


Memorandum



Date: February 22, 2023

To: Honorable Chairman Oliver G. Gilbert, III
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: Daniella Levine Cava
Mayor 

Subject: Status Report Related to the Establishment of a Wetlands Mitigation Bank by Miami-Dade County—Directive No. 220286

On November 2, 2021, the Board of County Commissioners (Board) approved Resolution No. R-1051-21, sponsored by Commissioner Jose “Pepe” Diaz, directing the County Mayor or County Mayor’s designee to take action related to the establishment of a wetlands mitigation bank by Miami-Dade County, requiring the County Mayor or County Mayor’s designee to apply for a Mitigation Bank Conceptual Permit and explore other options to make mitigation credits available within Miami-Dade County. A preliminary report on the establishment of a mitigation bank and detailing the available mitigation alternatives was submitted and accepted by the Board on the March 1, 2022, Board meeting agenda as File No. 220246.

Section 3 of Resolution No. R-1051-21 requires the Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources, Division of Environmental Resources Management (DERM) to provide status reports to the Board on the progress that has been made on the establishment of the wetlands mitigation bank. The previous written status report was submitted and accepted by the Board on the July 7, 2022, Board meeting agenda.

As summarized in previous status reports, it is anticipated that significant funding will be required for the establishment of a wetlands mitigation bank. The County has estimated the cost to be approximately \$500,000.00 for the selection of a consultant to secure the state and federal mitigation banking permits. Through the approval of the FY 2022-23 Proposed Budget and Multi-Year Capital Plan, a one-time disbursement of \$500,000.00 from General Revenue support was approved by the Board from the Miami-Rescue Plan for the initial effort to secure specialized technical expertise to work with state and federal agencies to develop, prepare and submit a permit application to establish a wetlands mitigation bank.

In accordance with this Directive, DERM submitted an Equitable Distribution Program (EDP) Request Form to the County’s Strategic Procurement Department (SPD) for Biological and Engineering Services. Through this process, SPD provided three firms for DERM to interview to select a consulting firm experienced with filing mitigation bank permit applications, able to assist with preparation of a mitigation bank permit application in a form that is acceptable to the state and federal governments, and would be able to anticipate and respond to any questions or requests for additional information from Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) or the Interagency Review Team during the permitting process. DERM has begun the interview process with the first selected firm and anticipates selecting a firm by April 2023.

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In accordance with Ordinance No. 14-65, this report will be placed on the next available Board meeting agenda. If additional information is needed, please contact Rashid Z. Istambouli, P.E., Interim Assistant Director, Division of Environmental Resources Management in the Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources, at Rashid.Istambouli@miamidade.gov.

c: Geri Bonzon-Keenan, County Attorney
Gerald Sanchez, First Assistant County Attorney
Jess McCarty, Executive Assistant County Attorney
Office of the Mayor Senior Staff
Lourdes M. Gomez, Director, Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources
Namita Uppal, Director, Strategic Procurement Department
Rashid Z. Istambouli, P.E., Interim Assistant Director, Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources
Jennifer Moon, Chief, Office of Policy and Budgetary Affairs
Yinka Majekodunmi, Commission Auditor
Basia Pruna, Director, Clerk of the Board
Eugene Love, Agenda Coordinator