

**PALM BEACH COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Meeting Date:	April 12, 2022	<input type="checkbox"/> Consent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regular
		<input type="checkbox"/> Workshop	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing
Department:	<u>Administration</u>		

I. EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Motion and Title: Staff recommends motion to:

- A) approve prioritized project list;
- B) approve project selection criteria; and
- C) confirm continuance of activities to lead to the August 23, 2022 ballot for the Environmental and Water General Obligation Bond Referendum.

Summary: Staff will provide a progress update on the proposed Environmental and Water General Obligation Bond Referendum, including ballot language due to the Supervisor of Elections by May 20, 2022, a prioritized project list, further details on anticipated operations and maintenance costs, proposed project selection criteria, and other timelines leading to the August 23, 2022 Primary Election. Countywide (DB)

Background and Policy Issues: At the March 29, 2022 Board of County Commission (BCC) Workshop, staff was requested to provide further information and a prioritized project list on the proposed Environmental and Water General Obligation Bond Referendum anticipated for the August 23, 2022 ballot.

Attachment:
1. PowerPoint



Recommended by: N/A
Department Director Date

Approved by:  4/8/2022
Assistant County Administrator Date

II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

A. Five Year Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Fiscal Years	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Capital Expenditures	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Operating Costs	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
External Revenues	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Program Income (County)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
In-Kind Match (County)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
NET FISCAL IMPACT	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
No. ADDITIONAL FTE POSITIONS (Cumulative)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Is Item Included in Current Budget?	Yes _____ No _____				
Does this item include the use of federal funds?	Yes _____ No _____				
Budget Account No.:	Fund _____	Department _____	Unit _____	Object _____	Program _____

B. Recommended Sources of Funds/Summary of Fiscal Impact:

C. Department Fiscal Review:

III. REVIEW COMMENTS

A. OFMB Fiscal and /or Contract Dev. and Control Comments:

<p><i>Shirley Minter</i> 4/7/22 _____ OFMB 4/7/22 TW 4-7-22</p>	<p><i>Ann Sefton</i> 4/17/22 _____ Contract Development and Control 4-7-22 TW</p>
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B. Legal Sufficiency:

Shirley Li

 Assistant County Attorney

C. Other Department Review:

_____ Department Director

UPDATE ON PROPOSED ENVIRONMENTAL AND WATER GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND REFERENDUM



BCC Meeting
April 12, 2022

PREVIOUS BOARD DIRECTION

November 19, 2019

BCC directed staff to provide a briefing on a proposed General Obligation (GO) bond referendum for environmental and water projects.

January 28, 2020

Staff presented proposed projects, an overview of GO bonds, a financial summary of a 20-year \$150 million bond, key dates for an August 18 ballot referendum, and draft ballot referendum language. BCC directed staff to prepare considerations for both August 18 and November 3 ballot referendums, develop operations and maintenance costs for the proposed projects, conceptualize a project prioritization framework, and initiate public outreach.

February 11, 2020

Staff provided key dates for both an August 18 and November 3 ballot referendum and summarized voter participation in previous County bond referendums. BCC directed staff to plan for a November 2020 ballot referendum and to incorporate approaches to ensure economically disadvantaged communities are equitably included.



PREVIOUS BOARD DIRECTION (CONTINUED)

Public Education and Outreach - January 21, 2020 to March 2020

County staff presented to local elected officials, and economic, municipal, environmental, and water resources leaders.

March 10, 2020

BCC directed staff to cease effort due to COVID and general uncertainty.

February 1, 2022

BCC directed staff to prepare a presentation on the impact of an Environmental/Water and Housing General Obligation Bonds.

March 29, 2022

BCC directed staff to provide additional information and to return with a prioritized list of projects. Direction was for a \$100 million bond to possibly be considered for inclusion on the August 2022 ballot.



AGENDA

- Critical timelines for August 23, 2022 ballot
- Prioritized project list (*motion to approve requested*)
- Proposed project selection criteria (*motion to approve requested*)
- Current status of bond referendum language (*input to finalize for resolution requested*)
- Direction / Discussion



CRITICAL TIMELINES FOR AUGUST 23, 2022 BALLOT

May 3 or May 17, 2022 BCC Meeting

BCC adopt resolution calling for referendum (including ballot language and referendum date)

May 20, 2022

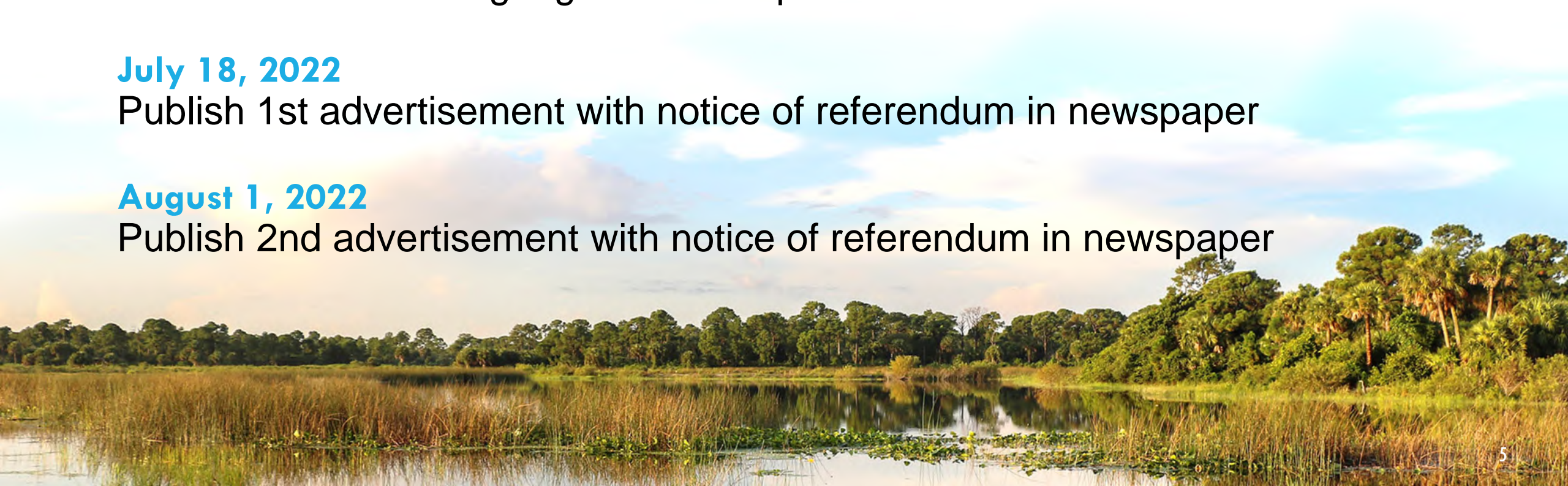
Ballot referendum language due to Supervisor of Elections

July 18, 2022

Publish 1st advertisement with notice of referendum in newspaper

August 1, 2022

Publish 2nd advertisement with notice of referendum in newspaper



PRIORITIZED PROJECT LIST (FIRST \$100 MILLION)

PROJECT & DESCRIPTION	POTENTIAL PARTNERS	ESTIMATED COST *	ESTIMATED OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE COSTS
<p>1 Infrastructure for Septic to Sewer Conversion Improve water quality through infrastructure to convert septic tanks to central sewer; priority areas are within the Lake Worth Lagoon watershed. These projects are referenced in the BCC adopted Lake Worth Lagoon Management Plan.</p>	Local governments, special districts	\$25M	Recipient of funds would be responsible for any operations and maintenance activities associated with the completed projects.
<p>2 Stormwater Quality Improvements Improve water quality via construction of stormwater quality improvement projects; priority areas are Lake Worth Lagoon and Loxahatchee River watersheds. These projects are referenced in the BCC adopted Lake Worth Lagoon Management Plan.</p>	Local governments, special districts	\$25M	Recipient of funds would be responsible for any operations and maintenance activities associated with the completed projects.
<p>3 Loxahatchee River Watershed Water Storage, Treatment, and Restoration Flows Upland and wetland restoration and/or creation of a water storage feature to benefit environmental water needs, water quality, and water supply. Various aspects of this project are referenced in the CERP Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Project. PBC's nexus in these efforts is through the Lox River Mgmt. Coordinating Council and the Lox River Preservation Initiative.</p>	Willing sellers, SFWMD, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	\$20M	The County will utilize these dollars to leverage partner funds with the understanding that the SFWMD will assume long term operations and maintenance activities on the property.

PRIORITIZED PROJECT LIST (FIRST \$100 MILLION)

PROJECT & DESCRIPTION	POTENTIAL PARTNERS	ESTIMATED COST *	ESTIMATED OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE COSTS
<p>4 Environmentally Sensitive Lands Acquisition Acquisition from willing sellers and initial restoration of environmentally sensitive lands and/or mitigation rights to include lands to reduce habitat fragmentation, increase connectivity and increase water storage and water quality benefits.</p> <p>The submerged lands acquisition portion of this project is referenced in the BCC adopted Lake Worth Lagoon Management Plan.</p>	<p>Willing Sellers; State of Florida Division of State Lands</p>	<p>\$10M</p>	<p>Submerged Lands \$0 annual cost for O&M. Rural Sites ~\$150/acre annually (average). Urban Sites ~\$400/acre annually (average). Combined All Types ~\$200/acre annually (average).</p>
<p>5 Climate Resiliency Implementation Implement key capital projects identified in the PBC Office of Resilience climate change Vulnerability Assessment and Resilience Action Plan.</p>	<p>State of Florida Department of Economic Opportunity; FDEP, other resilience partners</p>	<p>\$20M</p>	<p>The County will utilize these dollars to leverage partner funds with the understanding that the recipient of the funds will assume long term operations and maintenance activities on the property.</p>

PRIORITIZED PROJECT LIST (NEXT \$28 MILLION)

PROJECT & DESCRIPTION	POTENTIAL PARTNERS	ESTIMATED COST *	ESTIMATED OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE COSTS
<p>6 Green Cay Wetlands Phase 2 Increase water supply sustainability via treatment plant expansion, advance treatment technologies and wetlands; includes public access</p>	N/A; PBC Project	\$10M	Costs to be handled by Palm Beach County Water Utilities Department
<p>7 Lake Okeechobee Restoration Construct islands in Lake Okeechobee near Pahokee to improve fish and wildlife habitat and water quality</p>	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	\$2M	Palm Beach County ERM. Operations and maintenance costs will vary depending on the design of the project, but could be in the range of \$50,000-100,000 annually, depending on plant survival and exotic vegetation treatment needs.
<p>8 West Palm Beach Canal Spillway (S-155) Retrofit Infrastructure improvements to reduce harmful sediment discharges to the Lake Worth Lagoon This project is referenced in the BCC adopted Lake Worth Lagoon Management Plan.</p>	SFWMD	\$10M	The County will utilize these dollars to cost-share with the SFWMD to retrofit the structure, with the understanding that the SFWMD will assume long term operations and maintenance activities.
<p>9 Natural Areas Public Use Facilities Construct public access and use facilities in the County's Hungryland Slough Natural Area</p>	PBC Project; Land and Water Conservation Fund; Recreational Trails Program	\$1M	Palm Beach County ERM. Operations and maintenance costs for this new facility are estimated to be \$30,000 annually.
<p>10 C-51 Boat Lift Provide public access to waterways via construction of a boat lift that enables the passage of small vessels between inland freshwater bodies and the Intracoastal Waterway</p>	Blueway Trails LLC, SFWMD, Lake Clarke Shores, Lake Worth Beach, West Palm Beach	\$5M	Blueway Trails LLC and partners responsible for long term maintenance and operations costs.

PROPOSED PROJECT EVALUATION FRAMEWORK

Projects should be based on sound science and expected technical performance to achieve objectives of the bond referendum. County staff will develop:

- Detailed application guidelines to ensure consistency with referendum objectives and project eligibility
- Application requirements
- Evaluation considerations
- Scoring criteria
- Deliverables and reporting requirements

Consider establishing a Stakeholder Advisory Group

- Proposed Role: review and consider staff recommendations and advise BCC on projects that should be considered by BCC for implementation
- Create new group or modify responsibility of an existing advisory board (e.g. Water Resources Task Force, Natural Area Management Advisory Committee)

PROPOSED PROJECT EVALUATION FRAMEWORK (CONTINUED)

Proposed Evaluation Criteria

- Environmental and/or water resources benefits (~50 points)
- Cost-share collaboration (~20 points)
- Project readiness/quality and detail of project planning (~ 20 points)
- Past performance/record of timely completion (~10 points)
- Designated Economically Disadvantaged Communities (e.g. Rural Economic Development Initiative areas, Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern, County-wide Community Revitalization areas) would be eligible for additional 40 points if a minimum threshold of 60 points total for the 4 evaluation criteria above are met
- Resolution by the receiving entity committing to operations and maintenance costs will be required

PROPOSED BALLOT REFERENDUM LANGUAGE

ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS FOR IMPROVED WATER RESOURCES AND WATER QUALITY GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS

To enhance the environment by improving water resources and water quality, acquiring and restoring lands, constructing infrastructure to clean water/wastewater and improve climate resilience, expanding water storage/treatment facilities and increasing public access, shall County issue not exceeding \$100,000,000 of bonds, bearing interest rate(s) not exceeding legal maximum, maturing not exceeding twenty years of issuance, in one or more series, payable from County's full faith, credit and ad valorem taxing power?

_____ For Bonds
_____ Against Bonds

UPDATE ON PROPOSED ENVIRONMENTAL AND WATER GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND REFERENDUM

DISCUSSION



BCC Meeting
April 12, 2022