

**PALM BEACH COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Meeting Date:	September 18, 2018	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consent	<input type="checkbox"/> Regular
		<input type="checkbox"/> Workshop	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing
Department:	<u>Environmental Resources Management</u>		
Submitted By:	<u>Environmental Resources Management</u>		
Submitted For:	<u>Environmental Resources Management</u>		

I. EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Motion and Title: Staff recommends motion to:

A) approve contract for consulting/professional services between Palm Beach County and Inwater Research Group, Inc. (IRG) for sea turtle monitoring in an amount not to exceed \$26,801.60, commencing upon execution and expiring September 30, 2019; and

B) authorize the County Administrator, or designee, to sign all future time extensions, task assignments, certifications, and other forms associated with the Contract, and any necessary minor amendments that do not significantly change the scope of work, terms, or conditions of the Contract.

Summary: This contract provides for a continuation of monitoring and assessment of sea turtle populations in northern Lake Worth Lagoon (LWL), and Jupiter Inlet by IRG, a not for profit corporation based in Martin County. Annual surveys began in 2005, to assess populations in the central LWL and efforts were added at Jupiter Inlet in 2017, based on data indicating that these populations were expanding into habitats adjacent to LWL. The LWL Management Plan recommends assessing sea turtle populations as a means of evaluating the success of environmental restoration efforts and lagoon health. District 1 (AH)

Background and Justification: Juvenile sea turtles are considered an indicator species of habitat quality and previous studies have found that LWL and adjacent areas are an important developmental habitat for green sea turtles. This thirteen-year data set is used to evaluate changes in sea turtle population and health, which correlate to LWL health, seagrass density, and water quality.

Attachment:

1. Contract

Recommended by:  8/30/18
Department Director Date

Approved by:  9/4/18
Assistant County Administrator Date

