



HIGHLANDS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS (HCBCC)  
PURCHASING DIVISION  
600 S. Commerce Ave  
Sebring, FL 33870  
(863) 402-6500

DATE: July 22, 2022  
BID NO. RFP 22-012-LKD ADDENDUM No. 1  
Project.: Professional Services for Water Quality and Drainage Studies

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The following represents clarification, additions, deletions, and/or modifications to the above referenced solicitation. This addendum shall hereafter be regarded as part of the solicitation. Items not referenced herein remain unchanged. Words, phrases or sentences with a strikethrough represent deletions to the original solicitation. Underlined words and bolded, phrases or sentences represent additions to the original solicitation, as applicable.

The contact information for this solicitation is Lori DeLoach, [LDeLoach@HighlandsFL.Gov](mailto:LDeLoach@HighlandsFL.Gov), 863 402 6504

#### Questions and Answers

Q1 The indemnification clause in RFP 22-012/LKD (page 7, item 5.2) is not in compliance with FL Statute 725.08 and is unenforceable. Will the County consider rewording the indemnification language to conform with the statute?

- Suggested language per FL Statutes 725.08: *"The design professional shall indemnify and hold harmless the agency, and its officers and employees, from liabilities, damages, losses, and costs, including, but not limited to, reasonable attorneys' fees, to the extent caused by the negligence, recklessness, or intentionally wrongful conduct of the design professional and other persons employed or utilized by the design professional in the performance of the contract."*

*Please note that our current contract with the County (RFP 20-2024 Continuing Services Library) executed in April 2021 has indemnification language that complies with the statute.*

**A1** **Item 5.2 shall be revised as follows:**  
**INDEMNIFICATION. Subject to limitations of Florida law, the Consultant shall indemnify and hold harmless the County, and its officers and employees, from liabilities, damages, losses, and costs, including, but not limited to, reasonable attorneys' fees, arising from a third-party claim, all to the extent caused by the negligence, recklessness, or intentionally wrongful conduct of the Consultant and other persons employed or utilized by the Consultant in the performance of this Contract. Said indemnification, defense, and hold harmless actions shall not be limited by any required insurance coverage amounts set forth herein and shall survive termination or natural termination of this Agreement. Consultant**

shall have the right to control the defense and settlement of any claim for which indemnification is sought, provided that Consultant may not enter into any settlement that requires an admission of wrongdoing by any indemnitee without that indemnitee's consent. Consultant's obligations under this Article 8 are contingent upon the party seeking indemnification provided timely notice of the claim, such that the defense is not materially prejudiced, and such reasonable assistance with the defense as Consultant may request.

Q2 Are the seven target areas already identified? If they are, where are they and how much area is in each target area?

**A2 See attachment(s)**

Q3 What is the County Adopted Budget for this project?

**A3 Highlands County has elected to not reveal engineering estimates or budget amounts for a project unless required by grant funding or unless it is in the best interest of the County. According to FL § 337.168: A document or electronic file revealing the official cost estimate of the department of a project is confidential and exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1) until the contract for the project has been executed or until the project is no longer under active consideration.**

Q4 Is there a preferred model (or suite of models) for this study?

**A4 The generally preferred model is AdICPR 4 or similar. Submit as part of the proposal any other recommended or desired models.**

Q5 Can the County provide additional information regarding Placid Lakes, June Canal impairment and the associated undetermined pollutant?

**A5 At this time additional information is not readily available. The County will work with the awarded firm to provide any documentation in their possession.**

Q6 May we use the client prepared references we already have, or does the County have a preferred reference form?

**A6 Yes, no format requirements.**

Q7 Must tables and graphs also use an arial font?

**A7 See Section 6. The font needs to be legible and comply with ADA visibility/readability requirements.**

Q8 **A** Will an existing hydrologic and hydraulic model be available for this project?

**B** Has sufficient data been collected to update the model, or is this work intended to fall under the SOW for this project?

**A8 A. The County will provide any information at our disposal to the awarded firm. There have been previous models done in some areas, all at various stages of completion and details. Mainly the data available are GIS based roadway networks, lidar data (where available from State sources), and limited pipe data. Specific elevation data and flow information will need to be collected as part of the SOW where necessary.**

**B. This project will require additional data collection.**

Q9 Is there a format for references that the County would prefer?

**A9 See Answer 6**

Q10 Regarding the following sentence “Describe in-house capabilities of the Proposer’s staff to provide construction scheduling, cost control, value engineering, change order negotiations, construction management, control system operation and quality assurance.” Is it the intent of the County to carry through the planning-level study described in this scope to construction under this same contract?

**A10 It is the intent to hire a firm with the knowledge and experience to perform the scope of services provided in the RFP documents. This project is to develop a list of options with a benefit analysis and recommendations for alleviating concerns within each area.**

Q11 Should personnel roles/resumes be modified to align with Attachment B, Standard Job Classes?

Is it required that the Project Manager be a PE?

**A11 For solicitation purposes personnel roles/resume do not need to be altered to use the same Job Class descriptions. To clarify further Attachment B Standard Job Classes is a guide of what will be used by the awarded firm to provide hourly rates for their firm and their sub-consultant’s. The project manager should be qualified and experienced in the field but is not required to be a P.E.**

Q12 Is it the intent of the County to develop a Watershed Management Plan and associated Best Management Practices for the target areas under this SOW?

**A12 This project is to help identify the needs within the study areas and develop recommendations for developing a BMP plan or construction activities to alleviate issues related to stormwater runoff.**

Q13 Is there existing water quality information within the target areas to support water quality improvement calculations?

**A13 No known information is available at this time.**

**Attachments: A1-1 Project Information  
A1-2 Study Area Map**

## ATTACHMENT

### PROJECT INFORMATION

#### A1. DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES

##### Project Information

The project is a planning level study for Highlands County. The study will focus on targeted areas throughout the County to identify opportunities to improve both water quality and flood control. Seven target areas, averaging 1800 acres in size, within 11 total basins and three watersheds will be analyzed. In total, the basins/the target areas are located and account for over 340 square miles of land. The seven target areas affect over 19,000 parcels, as well as reducing flooding on major roads, including an evacuation route. The analysis will include determining the overall benefit and cost of multiple alternatives, environmental impacts of each alternative, and determining benefit-cost ratios for each identified improvement so that the County can implement and appropriately prioritize the most cost-effective solutions.

Alternatives such as filter marshes, lakes, and roadside swales which provide both attenuation and water quality will be considered to provide the most benefit to the overall watersheds. Water quality will be especially beneficial for these areas as many of them are older neighborhoods with no current BMPs in place. All areas within the study are located within the Lake Okeechobee Basin Management Action Plan which was developed to help reduce the amount of Phosphorus runoff in the Lake Okeechobee Basin. Lakes and reservoirs are great alternatives that provide both attenuation for flooding as well as nitrogen and phosphorus removal. Lakes and reservoirs are especially effective for phosphorus removal because they allow phosphorus to settle out without resuspending. Several of the watersheds in this study are also impaired for dissolved oxygen, macrophytes, or Chlorophyll a. These impairments can also often be linked to an imbalance of Nitrogen. Filter marshes are designed with shallower depths than lakes and provide an environment for nitrogen to oxidize and be released as well as some phosphorus removal.

In addition to the water quality benefits, the improvements will improve flood conditions. The chosen areas of interest all have some level of flood concerns, including structure and/or roadway flooding. This study will quantify the amount of damages from the existing flooding during a design storm. For each alternative, the damages for the same design storm will be determined. The project cost versus the avoided damages (the benefit-cost ratio) will serve as a standard to compare each proposed alternative and provide recommendations to move forward into design, permitting, and construction.

For each of the seven target areas below, information on existing water quality and flood conditions is included below:

Avon Park Estates:

- Roadway Flooding
- Aging and Undersized Infrastructure
- Minimal Existing BMPs for water quality
- Potential land available for water quality and attenuation

Sebring Country Estates:

- Roadway and Structure Flooding
- Evacuation Route Flooding
- Impaired for DO, Macrophytes, and Chlorophyll-a
- Potential land identified to acquire and use for both attenuation and water quality improvements

Sebring Falls:

- Roadway and Structure Flooding
- Evacuation Route Flooding
- Impaired for DO, Macrophytes and Chlorophyll-a

Lake Haven Estates:

- Roadway Flooding
- No Master Drainage Plan and Little to No Drainage Features
- Impaired for DO, Macrophytes and Chlorophyll-a
- Potential incorporation of local drainage features with added water quality benefit.

Orange Blossom Estates:

- Roadway Flooding
- Poorly Draining Soils
- Impaired for heavy metals and phosphorus
- Potential incorporation of local drainage features with added water quality benefit.

Lake Placid:

- Roadway Flooding
- June Canal is impaired by an undetermined pollutant
- Lake Placid is impaired for DO, TP, Copper, and Lead

Spring Lake:

- Roadway Flooding
- Aging and Damaged Infrastructure
- Impaired for Nitrogen, Chlorophyll-a, and Phosphorus

