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APPLICATION FOR POLLUTION RECOVERY FUND ASSISTANCE

DATE OF APPLICATION: 4/26/06

A. BASIC ASSISTANCE

1. Applicant: The legal name of the applicant/organization, the organizational unit and the complete mailing address of the applicant.

Name: MacDonald Training Center, Inc.

Organization: MacDonald Training Center, Inc.

Address: 5420 W. Cypress St., Tampa, FL 33607

2. Project Manager Information: Give name and title of the representative of the applicant who will be the Environmental Protection Commission's principle contact concerning this application

Name Marianne Monoc

Title Director of Fund Development

Address 5420 W. Cypress St., Tampa, FL 33607

Phone Number 813-870-1300, ext. 283

Project Title Hillsborough County Seagrass Aquaculture Center

Start: October 1st, 2006 End: January 1st, 2007

Project Time _____

Total Cost of Project \$ \$765,000

Total EPC share requested \$ \$165,000

3. Assistance Type: **New or Renewal** (check one)

New - Award of funds for initial request within the project period.

Renewal - Award of funds for a project beyond the current project period.

4. Project Location: The specific location(s) of the project. (Attach Site Map)

The Southeast ¼ of the Northwest ¼ of Section 3, Township 31 South, Range 19 East



5. Is the Project for:

Restoration of a polluted area

Mitigation of the effects of pollution

Pollution Control Activity to prevent or minimize pollution

Educational

6. Is the Project directed toward restoring an identified "polluted area" (a geographic area destroyed or altered by dredging or filling or contaminated by an emission or discharge), or toward terminating an identified pollution source? Identify and explain:

Yes; the project will help water clarity and restore seagrasses to an area that has been lost due to decreased water clarity associated with nutrient over-enrichment prior to 1980. The oyster reefs will be placed to allow for water flow and seagrass growth where traditionally seagrasses existed prior.

7. Is the harm or potential harm to health, safety or welfare of the public or wildlife actual or potential? Does the project seek to alleviate actual or potential harm and what is the severity of the harm and the causal relationship between the "pollution" and the harm?

Identify and explain:

The project should alleviate actual harm to critical underwater habitat (Oyster beds & Seagrasses) from a past pollutant. The restoration of oyster reefs and seagrass will restore this critical habitat to an area where light conditions will be adequate for the support of the two ecosystems.

8. How long has the pollution existed or how long before any harm will be evident?
-

The loss of oysters and seagrasses was first documented from photographs in Hillsborough Bay before 1950, although historic navigation charts and earlier snapshots indicate that seagrass loss may have been occurring even earlier. Seagrass acreage in Hillsborough Bay in 1950 was estimated at 2,231 acres. In 1988, less than 7 acres were mapped. Since then they have increased to around 565 acres in 2004. However the total acreage long term target is well below the 1950's range.

9. Identify and describe how the project proposes to alleviate the pollution (addressing technical, practical, and cost effectiveness issues):

1. The site has historically supported seagrass and oyster reefs
 2. Placement of oyster reefs will direct water flow through seagrass restoration area and increase fish populations along with essential fish habitat.
 3. The project will serve to increase community involvement in the environment through the participation of Respect of Florida and MacDonald Training Center in this initiative.
 4. Cost effectiveness is addressed through the participation of MacDonald Training Center. The consumers employed in the Center's workshop will sew the sediment bags necessary for the project. Since the Center's workshop is a learning environment, the bags will be sewn at a per piece rate, resulting in a cost-savings of between \$2.00-\$3.00 per bag, when compared to professional manufacturing prices. The side benefit, though certainly no less important, involves increased work contracts for the Center's developmentally disabled consumers and a unique opportunity for them to give something of value back to their community.
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10. Is the polluted area one which has previously been subject to commission enforcement and, if so, when and what was the result?

Not that we are aware of.

11. If no actual pollution exists and no prior commission enforcement action has occurred, does the project otherwise enhance pollution control activities within the County?

Pollution (Nutrient over-enrichment resulting in poor water clarity) has existed in the Tampa Bay resulting in loss of both oyster beds and seagrasses. Once the oyster reefs are placed and are established, then, over time, expansion will happen.

12. Can this Project be divided into separate and independent parts, and if so,

a) what are they? Yes; as drawn, the project contains several oyster reefs with certain amounts of fill on each. Each can be installed independently.

b) how would the costs be allocated between them? The costs would be allocated based on the size of the reef and amount of fill needed for each one.

c) would the applicant be willing to accept only partial funding? yes

13. Are other funding sources committed to the project? Yes; In-Kind services

How much and for what? \$15,000 in-kind from Seagrass Recovery for consulting services

14. What other funding sources may be available and how much? We will be researching other available grant funds, including potential funding from NOAA; amount unknown.

15. Why do you believe that this Project is of sufficient importance to justify the expenditure of Pollution Recovery Funds? The importance of the project is that it directly addresses the impact of past pollution in Tampa Bay. The restoration of seagrasses and oyster beds in areas which historically supported them is an adopted long term goal of the partners of the Tampa Bay Estuary Program.

16. Will the project enhance the value of private property, and if so, whose? Yes

The property is owned by MacDonald Training Center.

B. ATTACHMENTS

All applicants must submit responses to the following as attachments corresponding to the indicated numbers:

1. Please provide a detailed map of the project site.

2. Principal Investigator and Key Personnel - Present a biographical sketch of the principal Investigator incorporating the following information: Name, Address, Phone Number, Education, Background and other qualifying experience for the project.

3. Project Narrative - Please provide a narrative statement describing the project that includes the following:
 - a) Objectives of this Project - Describe the principal and subordinate environmental objectives of the project. Pinpoint any relevant physical, economic, social, financial, institutional or other problems requiring solution.

 - b) Results and/or Benefits Expected - Identify specific environmental results and/or benefits to be derived from the project. Include all primary and secondary benefits accruing to the grantee, to the pollution served, and in general, to the public and environment.

 - c) General Project Information - Discuss the criteria that will be used to evaluate the results and successes of the project as well its relationship to other work planned, anticipated or underway.

4. Scope of Work –



**TAMPA BAY
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA**

Faller Davis & Associates, Inc.
5825 W. CYPRESS ST. - SUITE 300
TAMPA, FLORIDA 33607-1707

**J. CLIFFORD MACDONALD
CENTER PROPERTY**



SEAGRASS & OYSTER REEF PROJECT

Attachment 2

Principal Investigator and Key Personnel

The principal investigator in the Hillsborough County Seagrass Aquaculture Center project is MacDonald Training Center, Inc. The Center is located at 5420 W. Cypress St., Tampa, FL 33607, with a sister site at 2902 North Cork Road, Plant City, Florida 33565.

Jim Freyvogel is the President/CEO of MacDonald Training Center, Inc. He can be reached at the Tampa address listed above and/or by phone at (813) 870-1300. The Center's website is www.macdonaldcenter.org.

Incorporated in 1955 as a private, not-for-profit organization, MacDonald Training Center has been privileged to serve people with disabilities in the Tampa Bay area for half a century. The Center was founded through the efforts of J. Clifford MacDonald and a group of interested parents, prominent civic leaders, and the Junior League of Tampa. Community involvement, volunteers and financial support permitted the Center to begin as one of the State's first pre-school programs for individuals with developmental disabilities. Over the years, it was recognized that persons with developmental disabilities required a broader scope of services. In answer, the Center added both primary and support services to address those requirements.

Today, we strive to meet the individual needs of each person we serve by providing enriched environments and a wide variety of service options and opportunities. Our services include:

Community Living—Living in one's own home is a dream many of us share...including people with developmental disabilities. Our supported living coaches arrange necessary supports so that nearly 100 of the people we serve may live that dream. For those individuals who may need more than coaches' services to live successfully on their own, we also provide in-home companions, by the hour or 24-hours/day, depending upon individual need.

Employment—With a job comes dignity, respect, and more money. More money means more choices, and more choices mean greater freedom. For these reasons, the Center has committed itself to being one of the premier providers of employment services for people with developmental disabilities in the state. For those with other types of disabilities and challenges, our *Projects with Industry* team stands ready to meet their individual employment needs.

Vocational Skills Training—For those individuals not quite ready, willing, or able to make the leap to competitive employment, we offer vocational skills training as part of our GateWay Services independence career track.

Life Enrichment Activities—For those who are at retirement age, or who have challenges that make competitive employment highly unlikely, our GateWay Services

offers a variety of life enrichment activities suited to each individual's specific needs and interests.

Key Personnel for the Hillsborough County Seagrass Aquaculture Center project will include employees of Seagrass Recovery, Inc., a company that is involved with the development and marketing of salvage, cultivation, planting, rehabilitation, and management operations in relation to seagrass communities, primarily in the United States and its territories. Seagrass Recovery, Inc. carries two patents for prop-scar restoration: US Patent #6,493,990 B1 and US Patent #6,793,438 B2.

The company was founded in 1997 by Jim Anderson, to develop efficient, effective mechanical solutions for the management of seagrass resources. Mr. Anderson has 30 years of experience in agricultural farming skills, from turf farming to landscaping. Seagrass Recovery employs a highly-regarded part-time marine biologist on its staff, Manuel Merello, who works on monitoring, writing, and implementing state policies and initiatives from the Fish & Wildlife Conservation. Mr. Merello has over 12 years of experience specifically working with seagrass. He has collaborated on seagrass projects with Judson Kenworthy and Mark Fonseca in the U.S. and Puerto Rico. Mr. Merello is also employed with the Fish & Wildlife Research Institute.

The first technology to be developed by Mr. Anderson was a patented watercraft (Agricultural Chemical Application Vessel; US Patent #DES.397.987) that is able to deliver a nutritional medium (Sediment Amendment Growth Enhancer or SAGE) to the roots of seagrasses to promote enhanced and health. SAGE is a growth stimulant that ameliorates toxic imbalances in seagrass sediments.

The second mechanical technology for seagrass recovery to be developed and patented was a planting vessel (Aquatic Planting Process and Related Apparatus; US Patent #6,070,537 and US Patent #6,073,563). This apparatus can plant individual bare-root units or pre-cultured seagrass plants in areas devoid of seagrasses. One unit can be planted every 2.5 seconds.

The most dramatic technology developed by Mr. Anderson is a series of vessels known as GIGA Unit Transplant Systems (GUTS), which move 20 square foot sods of seagrasses and transports them intact with their sediments and associated organisms to remote sites suitable for their planting and survival.

Seagrass Recovery is located 4331 Cockroach Bay, Ruskin, FL 33570, and can be reached at (813) 641-6763 or at www.seagrass.net.

Attachment 3a

Project Objective:

The objective of the project is to mitigate actual environmental harm to the Kitchen area of Tampa Bay from past pollutants, through the establishment of oyster beds and seagrass. Some potential obstacles are the shallowness of the water in the area, obtaining enough funding to complete the project in its entirety, and obtaining all necessary permits to do the restoration work. Water shallowness will be addressed through the use of a shallow draft barge equipped with a specialized delivery snout to place the limestone and oyster shell on the seabed. Since this is the initial stage of development of this initiative, we shall be seeking funding from various sources, including NOAA, in addition to this application to the EPC. Permits will be needed from the EP, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the Tampa Port Authority and MacDonald Training Center, Inc. is currently working to obtain them.

Attachment 3b

Results and/or benefits expected:

The importance of the project is that it directly addresses the impact of past pollution on Tampa Bay. The restoration of seagrasses and oyster beds in areas which historically supported them is an adopted long term goal of the partners of the Tampa Bay Estuary Program. The loss of oysters and seagrasses was first documented from photographs in Hillsborough Bay before 1950, although historic navigation charts and earlier snapshots indicate that seagrass loss may have been occurring even earlier. Seagrass acreage in Hillsborough Bay in 1950 was estimated at 2,231 acres. In 1988, less than 7 acres were mapped. Since then they have increased to around 565 acres in 2004. However the total acreage long term target is well below the 1950's range. Pollution (nutrient over-enrichment resulting in poor water clarity) has existed in the Tampa Bay resulting in loss of both oyster beds and seagrasses. Once the oyster reefs are placed and are established, over time, expansion will happen. The project should alleviate actual harm to critical underwater habitat (oyster beds & seagrasses) from a past pollutant. The restoration of oyster reefs and seagrass will restore this critical habitat to an area where light conditions will be adequate for the support of the two ecosystems. The benefits to MacDonald Training Center, Inc., are many-fold. Production of the seagrass sediment tubes will bring extra work and income to the developmentally disabled consumers at the Center, and will afford them a unique opportunity to give something of value back to their community. Since the property and the seabed are both owned by MacDonald Training Center, Inc., the growth of seagrass in the Kitchen area and its subsequent harvesting will also ensure extra income for the Center itself, allowing it to rely less and less on unreliable state and federal funding and more on its own resources and industry. The public at large will benefit from a cleaner Bay and in turn, a cleaner Bay will enhance fishing in the area since the improved water quality will increase fish populations.

Attachment 3c

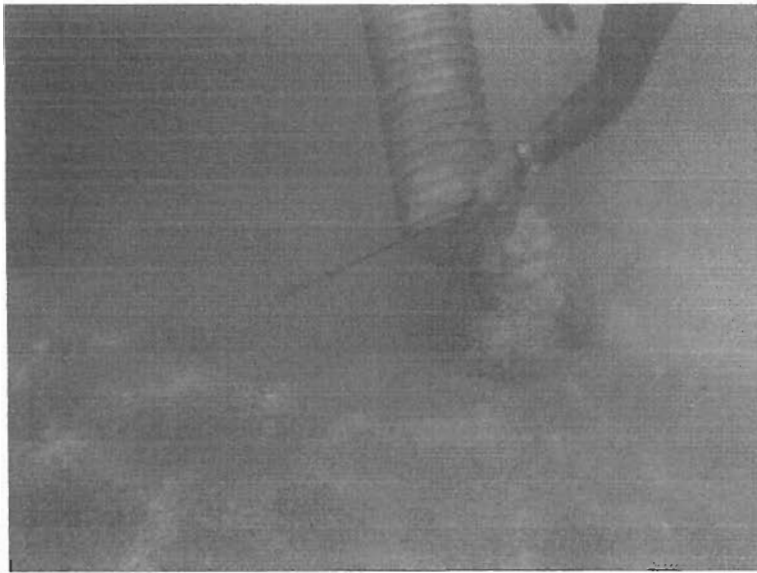
General Project Information/Evaluation Criteria:

To determine project performance, pre-implementation water quality sampling will be done in the area and used as a benchmark for improvement. Thereafter, water quality sampling will be performed again at the following intervals: 6 months, 1 year, and 2 years after implementation. Success will be indicated by an increase in water clarity. Success of the project will also be judged by the propagation of the seagrass and will be measured by acres of seagrass grown at the same time intervals as listed above. Measurement of seagrass will be done through aerial photography.

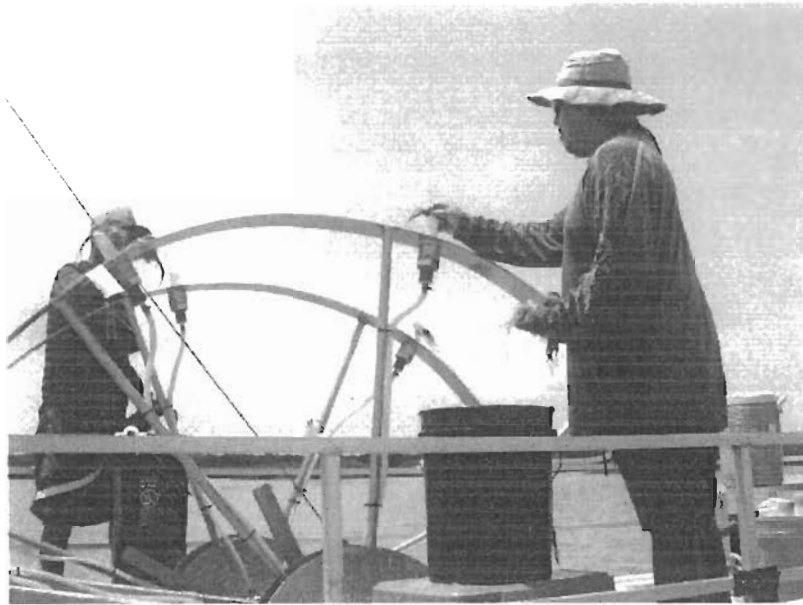
Attachment 4

Scope of Work:

Seagrass Recovery, LLC will place 375 cubic meters or 750,000 tons of ¾ inch crushed limestone and oyster shell onto the bay bottom using a special shallow draft barge equipped with a specialized delivery snout.



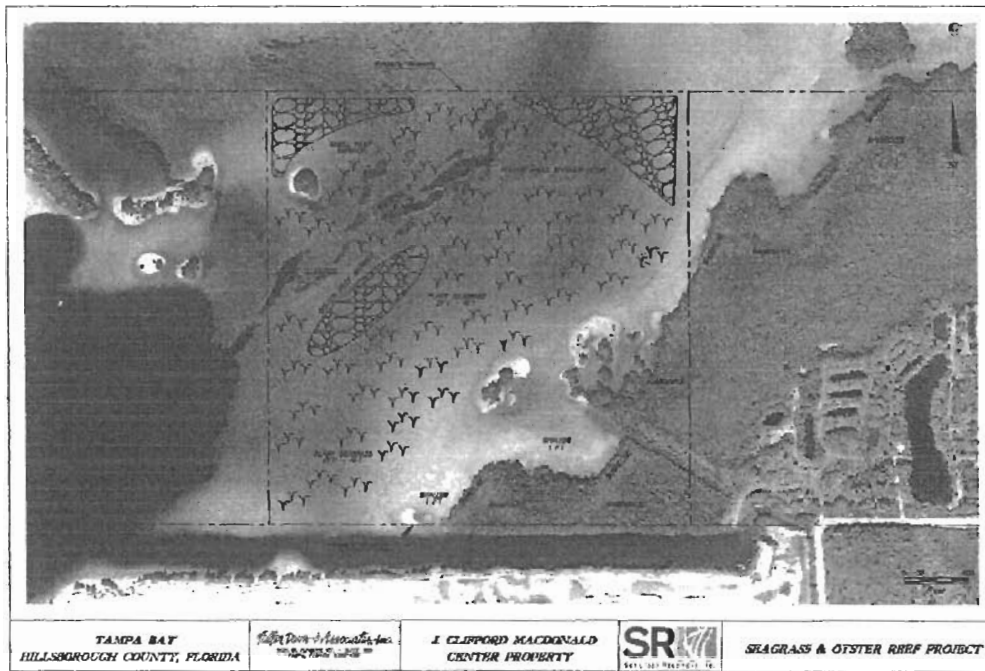
While placing the rock/oyster shells SR will maintain a consistent elevation with respect to mean low tide. After the rock/oyster reef has had time to start bacteria and other essential fish habitat, SR will then “kick start” the seagrass planting area behind the newly formed oyster reefs to further clarify the water. During construction of the oyster reef SR will apply for further funding to expand the oyster reefs to cover approximately 4 acres of the Tampa Bay bottom. The result would be a potential 30 acre seagrass restoration area for a combined total 40 acre previously polluted restoration site. It will take approximately 4 months for the oyster/rock reef to start to filter the bacteria into the area. At approximately 6 months SR will go behind the oyster reef and plant *Halodule Wrightii* using J.E.B. (Jim’s Environmental Boat).



J.E.B. will have a boat captain along with 3 volunteers to plant the first 3 acres of seagrass. Donor material will be harvested from SR farm raised seagrass located at our 2 acre ponds next to the redfish hatchery at Port Manatee.



After the units are installed they will be farm grown just as the seagrass was raised in our seagrass pond at Port Manatee. The initial 3 acres will be grown in by 2 years. Then we will apply for future grant money to harvest small amounts and continue to plant the remaining 30 acres. This process will allow for 40 acres of increased essential fish habitat.



5. Budget Information – Please itemize expenditures necessary to perform project using the following format:

BUDGET CATEGORIES

	PRF Funds	Federal	Applicant	State	Other
a. Personnel					
1.					
2.					
b. Administrative					
c. Materials	\$25,000: Limestone & oyster shell mixture at \$56/cu. meter with 375 meters needed, plus sediment tubes				
d. Contractual					
e. Construction	\$125,000: Includes all labor: boat captain, project manager, 3 general laborers, project supervisor, and project assistant Also includes equipment usage of the J.E.B. and miscellaneous expenses				
f. Other	\$15,000 for lease of shallow draft aluminum barge				
g. Total Direct Charges (Sum of a. to f.)	\$165,000				

C. SUBMITTAL OF APPLICATION

Please submit a total of five (5) applications (one original and four (4) copies / one of which must be in electronic format as a CD) to:

Environmental Protection Commission of Hillsborough County
Environmental Resources Management Division
Attn: Tom Ash / Pollution Recovery Fund
3629 Queen Palm Dr., Tampa, Florida 33619

***Completed applications must be received at the above address by
5:00pm (EDT), May 1, 2006.***

Late applications and email applications will not be considered.

www.epchc.org

E-Mail: epcinfo@epchc.org

AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION – EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

PRF APPLICATION PROCESS

Instructions

The Hillsborough County Environmental Protection Act (Chapter 84-446, Laws of Florida) has created a pollution recovery fund which is to be supervised and used by the commission to restore polluted areas of the county, as defined by the commission, to the condition they were in before pollution occurred, to mitigate the effects of pollution, or to otherwise enhance pollution control activities within the county.

Application Forms must be submitted on or before the May 1, 2006 deadline.

- There will be a newspaper advertisement, and possibly press releases, specifying the deadline for submitting applications.
- Application forms and instructions can be obtained from Tom Ash, phone 813-627-2600 x1011 or from our website at: www.epchc.org
- Except under special circumstances, applications submitted earlier than the deadline will be held until the next processing period, and then processed with the others.

Following the deadline, applications will be distributed to staff appropriate to the project for review and recommendation to the Executive Director.

- Staff may contact the applicant upon beginning review, and if a meeting to discuss details is requested or advisable, will schedule it.
- Staff will meet with the Executive Director to discuss all applications in the group and to prioritize and determine recommendations.

A summary of the Executive Director's recommendations will be forwarded to CEAC along with copies of all applications.

- Staff will send a copy of the Executive Director's recommendations to each applicant along with a notice of the meeting date at which CEAC will discuss the applications and its recommendations to the EPC Board.
- Applicants are invited to attend the CEAC meeting and make a brief presentation in support of their project.

Staff and CEAC recommendations will be presented to the Commission for decision.

- The EPC Board meeting will likely be the second meeting following the CEAC meeting so that the information can be properly placed on the agenda.
- The Applicant may attend the EPC meeting and request to speak.

If the project is approved, the applicant must sign a contract before monies will be available.

- EPC Legal will draft the contract with standard terms and conditions, and provide it to the applicant for review and execution.
- EPC Legal will arrange for execution of the contract by the EPC Chair after it is executed by the applicant, and will then forward final copies to the Applicant's Project Manager and the EPC Project Manager.
- The EPC Project Manager will be responsible for ensuring the applicant's compliance with the contract.