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**SEMINOLE COUNTY GOVERNMENT  
AGENDA MEMORANDUM**

**SUBJECT:** Land and Water Conservation Program - Grant Application

**DEPARTMENT:** Fiscal Services

**DIVISION:** Administration - Fiscal Services

**AUTHORIZED BY:** Lisa Spriggs

**CONTACT:** Jennifer Bero

**EXT:** 7125

**MOTION/RECOMMENDATION:**

Request for approval to submit a grant application to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection requesting \$200,000 through their Land and Water Conservation Program; approve and authorize the Chairman to execute a resolution in support of the project; and authorize the County Manager to execute the application and other supporting documents.

District 2 Michael McLean  
District 5 Brenda Carey

Jennifer Bero, Bryan Nipe

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**BACKGROUND:**

The Land and Water Conservation Grant Program provides funding for acquiring and developing land for public outdoor recreational use. This is a competitive program administered by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection on behalf of the US Department of Interior/National Park Service.

Staff is interested in pursuing the grant for the improvements to the Lake Harney Wilderness Area as part of the development Master Plan approved by the Board in 2008. If awarded, the grant would provide supplemental funds for first phase improvements such as trail blazing and signage, picnic areas, a canoe launch, viewing platform, boardwalk, and an ADA compliant observation tower.

The grant application would request \$200,000 towards the project costs. The required match of an equal amount would be accommodated by Natural Lands designated funding.

The grant application also requires a fully executed Resolution committing Seminole County to amend its capital improvement plan to include the Lake Harney Wilderness Area project. Such amendment would be presented to the Board for approval in conjunction with the grant agreement.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends the Board approve submitting a grant application to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection requesting \$200,000 through their Land and Water Conservation Program; approve and authorize the Chairman to execute a resolution in support of the project; and authorize the County Manager to execute the application and other supporting documents.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Project Summary
2. Resolution

**Additionally Reviewed By:**

County Attorney Review ( Arnold Schneider )

**GRANT PROPOSAL REVIEW FORM – ABSTRACT  
GRANTS ADMINISTRATION DIVISION**

FUNDER: Florida Department of Environmental Protection

DATE DUE: February 27, 2009

PROJECT TITLE: Lake Harney Wilderness Area Improvements

DEPARTMENT/DIVISION: Leisure Services/Greenways and Natural Lands

PROJECT MANAGER: Jim Duby, Program Manager

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Lake Harney Wilderness Area (LHWA) is an approximate 310 acre County owned, natural area located in the northeast corner of Seminole County on the shores of Lake Harney and the St. Johns River. The site contains a diverse assemblage of habitats such as floodplain marsh, Cypress swamp, Mesic Hammock and Scrubby Flatwoods which host wildlife species such as Wild Turkey, White Tailed Deer and Great Horned Owl. There are also three active Bald Eagle Nest located on this site. The LHWA contains a great deal of local history having served as a river crossing for the Flagler Railroad, Timucuan Indian settlement and a once thriving Fish Camp.

In 2008 Seminole County procured the services of the planning firm Glatting Jackson Kercher and Anglin to develop a three phase Master plan for the development of this property. The Seminole County Board of County Commissioners approved moving forward with the first phase of this project including the establishment of a multi use trail system for hiking, biking and horseback riding, interpretive signs, picnic area, canoe launch, wildlife viewing platform and observation tower. These amenities will greatly enhance the visitor experience providing extensive views of the Lake Harney floodplain, increase wildlife viewing opportunities and interpretation of the site's rich history.

TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED: \$200,000

MATCHING FUNDS (IF APPLICABLE): \$200,000

SOURCES OF MATCH: Natural Lands Fund

TOTAL PROJECT COST: \$400,000

**RESOLUTION**

**THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SEMINOLE COUNTY, FLORIDA, AT THEIR REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING OF FEBRUARY 24, 2009.**

**WHEREAS**, the Seminole County Board of County Commissioners is interested in carrying out the following described project for the enjoyment of the citizenry of Seminole County and the State of Florida:

Project Title: Lake Harney Wilderness Area

Total Estimated Cost: \$400,000

Brief Description of Project: Implementation of Phase One improvements such as trail blazing, signage, picnic area amenities, canoe launch, viewing platform, boardwalk, and observation tower.

**WHEREAS**, the US Department of Interior – National Park Service, through its Land and Water Conservation grant funding administered by State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), provides a significant, potential, and necessary source of funding for this project; and

**WHEREAS**, obtaining grant funding in the amount of Two Hundred Thousand and no/100 dollars (\$200,000), would in conjunction with locally generated matching funds of Two Hundred Thousand and no/100 dollars (\$200,000) render sufficient funding for the completion of the project;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved by the Board of County Commissioners that:

1. The foregoing recitals are incorporated herein by reference and are deemed as findings of fact by the Board.

2. The Lake Harney Wilderness Area Project is hereby authorized subject to receipt of sufficient grant funding from FDEP.
3. Be it further resolved that the Leisure Services Director is authorized to make application to the FDEP for a grant in the amount of Two Hundred Thousand and no/100 dollars (\$200,000) and that the Board shall enter into a binding agreement with the State as a condition of being awarded the grant.
4. The County has the ability and intention to finance the local share of the project costs and that the project will be operated and maintained at the expense of the Seminole County Board of County Commissioners for public use.
5. The County shall make all necessary revisions to its Capital Improvement Plan to include the Lake Harney Wilderness Area Project as described above upon notification from the FDEP of the grant award as required.

**ADOPTED** this 24<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2009

**ATTEST:**

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
SEMINOLE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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Maryanne Morse, Clerk to the  
Board of County Commissioners  
in and for the County of Seminole,  
State of Florida

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bob Dallari, Chairman

Date: \_\_\_\_\_