



SMALL TOWN, BIG BEACH™

DATE: August 17, 2020

ISSUE: Proposal from Volkert, Inc. to perform environmental work including USACE Nationwide 27 permitting for aquatic habitat restoration, enhancement, and establishment activities, wetland habitat baseline monitoring and reporting, and boundary marking for restoration activities on City properties as part of the NFWF-funded Bon Secour/Oyster Bay Wetland Acquisition Project. This is the initial phase of restoration work for the project as described in the Habitat Management Plan.

RECOMMENDATION: Accept proposal from Volkert, Inc. for proposed work on 836 acres of property identified for conservation and restoration as part of the Bon Secour/Oyster Bay Wetland acquisition project. **The total cost for this work is \$110,000 and will be 100% reimbursed through the NFWF Grant.**

BACKGROUND: The Vision 2025 Plan for Sustainability and the Strategic Plan 2015-2019 identify environmental stewardship as a Key Strategy and Priority, and the Plans also identify the conservation and protection of natural resources as a Core Value in prioritizing the allocation of City resources. The Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill in 2010 made clear the important connections between our regional economy and a healthy environment, and The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's (NFWF) Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund was established in 2013 to fund projects benefiting the natural resources of the Gulf Coast that were impacted by the spill.

The City has been awarded a grant through NFWF for the acquisition and conservation of 836 acres of natural wetlands around the confluence of the Bon Secour River and Oyster Bay. Protection and preservation of this property will have significant impacts on water quality and habitat for local wildlife. The City will manage the property for passive recreational opportunities for the public, and will support environmental education programs in the area. This proposal will begin environmental restoration work as part of the implementation of the Habitat Management Plan.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION: The Council approved the NFWF funding agreement at the June 12, 2017 Council Meeting.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS: Costs for this phase of restoration work (\$110,000) has been budgeted for FY 2020, and will be reimbursable and booked as a receivable from NFWF per auditor's recommendation.

DEPARTMENT: Executive

STAFF CONTACT: Dan Bond

ATTACHMENTS: Project Map