



SMALL TOWN, BIG BEACH™

## AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

**DATE:** January 28, 2026

**ISSUE:** 2026 Gulf Coast Resource Conservation and Development Council (RC&D) Grant Award for the Eco Center Greenhouse.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Authorize the acceptance of a grant award in the amount of \$10,000 from RC&D for the purchase of a greenhouse to be used at the Gulf Coast Eco Center as a part of environmental education programs.

**BACKGROUND:** In 2025 the City completed construction of the RESTORE-funded Gulf Coast Eco Center, an education facility housing programs that raise environmental awareness and promote stewardship. The Eco Center works closely with Gulf Shores City Schools, local businesses, and other stakeholders to provide a variety of programming for the community. The focus of many of the programs includes gardening, composting, and growing native plants for restoration efforts, as well as trees for community events including Arbor Day and Earth Day.

This funding from the RC&D Council will be used to purchase a small greenhouse that will allow Eco Center staff to expand these programs. Activities will include starting plants from seed, protecting vulnerable plants from freezing temperatures, and housing a wide range of plant material that can be used in projects and educational programs.

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION:** Vision 2025 Plan for Sustainability, Strategic Plan 2015-2019, Gulf Coast Eco Center Project Annual Arbor Day Celebration

**BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:** Grant funds not to exceed \$10,000 and are 100% reimbursable.

**RELATED ISSUES:** None

**ATTACHMENTS:** None

**DEPARTMENT:** Natural Resources

**STAFF CONTACT:** Dan Bond