Agenda Item# 3J-1

PALM BEACH COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Meeting Date:	April 4, 2023	[X] []	Consent Workshop	[] []	Regular Public Hearing
Department:	Planning, Zoning & Building				
Submitted By:	Building Division				
Submitted For:	Building Division				

I. EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Motion and Title: Staff recommends motion to receive and file a Task Order to Florida Atlantic University (FAU) Master Research Agreement # C-22-229 to develop a Watershed Master Plan (WMP) for drainage basin and hydraulic analyses for Unincorporated Palm Beach County, and any additional related work pursuant to the agreement for a total amount of \$210,000.

Summary: On November 1, 2022, the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) approve the Master Research Agreement with FAU to develop a WMP for drainage basin and hydraulic analyses for Unincorporated Palm Beach County. This is a prerequisite for all communities to achieve a Class 4 or higher Community Rating System (CRS) rating and is important to understanding floodplain management and the ways in which water travels in a community. On January 10, 2023 the Department submitted a grant award agreement from the Florida Department of Emergency Management (FDEM) as a receive and file to the BCC, this funding will cover 75% of the total task order with a total reimbursement amount of \$210,000, based on a total project cost of approximately \$280,000. Unincorporated (RM)

Background and Justification: The CRS is a national program developed by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The CRS program is voluntary and designed to incentivize participating communities to achieve significant discounts for NFIP policyholders on flood insurance premiums for their properties. CRS ratings rank from 1 (highest rating/discount) to 10 (lowest rating/discount). The county has had a Class 5 rating for almost 10 years. A Class 5 rating allows policyholders in the County to receive discounts of up to 25% from the standard NFIP premiums. A Class 4 rating or higher would achieve discounts of 30% or more. Providing this information to FEMA and to the communities is essential for improving the current CRS rating. Improving the CRS rating will have a substantial impact on the flood insurance premiums for County property owners.

Attachment(s):

1) Executed Task Order – Appendix A (1 copy)

_____ 3/14/23 Recommended By: **Department Director** Date 10 3/15/23 Approved by: Assistant County Administrator Date

II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

Fiscal Years	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Capital	•	0	0	0	0
Expenditures					
Operating Costs	\$280,000	0	0	0	0
External	(\$210,000)	•	0	0	0
Revenues					
Program	0	0	0	0	•
Income(County)					
In-Kind		0	0	•	•
Match(County					
NET FISCAL	*\$70,000	0	0	•	•
IMPACT					
#ADDITIONAL	0	0	0	0	0
FTE					
POSITIONS	0	0	•	0	•
(CUMULATIVE					

A. Five Year Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Is Item Included In Current Budget? Yes X No _

Does this item include the use of federal funds? Yes X_ No __

Budget Account No.:

Fund <u>1400</u> Department <u>600</u> Unit <u>6115</u> Object <u>3401</u>

Fund _____ Department ___ Unit_ Rsc ____

B. Recommended Sources of Funds/Summary of Fiscal Impact: Funding will be paid from Building Special Revenue fund.

C. Departmental Fiscal Review:

flahana

III. REVIEW COMMENTS

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

OFMB

Contract Dev. and Control

B. Legal Sufficiency:

Assistant County Attorney

C. Other Department Review:

Department Director

APPENDIX A

FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY MASTER RESEARCH AGREEMENT TASK ORDER NO. 1

This Task Order is issued under Master Research Agreement No. C-23-229, between Florida Atlantic University ("UNIVERSITY") and Palm Beach County ("SPONSOR")

Issue Date: December 5, 2022

Principle Investigator: Frederick Bloetscher

Project Title: _____ Phase 2 FDEM Watershed Planning Grant

Period of Performance: December 1. 2022 to September 30. 2023

Funding Amount for this Task: \$ 210.000

Payment Schedule:

Task 1

Task 1.1- Background Information Gathering **First 1/3 Payment Due (\$70,000)** Task 1.2- Policy Documentation for HUCS Task 1.3- Risk Models for HUCS Task 1.4- Identifying Critical Areas/Solutions in HUCS Task 1.5- Action Plan Task 1.6 - Submit for Staff Review Second **1/3 Payment Due (\$70,000)**

Task 2 Task 2.1 - Submit to NFIP for Review Task 2.2 – Update CRS submission Task 2.3 - Commission Approval Task 2.4 – Progress reports to FDEM Last 1/3 Payment Due (\$70,000)

Deliverables:

- Deliverable 1 Create Preliminary Project Plan based on Initial Flood Modeling, and Submit Draft WMP (Task 1)
- Deliverable 2 Revise Draft WMP and Submit Completed WMP (Task 2)

The Statement of Work, line item budget, and a budget justification are attached.

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All the terms and conditions of the Master Agreement between UNIVERSITY AND SPONSOR shall apply in full to this Task Order.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have agreed and do hereby enter into this Task Order.

SPONSOR

UNIVERSITY

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Bater ara Name: Verdenia C. Baker

Title: <u>County Administrator</u> Date: <u>12/28/22</u>

Miriam Campo Name: Miriam Campo

 Assistant VP for Research

 Date:
 January 13, 2023

ATTACHMENT A

Statement of Work for Phase 2 FDEM Watershed Planning Grant

Scope of Work:

For Phase 2, FDEM will coordinate with Sub-recipients to produce a Watershed Master Plan (WMP) for credit under the Community Rating System (CRS). In Phase 1, a pilot project was completed that consisted of research, the creation of a framework and guidance documents that ensure a consistent statewide approach to WMP development.

Sub-recipients under the Watershed Planning Initiative will use the Phase 1 guidance materials to produce a Watershed Master Plan for credit under CRS. Phase 1 materials can be found at: https://www.floridadisaster.org/dem/mitigation/watershed-planning-initiative or https://www.floridadisaster.org/dem/mitigative or <a href="https://www.floridadisaster.o

Task 1 – Creation of preliminary scope of work, initial flood modeling & submission of draft WMP to CRS officials for approval. The flood modeling should consider evaluations of the watershed's runoff response from design storms under current and predicted future conditions and assessments of the impacts of sea level rise and climate change. Preliminary modeling should include 10-, 25- & 100-year storm events. This initial scope of work and WMP draft should include preliminary modeling of the 10-, 25- and 100-year storm events, an inventory of the ground characteristics and data availability, existing regulations and plans in place, a description of vulnerable areas or areas of interest, a list of potential solutions, and a brief description of future actions plans.

Task 2 – Submit final WMP & CRS approval. After receiving feedback and approval on the subrecipient's scope of work and flood modeling submission in Task 1 from FDEM and CRS officials, the sub-recipient will finalize the flood modeling process and complete their WMP. At a minimum, the modeling and WMP must include 10, 25 & 100 year storm events—or model sea level rise—to receive credit through CRS element 452.b. The sub-recipient will update their CRS plan and submit the updated prospective point total to CRS to receive points for element 452.b. The sub-recipient will submit the updated CRS plan to CRS for approval at the same time as they submit their final WMP to CRS for approval. If revisions are necessary. The subrecipient will correct and re-submit for CRS approval.

FDEM's grant process includes the previously stated Task 1 and Task 2. Task 1 for the subrecipient grant includes the following sub-Tasks 1.1-1.6 which will be performed by FAU under subcontract.

- Task 1.1- Background Information Gathering
- Task 1.2 Policy Documentation for HUCS
- Task 1.3- Risk Models for HUCS)
- Task 1.4- Identifying Critical Areas/Solutions in HUCS
- Task 1.5- Action Plan
- Task 1.6 Submit for Staff Review
- Task 2.1 Submit to NFIP for Review
- Task 2.2 Update CRS submission
- Task 2.3 Commission Approval
- Task 2.4 Progress reports to FDEM

Interim documentation will be provided for submission for initial commentary at the 75% stage of Tasks 1.1 to 1.5. FAU will complete Tasks 1.1-1.5 based on feedback from NFIP reviewers as a part of Subrecipient Task 2 in the FDEM RFP and provide support for sub-Tasks 2.1 to 2.3 which are a part of the Task 2 in the FDEM guidance. Each work task is outlined in the following paragraphs.

Task 1.1 - Background Information

Watershed Master Plans (WMPs), as conceived by the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS) program, provide an outline for communities to reduce local flood risk. According to the CRS Coordinator's Manual 2021 Addendum (FEMA, 2021), "the objective of watershed master planning is to provide communities within a watershed with a tool they can use to make decisions that will reduce flooding from development on a watershed-wide basis." Successful watershed master plans (WMPs) consist of the following activities (Association of State Floodplain Managers, 2020):

- 1. Evaluation of the watershed's runoff response from specific design storms under current and predicted future conditions
- 2. Assessment of the impacts of sea level rise and climate change
- 3. Identification of wetlands and other natural areas throughout the watershed
- 4. Protection of natural channels
- 5. Implementation of regulatory standards for new development such that peak flows and volumes are sufficiently controlled
- 6. Specific mitigation recommendations to ensure that communities are resilient in the future
- 7. A dedicated funding source to implement the mitigation strategies recommended by the plan

The process begins by first characterizing the watershed. A balanced approach is needed to obtain watershed-related information with the relevant precision. For example, groundwater is relevant when the ground and surface waters are directly connected, and the soil may lack capacity for infiltration storage. Geology, hydrogeology, land use, canals and other water bodies, and historical changes to the surface may be relevant to create the watershed description. A summary of the local communities involved in each HUC will be developed. Topographic features, uplands, wetlands, and shorelines will be delineated along with current flood maps. Other requirements are growth projections and mitigation strategies at the various scales (watershed, regional, and local) to limit increasing flood risk. FAU will collect the necessary data to be able to generate the mapping products needed for watershed master planning activities.

DELIVERABLE: Chapters 1 and 2 of the Watershed plan

Task 1.2 - Policy Documentation for HUCs

A Watershed Master Plan should be cognizant of applicable regulatory guidelines, ordinances, and public policies that relate to water management within the study area. It is important that the WMP identify the control actions, management practices, and regulations as well as the agencies that have authority and jurisdiction, as applicable to the study area. These will include regulatory standards for new development such that peak flows and volumes are sufficiently controlled and regulations that prohibit development, alteration, and modification of existing natural channels are in place. The universe of existing regulations includes federal, state, tribal, regional, and local rules. FAU with assistance from the communities in the

study area will identify the necessary documents including the Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) plan and previous CRS credit reviews, as well as minimum flows and levels and flow volumes, as applicable.

DELIVERABLE: Chapter 3 of the Watershed plan

Task 1.3 - Risk Models for HUCS

Modeling and assessment of vulnerability focused on the combination of a high water table, low soil storage, heavy rains, flat topography, and impervious conditions that can lead to localized nuisance flooding events. Modeling at the screening level is needed to identify areas of the watershed that are at risk. FAU will use a screening tool to identify regions with elevated risk of inundation based on multiple collected datasets and hydrological modeling. The screening tool utilizes topographic data from various sources, water table elevations, tidal information for coastal areas obtained from the NOAA Current & Tides website, soil maps obtained from the USDA, and other key datasets. **Error! Reference source not found.1** shows how the GIS layers interface in the tool, and how they are combined for spatial analysis. The model chosen for this screening tool is Cascade 2001, which is a multi-basin hydrologic/hydraulic routing model developed by the South Florida Water Management District. The model permits the investigator to analyze different storm events and flooding scenarios. The following data layers collected during Task 1 activities are processed to develop the input files for Cascade 2001.

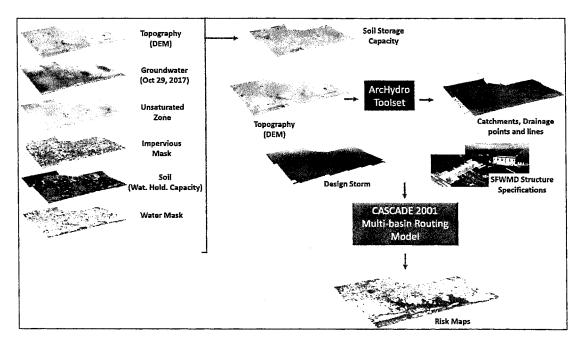


Figure 2.1. Screening tool methodology for creating flood risk maps

FAU will conduct map development activities that address the required design storms including 5-, 10-, 25- and 100-year floods, plus the 3-day, 25-year storm event, with 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 ft of sea level rise and king tides, as applicable. At a minimum, the modeling and WMP must include 10-, 25- & 100-year storm events—or model sea level rise—to receive credit through CRS element 452.b. Note that understanding build-out and the impacts build-out has on drainage are factors that must be considered in modeling

which must come from the underlying local communities. This is the watershed master planning assessment.

DELIVERABLE: Chapter 4 of the Watershed plan with all applicable modeling scenarios for the HUC and relationship to involved HUCs; drilldown to community issue modeling

Task 1.4- Identifying Critical Areas/Solutions in the HUCs

Once areas at risk have been identified in the watershed master planning assessment, Task 4 is designed to identify potential mitigation measures to improve community resilience and flood protection. The process starts with narrowing down the feasible engineering alternatives using threshold criteria and quantifiable selection criteria that include measures of effectiveness, cost, and added benefit to the community. At the center of these planning efforts should also exist the provision for an adequate drainage system, designed to accommodate an increased volume of water and/or increased peak flows. Current capital plans, stormwater master plans, capital projects etc. will be identified. Local governments have these documents which will be secured in Task 2.

For this document, 35 solutions referred to as the "Periodic Table" menu of green and grey infrastructure technologies (Error! Reference source not found.2.2) will be referenced as applicable. Improvements like pump stations, changing weir elevations, larger pipes and coastal sea walls are major hardening efforts that can be modeled in Cascade 2001.

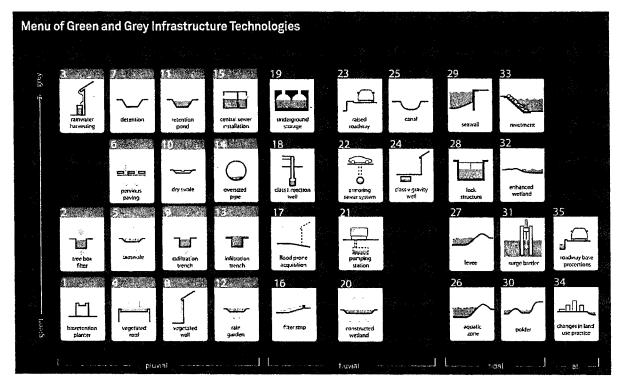


Figure 2.2. "Periodic table" menu of green and grey infrastructure technology options. The menu is organized to address various flooding types, from *pluvial* (rainfall and runoff mitigation in upland areas), *fluvial* (runoff, high ground water, and surface water management in low-lying flood prone areas), *tidal* (flooding associated with storm surge, high ground water, and tidally influenced), and *all* (applies across the spectrum).

DELIVERABLE: Update and completion of Chapter 4 and Chapter 5 of the Watershed plan with applicable modeling scenarios for the HUC

Task 1.5 - Action Plan

The key components of the implementation phase are: 1) the implementation team, 2) information/education, 3) capital improvement projects, 4) maintenance, 5) monitoring, and 6) evaluation and adjustments. A watershed implementation team made up of key stakeholder partners from the planning team, particularly those whose responsibilities include making sure tasks are being implemented, reviewing monitoring data, ensuring technical assistance in the design and installation of management measures, finding new funding sources, and communicating results to the public.

DELIVERABLE: Chapter 6 of the Watershed plan - this should complete the planning document

Task 1.6 – Submit Draft Plan to Staff for Review

FAU will submit the draft WMP to staff for review and comments. Feedback will be addressed in a timely fashion, prior to Task 2.1.

DELIVERABLE: Delivery and receipt of comments from staff of the planning document

Task 2.1 -- Submit Draft plan to FDEM and NFIP Staff for Review

FAU will support the subrecipient's submission of the draft plan to staff at NFIP for review and comments. Feedback will be addressed in a timely manner so that Task 8 can be pursued. Note FAU has no control over the length of time that NFIP staff and FDEM staff require to review the draft WMP documents.

DELIVERABLE: Chapter 6 of the Watershed plan - this should complete the planning document

Task 2.2 – Update CRS submission

FAU will support the subrecipient's submission of revised CRS plan to staff at NFIP for review and comments. Feedback will be addressed in a timely manner so that Task 9 can be pursued. Note FAU has no control over the length of time that NFIP staff and FDEM staff require to review the draft WMP documents.

DELIVERABLE: n/a

Task 2.3 – Commission approval

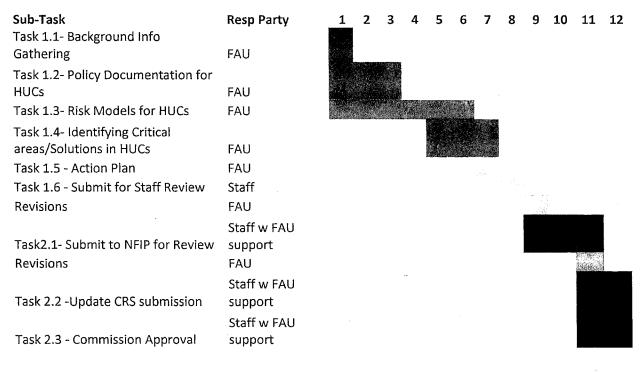
FAU will support the subrecipient's submission of the draft WMP to its governing board for approval. If the subrecipient desires FAU faculty presence, this will be coordinated with FAU.

DELIVERABLE: n/a

Task 2.4 – Progress reports to FDEM

FAU will support the Subrecipient's submission of quarterly and monthly reports. To wit, FAU will prepare said reports and submit them to the Subrecipients as outlined in the Subrecipient's grant.

Sub-Task Schedule (time in Month)



Attachment B - Budget/Budget Justification

FAU Contractual Budget – Palm Beach County					
Classification	Cost	Effort			
Faculty Salary + Fringe	\$35,486				
Postdoc Salary + Fringe	\$60,000	9 Months			
Project Coordinator Salary + Fringe	\$6,750	1 Month			
IT Personnel Salary + Fringe	\$9,894	1 Month			
Research Assistant - MS	\$28,750	25 hours/Week			
Research Assistant - Ph.D.	\$25,000	20 hours/week			
Tuition	\$17,220				
Computer Hardware/Software	\$9,320				
Travel and Supplies	\$204				
Graduate Student Training	\$7,376				
Total Direct Cost	\$200,000				
Indirect Cost (5%)	\$10,000				
Total	\$210,000				

Senior Personnel

Budget requests summer salary/fringe for PI Dr. Frederick Bloetscher and Co-PIs Dr. Daniel Meeroff, Dr. Yan Yong, Dr. Hongbo Su, and Dr. Sudhagar Nagarajan. The FAU negotiated fringe rate for faculty is 29.7 percent.

Post-Doctoral Associate

Budget requests salary and fringe for a post doc to work on the deliverables of the project. The FAU negotiated fringe rate for post-doctoral associate is 29.7 percent.

Project Coordinator & IT Personnel

Budget requests salary and fringe for project coordinator and IT personnel to work on the deliverables of the project. The FAU negotiated fringe rate for administrative managerial personnel is 37.2 percent.

Graduate Research Assistants

Budget requests salary for a MS and PhD student to work on the deliverables of the project. There is no fringe for students.

Domestic Travel

Budget requests funds for domestic travel to project sites and professional meetings

Supplies

Budget requests funds for supplies needed to complete the deliverables of the project.

Computer hardware/software

Budget requests funds for computer hardware/software. Cost shared with other projects for standalone servers

Graduate Research Assistants Training

Budget requests graduate research assistants' training on report writing and communication skills.

Tuition

Budget requests tuition for MS and PhD graduate research assistants. Tuition is for 54 graduate credits with \$303.71/credit plus 5% tuition increase.

Indirect Cost

Indirect cost is calculated at the sponsor's approved rate of 5% of total direct cost.