land acquisition, planning, permitting,	$146,000,000
Portion of total project cost which occurs from July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 (FY 2023); must add up to the total of the following three questions.	$21,000,000
Portion of FY 2023 cost requested from State Legislature, July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024	$3,000,000
Applicant's share of FY 2023-2024 cost.	$16,000,000
Outside share of FY 2023-2024 cost.	$2,000,000

Note that failure to complete this form in its entirety will result in a forfeture of scoring. The project will be included in the Annual Heartland Report, but will not be ranked for funding consideration.

Polk Regional Water Cooperative
FY 2023/2024 Water Project Form

BASIC INFORMATION

Project Name:	Alternate Water Supply Receiving Facility (Pollard Road Water Production Facility)

APPLICANT

Agency Name:	City of Winter Haven

CONTACT

Name:	Mark Bombard	**Title:**	Water Assistant Director
Email Address:	mbombard@mywinterhaven.com		
Mailing Address:	PO Box 2277, Winter Haven, FL 33883		
Office Phone:	863-298-5351	**Mobile Phone:**	863-837-9726

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Type (please choose the one that best describes the project:

- ■ Drinking Water
- ☐ Wastewater
- ☐ Conservation
- ☐ Stormwater and Flood Control
- ☐ Environmental Restoration

How many project are you submitting for Heartland funding?	10
How does this project rank amongst your submitted projects?	2

Project Description: Objectives, benefits, purpose, goals.

The Pollard Road Water WPF will be the alternate water supply receiving facility for receiving potable water from the PRWC as part of the Implementation Plan. In addition to serving customers in the immediate service area, the Pollard Road WPF will be one of the foundational components of the City's regional water supply network. With the receiving facility in place, the City will be able to supply adjoining municipal utilities potable water through the Winter Haven distribution system that was supplied by the PRWC. By designating the Pollard Road WPF as the alternate water supply receiving facility for PRWC the City and its design consultant has evaluated the hydraulic model and additional demands for the facility to receive and dispense the additional flow. The maximum daily demand for the increase by year 2030 is 2.52MGD. Increases required at Pollard Road WPF

1. Additional High Services pump (from 3 to 4) additional VFD
2. Increase in ground storage capacity from 2,057,500 gal to 2,687,500 gal
3. Chemical Systems

A. Sodium Hypochlorite, additional 4,500 gal tank

B. Hydofluosilicic Acid, increase tank size from 275 gal to 500 gal

C. Corrosion Inhibitor, storage tank size from 275 gal to 330 gal

Other member governments if a multi-juristictional project:	PRWC and members
Funding sources, if outside funding sought.	N/A
Estimated Completion Date:	2025

PROJECT COST INFORMATION

Total estimated project cost (includes capital, construction, land acquisition, planning, permitting, design costs).	$2,987,424
Portion of total project cost which occurs from July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 (FY 2023); must add up to the total of the following three questions.	$2,987,424
Portion of FY 2023 cost requested from State Legislature, July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024	$2,987,424
Applicant's share of FY 2023-2024 cost.	$0
Outside share of FY 2023-2024 cost.	$0

Note that failure to complete this form in its entirety will result in a forfeture of scoring. The project will be included in the Annual Heartland Report, but will not be ranked for funding consideration.

Polk Regional Water Cooperative
FY 2023/2024 Water Project Form

BASIC INFORMATION

Project Name:	Lake Idyl Water Quality Improvement

APPLICANT

Agency Name:	City of Winter Haven

CONTACT

Name:	M.J. Carnevale	**Title:**	Public Works Department Director
Email Address:	mcarnevale@mywinterhaven.com		
Mailing Address:	PO Box 2277, Winter Haven, FL 33883		
Office Phone:	863-291-5600	**Mobile Phone:**	863-229-6341

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Type (please choose the one that best describes the project:

- ☐ Drinking Water
- ☐ Wastewater
- ☐ Conservation
- ☐ Stormwater and Flood Control
- ■ Environmental Restoration

How many project are you submitting for Heartland funding?	10
How does this project rank amongst your submitted projects?	3

Project Description: Objectives, benefits, purpose, goals.

In 2019, the City of Winter Haven initiated a Stormwater Assessment and Improvement Project (SAIP) that identified several areas throughout the City that could benefit from stormwater enhancements to reduce flooding and improve water quality. One of these areas is located along the north shore of Lake Idyl, a lake which has been experiencing water quality decline over the last several years. The City is in the process of completing a 4e restoration plan for Lake Idyl, and has identified this project as having significant value in providing potential water quality improvements. The objectives of this project is to create new stormwater infrastructure in the neighborhood north of Lake Idyl, to provide enhanced treatment of stormwater, exfiltration and flood control. The project will consist of installing nearly 2000 linear feet of exfiltration pipe and the construction of nutrient separating baffle boxes. The overall goal of this project is to reduce the amount of nutrients going into Lake Idyl, which may cause declining water quality trends to reverse.

Other member governments if a multi-jurisdictional project:	N/A
Funding sources, if outside funding sought.	N/A
Estimated Completion Date:	3/30/2024

PROJECT COST INFORMATION

Total estimated project cost (includes capital, construction, land acquisition, planning, permitting, design costs).	$1,000,000
Portion of total project cost which occurs from July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 (FY 2023); must add up to the total of the following three questions.	$1,000,000
Portion of FY 2023 cost requested from State Legislature, July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024	$500,000
Applicant's share of FY 2023-2024 cost.	$500,000
Outside share of FY 2023-2024 cost.	0

Note that failure to complete this form in its entirety will result in a forfeiture of scoring. The project will be included in the Annual Heartland Report, but will not be ranked for funding consideration.

Polk Regional Water Cooperative
FY 2023/2024 Water Project Form

BASIC INFORMATION

Project Name: Septic-to-Sewer

APPLICANT

Agency Name: City of Winter Haven

CONTACT

Name: Mark Bombard **Title:** Winter Haven Water Assistant Director

Email Address: mbombard@mywinterhaven.com

Mailing Address: PO Box 2277, Winter Haven, FL 33883

Office Phone: 863-298-5351 **Mobile Phone:** 863-837-9726

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Type (please choose the one that best describes the project:

- [x] Drinking Water
- [ ] Wastewater
- [ ] Conservation
- [ ] Stormwater and Flood Control
- [ ] Environmental Restoration

How many project are you submitting for Heartland funding? 10

How does this project rank amongst your submitted projects? 4

Project Description: Objectives, benefits, purpose, goals.

The City of Winter Haven serves 36,970 water accounts. Of these accounts, 22,900 currently have sewer service and the remaining accounts (14,070) are on septic systems. Winter Haven is located in a high recharge zone for the Floridan Aquifer and within the Southern Water Use Caution Area, a hydrologically impaired region. Almost half of the 50 lakes in Winter Haven are on the impaired list for water quality partially due to septic tank loading. The City of Winter Haven completed its Septic to Sewer Master Plan in January 2021. The plan recommended priority areas to convert to sewer and evaluate quantities of wastewater that if converted serve as water supply benefits (reuse irrigation as well as direct and indirect potable reuse) and improvements to lake water quality. The previously secured funding will complete Septic to Sewer areas: Boggy Bottom and Remediation Area #6A in 2024. These completed areas will convert an approximate 190 septic systems to sewer. This request for future funding will further meet Master Plan objectives in targeting conversion to sewer in Remediation Areas #6B and #48. Collectively, these projects will remove pollution discharges from septic tanks that currently enter the groundwater system, lakes and drinking water aquifers. Expected benefits include improved lake water quality, new water supplies and improved water quality of the Upper Floridan Aquifer.

Other member governments if a multi-jurisdictional project: Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Funding sources, if outside funding sought. FDEP

Estimated Completion Date: 2025

PROJECT COST INFORMATION

Total estimated project cost (includes capital, construction, land acquisition, planning, permitting, design costs). $6,000,000

Portion of total project cost which occurs from July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 (FY 2023); must add up to the total of the following three questions. $3,000,000

Portion of FY 2023 cost requested from State Legislature, July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 $1,500,000

Applicant's share of FY 2023-2024 cost. $1,500,000

Outside share of FY 2023-2024 cost. $0

Note that failure to complete this form in its entirety will result in a forfeiture of scoring. The project will be included in the Annual Heartland Report, but will not be ranked for funding consideration.

Polk Regional Water Cooperative
FY 2023/2024 Water Project Form

BASIC INFORMATION

Project Name:	ASR Wellfield Construction at WWTP#3

APPLICANT

Agency Name:	City of Winter Haven

CONTACT

Name:	Mark Bombard	**Title:**	Winter Haven Water Assistant Director
Email Address:	mbombard@mywinterhaven.com		
Mailing Address:	PO Box 2277, Winter Haven, FL 33883		
Office Phone:	863-298-5351	**Mobile Phone:**	863-837-9726

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Type (please choose the one that best describes the project:

- ■ Drinking Water
- ☐ Wastewater
- ☐ Conservation
- ☐ Stormwater and Flood Control
- ☐ Environmental Restoration

How many project are you submitting for Heartland funding?	10
How does this project rank amongst your submitted projects?	5

Project Description: Objectives, benefits, purpose, goals.

The Winter Haven area is the headwaters of the Peace River which flows to Charlotte Harbor. This area is designated as part of the Southern Water Use Caution Area (SWUCA) because of low lake levels, impaired water quality and river flows. The 1WMP will create green infrastructure projects to provide water supply, water quality, flooding and natural system restoration, while creating community waterfront amenities and encourage economic growth. The project will construct new Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) wells as recommended by an ASR Evaluation, Design and Permitting study, which is currently under design by our consultant Jones Edmunds & Associates, Inc. The water will be pumped from the Peace Creek during flood conditions, stored in the Lower Floridan Aquifer (LFA) and then be treated for multiple future uses. During drought or low water conditions, the water will be pumped from the LFA and used for a number of potential purposes, including water supply, reuse augmentation, wetland restoration, recharging the Upper Floridan Aquifer (UFA), lake level enhancement (Ridge Lake MFLs and others) and improvements to the Peace River MFL. This project meets the multiple benefits of the One Water Master Plan. The $5.5M invested plays an integral role in the City's ability to provide the multiple benefits outlined and is only a portion of the significant investments needed long term in managing water in this vital headwaters region.

Other member governments if a multi-jurisdictional project:	SWFWMD
Funding sources, if outside funding sought.	N/A
Estimated Completion Date:	2024

PROJECT COST INFORMATION

Total estimated project cost (includes capital, construction, land acquisition, planning, permitting, design costs).	$5,500,000
Portion of total project cost which occurs from July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 (FY 2023); must add up to the total of the following three questions.	$2,750,000
Portion of FY 2023 cost requested from State Legislature, July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024	$1,375,000
Applicant's share of FY 2023-2024 cost.	$1,375,000
Outside share of FY 2023-2024 cost.	$0

Note that failure to complete this form in its entirety will result in a forfeiture of scoring. The project will be included in the Annual Heartland Report, but will not be ranked for funding consideration.

Polk Regional Water Cooperative
FY 2023/2024 Water Project Form

BASIC INFORMATION

Project Name:	Cypresswood Water Treatment Facility

APPLICANT

Agency Name:	City of Winter Haven

CONTACT

Name:	Mark Bombard	**Title:**	Winter Haven Water Assistant Director
Email Address:	mbombard@mywinterhaven.com		
Mailing Address:	PO Box 2277, Winter Haven, FL 33883		
Office Phone:	863-298-5351	**Mobile Phone:**	863-837-9726

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Type (please choose the one that best describes the project:

- ■ Drinking Water
- ☐ Wastewater
- ☐ Conservation
- ☐ Stormwater and Flood Control
- ☐ Environmental Restoration

How many project are you submitting for Heartland funding?	10
How does this project rank amongst your submitted projects?	6
Project Description: Objectives, benefits, purpose, goals.	The existing Cypresswood Water Treatment Facility was constructed in 1975 and is in need of replacement. It was recommended that the amount of water available at this location should be increased for better protection of natural systems and increased efficiencies of eliminating smaller water plants within our service area. This project includes design and construction of a new 2.5MGD Water Treatment Facility. Advantages of a new Cypresswood Water Treatment Facility include: possibly increasing the City's permitted capacity by acquiring golf course and orange grove irrigation permits as reuse lines are extended and residential development happens; providing a modern water processing and distribution center to the rapidly growing area; reducing stress to area lakes from other well location; reducing number for small, outdated water treatment facilities in East Winter haven; and reducing overall maintenance costs. The proposed site design includes dedicated land for future reclaimed water direct and indirect potable recharge development.
Other member governments if a multi-jurisdictional project:	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Funding sources, if outside funding sought.	N/A
Estimated Completion Date:	2024

PROJECT COST INFORMATION

Total estimated project cost (includes capital, construction, land acquisition, planning, permitting, design costs).	$15,000,000
Portion of total project cost which occurs from July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 (FY 2023); must add up to the total of the following three questions.	$6,500,000
Portion of FY 2023 cost requested from State Legislature, July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024	$1,500,000
Applicant's share of FY 2023-2024 cost.	$5,000,000
Outside share of FY 2023-2024 cost.	$0

Note that failure to complete this form in its entirety will result in a forfeiture of scoring. The project will be included in the Annual Heartland Report, but will not be ranked for funding consideration.

Polk Regional Water Cooperative
FY 2023/2024 Water Project Form

BASIC INFORMATION

Project Name:	Lake May - Lake Shipp Restoration Phase 1

APPLICANT

Agency Name:	City of Winter Haven

CONTACT

Name:	M.J. Carnevale	**Title:**	Public Works Department Director
Email Address:	mcarnevale@mywinterhaven.com		
Mailing Address:	PO Box 2277, Winter Haven, FL 33883		
Office Phone:	863-291-5600	**Mobile Phone:**	863-229-6341

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Type (please choose the one that best describes the project:

- ☐ Drinking Water
- ☐ Wastewater
- ☐ Conservation
- ☐ Stormwater and Flood Control
- ■ Environmental Restoration

How many project are you submitting for Heartland funding?	10
How does this project rank amongst your submitted projects?	7
Project Description: Objectives, benefits, purpose, goals.	Project will remove organic sediment from Lakes May and Shipp, part of Winter Haven's Chain of Lakes, a SWIM Priority Waterbody. Currently, the organic sediment on the bottom of these lakes is up to 12 feet thick and contributes to poor water quality. Both of these lakes are listed as impaired for water quality, largely due to these legacy sediments. The poor water quality from these lakes also impacts neighboring lakes on the Chain of Lakes. Removing sediments will also improve habitat for wildlife, enhance the fishery, and improve navigation on these important lakes. Both lakes have TMDL requirements that could be met with this project. Phase 1 targets 100,000 cubic yards of muck in Lake May.
Other member governments if a multi-jurisdictional project:	N/A
Funding sources, if outside funding sought.	N/A
Estimated Completion Date:	3/30/2024

PROJECT COST INFORMATION

Total estimated project cost (includes capital, construction, land acquisition, planning, permitting, design costs).	$30,000,000
Portion of total project cost which occurs from July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 (FY 2023); must add up to the total of the following three questions.	$9,500,000
Portion of FY 2023 cost requested from State Legislature, July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024	$1,500,000
Applicant's share of FY 2023-2024 cost.	$8,000,000
Outside share of FY 2023-2024 cost.	0

Note that failure to complete this form in its entirety will result in a forfeiture of scoring. The project will be included in the Annual Heartland Report, but will not be ranked for funding consideration.

Polk Regional Water Cooperative
FY 2023/2024 Water Project Form

BASIC INFORMATION

Project Name:	Wastewater Treatment Plant #3 Expansion

APPLICANT

Agency Name:	City of Winter Haven

CONTACT

Name:	Mark Bombard	**Title:**	Winter Haven Water Assistant Director
Email Address:	mbombard@mywinterhaven.com		
Mailing Address:	PO Box 2277, Winter Haven, FL 33883		
Office Phone:	863-298-5351	**Mobile Phone:**	863-837-9726

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Type (please choose the one that best describes the project:

- ■ Drinking Water
- ☐ Wastewater
- ☐ Conservation
- ☐ Stormwater and Flood Control
- ☐ Environmental Restoration

How many project are you submitting for Heartland funding?	10
How does this project rank amongst your submitted projects?	8

Project Description: Objectives, benefits, purpose, goals.

The City of Winter Haven currently has two wastewater treatment plants constructed in the 1971 and 1975 respectively and are operating towards the end of their life expectancies and need to be expanded. Wastewater Treatment Plant #3's current permitted capacity is 7.5 MGD and the planned expansion will bring the plant to 12 MGD. Another critical factor is that Winter Haven is located in the CFWI and Southern Water Use Caution Area because of limitations to traditional groundwater supplies and the effluent from WWTP #3 will be used as a drinking water source in the future. The proposed project will combine the flows from the two existing WWTPs, construct a new WWTP at the Pollard Road site where there is available land, and design the new plants to create a high quality reuse water product that can help meet future water demands. In preliminary communications with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the City will submit a grant request for 50% funding for the estimated $160,000,000 cost of the project. This initial grant request is for $1,000,000 the first year anticipated total cost of $4,000,000 for the design and permitting of the project. Future requests will be submitted for and additional $39,000,000 for the construction with a total estimated cost of $160,000,000 over a two year construction timeline. The project will be completed in the fall of 2026

Other member governments if a multi-jurisdictional project:	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Funding sources, if outside funding sought.	Future FDEP Grant (2025 for construction)
Estimated Completion Date:	2026

PROJECT COST INFORMATION

Total estimated project cost (includes capital, construction, land acquisition, planning, permitting, design costs).	$160,000,000
Portion of total project cost which occurs from July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 (FY 2023); must add up to the total of the following three questions.	$4,000,000
Portion of FY 2023 cost requested from State Legislature, July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024	$1,000,000
Applicant's share of FY 2023-2024 cost.	$1,000,000
Outside share of FY 2023-2024 cost.	$2,000,000

Note that failure to complete this form in its entirety will result in a forfeiture of scoring. The project will be included in the Annual Heartland Report, but will not be ranked for funding consideration.

Polk Regional Water Cooperative
FY 2023/2024 Water Project Form

BASIC INFORMATION

Project Name:	Alternative Water Supply Transmission Main
	APPLICANT
Agency Name:	City of Winter Haven
	CONTACT
Name:	Mark Bombard
Title:	Winter Haven Water Assistant Director
Email Address:	mbombard@mywinterhaven.com
Mailing Address:	PO Box 2277, Winter Haven, FL 33883
Office Phone:	863-298-5351
Mobile Phone:	863-837-9726

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Type (please choose the one that best describes the project:

- ☐ Drinking Water
- ☐ Wastewater
- ■ Conservation
- ☐ Stormwater and Flood Control
- ☐ Environmental Restoration

How many project are you submitting for Heartland funding?	10
How does this project rank amongst your submitted projects?	9
Project Description: Objectives, benefits, purpose, goals.	This project will involve completion of an ongoing 1-A CFI Project (Q271). The Lake Ashton Reclaimed Water Transmission Project allows for the construction and permitting of approximately 17,600 feet of reclaimed water transmission mains and other necessary appurtenances to construct a portion of a transmission loop. The loop will supply approximately 500 single family residential homes, common areas and medians, and 2 golf courses in the southeast reuse portion of Winter Haven. It will also enable supply to future planned subdivisions. The contractual Measurable Benefit will be the supply and utilization of 0.590 million gallons per day (mgd) of reclaimed water for golf course and residential irrigation in the "Ridge Lakes" area of the Central Florida Water Initiative (CFWI). Construction will be done in accordance with the permitted plans. The benefit is the supply of 0.590 mgd of reclaimed water for irrigation customers for an anticipated 0.388 mgd of water savings in the "Ridge Lakes" area of the Central Florida Water Initiative (CFWI)
Other member governments if a multi-jurisdictional project:	SWFWMD
Funding sources, if outside funding sought.	Project (Q271) SWFWMD
Estimated Completion Date:	2024

PROJECT COST INFORMATION

Total estimated project cost (includes capital, construction, land acquisition, planning, permitting, design costs).	$2,820,000
Portion of total project cost which occurs from July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 (FY 2023); must add up to the total of the following three questions.	$1,820,000
Portion of FY 2023 cost requested from State Legislature, July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024	$910,000
Applicant's share of FY 2023-2024 cost.	$910,000
Outside share of FY 2023-2024 cost.	$0

Note that failure to complete this form in its entirety will result in a forfeiture of scoring. The project will be included in the Annual Heartland Report, but will not be ranked for funding consideration.

Polk Regional Water Cooperative
FY 2023/2024 Water Project Form

BASIC INFORMATION

Project Name:	Water Resource Center

APPLICANT

Agency Name:	City of Winter Haven

CONTACT

Name:	Mark Bombard	**Title:**	Winter Haven Water Assistant Director
Email Address:	mbombard@mywinterhaven.com		
Mailing Address:	PO Box 2277, Winter Haven, FL 33883		
Office Phone:	863-298-5351	**Mobile Phone:**	863-837-9726

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Type (please choose the one that best describes the project:

- ☐ Drinking Water
- ☐ Wastewater
- ■ Conservation
- ☐ Stormwater and Flood Control
- ☐ Environmental Restoration

How many project are you submitting for Heartland funding?	10
How does this project rank amongst your submitted projects?	10
Project Description: Objectives, benefits, purpose, goals.	The Water Resource Center is a joint effort among Winter Haven Water, Natural Resources, and the parks Recreation and Culture Departments to showcase how the basic needs of the community, the environment and economy are interconnected and can work together to create a community that will be sustainable for many generations to come. This establishment will be the example of how a community can create multi-benefits through collaborative and innovative approaches. It will open connections to new trails for recreation, provide an educational space for area school groups and businesses as well as the general public to learn about sustainable practices while promoting the health of the City's iconic Chain of Lakes. An outdoor classroom experience, with real life examples of sustainable development. It will also include office spaces for City staff as well as volunteers that will advocate for the City's mission. The Water Resource Center will be a phased project: feasibility study is complete and has offered the City an idea of which properties that could be used for this project. The group anticipates moving forward with the design phase and ultimately construction will follow.
Other member governments if a multi-jurisdictional project:	N/A
Funding sources, if outside funding sought.	N/A
Estimated Completion Date:	2025

PROJECT COST INFORMATION

Total estimated project cost (includes capital, construction, land acquisition, planning, permitting, design costs).	3,300,000
Portion of total project cost which occurs from July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 (FY 2023); must add up to the total of the following three questions.	$3,300,00
Portion of FY 2023 cost requested from State Legislature, July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024	1,500,000
Applicant's share of FY 2023-2024 cost.	1,800,000
Outside share of FY 2023-2024 cost.	$0.00

Note that failure to complete this form in its entirety will result in a forfeiture of scoring. The project will be included in the Annual Heartland Report, but will not be ranked for funding consideration.

DUPLICATE

The Florida Senate

APPEARANCE RECORD

Deliver both copies of this form to
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

3/6/2023	SB 602
Meeting Date	Bill Number or Topic
Environement and Natural Resources	
Committee	Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name David Rathke

Phone 352-584-6804

Address 4052 Old PLantation Loop
Street

Email david@rathkeenterprises.com

Tallahassee FL 32311
City *State* *Zip*

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☐ Information **OR** **Waive Speaking:** ☑ In Support ☐ Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

☐ I am appearing without compensation or sponsorship.

☑ I am a registered lobbyist, representing:
City of Winter Haven, Fl

☐ I am not a lobbyist, but received something of value for my appearance (travel, meals, lodging, etc.), sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. 2020-2022JointRules.pdf (flsenate.gov)

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate

APPEARANCE RECORD

Deliver both copies of this form to
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

3/6/23
Meeting Date

Env. & Nat Resources
Committee

602
Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Frank Bernardino

Phone 561/718-2345

Address 201 West Park Ave Suite 100
Street

Email frank@canfieldflorida.com

Tallahassee FL 32301
City State Zip

Speaking: ☑ For ☐ Against ☐ Information **OR** Waive Speaking: ☐ In Support ☐ Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

☐ I am appearing without compensation or sponsorship.

☑ I am a registered lobbyist, representing: Polk County

☐ I am not a lobbyist, but received something of value for my appearance (travel, meals, lodging, etc.), sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. 2020-2022JointRules.pdf (flsenate.gov)

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate

APPEARANCE RECORD

Deliver both copies of this form to Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

3/6/23
Meeting Date

Environment + Nat Resources
Committee

SB 602
Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name David Shepp

Phone 863 581-4250

Address 123 South Adams St
Street

Email shepp@thesouthernagroup.com

Tallahassee FL 32301
City State Zip

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☐ Information **OR** Waive Speaking: ☑ In Support ☐ Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

☐ I am appearing without compensation or sponsorship.

☑ I am a registered lobbyist, representing:

City of Lakeland

☐ I am not a lobbyist, but received something of value for my appearance (travel, meals, lodging, etc.), sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. 2020-2022JointRules.pdf (flsenate.gov)

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate

APPEARANCE RECORD

Deliver both copies of this form to
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

3/6/2023
Meeting Date

Enviro + Nat
Committee

SB 602
Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Trish Neely

Phone 850 322-3317

Address 2024 SHANGRI LA
Street

Email

TALLY FL 32303
City State Zip

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☐ Information **OR** Waive Speaking: ☒ In Support ☐ Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

☐ I am appearing without compensation or sponsorship.

☐ I am a registered lobbyist, representing:

☐ I am not a lobbyist, but received something of value for my appearance (travel, meals, lodging, etc.), sponsored by:

League Women Voters

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. 2020-2022JointRules.pdf (flsenate.gov)

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (08/10/2021)

THE FLORIDA SENATE

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

COMMITTEES:
Health Policy, *Chair*
Judiciary, *Vice Chair*
Appropriations Committee on Education
Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services
Banking and Insurance
Fiscal Policy
Rules
Transportation

JOINT COMMITTEE:
Joint Administrative Procedures Committee

SENATOR COLLEEN BURTON
12th District

February 20, 2023

The Honorable Ana Maria Rodriguez
Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
325 Knott Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Chair Rodriguez,

I respectfully request SB 602: Land Acquisition Trust Fund be put on the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources agenda at your earliest convenience.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Colleen Burton
State Senator, District 12

CC: Ellen Rogers, Staff Director
Kim Bonn, Administrative Assistant

REPLY TO:
❒ 100 South Kentucky Avenue, Suite 260, Lakeland, Florida 33801 (863) 413-1529
❒ 318 Senate Building, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100 (850) 487-5012

Senate's Website: *www.flsenate.gov*

KATHLEEN PASSIDOMO
President of the Senate

DENNIS BAXLEY
President Pro Tempore

The Florida Senate

BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

BILL:	SB 602
INTRODUCER:	Senator Burton
SUBJECT:	Land Acquisition Trust Fund
DATE:	March 3, 2023
REVISED:	

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Carroll	Rogers	EN	**Favorable**
2.			AEG	
3.			AP	

I. Summary:

SB 602 appropriates $20 million from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund to the Department of Environmental Protection to implement the Heartland Headwaters Protection and Sustainability Act (Act).

The funds must be used to enter into financial assistance agreements and distributed in accordance with the projects identified in the Heartland Headwaters Annual Report that protect, restore, or enhance the headwaters of the river systems located in the Heartland Region of Central Florida.

The bill also contains legislative findings regarding the enactment and purposes of the Act, findings from the Central Florida Water Initiative and its Regional Water Supply Plan, and the need for consistent funding support to implement the Act.

II. Present Situation:

Green Swamp Area of Critical State Concern

The Green Swamp contains 560,000 acres of wetlands, flatlands, and prominent sandy ridgelines in southwest Florida.[1] In 1979, the Legislature designated approximately 322,690 acres lying in northern Polk and southern Lake Counties as the Green Swamp Area of Critical State Concern.[2] The designation recognizes the need to protect the swamp from encroaching development, as well as the area's valuable hydrologic functions. The Green Swamp is an intrinsic part of the

[1] Southwest Florida Water Management District, *Green Swamp Wilderness Preserve*, https://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/recreation/green-swamp-wilderness-preserve (last visited Feb. 23, 2023).
[2] Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, *Green Swamp Area*, https://www.floridajobs.org/community-planning-and-development/programs/community-planning-table-of-contents/areas-of-critical-state-concern/the-green-swamp (last visited Feb. 23, 2023).

Floridan Aquifer. Flatwoods and sandhill uplands throughout the swamp provide moderate to high recharge, and the high elevation of the aquifer within the swamp provides the groundwater pressure necessary to maintain springs and rivers. In addition, wetlands in the swamp coalesce to create the headwaters of the Withlacoochee, Ocklawaha, Hillsborough, and Peace rivers.[3]

The Southern Water Use Caution Area

The Southern Water Use Caution Area (SWUCA) was established in 1992 by the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) in response to growing water demands from public supply, agriculture, mining, power generation, and recreational uses and to the environmental concerns related to these groundwater withdrawals.[4] It encompasses approximately 5,100 square miles, including all of DeSoto, Hardee, Manatee, and Sarasota counties, and parts of Charlotte, Highlands, Hillsborough, and Polk counties.[5]

In 2006, the SWFWMD adopted the SWUCA Recovery Strategy,[6] which has four main goals:

- Achieve minimum flows in the upper Peace River;
- Achieve minimum lake levels in lakes along the Lake Wales Ridge, which extends roughly 90 miles along the center of the state in Polk and Highlands counties;[7]
- Achieve the saltwater intrusion minimum aquifer level; and
- Ensure water supply needs are met for existing and projected reasonable and beneficial uses.[8]

Central Florida Water Initiative

The Central Florida Water Initiative (CFWI) is a collaborative water supply planning effort involving the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the St. Johns River Water Management District, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), SWFWMD, the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, regional public water supply utilities, and other stakeholders.[9] These groups have been tasked with addressing the current and long-term water supply needs of Central Florida without causing harm to the water resources and associated natural systems.[10]

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[3] *Id.*
[4] Section 373.0363(2)(a), F.S.; SWFWMD, *Southern Water Use Caution Area*, https://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/projects/southern-water-use-caution-area (last visited Feb 23, 2023).
[5] Section 373.0363(1)(c), F.S.; SWFWMD, *Southern Water Use Caution Area*.
[6] The "Southern Water Use Caution Area Recovery Strategy" is the SWFWMD's planning, regulatory, and financial strategy for ensuring that adequate water supplies are available to meet growing demands while protecting and restoring the water and related natural resources of the area. Section 373.0363(1)(d), F.S.
[7] SWFWMD, *Ridge Lakes Stakeholder Workgroup*, https://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/projects/ridge-lakes-stakeholder-workgroup (last visited Feb. 23, 2023).
[8] SWFWMD, *Southern Water Use Caution Area*.
[9] Section 373.0465(1)(c), F.S. Stakeholders include water utilities, environmental groups, business organizations, agricultural communities, and others.
[10] Section 373.0465(1)(c), F.S.

The CFWI Initiative Area, also known as the CFWI Planning Area, includes Orange, Osceola, Polk, Seminole, and southern Lake counties.[11] It is home to approximately 2.9 million people and supports tourism, agriculture, and the industrial and commercial sector.[12]

The areas encompassed by the CFWI Planning Area have traditionally relied on groundwater from the Floridan aquifer system as their primary source of water.[13] Evaluations predict that fresh groundwater resources alone will be insufficient to meet 2040 projected water demands and currently permitted allocations for withdrawal without resulting in unacceptable impacts to water resources and related natural systems.[14] These impacts can include drying wetlands, reducing spring flows, lowering lake levels, and the degradation of groundwater quality due to saltwater intrusion.[15] Alternative water sources will need to be developed to meet the projected demands.[16]

Polk County Regional Water Cooperative

The Polk Regional Water Cooperative (PRWC) was created in 2016 through an interlocal agreement and consists of Polk County and 15 municipal member governments.[17] It was formed to provide for regional cooperation on the development and delivery of water resources to meet future water demands within Polk County. The majority of the PRWC jurisdiction is located within the SWUCA, while the entirety of its jurisdiction is located within the CFWI Planning Area.[18]

Funding of Polk Regional Water Cooperative Projects

According to the Heartland Headwaters Protection and Sustainability Act Annual Comprehensive Water Resources Report (fiscal year 2023-24), the projects that are most important to the PRWC members are:

- The Southeast Wellfield Construction and Land Acquisition project, estimated to cost $14,153,000 million in fiscal year 2023-2024;
- The West Polk Wellfield Final Design and Construction project, estimated to cost $3,477,000 million in fiscal year 2023-2024; and
- The Demand Management Implementation Program, estimated to cost $140,000 in fiscal year 2023-2024.[19]

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[11] Section 373.0465(2)(a), F.S.; Central Florida Water Initiative (CFWI), *What is CFWI?*, https://cfwiwater.com/what_is_CFWI.html (last visited Feb. 23, 2023).
[12] CFWI, *Regional Water Supply Plan 2020 Planning Document*, ii, *available at* https://cfwiwater.com/pdfs/CFWI_2020RWSP_FINAL_PlanDocRpt_12-10-2020.pdf.
[13] CFWI, *Value of Water*, https://cfwiwater.com/value_of_water.html (last visited Feb. 23, 2023).
[14] CFWI, *Regional Water Supply Plan 2020 Planning Document*, 89-90, *available at* https://cfwiwater.com/pdfs/CFWI_2020RWSP_FINAL_PlanDocRpt_12-10-2020.pdf.
[15] CFWI, *Value of Water*.
[16] *See id.*
[17] SWFWMD, *Consolidated Annual Report (March 1, 2021)*, 7-1, *available at* https://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/sites/default/files/medias/documents/CAR%202022%20Master%20Report.pdf.
[18] *Id.*
[19] Polk Regional Water Cooperative, *Heartland Headwaters Protection and Sustainability Act Annual Comprehensive Water Resources Report (FY 2022-23)*, Table C (2023) (on file with the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources).

The report lists 45 other local member government projects (48 total), including total project cost, requested state funding, local government funding, and other funding sources.[20]

Heartland Headwaters Protection and Sustainability Act

The Heartland Water Supply Planning Region covers approximately 2,569 square miles and includes Hardee County and those portions of Polk and Highlands counties within the SWFWMD.[21] The Region is underlain by three aquifer systems: the surficial, intermediate, and Floridan. The latter is the primary source of water in the Region and in the entire SWFWMD area.[22]

In 2017, the Legislature enacted the Heartland Headwaters Protection and Sustainability Act (Act).[23] The purpose of the Act was to recognize the critical importance of Polk County's aquifers to the economic and ecological health of the region as headwaters for six of Florida's major river systems.[24] The Act required the development of a comprehensive annual report to be completed by the PRWC and submitted to the Governor, President of the Senate, Speaker of the House, DEP, and the water management districts (WMDs) by December 1 of each year.[25] In addition, the Act directed the PRWC to coordinate with the appropriate WMDs to provide a status report on projects receiving priority state funding and to include such status report in the consolidated WMD annual report.[26]

Land Acquisition Trust Fund

Documentary stamp tax revenues are collected under ch. 201, F.S., which requires an excise tax to be levied on two classes of documents: deeds and other documents related to real property, which are taxed at the rate of 70 cents per $100; and certificates of indebtedness, promissory notes, wage assignments, and retail charge account agreements, which are taxed at 35 cents per $100.[27]

In 2014, Florida voters approved Amendment One, a constitutional amendment to provide a dedicated funding source for land and water conservation and restoration.[28] The amendment required that starting on July 1, 2015, and for 20 years thereafter, 33 percent of net revenues derived from documentary stamp taxes be deposited into the Land Acquisition Trust Fund (LATF).[29] Article X, s. 28 of the State Constitution requires that funds in the LATF be expended only for the following purposes:

[20] *Id.* at Table B.
[21] SWFWMD, *RWSP Heartland Planning Region*, https://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/resources/plans-reports/rwsp/rwsp-heartland-planning-region (last visited Feb. 23, 2023).
[22] *Id.*
[23] Ch. 2017-111, s. 1, Laws of Fla., codified in ss. 373.462-.463, F.S.
[24] Section 373.462(1)-(6), F.S.
[25] Section 373.463(1)-(2), F.S.
[26] Section 373.463(3), F.S.
[27] *See* ss. 201.02(1)(a) and 201.08(1)(a), F.S.
[28] The Florida Senate, *Water and Land Conservation*, https://www.flsenate.gov/media/topics/WLC (last visited Jan. 4, 2023).
[29] *Id.*

> As provided by law, to finance or refinance: the acquisition and improvement of land, water areas, and related property interests, including conservation easements, and resources for conservation lands including wetlands, forests, and fish and wildlife habitat; wildlife management areas; lands that protect water resources and drinking water sources, including lands protecting the water quality and quantity of rivers, lakes, streams, springsheds, and lands providing recharge for groundwater and aquifer systems; lands in the Everglades Agricultural Area and the Everglades Protection Area, as defined in Article II, Section 7(b); beaches and shores; outdoor recreation lands, including recreational trails, parks, and urban open space; rural landscapes; working farms and ranches; historic or geologic sites; together with management, restoration of natural systems, and the enhancement of public access or recreational enjoyment of conservation lands.

To implement Art. X, s. 28 of the State Constitution, the Legislature passed ch. 2015-229, Laws of Florida. This act, in part, amended the following sections of law:

- Section 201.15, F.S., to conform to the constitutional requirement that the LATF receive at least 33 percent of net revenues derived from documentary stamp taxes; and
- Section 375.041, F.S., to designate the LATF within DEP as the trust fund to serve as the constitutionally mandated depository for the percentage of documentary stamp tax revenues.[30]

Under s. 375.041, F.S., funds deposited into the LATF must be distributed in the following order and amounts:

- First, obligations relating to debt service, specifically, payments relating to debt service on Florida Forever Bonds and Everglades restoration bonds.
- Then, unless superseded by the General Appropriations Act, before funds are authorized to be appropriated for other uses:
  - A minimum of the lesser of 25 percent of the funds remaining after the payment of debt service or $200 million annually for Everglades projects that implement the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), the Long-Term Plan, or the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program (NEEPP), with priority given to Everglades restoration projects that reduce harmful discharges of water from Lake Okeechobee to the St. Lucie or Caloosahatchee estuaries in a timely manner. From these funds, the following specified distributions are required:
    - $32 million annually through the 2023-2024 fiscal year for the Long-Term Plan;
    - After deducting the $32 million, the minimum of the lesser of 76.5 percent of the remainder or $100 million annually through the 2025-2026 fiscal year for the CERP; and
    - Any remaining funds for Everglades projects under the CERP, the Long-Term Plan, or the NEEPP.
  - A minimum of the lesser of 7.6 percent of the funds remaining after the payment of debt service or $50 million annually for spring restoration, protection, and management projects;

[30] Ch. 2015-229, ss. 9 and 50, Laws of Fla.

- $5 million annually through the 2025-2026 fiscal year to the St. Johns River Water Management District for projects dedicated to the restoration of Lake Apopka;
- $64 million to the Everglades Trust Fund in the 2018-2019 fiscal year and each fiscal year thereafter, for the Everglades Agricultural Area reservoir project, and any funds remaining in any fiscal year shall be made available only for Phase II of the C-51 Reservoir Project or projects that implement the CERP, the Long Term Plan, or the NEEPP; and
- $50 million annually to the South Florida Water Management District for the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project.

- Then, any remaining moneys are authorized to be appropriated for the purposes set forth in Art. X, s. 28 of the State Constitution.[31]

During the 2022 session, the Legislature added language that specifies that the purposes set forth in s. 375.041(3)(a)3., F.S., relating to Lake Apopka would instead be appropriated as provided in the General Appropriations Act.[32] In August 2022, the General Revenue Estimating Conference estimated that for fiscal year 2022-2023 a total of $4.52 billion would be collected in documentary stamp taxes.[33] Thirty-three percent of the net revenues collected, or approximately $1.49 billion, must be deposited into the LATF in accordance with Art. X, s. 28 of the State Constitution. Of that amount, $124 million is committed to debt service, leaving $1.36 billion to be distributed for the uses specified by s. 375.041, F.S., and other purposes in accordance with the General Appropriations Act.[34]

Litigation

In 2015, two lawsuits were filed challenging the constitutionality of appropriations from the LATF and expenditures by state agencies.[35] The cases were consolidated and a hearing was held in June of 2018.[36] The plaintiffs argued that funds from the LATF were appropriated and expended for general state expenses in ways that were inconsistent with the State Constitution. The circuit court held for the plaintiffs, stating the amendment requires the funds be used for acquiring conservation lands, and for improving, managing, restoring, and enhancing public access to conservation lands acquired after the effective date of the amendment.[37] The decision described how the LATF funds may be used, and ruled that numerous appropriations from 2015 and 2016 were unconstitutional.[38]

On appeal, the First District Court of Appeal overturned the circuit court ruling, holding that the LATF funds are not restricted to use on land purchased by the state after the constitutional

[31] Section 375.041(3)-(4), F.S.
[32] Chapter 2022-157, Laws of Fla.
[33] Office of Economic & Demographic Research, Revenue Estimating Conference, *Documentary Stamp Tax, Conference Results (Aug. 2022), available at* http://edr.state.fl.us/Content/conferences/docstamp/docstampexecsummary.pdf (last visited Jan. 5, 2023).
[34] *Id.*
[35] *Fla. Wildlife Fed'n v. Negron*, No. 2015-CA-001423 (Fla. 2d Cir. Ct. 2015); *Fla. Defenders of the Env't, Inc. v. Detzner*, No. 2015-CA-002682 (Fla. 2d Cir. Ct. 2015).
[36] *Fla. Wildlife Fed'n v. Negron*, Nos. 2015-CA-001423, 2015-CA-002682 (Fla. 2d Cir. Ct. 2018).
[37] *Id.* at 3.
[38] *Id.* at 7–8.

amendment took effect in 2015.[39] The court held that the plain language in the Constitution authorizing the use of funds for management, restoration, and enhancement activities would specifically authorize use of the funds on activities beyond land acquisition.[40] The case was then remanded to the circuit court to rule on the legality of appropriations made since the enactment of the constitutional amendment.[41]

The circuit court dismissed the lawsuit on January 3, 2022, finding that it was moot because the money approved by the Legislature in 2015 had already been spent.[42] In 2022, the Florida Wildlife Federation filed a motion to reopen the case.[43] The case is now on appeal in the First District Court of Appeal.[44]

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1 provides the following legislative findings:

- The Legislature unanimously approved CS/CS/HB 573, the Heartland Headwater Protection and Sustainability Act (Act), in 2017, to protect the headwaters of the Alafia, Hillsborough, Kissimmee, Ocklawaha, Peace, and Withlacoochee Rivers located in the Green Swamp and Polk County, which are some of the most important and vulnerable water resources in the state.
- In the Act, the Legislature declared that it is an important state interest to partner with regional water supply authorities and local governments, in accordance with the water resource and water supply development provision in state law, to protect the water resources of the headwaters of the Alafia, Hillsborough, Kissimmee, Ocklawaha, Peace, and Withlacoochee Rivers and the surrounding areas.
- In 2020, the Central Florida Water Initiative (CFWI) Regional Water Supply Plan (RWSP), which is developed pursuant to state law, projected the population of the region to reach 4.4 million by 2040, which is a 49 percent increase from a 2015 estimate. The total average of surface water and groundwater use in the CFWI Planning Area is projected to increase 36 percent from 667 million gallons per day in 2015 to 908 million gallons per day in 2040.[45]
- The CFWI RWSP concluded that in some areas of the CFWI Planning Area, fresh groundwater is near or has exceeded the limits of groundwater availability and that alternative water sources will need to be developed along with additional water conservation efforts and local management strategies to meet the 2040 projected water demands or currently permitted allocations while allowing currently stressed water resources and natural systems to recover.[46]
- Consistent funding support is required in order to support the efforts of the water management districts to protect the rivers, springs, and wetlands in the region while

[39] *Oliva v. Fla. Wildlife Fed'n*, 281 So. 3d 531, 539 (Fla. 1st DCA 2019).
[40] *Id*. at 537.
[41] *Id*. at 539.
[42] *Fla Wildlife Fed'n v. Negron*, Nos. 2015-CA-001423, 2015-CA-002682 (Fla. 2d Cir. Ct. Jan. 3, 2022), *available at* https://www.politico.com/states/f/?id=0000017e-21d8-d3d7-a37f-afdee5cb0000&source=email (last visited Jan. 5, 2023).
[43] *Fla. Wildlife Fed'n v. Fla. Legislature*, No. 1D22-3142 (Fla. 1st DCA 2022).
[44] *Id*.
[45] These figures are taken from the CFWI *2020 Regional Water Supply Plan*. *See* CFWI, *Regional Water Supply Plan 2020 Planning Document*, 4, *available at* https://cfwiwater.com/pdfs/CFWI_2020RWSP_FINAL_PlanDocRpt_12-10-2020.pdf.
[46] This conclusion was taken from the CFWI *2020 Regional Water Supply Plan*. *Id.* at v.

providing for responsible development of these water resources to support growth and provide for public health and safety.

Section 2 amends s. 375.041, F.S., to appropriate $20 million annually to the Department of Environmental Protection to implement the Heartland Headwaters Protection and Sustainability Act. The funds must be used to enter into financial assistance agreements and must be distributed in accordance with the projects identified in the Heartland Headwaters Annual Report submitted to the Legislature to finance the cost of designing or constructing projects that protect, restore, or enhance the headwaters of the river systems located in the Heartland Region of Central Florida.

The bill requires the distribution of the $20 million to be reduced by an amount equal to the debt service paid out of the Land Acquisition Trust Fund (LATF) on bonds issued for these purposes after July 1, 2023.

The bill deletes obsolete language that directed LATF funds to be appropriated for the 2022-2023 fiscal years as provided in the General Appropriations Act.

Section 3 provides an effective date of July 1, 2023.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

See Present Situation.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The bill provides an annual appropriation of $20 million to the Department of Environmental Protection to implement the Heartland Headwater and Sustainability Act. The funds must be used to enter into financial assistance agreements and distributed in accordance with the projects identified in the heartland headwaters annual report submitted to the Legislature pursuant to s. 373.463, F.S., to finance the cost of designing or constructing projects that protect, restore, or enhance the headwaters of the river systems located in the Heartland Region of Central Florida. The distribution must be reduced by an amount equal to the debt service paid on bonds issued after July 1, 2022 for these purposes.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends section 375.041 of the Florida Statutes.

IX. Additional Information:

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:
(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.

By Senator Burton

12-00779-23 2023602__

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to the Land Acquisition Trust Fund; providing legislative findings; amending s. 375.041, F.S.; providing an annual appropriation to the Department of Environmental Protection to implement the Heartland Headwaters Protection and Sustainability Act; requiring the funds to be used and distributed for specified purposes; removing an obsolete provision; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. The Legislature finds that:

(1) The Legislature unanimously approved CS/CS/HB 573, the Heartland Headwaters Protection and Sustainability Act, in 2017, to protect the headwaters of the Alafia, Hillsborough, Kissimmee, Ocklawaha, Peace, and Withlacoochee Rivers located in the Green Swamp and Polk County, which are some of the most important and vulnerable water resources in this state.

(2) In the same act, the Legislature declared that it is an important state interest to partner with regional water supply authorities and local governments, in accordance with s. 373.705, Florida Statutes, to protect the water resources of the headwaters of the Alafia, Hillsborough, Kissimmee, Ocklawaha, Peace, and Withlacoochee Rivers and the surrounding areas.

(3) In 2020, the Central Florida Water Initiative (CFWI) Regional Water Supply Plan developed pursuant to s. 373.0465, Florida Statutes, projected the population of the region to reach 4.4 million by 2040, which is a 49 percent increase from a

2015 estimate. The total average use of surface water and groundwater in the CFWI Planning Area is projected to increase 36 percent from 667 million gallons per day in 2015 to 908 million gallons per day in 2040.

(4) The CFWI Regional Water Supply Plan concluded that in some areas of the CFWI Planning Area, fresh groundwater is near or has exceeded the limits of groundwater availability and that alternative water sources will need to be developed along with additional water conservation efforts and local management strategies to meet the 2040 projected water demands or to meet the currently permitted allocations and allow currently stressed water resources and natural systems to recover.

(5) Consistent funding support is required in order to support the efforts of the water management districts to protect the rivers, springs, and wetlands in the region while providing for responsible development of these water resources to support growth and provide for public health and safety.

Section 2. Subsection (3) of section 375.041, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

375.041 Land Acquisition Trust Fund.—

(3) Funds distributed into the Land Acquisition Trust Fund pursuant to s. 201.15 shall be applied:

(a) First, to pay debt service or to fund debt service reserve funds, rebate obligations, or other amounts payable with respect to Florida Forever bonds issued under s. 215.618; and pay debt service, provide reserves, and pay rebate obligations and other amounts due with respect to Everglades restoration bonds issued under s. 215.619; and

(b) Of the funds remaining after the payments required

under paragraph (a), but before funds may be appropriated, pledged, or dedicated for other uses:

1. A minimum of the lesser of 25 percent or $200 million shall be appropriated annually for Everglades projects that implement the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan as set forth in s. 373.470, including the Central Everglades Planning Project subject to Congressional authorization; the Long-Term Plan as defined in s. 373.4592(2); and the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program as set forth in s. 373.4595. From these funds, $32 million shall be distributed each fiscal year through the 2023-2024 fiscal year to the South Florida Water Management District for the Long-Term Plan as defined in s. 373.4592(2). After deducting the $32 million distributed under this subparagraph, from the funds remaining, a minimum of the lesser of 76.5 percent or $100 million shall be appropriated each fiscal year through the 2025-2026 fiscal year for the planning, design, engineering, and construction of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan as set forth in s. 373.470, including the Central Everglades Planning Project, the Everglades Agricultural Area Storage Reservoir Project, the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Project, the C-43 West Basin Storage Reservoir Project, the Indian River Lagoon-South Project, the Western Everglades Restoration Project, and the Picayune Strand Restoration Project. The Department of Environmental Protection and the South Florida Water Management District shall give preference to those Everglades restoration projects that reduce harmful discharges of water from Lake Okeechobee to the St. Lucie or Caloosahatchee estuaries in a timely manner. For the purpose of performing the calculation provided in this

subparagraph, the amount of debt service paid pursuant to paragraph (a) for bonds issued after July 1, 2016, for the purposes set forth under this paragraph shall be added to the amount remaining after the payments required under paragraph (a). The amount of the distribution calculated shall then be reduced by an amount equal to the debt service paid pursuant to paragraph (a) on bonds issued after July 1, 2016, for the purposes set forth under this subparagraph.

2. A minimum of the lesser of 7.6 percent or $50 million shall be appropriated annually for spring restoration, protection, and management projects. For the purpose of performing the calculation provided in this subparagraph, the amount of debt service paid pursuant to paragraph (a) for bonds issued after July 1, 2016, for the purposes set forth under this paragraph shall be added to the amount remaining after the payments required under paragraph (a). The amount of the distribution calculated shall then be reduced by an amount equal to the debt service paid pursuant to paragraph (a) on bonds issued after July 1, 2016, for the purposes set forth under this subparagraph.

3. The sum of $5 million shall be appropriated annually each fiscal year through the 2025-2026 fiscal year to the St. Johns River Water Management District for projects dedicated to the restoration of Lake Apopka. This distribution shall be reduced by an amount equal to the debt service paid pursuant to paragraph (a) on bonds issued after July 1, 2016, for the purposes set forth in this subparagraph.

4. The sum of $64 million is appropriated and shall be transferred to the Everglades Trust Fund for the 2018-2019

fiscal year, and each fiscal year thereafter, for the EAA reservoir project pursuant to s. 373.4598. Any funds remaining in any fiscal year shall be made available only for Phase II of the C-51 reservoir project or projects identified in subparagraph 1. and must be used in accordance with laws relating to such projects. Any funds made available for such purposes in a fiscal year are in addition to the amount appropriated under subparagraph 1. This distribution shall be reduced by an amount equal to the debt service paid pursuant to paragraph (a) on bonds issued after July 1, 2017, for the purposes set forth in this subparagraph.

5. The sum of $50 million shall be appropriated annually to the South Florida Water Management District for the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project in accordance with s. 373.4599. This distribution must be reduced by an amount equal to the debt service paid pursuant to paragraph (a) on bonds issued after July 1, 2021, for the purposes set forth in this subparagraph.

6. The sum of $20 million shall be appropriated annually to the Department of Environmental Protection to implement the Heartland Headwaters Protection and Sustainability Act pursuant to chapter 2017-111, Laws of Florida. The funds must be used to enter into financial assistance agreements and must be distributed in accordance with the projects identified in the heartland headwaters annual report submitted to the Legislature pursuant to s. 373.463 to finance the cost of designing or constructing projects that protect, restore, or enhance the headwaters of the river systems located in the Heartland Region of Central Florida. This distribution must be reduced by an

amount equal to the debt service paid pursuant to paragraph (a) on bonds issued after July 1, 2023, for the purposes set forth in this subparagraph ~~Notwithstanding subparagraph 3., for the 2022-2023 fiscal year, funds shall be appropriated as provided in the General Appropriations Act. This subparagraph expires July 1, 2023~~.

Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.

3/6/2023
Meeting Date

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Committee

The Florida Senate

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SB 458
Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name TRISH NEELY

Phone 850 322 3317

Address 2024 SHANGRILA
Street

Email

TALLY FL 32303
City State Zip

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☐ Information **OR** Waive Speaking: ☒ In Support ☐ Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

☐ I am appearing without compensation or sponsorship.

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League Women Voters

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

3-6-23
Meeting Date

Committee

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458
Bill Number or Topic

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Name Jess M. McCarty, Executive Assistant County Attorney Phone 305-979-7110

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Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☐ Information **OR** Waive Speaking: ☑ In Support ☐ Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

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Miami-Dade County

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3/6/23
Meeting Date

S Enviro + natural Resources
Committee

SB 458
Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Sara Henley

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Email shenley@fl-counties.com

Tallahassee FL 32301
City State Zip

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☐ Information **OR** Waive Speaking: ☑ In Support ☐ Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

☐ I am appearing without compensation or sponsorship.

☑ I am a registered lobbyist, representing: FL Association of Counties

☐ I am not a lobbyist, but received something of value for my appearance (travel, meals, lodging, etc.), sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. 2020-2022JointRules.pdf (flsenate.gov)

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate

BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

BILL:	CS/SB 458
INTRODUCER:	Environment and Natural Resources Committee and Senator Rodriguez
SUBJECT:	Wastewater Grant Program
DATE:	March 6, 2023
REVISED:	

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Carroll	Rogers	EN	**Fav/CS**
2.			AEG	
3.			FP	

Please see Section IX. for Additional Information:

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE - Substantial Changes

I. Summary:

CS/SB 458 expands the wastewater grant program to include funding for projects intended to restore a waterbody or waterbody segment listed as impaired.

II. Present Situation:

Water Quality and Nutrients

Phosphorus and nitrogen are naturally present in water and are essential nutrients for the healthy growth of plant and animal life.[1] The correct balance of both nutrients is necessary for a healthy ecosystem; however, excessive nitrogen and phosphorus can cause significant water quality problems.[2]

Phosphorus and nitrogen are derived from natural and human-made sources.[3] Human-made sources include sewage disposal systems (wastewater treatment facilities and septic systems), overflows of storm and sanitary sewers (untreated sewage), agricultural production and irrigation practices, and stormwater runoff.[4]

[1] U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *The Issue*, https://www.epa.gov/nutrientpollution/issue (last visited Feb. 10, 2023).
[2] *Id.*
[3] *Id.*
[4] U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), *Sources and Solutions*, https://www.epa.gov/nutrientpollution/sources-and-solutions (last visited Feb 10, 2023).

Excessive nutrient loads may result in harmful algal blooms, nuisance aquatic weeds, and the alteration of the natural community of plants and animals.[5] Dense, harmful algal blooms can also cause human health problems, fish kills, problems for water treatment plants, and impairment of the aesthetics and taste of waters. Growth of nuisance aquatic weeds tends to increase in nutrient-enriched waters, which can impact recreational activities.[6]

Impaired Waters

Under section 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act, states must establish water quality standards for waters within their borders and then develop a list of impaired waters that do not meet the established water quality standards and a list of threatened waters that may not meet water quality standards in the following reporting cycle.[7] States must then develop a total maximum daily load (TMDL)[8] for every pollutant/waterbody combination on the list.[9]

Due to limited funds and the wide variety of surface waters in Florida, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has sorted those waters into 29 major watersheds, or basins, and further organized them into five basin groups for assessment purposes.[10] DEP completes an assessment of all basins every two years.[11] If DEP determines that any waters are impaired, the waterbody or segment must be placed on the verified list of impaired waters and a TMDL must be calculated for that waterbody or segment.[12] The list is adopted by DEP secretarial order and is submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency every two years.[13] A waterbody or segment may be removed from the list at any time during the TMDL process upon demonstration that it has attained water quality criteria.[14] If DEP determines that a waterbody is impaired, but further study is needed to determine the causative pollutants or other factors contributing to impairment before the waterbody is placed on the verified list, the waterbody or segment will be placed on the statewide comprehensive study list.[15] Waterbodies on the study list show clear adverse trends in nutrients or nutrient response variables with a reasonable expectation of impairment within 10 years, or they do not meet water quality standards or stream nutrient thresholds.[16]

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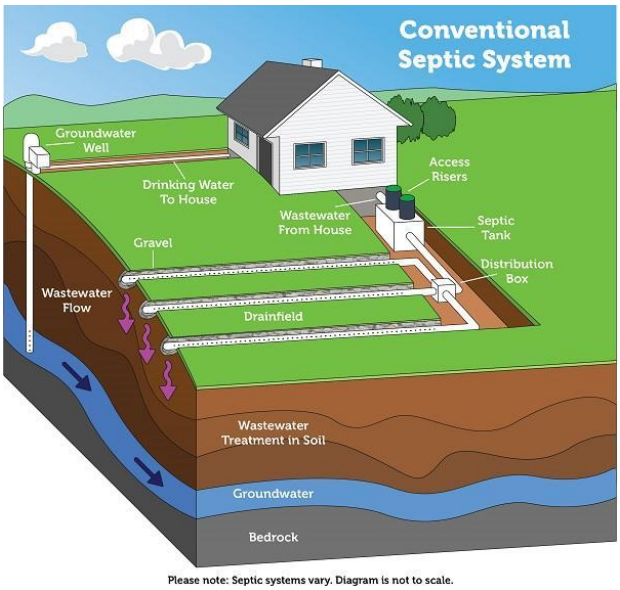
[5] EPA, *The Issue*, https://www.epa.gov/nutrientpollution/issue (last visited Feb. 10, 2023).
[6] *Id.*
[7] EPA, *Overview of Identifying and Restoring Impaired Waters under Section 303(d) of the CWA*, https://www.epa.gov/tmdl/overview-identifying-and-restoring-impaired-waters-under-section-303d-cwa (last visited Feb. 24, 2023); 40 C.F.R. 130.7.
[8] A total maximum daily load is a scientific determination of the maximum amount of a given pollutant that can be absorbed by a waterbody and still meet water quality standards. DEP, *Total Maximum Daily Loads Program*, https://floridadep.gov/dear/water-quality-evaluation-tmdl/content/total-maximum-daily-loads-tmdl-program (last visited Feb. 10, 2023).
[9] *Id.*
[10] DEP, *Assessment Lists*, https://floridadep.gov/dear/watershed-assessment-section/content/assessment-lists (last visited Feb. 24, 2023).
[11] *Id.*
[12] *Id.*; DEP, *Verified List Waterbody Ids (WBIDs)*, https://geodata.dep.state.fl.us/datasets/FDEP::verified-list-waterbody-ids-wbids/about (last visited Feb. 24, 2023); and s. 403.067(4), F.S.
[13] DEP, *Assessment Lists*; EPA, *Overview of Identifying and Restoring Impaired Waters under Section 303(d) of the CWA*.
[14] Section 403.067(5), F.S.
[15] Section 403.067(2), F.S.; ch. 62-303.150, F.A.C.
[16] Chapter 62-303.390, F.A.C.; DEP, *Assessment Lists*.

Onsite Sewage Treatment and Disposal Systems

Onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems (OSTDSs), commonly referred to as "septic systems," generally consist of two basic parts: the septic tank and the drainfield.[17] Waste from toilets, sinks, washing machines, and showers flows through a pipe into the septic tank, where anaerobic bacteria break the solids into a liquid form. The liquid portion of the wastewater flows into the drainfield, which is generally a series of perforated pipes or panels surrounded by lightweight materials such as gravel or Styrofoam. The drainfield provides a secondary treatment where aerobic bacteria continue deactivating the germs. The drainfield also provides filtration of the wastewater, as gravity draws the water down through the soil layers.[18]



There are an estimated 2.6 million OSTDSs in Florida, providing wastewater disposal for 30 percent of the state's population.[19] In Florida, development in some areas is dependent on OSTDSs due to the cost and time it takes to install central sewer systems.[20] For example, in rural areas and low-density developments, central sewer systems are not cost-effective. Less than one percent of OSTDSs in Florida are actively managed under operating permits and maintenance agreements.[21] The remainder of the systems are generally serviced only when they fail, often leading to costly repairs that could have been avoided with routine maintenance.[22]

In a conventional OSTDS, the septic tank does not reduce nitrogen from raw sewage. Approximately 30-40 percent of the nitrogen levels are reduced in the drainfield of a system that is installed 24 inches or more from groundwater.[23] This still leaves a significant amount of

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[17] Florida Department of Health (DOH), *Septic System Information and Care*, http://columbia.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/environmental-health/onsite-sewage-disposal/septic-information-and-care.html (last visited Feb, 2023); EPA, *Types of Septic Systems*, https://www.epa.gov/septic/types-septic-systems (last visited Feb. 10, 2023) (showing the graphic provided in the analysis).
[18] *Id.*
[19] DEP, *Onsite Sewage Program*, https://floridadep.gov/water/onsite-sewage#:~:text=Onsite%20sewage%20treatment%20and%20disposal%20systems%20%28OSTDS%29%2C%20commonly,represents%2012%25%20of%20the%20United%20States%E2%80%99%20septic%20systems (last visited Feb. 10, 2023).
[20] DOH, *Report on Range of Costs to Implement a Mandatory Statewide 5-Year Septic Tank Inspection Program*, Executive Summary (Oct. 1, 2008), *available at* http://www.floridahealth.gov/environmental-health/onsite-sewage/_documents/costs-implement-mandatory-statewide-inspection.pdf (last visited Feb. 10, 2023).
[21] *Id.*
[22] *Id.*
[23] DOH, *Florida Onsite Sewage Nitrogen Reduction Strategies Study, Final Report 2008-2015*, 21 (Dec. 2015), *available at* http://www.floridahealth.gov/environmental-health/onsite-sewage/research/draftlegreportsm.pdf; *see* Fla. Admin. Code R. 64E-6.006(2).

nitrogen to percolate into the groundwater, which makes nitrogen from OSTDSs a potential contaminant in groundwater.[24]

Different types of advanced OSTDSs exist that can remove greater amounts of nitrogen than a typical septic system (often referred to as "advanced" or "nutrient-reducing" septic systems).[25] DEP publishes on its website approved products and resources on advanced systems.[26] Determining which advanced system is the best option can depend on site-specific conditions.

The owner of a properly functioning OSTDS must connect to a sewer system within one year of receiving notification that a sewer system is available for connection.[27] Owners of an OSTDS in need of repair or modification must connect within 90 days of notification from DEP.[28]

In 2020, the Clean Waterways Act provided for the transfer of the Onsite Sewage Program from the Department of Health (DOH) to DEP.[29] The Onsite Sewage Program will be transferred over a period of five years, and guidelines for the transfer are provided by an interagency agreement.[30] Per the agreement, DEP has the primary powers and duties of the Onsite Sewage Program, meaning that the county departments of health will implement the OSTDS program under the direction of DEP instead of DOH.[31] The county departments of health still handle permitting and inspection of OSTDSs.[32] In the event of an alleged violation of OSTDS laws, county departments of health will be responsible for conducting an inspection to gather information regarding the allegations.[33]

Wastewater Treatment Facilities

The proper treatment and disposal or reuse of domestic wastewater is an important part of protecting Florida's water resources. The majority of Florida's domestic wastewater is controlled and treated by centralized treatment facilities regulated by DEP. Florida has approximately 2,000 permitted domestic wastewater treatment facilities.[34]

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[24] University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS), *Onsite Sewage Treatment and Disposal Systems: Nitrogen*, 3 (Oct. 2020), *available at* http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/SS/SS55000.pdf (last visited Feb. 10, 2023).
[25] DOH, *Nitrogen-Reducing Systems for Areas Affected by the Florida Springs and Aquifer Protection Act* (updated May 2021), *available at* http://www.floridahealth.gov/environmental-health/onsite-sewage/products/_documents/bmap-n-reducing-tech-18-10-29.pdf.
[26] DEP, *Onsite Sewage Program, Product Listings and Approval Requirements*, https://floridadep.gov/water/onsite-sewage/content/product-listings-and-approval-requirements (last visited Feb. 10, 2023).
[27] Section 381.00655, F.S.
[28] *Id*.
[29] DEP, *Program Transfer*, https://floridadep.gov/water/onsite-sewage/content/program-transfer (last visited Feb. 10, 2023).
[30] DOH, DEP, *Interagency Agreement between DEP and DOH in Compliance with Florida's Clean Waterways Act for Transfer of the Onsite Sewage Program*, 5 (June 30, 2021), *available at* http://www.floridahealth.gov/environmental-health/onsite-sewage/_documents/interagency-agreement-between-fdoh-fdep-onsite-signed-06302021.pdf (last visited Feb. 10, 2023).
[31] *Id.* at 14.
[32] *Id.* at 11; and DEP, *Onsite Sewage Program*, https://floridadep.gov/water/onsite-sewage (last visited Feb. 10, 2023).
[33] DOH, DEP, *Interagency Agreement between DEP and DOH in Compliance with Florida's Clean Waterways Act for Transfer of the Onsite Sewage Program* at 11.
[34] DEP, *General Facts and Statistics about Wastewater in Florida*, https://floridadep.gov/water/domestic-wastewater/content/general-facts-and-statistics-about-wastewater-florida (last visited Feb. 10, 2023).

Chapter 403, F.S., requires that any facility or activity which discharges waste into waters of the state or which will reasonably be expected to be a source of water pollution must obtain a permit from DEP.[35] Generally, persons who intend to collect, transmit, treat, dispose, or reuse wastewater are required to obtain a wastewater permit. A wastewater permit issued by DEP is required for both operation and certain construction activities associated with domestic or industrial wastewater facilities or activities. A DEP permit must also be obtained prior to construction of a domestic wastewater collection and transmission system.[36]

Under section 402 of the federal Clean Water Act, any discharge of a pollutant from a point source to surface waters (i.e., the navigable waters of the United States or beyond) must obtain a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit.[37] NPDES permit requirements for most wastewater facilities or activities (domestic or industrial) that discharge to surface waters are incorporated into a state-issued permit, thus giving the permittee one set of permitting requirements rather than one state and one federal permit.[38] DEP issues operation permits for a period of five years for facilities regulated under the NPDES program and up to 10 years for other domestic wastewater treatment facilities meeting certain statutory requirements.[39]

Florida's Wastewater Grant Program

The Legislature created the wastewater grant program with the passage of the Clean Waterways Act in 2020.[40] The legislation authorized DEP to provide grants to governmental entities for wastewater projects that reduce excess nutrient pollution within a basin management action plan,[41] alternative restoration plan adopted by final order,[42] or rural area of opportunity.[43] The program requires at least a 50 percent local match for each grant, although the requirement may be waived for rural areas of opportunity. Eligible projects include:

- Projects to retrofit OSTDSs to upgrade such systems to enhanced nutrient-reducing OSTDSs;
- Projects to construct, upgrade, or expand facilities to provide advanced waste treatment;[44] and

[35] Section 403.087, F.S.
[36] DEP, *Wastewater Permitting*, https://floridadep.gov/water/domestic-wastewater/content/wastewater-permitting (last visited Feb. 10, 2023).
[37] 33 U.S.C. s. 1342.
[38] Sections 403.061 and 403.087, F.S.
[39] Section 403.087(3), F.S.
[40] Chapter 2020-150, Laws of Fla.; s. 403.0673, F.S.
[41] Basin management action plans are one of the primary mechanisms DEP uses to achieve TMDLs; they are plans that address the entire pollution load for a watershed. Section 403.067(7), F.S.
[42] An alternative restoration plan is a strategy developed and implemented to quickly address water quality issues to postpone or prevent a waterbody from being listed on the verified list of impaired waters. There are two types of alternative restoration plans: reasonable assurance plans and pollutant reduction plans. DEP, *FAQs for the Alternative Restoration Plan Webpage*, https://floridadep.gov/dear/alternative-restoration-plans/content/alternative-restoration-plan-webpage-faqs#:~:text=What%20is%20an%20Alternative%20Restoration%20Plan%3F%20It%20is,being%20on%20the%20Verified%20List%20of%20Impaired%20Waters (last visited Feb. 28, 2023).
[43] Section 403.0673(1), F.S. Rural areas of opportunity are rural communities, or a region composed of rural communities that have been adversely affected by extraordinary economic events of natural disasters. Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, *Rural Areas of Opportunity*, https://floridajobs.org/community-planning-and-development/rural-community-programs/rural-areas-of-opportunity (last visited Feb. 24, 2023).
[44] Advanced waste treatment is defined in s. 403.086(4), F.S. as treatment that has received high level disinfection and that will provide a reclaimed water product that contains not more on a permitted annual basis than 5 mg/l of biochemical oxygen demand and suspended solids, 3 mg/l of total nitrogen, and 1 mg/l of total phosphorus.

- Projects to connect OSTDSs to central sewer facilities.[45]

DEP coordinates with the water management districts to identify grant recipients in each district.[46] DEP must consider the estimated reduction in nutrient load per project; project readiness; the cost-effectiveness of the project; the overall environmental benefit of the project; the location of the project; the availability of local matching funds; and projected water savings or quantity improvements associated with the project.[47] Projects that subsidize the connection of OSTDSs to wastewater treatment facilities are given priority in the following order:

- First priority: subsidizing the connection of OSTDSs to existing infrastructure.
- Second priority: any expansion of a collection or transmission system that promotes efficiency by planning the installation of wastewater transmission facilities to be constructed concurrently with other construction projects occurring within or along a transportation facility right-of-way.
- Third priority: all other connections of OSTDSs to wastewater treatment facilities.[48]

DEP is required to submit an annual report identifying the projects funded through the grant program to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.[49]

The wastewater grant program is funded by documentary stamp tax revenues.[50] After required distributions from documentary stamp tax revenues are disbursed,[51] an amount equaling 5.4175 percent of the remainder is paid into the Water Protection and Sustainability Program Trust Fund to be used to fund wastewater grants.[52] The Office of Economic and Demographic Research estimates that the distribution for wastewater grants in fiscal year 2023-2024 will be $134.5 million.[53]

Other Funding for Wastewater Projects

DEP helps fund domestic wastewater projects through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund Loan, the State Small Community Wastewater Construction Grants, and the State Bond Loan programs.[54]

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[45] *Id.*
[46] Section 403.0673(4), F.S.
[47] Section 403.0673(2), F.S.
[48] *Id.*
[49] Section 403.0673(5), F.S.
[50] Section 201.15(4)(h), F.S. Documentary stamp tax revenues are collected under ch. 201, F.S., which requires an excise tax to be levied on two classes of documents: deeds and other documents related to real property, which are taxed at the rate of 70 cents per $100; and certificates of indebtedness, promissory notes, wage assignments, and retail charge account agreements, which are taxed at 35 cents per $100. *See* ss. 201.02(1)(a) and 201.08(1)(a), F.S.
[51] The required distributions are to the Land Acquisition Trust Fund and the service charge representing the estimated pro rata share of the cost of general government paid from the General Revenue Fund. Section 201.15(4), F.S.
[52] Section 201.15(4)(h), F.S.
[53] Office of Economic and Demographic Research, *Conference Results*, (2022) *available at* http://edr.state.fl.us/Content/conferences/docstamp/docstampresults.pdf.
[54] DEP, *DEP Funding for Domestic Wastewater Projects*, https://floridadep.gov/water/domestic-wastewater/content/dep-funding-domestic-wastewater-projects (last visited Feb. 24, 2023).

The Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) program is administered by DEP through the State Revolving Fund Program. It provides low-interest loans for planning, designing, and constructing water pollution control facilities.[55] DEP receives requests for funding throughout the year for wastewater, stormwater, and certain energy and other types of projects.[56] The information gathered in the request is used to list projects in order of priority for funding at the beginning of each fiscal year and each quarter thereafter, as funds are available.[57] To date, the CWSRF program has provided over $4 billion in total loans.[58]

The State Small Community Wastewater Construction Grants program is also administered through the State Revolving Fund Program. This grant program assists small communities and wastewater authorities in planning, designing, and constructing wastewater management facilities.[59] A community is eligible if it is a municipality, county, or authority with a total population of no more than 10,000 and a per capita income less than the state average of $26,503.[60]

Executive Order 23-06

Executive Order 23-06 directs DEP to work with the Legislature to expand the existing wastewater grant program by broadening project eligibility to address impacts from nonpoint sources, such as stormwater and agricultural runoff, and address aging wastewater infrastructure that increases nutrient loading to surface and groundwater.[61] With regard to the wastewater grant program, the executive order also directs DEP to:

- Collaborate with water management districts, local governments, and stakeholders to identify the most effective water quality improvement projects;
- Continue to prioritize grants to local governments for septic-to-sewer conversions and identify ways to minimize the installation of new septic systems in areas with impaired waterways; and
- Ensure that all wastewater facilities discharging to waterbodies within a basin management action plan area or discharging to a waterbody not attaining water quality standards upgrade to advanced wastewater treatment by 2033.[62]

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1 amends s. 403.0673, F.S., to provide that projects intended to restore a waterbody or waterbody segment listed as impaired are eligible to receive funding from the wastewater grant program.

Section 2 provides an effective date of July 1, 2023.

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[55] *Id.*
[56] DEP, *CWSRF Program*, https://floridadep.gov/wra/srf/content/cwsrf-program (last visited Feb. 24, 2023).
[57] *Id.*
[58] DEP, *DEP Funding for Domestic Wastewater Projects*.
[59] *Id.*
[60] *Id.*
[61] Office of the Governor, *Executive Order 23-6*, 3 (Jan. 10, 2023), *available at* https://www.flgov.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/EO-23-06.pdf.
[62] *Id.* at 3-4.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The bill would provide grant funding opportunities to local governments for projects intended to restore a waterbody or waterbody segment listed as impaired. The grants may pay up to 50 percent of the project costs, although the 50 percent local match may be waived in rural areas of opportunity. Therefore, this bill may have an indeterminate, positive fiscal impact on local governments.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends s. 403.0673 of the Florida Statutes.

IX. Additional Information:

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:
(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

CS by Environment and Natural Resources on March 6, 2023:

- Replaces the provision in the underlying bill that authorizes wastewater grant funding for projects focused on waterbodies on the verified list of impaired waters with a provision authorizing wastewater grant funding for projects focused on waterbodies listed as impaired.
- Broadens the scope of the title from the wastewater grant program to wastewater grants.

B. Amendments:

None.

936236

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
03/06/2023	.	
	.	
	.	
	.	

The Committee on Environment and Natural Resources (Rodriguez) recommended the following:

Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

Delete lines 17 - 23

and insert:

Legislature, the department may provide grants for the following projects within a basin management action plan, an alternative restoration plan adopted by final order, or a rural area of opportunity under s. 288.0656 or intended to restore a water body or water body segment listed as impaired pursuant to s. 403.067 which will individually or collectively reduce

936236

========== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T ==========

And the title is amended as follows:

Delete lines 2 - 7

and insert:

An act relating to wastewater grants; amending s. 403.0673, F.S.; authorizing the Department of Environmental Protection to provide grants for certain projects to restore specified impaired water bodies and water segments; providing an effective date.

By Senator Rodriguez

40-01173-23 2023458__

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to the wastewater grant program; amending s. 403.0673, F.S.; authorizing the Department of Environmental Protection to provide wastewater grant program grants to projects directed at or focused on a water body included on a specified list of impaired waters; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 403.0673, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

403.0673 Wastewater grant program.—A wastewater grant program is established within the Department of Environmental Protection.

(1) Subject to the appropriation of funds by the Legislature, the department may provide grants for all of the following projects that are within a basin management action plan, an alternative restoration plan adopted by final order, or a rural area of opportunity under s. 288.0656 or that are directed at or focused on a water body included on the verified list of impaired waters developed by the department pursuant to s. 403.067(4) which will individually or collectively reduce excess nutrient pollution:

(a) Projects to retrofit onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems to upgrade such systems to enhanced nutrient-reducing onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems.

(b) Projects to construct, upgrade, or expand facilities to provide advanced waste treatment, as defined in s. 403.086(4).

(c) Projects to connect onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems to central sewer facilities.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.

The Florida Senate

APPEARANCE RECORD

Deliver both copies of this form to
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

March 6th, 2023
Meeting Date

En. and Nat Resources
Committee

SB 506
Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Erin Ballas

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Address 730 E. Park Ave
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Tallahassee FL 32301
City State Zip

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☐ Information **OR** Waive Speaking: ☒ In Support ☐ Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

☐ I am appearing without compensation or sponsorship.

☒ I am a registered lobbyist, representing:
The National Waste and Recycling Association, FL chapter

☐ I am not a lobbyist, but received something of value for my appearance (travel, meals, lodging, etc.), sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. 2020-2022JointRules.pdf (flsenate.gov)

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate

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3/6/23
Meeting Date

S Envrn + Natural Resources
Committee

SB 506
Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

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Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☐ Information **OR** Waive Speaking: ☑ In Support ☐ Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

☐ I am appearing without compensation or sponsorship.

☑ I am a registered lobbyist, representing:
FL Association of Counties

☐ I am not a lobbyist, but received something of value for my appearance (travel, meals, lodging, etc.), sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. 2020-2022JointRules.pdf (flsenate.gov)

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate

APPEARANCE RECORD

Deliver both copies of this form to
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

3/6/2023
Meeting Date

Enviro + Nat
Committee

SB 506
Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

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City State Zip

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☐ Information **OR** Waive Speaking: ☒ In Support ☐ Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

☐ I am appearing without compensation or sponsorship.

☐ I am a registered lobbyist, representing:

☐ I am not a lobbyist, but received something of value for my appearance (travel, meals, lodging, etc.), sponsored by:

League Women Voters

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. 2020-2022JointRules.pdf (flsenate.gov)

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate

Committee Agenda Request

To: Senator Ana Maria Rodriguez , Chair
Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

Subject: Committee Agenda Request

Date: February 16, 2023

I respectfully request that **Senate Bill #506**, relating to Comprehensive Waste Reduction and Recycling Plan:

☒ committee agenda at your earliest possible convenience.

☐ next committee agenda.

Linda Stewart

Senator Linda Stewart
Florida Senate, District 17

File signed original with committee office

S-020 (03/2004)

The Florida Senate

BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

BILL:	SB 506
INTRODUCER:	Senator Stewart
SUBJECT:	Comprehensive Waste Reduction and Recycling Plan
DATE:	March 3, 2023
REVISED:	

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Barriero	Rogers	EN	**Favorable**
2.			AEG	
3.			FP	

I. Summary:

SB 506 directs the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to develop a comprehensive waste reduction and recycling plan by July 1, 2024 and to convene a technical assistance group within DEP to help develop the plan. The bill provides minimum criteria for the plan and directs DEP to provide a report to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives upon its completion.

II. Present Situation:

Florida's Recycling Goal

In 2008, the Legislature set a statewide goal to recycle at least 75 percent of municipal solid waste (MSW) by 2020.[1] The goal includes only MSW[2] and is measured by weight.[3] The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) established numerous programs and initiatives to reach the 75 percent recycling goal.[4] In 2010, the Legislature amended s. 403.706, F.S., to require counties to implement local recycling programs with the following interim goals: a goal of recycling 40 percent of recyclable solid waste by December 31, 2012; 50 percent by December 31, 2014; 60 percent by December 31, 2016; 70 percent by December 31, 2018; and 75 percent by December 31, 2020.[5] While Florida achieved the interim goals for 2012 and 2014,

[1] Section 403.7032, F.S.
[2] MSW is any solid waste, except for sludge, resulting from the operation of residential, commercial, governmental, or institutional establishments that would normally be collected, processed, and disposed of through a public or private solid waste management service. Section 403.706(5), F.S. MSW also includes yard trash but does not include solid waste from industrial, mining, or agricultural operations. *Id.*
[3] Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), *Florida and the 2020 75% Recycling Goal: Final Report*, 3, 8 (2020), *available at* https://floridadep.gov/waste/permitting-compliance-assistance/documents/75-recycling-goal-final-report.
[4] DEP, *Recycling*, http://www.dep.state.fl.us/waste/categories/recycling/default.htm (last visited Feb. 22, 2023).
[5] Section 403.706(2)(a), F.S. These are interim goals to help Florida reach the goal of recycling at least 75 percent of municipal solid waste by 2020; Ch. 2010-143, s. 7, Laws of Fla.; *see also* s. 403.7032(2), F.S.

the state's recycling rate for 2016 was 56 percent, falling short of the 60 percent goal.[6] Between 2016 and 2020 Florida's statewide recycling rate continued to decline, with a rate of 52 percent in 2019 and 50 percent in 2020.[7] Only three of Florida's 36 large counties—Charlotte, Lee, and Pinellas—successfully met the 75 percent recycling goal by 2020.[8] However, there is evidence that recycling rates are rebounding: the single-family recycling participation rate increased 7 percent from 2020 to 2021.[9] Commercial recycling participation rates also showed a slight increase (approximately 2 percent) during the same timeframe.[10]

Local Government Solid Waste and Recycling Responsibilities

Each Florida county has the authority and responsibility to provide for the operation of solid waste disposal facilities to meet the needs of all incorporated and unincorporated areas of the county.[11] Counties may charge reasonable fees for the handling and disposal of solid waste at their facilities.[12] Municipalities are responsible for collecting and transporting solid waste from their jurisdictions to a solid waste disposal facility operated by a county or county contractor.[13] Local governments are also authorized to provide for the collection of recyclable materials.[14] A market must exist for the recyclable materials, and the local government must specifically intend for them to be recycled.[15]

As discussed above, counties are required to implement recycling programs that include the statutory interim goals established in s. 403.706(2)(a), F.S.[16] These programs must be designed to recover a significant portion of at least four of the following materials from the solid waste stream prior to final disposal at a solid waste disposal facility and to offer these materials for recycling:

- Newspapers;
- Aluminum cans;
- Steel cans;
- Glass;
- Plastic bottles;

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[6] DEP, *Florida and the 2020 75% Recycling Goal: Final Report* at 2.
[7] DEP, *Florida and the 2020 75% Recycling Goal: Final Report* at 6. Notably, prior to the implementation of the 75 percent recycling goal, Florida's recycling rate, which was calculated based on recycling traditional materials, was 30 percent. *Id.* If the same methodology was applied to 2020, the recycling rate would be only 25 percent. *Id.*
[8] *Id.* at 9. "Large counties" are those with a population of over 100,000. *Id.*
[9] DEP, *2021 Single-Family Participation in Recycling* (2022), *available at* https://floridadep.gov/sites/default/files/2021%20Single%20Family%20Recycling%20Participation%20in%20Florida.pdf; DEP, *2020 Single-Family Participation in Recycling* (2021), *available at* https://floridadep.gov/sites/default/files/2020%20Single-Family%20Participation%20in%20Recycling.pdf.
[10] DEP, *2021 Commercial Participation in Recycling* (2022), *available at* https://floridadep.gov/sites/default/files/2021%20Commercial%20Recycling%20Participation%20in%20Florida.pdf; DEP, *2020 Commercial Participation in Recycling* (2021), *available at* https://floridadep.gov/sites/default/files/2020%20Commercial%20Participation%20in%20Recycling.pdf.
[11] Section 403.706(1), F.S. Municipalities are also authorized to construct and operate solid waste disposal facilities if certain statutory requirements are met. Fla. Admin. Code Ch. 62-701.
[12] *Id.*
[13] *Id.*
[14] Section 403.706(21), F.S.
[15] *Id.*
[16] Section 403.706(2)(a), F.S.

- Cardboard;
- Office paper; and
- Yard trash.[17]

In addition, each county must ensure, to the maximum extent possible, that municipalities within its boundaries participate in the preparation and implementation of recycling and solid waste management programs through interlocal agreements or other means provided by law.[18] Counties and municipalities are encouraged to form cooperative arrangements for implementing recycling programs,[19] and must enter into negotiations with a franchisee who is operating to exclusively collect solid waste within a specified service area for a county or municipality.[20]

Certain activities are eligible for special credit towards achieving a county's recycling goals, including the use of solid waste as fuel in a renewable energy facility, the innovative use of yard trash or other clean wood waste or paper waste, and providing opportunities to recycle in counties with smaller populations.[21] To assess progress, counties must provide information on their solid waste management programs and recycling activities to DEP by April 1 of each year.[22]

DEP may reduce or modify a county's recycling goal if the county demonstrates that:
- The achievement of the goal would have an adverse effect on the financial obligations of the county that are directly related to the county's waste-to-energy facility; and
- The county cannot remove normally combustible materials from solid waste that is to be processed at a waste-to-energy facility because of the need to maintain a sufficient amount of solid waste to ensure the financial viability of the facility.[23]

However, the goal may only be reduced or modified to the extent necessary to alleviate the adverse effects on the financial viability of a county's waste-to-energy facility.[24]

Local governments can require all residential properties, multifamily dwellings, apartment complexes, and industrial, commercial, and institutional establishments to create programs for the separation of recyclable materials designated by the local government.[25] Local governments can also require a commercial establishment to source-separate the recovered materials generated on the premises.[26] However, a local government may not:
- Require a commercial establishment that generates source-separated recovered materials to sell its recovered materials to the local government or to a facility designated by the local government;

[17] Section 403.706(2)(f), F.S.
[18] Section 403.706(3), F.S.
[19] Section 403.706(2)(a), F.S.
[20] Section 403.706(9), F.S.
[21] Section 403.706(4), F.S.
[22] Section 403.706(7), F.S.; Fla. Admin. Code R. 62-716.450.
[23] Section 403.706(6), F.S.
[24] *Id.*
[25] Section 403.706(21), F.S. Such ordinances may include, but are not limited to, prohibiting any person from knowingly disposing of recyclable materials and ensuring the collection of recovered materials as necessary to protect public health and safety. *Id.*
[26] Section 403.7046(2)(a), F.S.

- Restrict such a generator's right to sell such recovered materials to any properly certified recovered materials dealer who has satisfied the statutory requirements; or
- Enact any ordinance that prevents such a dealer from entering into a contract with a commercial establishment to purchase, collect, transport, process, or receive source-separated recovered materials.[27]

DEP's Recycling Report

DEP was required to submit a report to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives in years when the interim recycling goals established in s. 403.706(2)(a), F.S., were not met.[28] These reports had to identify additional programs or statutory changes needed to achieve the recycling goals.[29] In 2020, DEP released its final report titled "Florida and the 2020 75% Recycling Goal."[30] The report explains that in 2020 alone, the amount of MSW generated in Florida was equivalent to over two tons per resident—approximately twice the national average.[31] However, there is no universal methodology for measuring progress toward recycling goals, making it difficult to compare states' recycling rates. Moreover, Florida's MSW calculations do not account for tourists—while calculations by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and other states do—thereby inflating the amount of MSW generated "per resident."[32]

In its final report, DEP recommends convening a technical assistance group (TAG) to develop a comprehensive waste reduction and recycling plan for Florida. The TAG, if convened, would include the Florida Recycling Workgroup, local governments, and other interested parties, and the comprehensive plan would implement stakeholder recommendations by:

- Identifying a set of recycling goals that use sustainable materials management[33] and waste diversion[34] concepts;
- Developing objectives and proposing a three-year plan to develop a recycling market, education and outreach, and local government assistance; and
- Proposing statutory language to implement the revised recycling goals and strategies.[35]

DEP's final report also provides recommendations from the Florida Recycling Workgroup and a group of local governments, including:

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[27] Section 403.7046(2), F.S.
[28] Section 403.706(2)(e), F.S.; *see* s. 403.705(3), F.S. DEP must evaluate and report biennially to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House on the state's success in meeting the solid waste recycling goal in s. 403.706(2), F.S.
[29] Section 403.706(2)(e), F.S.
[30] DEP, *Florida and the 2020 75% Recycling Goal: Final Report* at 2.
[31] *Id.* at 8.
[32] *Id.*
[33] Sustainable materials management is a term for alternative approaches to recycling that recognize the differences among waste components with respect to environmental and resource outcomes. Sustainable materials management focuses on using and reusing materials more productively over their life cycles. *Id.* at 4.
[34] Waste diversion is the process of diverting waste from landfills; it is the amount of material that is reduced, reused, and/or recycled per capita and can be measured by the amount of waste not being disposed of in landfills. Waste diversion reduces disposal costs and the burden on landfills. United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), *Waste Diversion at EPA*, https://www.epa.gov/greeningepa/waste-diversion-epa (last visited Feb. 22, 2023); DEP, *Florida and the 2020 75% Recycling Goal: Final Report* at 4.
[35] DEP, *Florida and the 2020 75% Recycling Goal: Final Report* at 4.

- Replacing the current 75 percent weight-based goal with a goal or set of goals that are better indicators of program performance and desired environmental and economic outcomes;[36]
- Using sustainable materials management to prioritize which materials to recycle based on environmental metrics and market availability and setting recycling goals for these specific materials; and
- Focusing on three strategies: education and outreach, funding and incentives to support local government recycling efforts, and developing recycling markets.[37]

Recycling Education and Outreach

Education on the types of recycling services available, how materials are collected, and which materials are accepted is important for a successful recycling program. Because recycling programs within the state vary significantly, education should be tailored to local recycling programs.[38]

Currently, DEP operates several education programs, including:

- The Florida Food Waste Prevention Week, which focuses on engagement with local municipalities, universities, national food recovery networks, and the hospitality industry to raise awareness about food waste;
- Phase Three of the Rethink.Reset.Recycle. Program, which focuses on providing counties and municipalities with a variety of customized digital products illustrating correct preparation of recyclables prior to disposing of them; and
- The Recycling Recognition Program, which encourages private businesses, institutions, schools, organizations, and the public to increase recycling by setting recycling goals.[39]

DEP's final report explains that the TAG, if convened, would propose an education and outreach approach that evaluates statewide solutions but is customized for local needs, including a possible application for mobile devices that provides recycling information based on location.

Local Government Assistance

In 1988, the Solid Waste Management Act required counties to initiate recycling programs to address the growing costs and environmental problems associated with solid waste disposal in the state. To aid counties in setting up recycling programs, the Legislature established the Recycling and Education Grant Program. Under the program, counties received funds for initial capital costs, operations, recycling education, market development, and special projects. The program sunset in 2001.

In its final report, DEP recommends that the TAG evaluate the benefits and problems of the now defunct Recycling and Education Grant Program, make a recommendation to reinstate the program, or consider other means to provide recycling assistance to local governments.[40]

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[36] *Id.* at 4. There is a consensus in Florida's recycling industry (as well as other states and at the federal level) that using a weight-based goal does not result in efficient or effective recycling. *Id.* at 6.
[37] *Id.* at 4.
[38] DEP, *Florida and the 2020 75% Recycling Goal: Final Report* at 4.
[39] *Id.* at 20-21.
[40] DEP, *Florida and the 2020 75% Recycling Goal: Final Report* at 5.

Recycling Market Development

In order for the recycling industry to operate efficiently and provide reasonable returns on investments, there must be a market for finished goods that are manufactured from recycled materials. When the markets for these finished goods increase, the demand for recycled materials will increase, driving up profitability and incentivizing increased investments in the collection, sorting, processing, and manufacturing sectors.[41]

To increase markets for recyclable materials, DEP recommends in its final report that the following be considered when developing the comprehensive recycling plan:

- Tax incentives for usage of recycled materials as feed stocks in manufacturing processes;
- Tax incentives and credits to support materials recovery plant upgrades;
- Public/private partnerships to invest in new processing technologies;
- Investments in expansion of Recycling Business Assistance Center[42] activities;
- End-user purchase rebates for Florida Certified Compost; and
- Preference programs to use and purchase products made from recycled content material.[43]

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1 amends s. 403.7032, F.S., to direct the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to develop a comprehensive waste reduction and recycling plan by July 1, 2024 based on recommendations from DEP's "Florida and the 2020 75% Recycling Goal: Final Report." The bill requires DEP to convene a technical assistance group within DEP to help develop the plan.

The bill provides that the plan must:

- Identify recycling goals based on sustainable materials management and waste diversion; and
- Include a three-year plan to implement the following strategies:
  - Recycling education and outreach: DEP must propose statewide solutions to provide local recycling information and education.
  - Local government recycling assistance: DEP must evaluate the benefits and challenges of the former state Recycling and Education Grant Program and provide recommendations for reinstating the program or consider other means of providing assistance to local governments.
  - Recycling materials market development: DEP must consider and recommend plans to develop and promote markets for recycling materials.

The bill directs DEP to provide a report to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives upon completion of the plan. The bill requires that the report include an update on the status of the plan and any recommendations for statutory changes necessary to achieve the recycling goals or strategies identified in the plan.

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[41] *Id.* at 5.

[42] The Recycling Business Assistance Center was established in 2010 pursuant to s. 403.7032(5), F.S., to coordinate between state agencies and the private sector to develop new markets for recyclable materials locally and globally. DEP, *Recycling Business Assistance Center*, https://floridadep.gov/waste/waste-reduction/content/recycling-business-assistance-center (last visited Feb. 24, 2023).

[43] DEP, *Florida and the 2020 75% Recycling Goal: Final Report* at 5.

Section 2 provides an effective date of July 1, 2023.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The Department of Environmental Protection may incur costs in convening a technical assistance group and developing a comprehensive waste reduction and recycling plan.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends section 403.7032 of the Florida Statutes.

IX. Additional Information:

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:
(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.

By Senator Stewart

17-00263-23 2023506__

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to a comprehensive waste reduction and recycling plan; amending s. 403.7032, F.S.; requiring the Department of Environmental Protection to develop a comprehensive waste reduction and recycling plan for this state by a specified date, based on certain department recommendations; requiring the department to convene a technical assistance group for a specified purpose; providing minimum requirements for the comprehensive plan; requiring the department to submit a report to the Legislature upon completion of the comprehensive plan; providing requirements for the report; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Subsection (6) is added to section 403.7032, Florida Statutes, to read:

403.7032 Recycling.—

(6) By July 1, 2024, the Department of Environmental Protection shall develop a comprehensive waste reduction and recycling plan for this state based on recommendations from the department's Florida and the 2020 75% Recycling Goal Final Report. The department shall convene a technical assistance group within the department to help develop the plan.

(a) At a minimum, the comprehensive plan must:

1. Identify recycling goals based on sustainable materials management and waste diversion.

2. Include a 3-year plan to implement all of the following

strategies:

a. Recycling education and outreach. The department shall propose statewide solutions to provide local recycling information and education throughout this state.

b. Local government recycling assistance. The department shall evaluate the benefits and challenges of the former state Recycling and Education Grant Program and provide recommendations for reinstating the program or considering other means of providing recycling assistance to local governments.

c. Recycling materials market development. The department shall consider and recommend plans to develop and promote markets for recycling materials.

(b) Upon completion of the plan, the department shall provide a report to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The report must include an update on the status of the plan and any recommendations for statutory changes necessary to achieve the recycling goals or strategies identified in the plan.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.

2422D

STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Division of Elections

I, Cord Byrd, Secretary of State,
do hereby certify that

John Cole Oliver

is duly appointed a member of the

Governing Board,
Saint Johns River Water Management District

for a term beginning on the Third day of June, A.D., 2022, until the First day of March, A.D., 2026 and is subject to be confirmed by the Senate during the next regular session of the Legislature.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Florida, at Tallahassee, the Capital, this the Fourth day of August, A.D., 2022.

Secretary of State

DSDE 99 (3/03)

RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

June 3, 2022

Secretary Cord Byrd
Department of State
R.A. Gray Building, Room 316
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250

Dear Secretary Byrd:

Please be advised I have made the following reappointment under the provisions of Section 373.073, Florida Statutes:

Mr. John Cole Oliver
516 Delannoy Avenue
Cocoa, Florida 32922

as a member of the St. Johns River Water Management District Governing Board, subject to confirmation by the Senate. This appointment is effective June 3, 2022, for a term ending March 1, 2026.

Sincerely,

Ron DeSantis
Governor

RD/ch

OATH OF OFFICE

(Art. II. § 5(b), Fla. Const.)

RECEIVED

2022 AUG -1 AM 8:35

DIVISION OF ELECTIONS
TALLAHASSEE, FL

STATE OF FLORIDA

County of Brevard

I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support, protect, and defend the Constitution and Government of the United States and of the State of Florida; that I am duly qualified to hold office under the Constitution of the State, and that I will well and faithfully perform the duties of

the Governing Board, Saint Johns River Water Management District

(Title of Office)

on which I am now about to enter, so help me God.

[NOTE: If you affirm, you may omit the words "so help me God." *See* § 92.52, Fla. Stat.]

Signature

Sworn to and subscribed before me by means of X *physical presence or* ___ *online notarization, this* 29TH *day of* July, 2022.

Signature of Officer Administering Oath or of Notary Public

MINDY NICOLE MASON

Print, Type, or Stamp Commissioned Name of Notary Public

Personally Known X *OR Produced Identification* ___

Type of Identification Produced ___

MINDY NICOLE MASON
Notary Public - State of Florida
Commission # GG 923594
My Commission Expires
October 17, 2023

ACCEPTANCE

I accept the office listed in the above Oath of Office.

Mailing Address: ☐ Home ☒ Office

516 Delannay Ave.
Street or Post Office Box

Cocoa, FL 32922
City, State, Zip Code

John Cole Oliver
Print Name

Signature

DS-DE 56 (Rev. 02/20)

2420

STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Division of Elections

I, Cord Byrd, Secretary of State,
do hereby certify that

Janet Price

is duly appointed a member of the

Governing Board,
Saint Johns River Water Management District

for a term beginning on the Third day of June, A.D., 2022, until the First day of March, A.D., 2026 and is subject to be confirmed by the Senate during the next regular session of the Legislature.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Florida, at Tallahassee, the Capital, this the Twenty-Second day of June, A.D., 2022.

Secretary of State

DSDE 99 (3/03)

RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

June 3, 2022

Secretary Cord Byrd
Department of State
R.A. Gray Building, Room 316
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250

Dear Secretary Byrd:

Please be advised I have made the following reappointment under the provisions of Section 373.073, Florida Statutes:

Ms. Janet Price
P.O. Box 15375
Fernandina Beach, Florida 32035

as a member of the St. Johns River Water Management District Governing Board, subject to confirmation by the Senate. This appointment is effective June 3, 2022, for a term ending March 1, 2026.

Sincerely,

Ron DeSantis
Governor

RD/ch

OATH OF OFFICE

(Art. II. § 5(b), Fla. Const.)

RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
2022 JUN 13 AM 11:12
DIVISION OF ELECTIONS
TALLAHASSEE FL

STATE OF FLORIDA

County of Nassau

I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support, protect, and defend the Constitution and Government of the United States and of the State of Florida; that I am duly qualified to hold office under the Constitution of the State, and that I will well and faithfully perform the duties of

Governing Board, Saint Johns River Water Management District

(Title of Office)

on which I am now about to enter, so help me God.

[NOTE: If you affirm, you may omit the words "so help me God." *See* § 92.52, Fla. Stat.]

Janet Price

Signature

Sworn to and subscribed before me by means of ✓ *physical presence or* ☐ *online notarization, this* 3 *day of* June, 2022.

YVONNE HEISTER-JOHNSON
Notary Public - State of Florida
Commission # HH 169446
My Comm. Expires Aug 25, 2025
Bonded through National Notary Assn.

Signature of Officer Administering Oath or of Notary Public

Yvonne Heister-Johnson

Print, Type, or Stamp Commissioned Name of Notary Public

Personally Known ☐ ***OR*** *Produced Identification* ☑

Type of Identification Produced FL Drivers License

ACCEPTANCE

I accept the office listed in the above Oath of Office.

Mailing Address: ☑ Home ☐ Office

PO Box 15375

Street or Post Office Box

Fernandina Beach, FL 32035

City, State, Zip Code

Janet Price

Print Name

Janet Price

Signature

2555

STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Division of Elections

I, Cord Byrd, Secretary of State,
do hereby certify that

Charles Keith

is duly appointed a member of the

Governing Board,
Suwannee River Water Management District

for a term beginning on the Third day of June, A.D., 2022, until the First day of March, A.D., 2026 and is subject to be confirmed by the Senate during the next regular session of the Legislature.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Florida, at Tallahassee, the Capital, this the Twentieth day of July, A.D., 2022.

Secretary of State

DSDE 99 (3/03)

RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

June 3, 2022

Secretary Cord Byrd
Department of State
R.A. Gray Building, Room 316
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250

Dear Secretary Byrd:

Please be advised I have made the following reappointment under the provisions of Section 373.073, Florida Statutes:

Mr. Charles Keith

as a member of the Suwannee River Water Management District Governing Board, subject to confirmation by the Senate. This appointment is effective June 3, 2022, for a term ending March 1, 2026.

Sincerely,

Ron DeSantis
Governor

RD/ch

OATH OF OFFICE

(Art. II. § 5(b), Fla. Const.)

RECEIVED
2022 JUL 15 AM 8:41
DIVISION OF ELECTIONS
TALLAHASSEE, FL

STATE OF FLORIDA

County of Suwannee

I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support, protect, and defend the Constitution and Government of the United States and of the State of Florida; that I am duly qualified to hold office under the Constitution of the State, and that I will well and faithfully perform the duties of

Suwannee River WMD Governing Board Member

(Title of Office)

on which I am now about to enter, so help me God.

[NOTE: If you affirm, you may omit the words "so help me God." *See* § 92.52, Fla. Stat.]

Signature

Sworn to and subscribed before me by means of ✓ *physical presence or* ___ *online notarization, this* 14 *day of* June, 2022.

Signature of Officer Administering Oath or of Notary Public

Robin R. Lamm
Notary Public
State of Florida
Comm# HH125486
Expires 8/28/2025

Print, Type, or Stamp Commissioned Name of Notary Public

Personally Known ☑ ***OR*** *Produced Identification* ☐

Type of Identification Produced n/a

ACCEPTANCE

I accept the office listed in the above Oath of Office.

Mailing Address: ☑ Home ☐ Office

Street or Post Office Box

City, State, Zip Code

Charles Keith
Print Name

Signature

DS-DE 56 (Rev. 02/20)

2555

STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Division of Elections

I, Cord Byrd, Secretary of State,
do hereby certify that

Larry Sessions

is duly appointed a member of the

Governing Board,
Suwannee River Water Management District

for a term beginning on the Third day of June, A.D., 2022, until the First day of March, A.D., 2026 and is subject to be confirmed by the Senate during the next regular session of the Legislature.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Florida, at Tallahassee, the Capital, this the Twelfth day of July, A.D., 2022.

Secretary of State

DSDE 99 (3/03)

RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

June 3, 2022

Secretary Cord Byrd
Department of State
R.A. Gray Building, Room 316
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250

Dear Secretary Byrd:

Please be advised I have made the following reappointment under the provisions of Section 373.073, Florida Statutes:

Mr. Larry Sessions
4377 72nd Street
Live Oak, Florida 32060

as a member of the Suwannee River Water Management District Governing Board, subject to confirmation by the Senate. This appointment is effective June 3, 2022, for a term ending March 1, 2026.

Sincerely,

Ron DeSantis
Governor

RD/ch

OATH OF OFFICE

(Art. II. § 5(b), Fla. Const.)

RECEIVED

2022 JUL -8 AM 8:58

DIVISION OF ELECTIONS
TALLAHASSEE, FL

STATE OF FLORIDA

County of Suwannee

I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support, protect, and defend the Constitution and Government of the United States and of the State of Florida; that I am duly qualified to hold office under the Constitution of the State, and that I will well and faithfully perform the duties of

Suwannee River WMD Governing Board Member

(Title of Office)

on which I am now about to enter, so help me God.

[NOTE: If you affirm, you may omit the words "so help me God." ***See*** **§ 92.52, Fla. Stat.]**

Signature

Sworn to and subscribed before me by means of ✓ *physical presence or* ___ *online notarization, this* 10 *day of* June, 2022

Robin R. Lamm
Notary Public
State of Florida
Comm# HH125486
Expires 8/28/2025

Signature of Officer Administering Oath or of Notary Public

Robin R. Lamm

Print, Type, or Stamp Commissioned Name of Notary Public

Personally Known ☑ ***OR*** *Produced Identification* ☐

Type of Identification Produced n/a

ACCEPTANCE

I accept the office listed in the above Oath of Office.

Mailing Address: ☑ Home ☐ Office

4377 72nd Street

Street or Post Office Box

Live Oak, FL 32060

City, State, Zip Code

Larry Sessions

Print Name

Signature

DS-DE 56 (Rev. 02/20)

CourtSmart Tag Report

Room: SB 301 **Case No.:** **Type:**
Caption: Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources **Judge:**

Started: 3/6/2023 1:00:28 PM
Ends: 3/6/2023 1:35:33 PM Length: 00:35:06

1:00:30 PM	Chair Rodriguez calls meeting to order
1:00:35 PM	Roll called by CAA
1:00:40 PM	Quorum present
1:00:41 PM	Pledge of Allegiance
1:00:54 PM	Chair Rodriguez with opening announcements
1:01:07 PM	Tab 2 - SB 546, Restoration of Osborne Reef by Senator Avila
1:01:19 PM	Senator Avila explains SB 546
1:03:56 PM	Questions:
1:03:58 PM	Senator Mayfield
1:04:06 PM	Senator Avila
1:05:34 PM	Senator Mayfield
1:05:38 PM	Senator Avila
1:06:08 PM	Senator Albritton
1:07:04 PM	Appearance forms
1:07:08 PM	Michael Mejia with Broward County waives in support
1:07:25 PM	Debate:
1:07:27 PM	Senator Stewart
1:08:18 PM	Senator Albritton
1:09:41 PM	Senator Mayfield
1:11:06 PM	Senator Wright
1:11:38 PM	Chair Rodriguez
1:11:47 PM	Senator Avila closes on bill
1:13:33 PM	Roll call on SB 546
1:13:44 PM	SB 546 reported favorably
1:13:53 PM	Tab 3 - SB 602, Land Acquisition Trust Fund by Senator Burton
1:14:01 PM	Senator Burton presents bill
1:17:13 PM	Questions:
1:17:16 PM	Vice Chair Harrell
1:17:35 PM	Senator Burton
1:18:00 PM	Senator Mayfield
1:18:18 PM	Senator Burton
1:18:31 PM	Appearance Forms:
1:18:36 PM	David Rathke City of Winter Haven waives in support
1:18:47 PM	Frank Bernardino Polk County speaking for bill
1:19:41 PM	David Shep City of Lakeland waives in support
1:19:49 PM	Trish Neely League of Women Voters waives in support
1:20:02 PM	Debate:
1:20:05 PM	Vice Chair Harrell
1:21:28 PM	Chair Rodriguez
1:21:34 PM	Senator Burton closes on bill
1:22:20 PM	Roll call on SB 602
1:22:32 PM	SB 602 reported favorably
1:22:41 PM	Tab 1 - SB 100, Mangrove Replanting and Restoration by Senator Garcia
1:22:54 PM	Senator Garcia explains bill
1:23:51 PM	Questions:
1:23:56 PM	No questions
1:23:59 PM	Appearance Forms:
1:24:02 PM	Jon Moyle Florida Inland Navigation District speaking for bill
1:25:23 PM	Trish Neely League of Women Voters waiving in support
1:25:37 PM	Debate:
1:25:41 PM	Senator Powell
1:26:35 PM	Senator Garcia closes on bill

1:27:03 PM Roll call on SB 100
1:27:14 PM SB 100 reported favorably
1:27:24 PM Tab 4 - SB 458, Wastewater Grant Program by Senator Rodriguez
1:27:36 PM Chair Rodriguez yields chair to Vice Chair Harrell
1:27:45 PM Chair Rodriguez presents SB 458
1:28:27 PM Questions:
1:28:34 PM No question
1:28:36 PM Amendment number 936236 taken up
1:28:45 PM Senator Rodriguez explains amendment
1:28:53 PM No questions
1:28:56 PM No debate
1:28:58 PM No appearance cards
1:29:03 PM Senator Rodriguez closes on amendment
1:29:22 PM Amendment 936236 passes
1:29:26 PM Back on bill as amended
1:29:31 PM No questions
1:29:33 PM Appearance Cards:
1:29:38 PM Sarah Henley FL Association of Counties waives in support
1:29:45 PM Jess McCarty Miami-Dade Executive Assistant County Attorney waives in support
1:29:56 PM Trish Neely League of Women Voters waives in support
1:30:05 PM Debate:
1:30:07 PM No debate
1:30:12 PM Senator Rodriguez waives close
1:30:15 PM Roll call on CS/SB 458
1:30:30 PM CS/SB 458 reported favorably
1:30:40 PM Chair given back to Chair Rodriguez
1:30:46 PM Tab 5 - SB 506, Comprehensive Waste Reduction and Recycling Plan by Senator Stewart
1:30:59 PM Senator Stewart explains bill
1:32:30 PM Questions:
1:32:34 PM No questions
1:32:37 PM Appearance forms:
1:32:39 PM Rebecca O'Hara Florida League of Cities waives in support
1:32:45 PM Erin Ballas The National Waste and Recycling Association, FL Chapter waives in support
1:32:52 PM Sarah Henley FL Association of Counties waives in support
1:32:58 PM Trish Neely League of Women Voters waives in support
1:33:05 PM Debate:
1:33:06 PM No debate
1:33:10 PM Senator Stewart waives close
1:33:17 PM Roll call SB 506
1:33:29 PM SB 506 reported favorably
1:33:37 PM Tabs 6 and 7 - Confirmation of Appointments
1:33:44 PM Chair Rodriguez moves to take one vote on all appointees
1:33:54 PM Appointees for the Governing Board of the St. Johns River Water Management District are John Cole Oliver (Merritt Island) and Janet Price (Fernandina Beach)
1:34:06 PM Appointees for the Governing Board of the Suwannee River Water Management District are Charles G. Keith and Larry C. Sessions (Live Oak)
1:34:16 PM No questions
1:34:18 PM No debate
1:34:21 PM Senator Mayfield moves to recommend confirmation of all appointees of tabs 6 and 7
1:34:31 PM Roll call on appointees
1:34:41 PM Confirmation of appointees recommended favorably
1:34:54 PM Vice Chair Harrell moves to adjourn
1:34:59 PM Meeting adjourned