

Agenda
11/18/2025

Subject

Approve Interlocal Agreement between the City of Winter Haven (CITY) and Polk County, a political subdivision of the State of Florida (COUNTY) for the protection of Astute Financial Land Trust, located on the eastern shore of Lake Pansy. (\$600,000 one-time)

Description

In partnership, Polk County (COUNTY) and the City of Winter Haven (CITY) plan to enter an Interlocal Agreement to acquire, approximately 153 acres, a property called the Astute Financial Land Trust (PROPERTY) on the east side of Lake Pansy. The property is bordered by HWY 17 on the east and HWY 92 on the north. Lake Pansy and Lake Rochelle are listed as impaired waterbodies through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection ("FDEP"). Lake Pansy has impairments for Biology and Lake Rochelle has impairments for Total Nitrogen, Total Phosphorus, and Biology. FDEP is the permitting authority, for the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System ("NPDES"), and expects local governments to work jointly together to improve the water quality of impaired waterbodies. The CITY and COUNTY are each responsible for a portion of the ongoing and historical pollutant load to Lake Pansy and Lake Rochelle from their Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4).

The Interlocal Agreement establishes a partnership between the CITY and COUNTY to acquire the PROPERTY. The agreement also outlines the roles and responsibilities. The total acquisition cost for the PROPERTY is \$1,400,000.00, where the CITY will contribute \$800,000.00 and the COUNTY will contribute \$600,000.00. The CITY will be responsible for handling the real estate transaction and any necessary closing costs. Per the agreement, the CITY will hold title to the property and will grant to the COUNTY a conservation easement. The CITY will be responsible for management and any future enhancements to the property. This project protects significant wetlands that filters surface waters between Lake Pansy and Lake Rochelle. The protection of these wetlands is critical for the water quality and flood management in the Winter Haven Chain of Lakes.

The project has been approved by stormwater technical advisory committee (STAG) and recommended by CLASAC and approved by the Board to pursue acquisition.

Recommendation

Approve the Interlocal Agreement between Polk County and the City of Winter Haven.

Fiscal Impact

Funds are available in the Parks and Natural Resources GIP within the Stormwater MSTU Fund.

Contact Information

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