

RESOLUTION NO. 2011- 145

**A RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR, OR DESIGNEE, TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION, AND ANY OTHER REQUIRED PAPERWORK, IN ORDER TO SEEK FUNDING ASSISTANCE THROUGH THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE'S COASTAL PROGRAM GRANT TO REMOVE A DERELICT STRUCTURE AND CONDUCT LIMITED DUNE RESTORATION AT SUMMER HAVEN**

**RECITALS**

**WHEREAS**, The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service allows local governments to make application through the Coastal Program Grant for habitat restoration; and

**WHEREAS**, the deadline for the County submitting the application is June 10, 2011; and

**WHEREAS**, the County has reviewed the completed Grant application; and

**WHEREAS**, after a review of the Grant application, the County has determined that nothing contained in the Grant application negatively impacts the interests of the County; and

**WHEREAS**, after a review of the Grant application and accompanying materials, the County has determined that none of the requirements, restrictions, and/or obligations associated with award of the Grant, or the Grant itself, negatively impact the interests of the County; and

**WHEREAS**, after a review of the completed Grant application and accompanying materials, the County has determined that an award of a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Coastal Grant to assist in dune restoration at County-owned lots in Summer Haven serves the overall interests of the County.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida that:**

**Section 1.** The above Recitals are incorporated by reference into the body of this Resolution, and such Recitals are adopted as Findings of Fact.

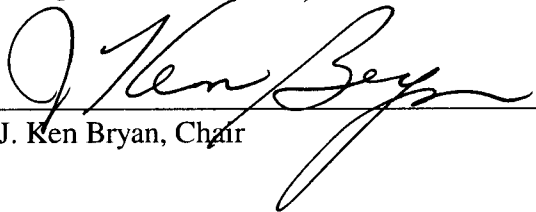
**Section 2.** The Board of County Commissioners hereby approves and authorizes the County Administrator, or designee, to submit a completed application based on the approved guidelines for grant submittal (attached hereto, and incorporated herein), on behalf of the St. Johns County Environmental Division for a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Coastal Program Grant to assist with removal of a derelict structure and limited dune restoration at designated County-owned lots in Summer Haven.

**Section 3.** The Board of County Commissioners hereby authorizes the County Administrator, or designee, to execute any other paperwork necessary, and/or associated with the application for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Coastal Program Grant.

**Section 4.** To the extent that there are typographical or administrative errors or omissions that do not change the tone, tenor, or context of this Resolution, then this Resolution may be revised without subsequent approval of the Board of County Commissioners.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida, this 7th day of June, 2011.

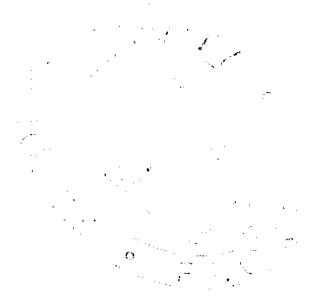
**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA**

By:   
J. Ken Bryan, Chair

**ATTEST: CHERYL STRICKLAND, CLERK**

By:   
Deputy Clerk

RENDITION DATE 6/7/11



# COASTAL PROGRAM

## PRE-PROPOSAL INFORMATION SHEET

**Project title:** Summer Haven Dune Restoration

**Location:** Summer Haven, St. Johns County, FL Section 30, Township 9 South, Range 31 East

**Project PI:** Jan Brewer, St. Johns County Environmental Division, 904-209-0617, Jbrewer@sjcfl.us

**Project description (4 points):**

Summer Haven Beach in St. Johns County, Florida, was platted for residential lots in 1909 from an 1886 survey. This is an area of narrow sandy beach with an impacted dune system. Since the platting, varying levels of single family home development has occurred with the majority of home construction occurring on the southerly lots. Recently, St. Johns County has acquired numerous northerly lots in Summer Haven in order to prevent home construction and also with the vision of restoring the dune system which has been hard hit by storms. One of the lots acquired has an existing home in a state of disrepair that needs to be demolished and removed from the beach. This section of beach is critical nesting habitat for loggerhead, green and leatherback marine turtles evidenced by the average nesting density in St. Johns County of 7.02 nests per mile while Summer Haven averages 14.3 nest per mile (FWC unpublished data 2010). The proposal is to remove the existing dilapidated home and to prepare a restoration plan to re-establish the degraded dune by replanting sea oats and other native dune vegetation. The restoration plan will be implemented by trained biological staff with the assistance of specialized volunteers. Staff and volunteers will also engage in invasive plant inventories and control of invasive and exotic plant species on these lots. Once replanted, annual monitoring will be implemented to ensure plant survival based on percent coverage compared to healthy reference dunes in the neighboring Fort Matanzas National Monument area. The site will be monitored quarterly for the first year to ensure planting success and invasive control and annually thereafter.

**Type of project (3 points):**

This project is a habitat restoration project, including the demolition of a residential home which was built in 1980 and covers approximately 1,300 sqft. The home and adjoining dock has become derelict. Demolition will keep the abandoned structure from ultimately littering the beach and fouling the marine turtle nesting habitat. The restored dune habitat (~3.2 acres), free of invasive and exotic plant species will provide for improved marine turtle nesting habitat and also habitat for the Anastasia Island beach mouse.

**Specifically describe how the project area will reduce effects of global climate change and sustain impacts from global sea-level rise? (4 points):**

To address global climate change, conservation at a broad landscape scale is required and regional and local collaboration is paramount in reaching broad landscape scales. This grant opportunity promotes the type of federal, state and local collaborative partnerships needed to address climate issues.

Coastal habitats are particularly vulnerable to stressors such as land use change, suburban and coastal development. The added stressor of climate change makes protecting coastal habitats a top priority. The acquisition of the platted residential lots on this narrow sandy beach removes potential future conflicts with the sea level rise and also provides the opportunity to restore the coastal dune habitat to preserve critical marine turtle nesting habitat threatened with the pending sea level rise.

Long range sea level rise will shift nesting habitat onto what would have been private lands that may have considered engineered solutions for property protection in the face of sea level rise. Acquisition in coastal areas is an anticipatory adaptation to combat these challenges associated with this component of climate change. Restoration of these parcels once acquired is paramount to the continued existence of the dune ecosystem.

Climate change will also affect the rate at which invasive and exotic plant species migrate north and alter the existing vegetative structure of the dune environment. Brazilian pepper and Australian pine are beginning to show up in the dune flora. As a match to this grant, County staff and volunteers will provide local surveillance and management of the habitat to maintain a viable dune ecosystem, free from the influx of exotic species exacerbated by climate change.

**Project start and end date. Is the project shovel ready? Include estimate if exact dates are unknown. If a multiple year project will additional funds need to be secured to complete project? (3 points):**

St. Johns County acquired lots in 2009 and in 2010 acquired the derelict structure. These sites are ready to begin demolition and restoration now. The project could begin in April, 2011. The demolition of the structure would need to be complete before May 1 or would not begin until after the marine turtle nesting season ends in November. The dune restoration would be planned for spring or fall. The project should end by December of 2012, with monitoring to follow annually.

**Funding requested and total amount to complete project (3 points):**

\$12,255.75	Demolition of home and restoration of dune habitat (plants and terrasorb)
\$ 750.00	Relocation of sea oats from FIND site
<u>\$ 9,590.60</u>	Staff/volunteer time to relocate, replant, and provide exotic control (In-kind match)
\$22,596.35	Total Project Cost

\$ 12,255.75 Total Grant Provided

\$ 10,340.60 Total In-kind Provided

Please see attached spreadsheet that details the costs

**Habitat restored (upland or wetland), number of acres and cost per acre (3 points):**

A total of 3.18 acres of coastal beach dune habitat will be restored. The cost per acre is \$3,829.92 of grant funds and \$7,061.36 for the total project costs.

**Does the project have a conservation benefit for any *federally* classified candidate species and/or *federally* listed threatened and endangered species (4 points)?**

The project will restore habitat for five (5) state and federally listed marine turtles: Loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*), Green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), Leatherback sea turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*), Hawksbill sea turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricate*), Kemp's Ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys kempii*) and also the Anastasia Island beach mouse (*Peromyscus polionotus phasma*).

**Partners involved and their contribution (3 points):**

St. Johns County Environmental Division Staff: in-kind hours for dune planting and invasive management

St. Johns River Water Management District Northern Coastal Basin Program: in-kind hours for coastal wetland restoration

Volunteer staff: in-kind hours for dune planting

Keepers of the Coast Volunteers: in-kind hours for dune planting

**Is there a long term conservation or protection plan in place or is one being developed for the project area? (3 points):**

St. Johns County has a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service approved Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) to regulate activities for the protection of listed species using the county beaches. When the HCP was prepared all of the Summer Haven lots were in private ownership and therefore the HCP objectives recognized the value of the Summer Haven beach for nesting but could not provide any long range plan for restoration or protection. Now the public owned lots and adjacent dune will become an integral part of that plan. These areas will be managed and conserved as part of the coastal dune system by County Beach Management and Environmental staff.

**Is the project part of an existing-based community plan, a species recovery plan, a watershed restoration plan or other management plan? (3 points):**

This project is consistent with several elements of St. Johns County's Comprehensive Plan that addresses coastal issues including:

Objective E.1.1. The County will maintain, improve and increase public beach and waterway access.

Objective E.1.2. The County shall ensure the protection, conservation and enhancement of the County's coastal areas, dunes and beaches.

Objective E.1.5. The County shall cooperate with and provide technical support and assistance to the appropriate State and Federal agencies and it shall implement Policies in this Plan in order to protect, enhance and restore the environmental quality of the County's Coastal areas, waterways and wildlife.

Objective E.2.8. The County shall protect habitats and populations of listed species.

Our coastal beaches are also under an approved Habitat Conservation Plan. These acquisitions and restoration are **not** a required component of the plan. Restoration of the recently acquired parcels will provide for improvement to our imperiled coastal dune habitat.

**What makes this project unique? Describe the importance or value of this project as it relates to overall conservation and the area in which it is located (3 points):**

The highest marine turtle nesting densities in St. Johns County occur at Summer Haven with an average of 14.3 nests/mile compared to the County wide average of 7.02 nests/mile. The platted lots are targeted for residential development and create a tremendous challenge for government in balancing property rights with natural resource issues in coastal areas such as these. Public ownership of this section of beach will ensure that listed marine turtles do not face the challenges frequently encountered with developed beachfront properties such as lighting, loss of habitat, shoreline armoring, uncontrolled beach access, contaminants and trash, objects on the beach, human presence on the beach at night, free-roaming cats and dogs, and exotic species introduction.

**Does the local community support this project? Are they engaged in this project or are there plans to involve them in the future? Is there an education component to this project? (3 points):**

Local support from this project comes from Keepers of the Coast, a grass roots organization dedicated to coastal environments. Volunteers from this group and the Sea Turtle Patrol will help transplant sea oats from a nearby FIND spoil site and plant native vegetation. They will also assist in monitoring and maintenance of the site. County Habitat Conservation staff annually host school groups at a park just north of the project site and will include this site on their annual outreach to the local elementary school groups. Restoration of the recently acquired parcels will also serve as a model for beach goers and neighbors on land stewardship.

In-kind Match for FWS Coastal Program

Type of In-kind	Staff	hrs/unit	hr rate/unit rate*	In-kind
Env Management- Ongoing exotic control, plant maint env ed	HCP Coord	10	34.04	340.4
	Land Res Coord	30	35.54	1066.2
	Beach Mgr	10	32.6	326
	Marine Turtle Permit Holders	20	20	400
Env Staff- reveg, transplant	HCP Coord	30	34.04	1021.2
	Land Res Coord	30	35.54	1066.2
	Land Res Mgr	30	46.42	1392.6
	Beach Mgr	30	32.6	978
	Marine Turtle Permit Holders	150	20	3000
Plants provided by SJC (1 gal sea oats)		500	1.5	750.00
				9,590.60 Staff In-kind
				10,340.60 Total In-kind

\*Rates include salary and benefits 12/20/10 Furlipa

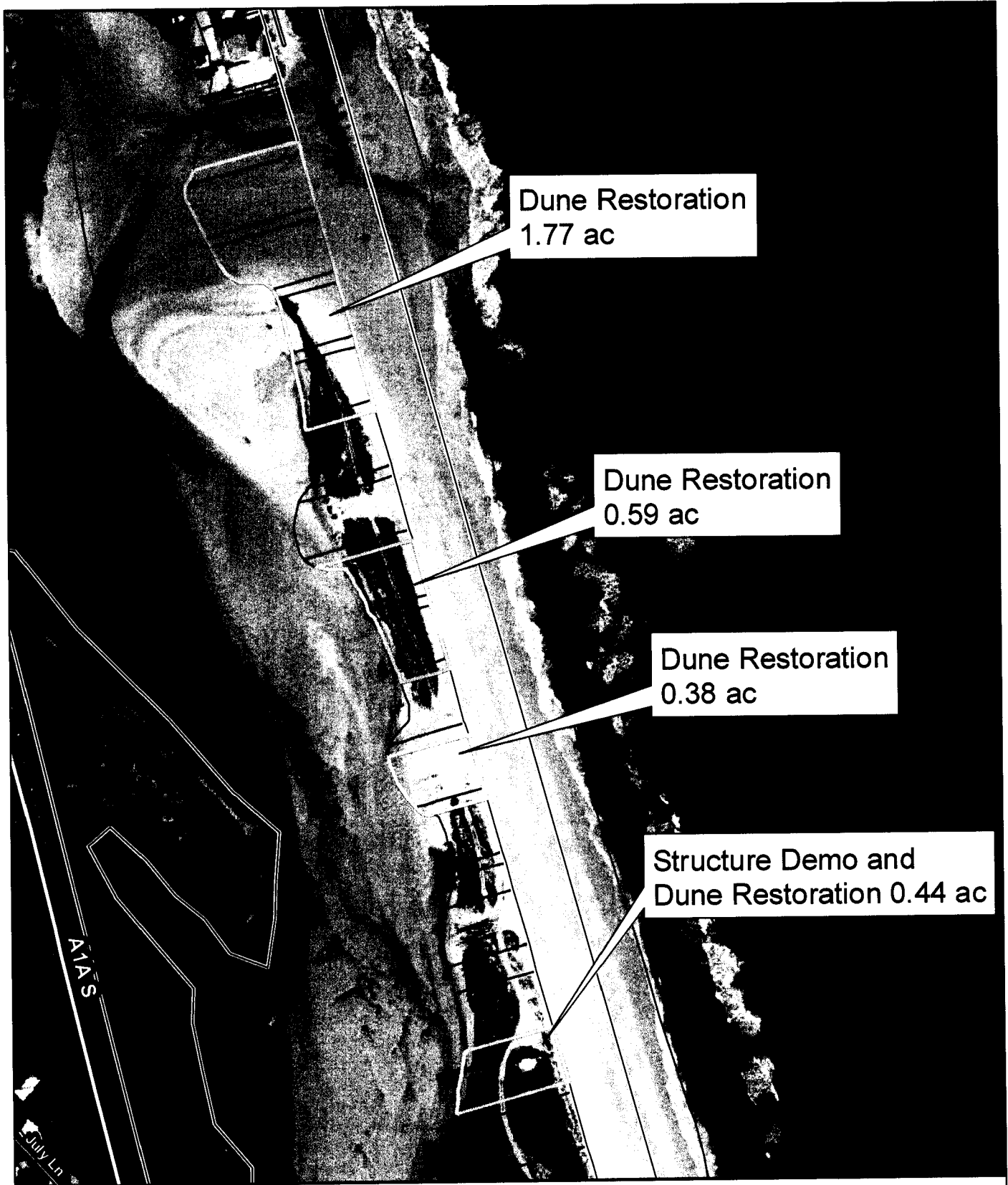
Project Expenses	units	\$/unit	
Demolition of derelict house*	1	4,500	4,500.00
Sea Oats (Uniola paniculata)**	9302	0.5	4651
Sand cordgrass (Spartina bakerii)	3885	0.5	1942.5
Sea Oxeye (Borrchia frutescens)	518	0.5	259
Indian Blanket (Gaillardia pulchella)	518	0.5	259
Prickly pear (Opuntia spp)	259	0.75	194.25
Terrasorb (10lb bag for planting)	1	100	100
Delivery fee (plants)	1	350	350
			12,255.75 Total Grant Request

\* Quote from Code Enforcement through their abatement contractor

\*\*Plants are 4" liner and quote from EarthBalance

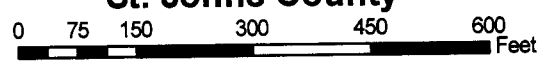
Project Total Cost	22,596.35
Project Grant Request	12,255.75
Project In-kind	10,340.60
Total \$/ac	7,061.36
Grant Request \$/ac	3,829.92

22,596.35 Total Project Cost



St. Johns County  
 Environmental Division  
 (904) 209-0792  
 02/02/2011

**FWS Coastal Program  
 St. Johns County**



2008 Aerial Imagery

DISCLAIMER.  
 This map is for reference use only. Data provided are derived from multiple sources with varying levels of accuracy.

