

PASCO COUNTY, FLORIDA
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Chairman and
Members of the Board of
County Commissioners

DATE: 1/3/08

FILE: ELA08-007

THRU: Bipin Parikh, P.E.
Assistant County Administrator
(Development Services)

SUBJECT: Environmental Lands Acquisition and
Management Program (ELAMP) – Florida
Communities Trust Reimbursement
Grant for the Upper Pithlachascotee
River Preserve
(BCC: 1/22/08; 10:00 a.m., NPR)

THRU: James Widman, P.E.
Engineering Services Director/
County Engineer

REFERENCES: Commission District 2

It is recommended that the data herein presented be given formal consideration by the Board of County Commissioners (BCC).

DESCRIPTION AND CONDITIONS:

On May 9, 2007, the Environmental Lands Acquisition and Management Program (ELAMP) staff submitted a grant proposal to the State of Florida through the Florida Communities Trust (FCT) program for reimbursement of 50% of the land purchase price and associated acquisition costs for the 111-acre Upper Pithlachascotee River property purchased on January 25, 2007, and the 11-acre Hoover property purchased on April 27, 2007, by the County through the ELAMP.

The proposal included the following parcel numbers:

Upper Pithlachascotee River property:	05-25-18-0000-00300-0000
	05-25-18-0000-00300-0010
	06-25-18-0000-00300-0013
	07-25-18-0000-00100-0000
Hoover property:	05-25-18-0000-00100-0010

The properties are located in the North Pasco to Crossbar Critical Linkage area as designated by the *Assessment of Measures to Protect Wildlife Habitat in Pasco County* (Glattig Jackson Kercher Anglin Lopez Rinehart, 2002). These acquisitions represent the first acquisitions by the ELAMP and are among the first protected properties in the Critical Linkages.

On November 2, 2007, the Governing Board of FCT convened to review proposals and provided ten (10) project excellence points to the Upper Pithlachascotee River Preserve proposal, giving the project a final score of 180 points, and ranking it in the funded category.

The total grant award is \$787,900, determined as follows:

\$1,542,800	Land purchase costs
<u>\$ 33,000</u>	Acquisition costs
\$1,575,800	Total project costs
\$787,900 (50%)	Florida Communities Trust reimbursement
\$787,900 (50%)	Pasco County share

By accepting the FCT grant, the County is affirming the representations made in the application, and agreeing to submit a Project Plan and a Management Plan (both already underway), and annual stewardship reports documenting progress made in implementing the Management Plan.

The BCC is requested to approve the attached Florida Communities Trust Grant Contract. Staff will then proceed to fulfill all of the pre-closing contract requirements and will subsequently request the reimbursement funds through FCT. Reimbursement funds are to be used for additional acquisitions through the ELAMP or for land management and site improvement needs on ELAMP property.

ALTERNATIVES AND ANALYSIS:

Alternatives available to the BCC on this matter are:

1. Approve the attached Florida Communities Trust Grant Contract for 50% reimbursement of the purchase price and transaction costs for two properties, authorizing staff to proceed in filling the grant requirements.
2. Direct staff as to some other course of action.

RECOMMENDATION AND FUNDING:

The Environmental Lands Program Manager recommends that the BCC approve Alternative No. 1, authorizing the Chairman to execute the two original Grant Contracts provided, authorizing staff to proceed in filling the grant requirements, and directing the Board Records Department to distribute the two executed originals to René Wiesner Brown, Environmental Lands Program Manager.

Funding for the completion of the grant requirements is available in Account No. B102-411700.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Florida Communities Trust Grant Contract for the Upper Pithlachascotee River Preserve (2 originals)
2. Map showing the location of the Upper Pithlachascotee River and Hoover properties

JCW/RWB/d/ela08007

cc: Samuel P. Steffey, II, Administrator, Growth Management