

**The Florida House of Representatives**  
**Appropriations Project Request - Fiscal Year 2022-23**  
For projects meeting the definition of House Rule 5.14

1. Title of Project: Inglis Withlacoochee River Seagrass Restoration Project
2. Date of Submission: 11/16/2021
3. House Member Sponsor: Chris Latvala

**4. Details of Amount Requested:**

- a. Has funding been provided in a previous state budget for this activity? No
- b. What is the most recent fiscal year the project was funded?
- c. Were the funds provided in the most recent fiscal year subsequently vetoed?
- d. Complete the following Project Request Worksheet to develop your request.

FY:	Input Prior Year Appropriation for this project for FY 2021-22 <i>(If appropriated in 2021-22 enter the appropriated amount, even if vetoed.)</i>			Develop New Funds Request for FY 2022-23 <i>(Requests for additional RECURRING funds are prohibited.)</i>		
Column:	A	B	C	D	E	F
Funds Description:	Prior Year Recurring Funds	Prior Year Nonrecurring Funds	Total Funds Appropriated	Recurring Base Budget	<b>Additional Nonrecurring Request</b>	<b>TOTAL Nonrecurring plus Recurring Base Funds</b>
Input Amounts:					3,074,005	3,074,005

- e. Provide the total cost of the project for FY 2022-23 from all sources of funding (Enter "0" if amount is zero):

Type of Funding	Amount	Percent of Total	Are the other sources of funds guaranteed in writing?
1. Amount Requested from the State in this Appropriations Project Request	3,074,005	100.0%	N/A
2. Federal	0	0.0%	No
3. State (Excluding the requested Total Amount in #4d, Column F)	0	0.0%	No
4. Local	0	0.0%	No

**The Florida House of Representatives**  
**Appropriations Project Request - Fiscal Year 2022-23**  
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5. Other	0	0.0%	No
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,074,005</b>	<b>100%</b>	

5. Is this a multi-year project requiring funding from the state for more than one year?

No

6. Which is the most appropriate state agency to place an appropriation for the issue requested? Department of Environmental Protection

a. Has the appropriate state agency for administering the funding, if the request were appropriated, been contacted? Yes

b. Describe penalties for failing to meet deliverables or performance measures which the agency should provide in its contract to administer the funding if appropriated.

If deliverables are not achieved, full monies allocated to the deliverable should be withheld.

7. Requester:

a. Name: Scott Levesque

b. Organization: Town of Ingliss

c. Email: commissionerlevesque@gmail.com

d. Phone #: (321)221-3817

8. Contact for questions about specific technical or financial details about the project.

a. Name: Scott Levesque

b. Organization: Town of Ingliss

c. Email: commissionerlevesque@gmail.com

d. Phone #: (321)221-3817

9. Registered lobbyist working to secure funding for this project.

a. Name: Michael J. Horner

b. Firm: Macy Island Consulting

c. Email: mike@macyisland.com

d. Phone #: (407)709-3087

10. Organization or Name of entity receiving funds:

a. Name: Town of Ingliss

**The Florida House of Representatives**  
**Appropriations Project Request - Fiscal Year 2022-23**  
**For projects meeting the definition of House Rule 5.14**

- b. County (County where funds are to be expended): Levy  
c. Service Area (Counties being served by the service(s) provided with funding): Levy

11. What type of organization is the entity that will receive the funds?

- For Profit
- Non Profit 501(c) (3)
- Non Profit 501(c) (4)
- Local Government
- University or College
- Other (Please describe)

12. What is the specific purpose or goal that will be achieved by the funds being requested?

This seagrass restoration project seeks to stabilize the Withlacoochee River system by restoring seagrass meadow in 7.09 acres of the river. The scope of work includes dredging detrital material and muck while leaving the sandy substrate intact. Biologists will then hand plant the inland aquaculture raised eelgrass. The plants are protected with a patented herbivory exclusion device for plants to fully establish with ongoing maintenance for 12 months and then 3 years of monitoring.

13. Provide specific details on how funds will be spent. (Select all that apply)

Spending Category	Description	Amount Requested (Should equal 4d, Col. E) Enter "0" if request is zero for the category
Administrative Costs:		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> a. Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	Administrative	150,000
<input type="checkbox"/> b. Other Salary and Benefits		
<input type="checkbox"/> c. Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		
<input type="checkbox"/> d. Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
Operational Costs:		

**The Florida House of Representatives**  
**Appropriations Project Request - Fiscal Year 2022-23**  
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<input type="checkbox"/> e. Salaries and Benefits		
<input type="checkbox"/> f. Expenses/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> g. Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Environmental Monitoring, Permitting, Engineering, Reporting, Planting nursery grown seagrass/submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV), Protecting SAV, Maintenance of SAV for 12 months, Project monitoring for three years.	2,924,005
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
<input type="checkbox"/> h. Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>3,074,005</b>

14. For Fixed Capital Costs requested in Question 13, what type of ownership will the facility be under when complete?
- For Profit
  - Non Profit 501(c) (3)
  - Non Profit 501(c) (4)
  - Local Government (e.g., police, fire or local government buildings, local roads, etc.)
  - State agency owned facility (For example: college or university facility, buildings for public schools, roads in the state transportation system, etc.)
  - Other (Please describe)

15. Is the project request an information technology project?

16. Is there any documented show of support for the requested project in the community including public hearings, letters of support, major organizational backing, or other expressions of support?

**The Florida House of Representatives**  
**Appropriations Project Request - Fiscal Year 2022-23**  
**For projects meeting the definition of House Rule 5.14**

Yes

a. Please Describe:

Support for this project has been given by the Town Commission of the Town of Inglis, and the Withlacoochee Aquatic Restoration 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization.

17. Has the need for the funds been documented by a study, completed by an independent 3rd party, for the area to be served?

Yes

a. Please Describe:

The Withlacoochee Aquatic Restoration 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization has completed a study titled "Lower Withlacoochee River Environmental Analysis" documenting the need for aquatic restoration in the Withlacoochee River.

18. Will the requested funds be used directly for services to citizens?

19. What benefits or outcomes will be realized by the expenditure of funds requested? (Select each Benefit/Outcome that applies)

Benefit or Outcome	Provide a specific measure of the benefit or outcome	Describe the method for measuring level of benefit or outcome
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Improve physical health	Submerged plants filter and sequester nutrients that would otherwise contribute to harmful algae blooms (HABs).	Nutrient uptake and cycling will be studied in-situ at the restoration site for a period of three years.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Improve mental health	The project will improve water quality, enhance recreational and commercial fishing, and enhance the tourism industry.	The restoration project will be maintained and monitored regularly to ensure that the project goals and objectives are achieved.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enrich cultural experience	The project will improve water quality, enhance recreational and	The restoration project will be maintained and monitored

**The Florida House of Representatives**  
**Appropriations Project Request - Fiscal Year 2022-23**  
**For projects meeting the definition of House Rule 5.14**

	commercial fishing, and enhance the tourism industry.	regularly to ensure that the project goals and objectives are achieved.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Improve agricultural production/promotion/education	The project will result in enhanced aquaculture research that is needed for large scale seagrass restoration efforts throughout the state.	Monitoring will be conducted for a period of three years to document restoration methods and quantify project success.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Improve quality of education	The project will provide a hands on educational opportunity for local schools, environmental organizations, and citizens.	Restoration monitoring will be conducted to ensure the project goals and objectives are achieved.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enhance/preserve/improve environmental or fish and wildlife quality	Submerged aquatic vegetation provides critical nursery habitat for fish and other marine life. Seagrass meadows are also important in the Withlacoochee River as a foraging site for manatees.	Monitoring surveys will quantify habitat production in the restored areas. Nutrient and sediment sequestration will also be analyzed.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Protect the general public from harm (environmental, criminal, etc.)	The project will improve water quality and help reduce the effects of toxic algae blooms.	Restoration monitoring will be conducted to ensure the project goals and objectives are achieved.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Improve transportation conditions	This project will filter and sequester suspended sediments transported from the Withlacoochee River that could deposit into navigable waterways.	Sedimentation rates will be quantified by measuring sediment accumulation in the restored areas.

**The Florida House of Representatives**  
**Appropriations Project Request - Fiscal Year 2022-23**  
**For projects meeting the definition of House Rule 5.14**

	The project will also improve overall water clarity.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase or improve economic activity	The project will improve water quality, enhance recreational and commercial fishing, and enhance the tourism industry.	The restoration project will be maintained and monitored regularly to ensure that the project goals and objectives are achieved.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase tourism	Healthy seagrass meadows are vitally important to ecotourism and recreational fishing guides. Seagrass meadows provide critical habitat, forage, and shelter that are essential to wildlife.	Increases in tourism will be quantified through habitat production increases of important wildlife species. Additionally, reports will document direct recreational utilization of the project sites.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Create specific immediate job opportunities	The project will result in specific job opportunities for environmental professionals and restoration ecologists.	New environmental and water based job opportunities created by this project will be tabulated.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enhance specific individual's economic self sufficiency	This project will increase fisheries production, roughly 90% of all commercially derived seafood from Florida is dependent on healthy seagrass at some point in their life cycle.	Enhancement of individual's economic self sufficiency will be quantified through habitat production increases. Additionally, reports will document direct commercial utilization of the project site.
<input type="checkbox"/> Reduce recidivism		

**The Florida House of Representatives**  
**Appropriations Project Request - Fiscal Year 2022-23**  
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<input type="checkbox"/> Reduce substance abuse		
<input type="checkbox"/> Divert from Criminal/Juvenile justice system		
<input type="checkbox"/> Improve wastewater management		
<input type="checkbox"/> Improve stormwater management		
<input type="checkbox"/> Improve groundwater quality		
<input type="checkbox"/> Improve drinking water quality		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Improve surface water quality	Submerged aquatic vegetation has been well documented to oxygenate water, sequester suspended sediments, and filter nutrients.	Water quality measurements will be taken both inside and outside the project sites during each monitoring event.
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please describe):		

20. Have you applied for alternative state funding?

- a. Wastewater Revolving Loan
- b. Drinking Water Revolving Loan
- c. Small Community Wastewater Treatment Grant
- d. Other (Please describe)
- e. N/A

21. What is the population economic status?

- a. Financially Disadvantaged Municipality
- b. Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern
- c. Rural Community Experiencing Economic Distress
- d. N/A



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22. What is the status of construction?

a. Ready

b. Not Ready

23. What percentage of construction has been completed?

0

24. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

11/15/2023