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OFFICE

APPLICATION FOR POLLUTION RECOVERY FUND ASSISTANCE

DATE OF APPLICATION: April 26, 2006

A. BASIC ASSISTANCE

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

Name: Mike Coffey/Olivia Mead/Shawn Austin
Organization: Wilson Lakes Neighborhood Association
Address: 18613 Geraci Road, Lutz, FL 33548

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 Mike Coffey
Title Co-President, WLNA
Address 18613 Geraci Road, Lutz, FL 33548
Phone Number 813-948-3007 (home) 813-494-5007 (cell)
Project Title WLNA Storm Water Pollution Mitigation
Start: September 1, 2006 End: Unknown at this time because of the nature of the project.
Project Time _____
Total Cost of Project \$ 94,500
Total EPC share requested \$ 94,500

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)

Little Lake Wilson & Lake Wilson are located in the Lake Ruth System of the RBC Watershed. The outfall from the Lake Ruth System to Rocky Creek is located just upstream from the Lutz-Lake Fern Road. The immediate drainage area of Little Lake Wilson as it appears in the RBC Watershed Master Plan is represented by sub-basin no's 464210, 464220, 464230, and 464240. See map attached. Sub-basin 464210 drains approximately 46.74 acres, sub-basin 464230 drains approximately 52.45 acres and sub-basin 64240 drains approximately 7.96 acres. Sub-basin 464220 serves only as a conveyance node which has no area associated with it. Sub-basin 464230 includes the immediate area surrounding Little Lake Wilson. The small sub-basin 464240 is located north of Geraci Road and sub-basin 464210 is located northwest of Little Lake Wilson with its limits being defined north of Geraci Road and south of Lutz Lake Fern Road.

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 (**NOTE: Education is involved however WLNA will assume the cost associated with this as part of our involvement and execution**

of our Lake Management Plan.)

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:

When the FL DOT widened Dale Mabry Highway in the early 1990's...a 36" drainpipe was installed to handle runoff. The pipe was positioned to empty directly into Little Lake Wilson. The pipe collects storm water from a large surrounding area that includes gas stations, plant nurseries, and most notably a horse farm. During rains, massive amounts of water pour directly into Little Lake Wilson. To name a few "pollutants," water coming through the pipe contains petroleum byproducts, excessive nutrients produced by fertilizers etc., and most notably bacteria and fecal matter directly deposited from the horse farm. This is a much studied, well-documented fact

supported by extensive testing and summary reports. Several completed reports have been attached as supporting documentation. In addition, we are expecting (within 30 days) a finalized comprehensive and up-to-date Watershed Management Plan. A draft of this plan is available and is included with this application. All tests, studies, and reports offer conclusive evidence that: (*Quoted in part from Little Lake Wilson Report, August 2003*)

- *Water quality data collected by volunteers on a regular basis since 1998 reflects the increase in development in the area specifically the impact of the widening of SR 597 (Dale Mabry Highway).*
 - *The abundant flow of nutrients (TP and TN) to the lake is accelerating eutrophication processes resulting in an environmental imbalance in the lake.*
 - *The eutrophication process in Little Lake Wilson has manifested in an overgrowth of *Salvinia minima* (waterfern). (NOTE: WLNA has TEMPORARILY controlled this overgrowth with professionally applied herbicides).*
 - *Analysis of DNA fingerprints of 5 colonies of *E.coli* cultured from the water sample statistically matched animal sources recorded in a database of known source of DNA fingerprints. Aiming to reduce bacteria coliform levels specially the ones generated at the horse farms is essential.*
 - *Implementation of Best Management Practices (BMP) treatment should be pursued for the area. It should include:*
 - *Infiltration practices with the purpose of reducing total volume of runoff and reduce pollutants*
-

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 harm is REAL. Recently residents have been warned (in Little Lake Wilson) that the water is unsafe for swimming due to fecal coliform and *E.coli* bacteria. Just this year, both Little Lake Wilson and Lake Wilson were identified by the EPC as one of a handful of county lakes with unsafe mercury levels in fish. Children, women of childbearing age, the elderly, or anyone with susceptible health conditions have been warned NOT to eat ANY fish from the lakes. Healthy adults have also been warned to limit intake to 1 to 2 fish per week. These warnings are very real...and have cast a considerable shadow of concern over living on the lake...and certainly enjoying the lake for ANY kind of recreational purposes.

This project is ONE step among many that the WLNA is planning to take to help reduce the bacteria and the pollutants entering the lake via the DOT pipe.

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

Several residents have lived on these lakes for 25 to 30 years. These residents have provided first-hand knowledge that the decline in water quality started **ONLY** when the 36" drainpipe was installed by DOT when the road was widened. It took about a year for problems to be noticed. Within 5 years, the water quality had dramatically declined and all evidence is clear...**THE DECLINE WILL CONTINUE UNTIL 1. The pipe is moved or relocated (which DOT has indicated at meetings with Commissioner Ken Hagen and other high-level officials they will not do) or 2. The water coming through the pipe is treated and filtered to remove pollutants and bacteria.**

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

The scientists, engineers, and environmental specialists who have extensively studied this situation all agree that the installation of a Stormwater Treatment system that provides pretreatment of the incoming water could help reduce the amount of pollutants. Since we have fought unsuccessfully (as private residents **AND** as a neighborhood association) to get DOT to remove or redirect the pipe...we know that such a system is truly our only hope of saving our lakes. Without it, the lakes will continue to decline and could even die. We also know that the horse farm will continue to be a major source of E.coli and fecal coliform bacteria. Installation of a UV device at the pipe would kill the bacteria before it has a chance to enter the lake. While we do not anticipate that the UV device can be installed under this grant application and project...we are going to look toward the future and design a system that can be adapted to accept this technology as additional funds become available from funding sources.

10. Is the polluted area one which has previously been subject to commission enforcement and, if so, when and what was the result?

We assume that the referenced "commission" above is referencing the EPC. As stated, this problem is **100%** generated by circumstances beyond the control of the residents or the WLNA. Actually, we would **WELCOME** EPC taking a tough enforcement position...to hold those parties responsible accountable for fixing the problem. The closest we've come is a directive from Commissioner Hagen and EPC (along with Public Works) to conduct a water-quality study to determine pollutant source. That study (attempted during the dry months) was limited due to the lack of rain during the study period. It did however show "elevated levels of fecal coliform and enterococcus bacteria" at the drainage pipe in question. Subsequent studies to map DNA (Lake Management Plan) indicated fecal coliform and bacteria pollutant sources was animal and linked directly to the horse farm across Dale Mabry highway and part of the drainage area. Many departments and agencies (including ECP) have been made aware of the pollution coming through the pipe.

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?

There's no question that ACTUAL pollution exists. There's no question of the pollution source and the delivery instrument (the 36" pipe) into Little Lake Wilson. There's no question that Little Lake Wilson is part of the Rocky/Brushy Creek Area watershed drainage system that empties directly into Tampa Bay. All are well-documented facts. To address the problem at the source (the pipe) is no doubt a way to reduce pollution within the County and protect the estuary of Tampa Bay.

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

a) what are they? **We are not experts in this field, however it would seem that there really are no "separate and independent parts" to such a project. The only exception might be the pre-treatment baffle system and the UV system (which we will add at a later date).**

b) how would the costs be allocated between them?

c) would the applicant be willing to accept only partial funding? **No for reasons stated below.**

Because of the costs involved, we're not financially in a position to make a commitment to a contractor for costs not covered under the grant. It's not only an issue of funds...as private citizens; we certainly cannot alter a drainage system that has been installed by the FL DOT or Hillsborough County.

13. Are other funding sources committed to the project? **No, not at this time.**

How much and for what?

This is such a capital-intensive program, we do not have the funds to privately fund the Stormwater Treatment system and the UV system. Nor is it our responsibility since we're not creating the pollution. The WLNA is however very committed to implementing our long-range Lake Management Plan that includes a variety of less capital-intensive projects. Every resident of the WLNA will be encouraged to fully participate in "doing their part" to protect and enhance the lakes. Additionally, if in kind labor is required WLNA residents are always ready and able to participate when it's appropriate.

14. What other funding sources may be available and how much?

We're not aware of other funds at this time.

15. Why do you believe that this Project is of sufficient importance to justify the expenditure of Pollution Recovery Funds?

Little Lake Wilson and Lake Wilson (AKA Lake Thomas) cover some 120 acres. Some 140 households live directly on the lakes that continue to be negatively impacted by a poorly designed drainage system that we're "powerless" to control. The problem has received considered "negative press" in both the *Tampa Tribune* and *St. Pete Times*...as well as local news publications. Despite countless hours and efforts to hold those responsible accountable (mainly DOT), residents and the WLNA have been up against a mountain of stall tactics, fingerpointing, and general "it's not in my backyard" mentality. We have written dozens of letters to officials...even Governor Bush. The focus has been on trying to remove or redirect the pipe. It's clear that this is a lost cause and that the ONLY hope we have for saving the lakes is the baffle pretreatment system.

Just *some* of the officials we've met with or worked with over the course of the last five years are:

- Secretary Kenneth Hartmann (FL DOT)
- Commissioner Ken Hagen
- Dr. Garrity
- Dr. Morrison
- Dr. Richard Boler (EPC)
- Dr. Carlos Fernandez (Stormwater Management)
- Eric Schultz (FL Lake Watch)
- Mark Hoyer (FL Lake Watch)
- Paul J. Vanderploog (Public Works, Hillsborough County)
- Larry Webster (Stormwater Management)
- John Rodgers (DEP)
- Dwayne Kyle (District Engineer, FL DOT)
- Jack Merriam (Stormwater Management)

All agree...there's a problem. What no one will agree on is responsibility to fix the problem. Commissioner Ken Hagan asserted in one meeting that we must address the pollution at the source, not at the end. Due to the fact this pollution enters our lake from a variety of sources we believe we must address the pollution at the entry point to lake system, the pipe. In our Lake Management Plan one of the solutions recommended by experts is the construction of a baffle box to eliminate or reduce the level of pollution. This is a viable recommendation that has been made by experts who recognize the problem exists...and also recognize that Little Lake Wilson is part of the watershed system that empties into Tampa Bay. We feel that is more than sufficient importance to justify the expenditure sought by this application.

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

CERTAINLY! Of the 170 WLNA residents...140 of them live directly on the impacted lakes. If the water quality is allowed to decline, it's only a matter of time before another crisis (like the Salvinia outbreak) occurs that causes property values to plummet. It's next to impossible to sell a home when the lake is covered with oil slicks, debris, and Salvinia so thick that the lake looks more like a golf course than a lake. One family that recently moved here was totally distraught by the E.coli, fecal, and mercury warnings...citing, "If I had know this problem existed, I would have NEVER bought my home." During the height of the Salvinia outbreak, homeowners who really needed and wanted to move were trapped because of the horribly unsightly condition of the lake.

Beyond our immediate area, people who live "downstream" will be impacted as well. Even though the pollution may not be visible in the lakes linked to Little Lake Wilson, it's just a matter of time before it is. This is a chance to correct a problem at its source before it has a chance to do more damage throughout the area.

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 – Provide a detailed scope of work for the proposed project. List in chronological order a schedule of accomplishments, progress, or milestones that are anticipated over the length of the project.

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	43,300 (unit)				
d. Contractual					
e. Construction	\$51,200				
f. Other					
g. Total Direct Charges (Sum of a. to f.)	\$94,500				

NOTE: The figures above were based on an bid proposal. The cost is accurate, however at this time, we're not able to provide an exact breakdown of the costs per the categories above. We could attempt to do so, however we'd prefer to offer that information once we've been able to get more details from a contractor...and we can meet face to face with you to discuss and finalize.

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.

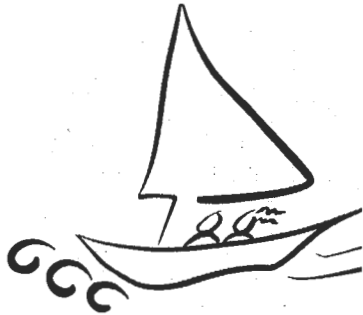
If the project is approved, the applicant must sign a contract before monies will be available.

- 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.



Pollution Recovery Funds – Grant Application

WLNA Grant Narrative Summary



**Submitted by:
Wilson Lakes Neighborhood Association**

May 1, 2006

Project Map

Please find attached to the last page of this narrative a map of the project area.

Principle Investigator Information

Mike Coffey is the primary point of contact and WLNA project manager for the proposed grant project. Mike is a six-year resident of the neighborhood and has been a hands-on leader for WLNA for five of those six years. He has served as WLNA board director for five years, President for one, and currently as Co-President. He has developed a good working relationship with many agencies and officials throughout the county as he's been a very visible representative of WLNA in our ongoing pursuit for an answer to the primary pollution source, the 36" pipe.

Mike is Vice President of Production for Option One Mortgage and H&R Block Mortgage in the Southeast US. He resides at 18613 Geraci Road in Lutz, FL 33548. He can be reached at home at 813-948-3007 or on his cell phone at 813-494-5007. Mike was born and grew up in the Panama Canal Zone. He moved to Florida in 1979 to attend college at FSU. He and his wife, Shawn, have four daughters.

Objectives of This Project

The objective of the proposed project is actually very simple and straightforward.

We are seeking to mitigate the negative effects of documented pollution entering Little Lake Wilson via the 36" drainpipe installed when Dale Mabry Highway was widened by installing a customized baffle and filtering system.

Once installed, the system will help reduce the harm that was done to these once healthy lakes by parties and circumstances completely out of our individual control. It will also help us take the much needed (and well documented) step that we've individually and collectively sought for many, many years.

Expected Results and Benefits

The WLNA has taken a reasonable approach to dealing with this situation. We're not expecting that Little Lake Wilson or Lake Wilson ever be "pristine" as a result of this system. We acknowledge that this isn't possible. We do however anticipate a dramatic improvement to the overall water quality...and some very real benefits.

Through this project we expect to be to:

- Significantly improve the overall water quality of Little Lake Wilson and Lake Wilson.
- Improve the lakes' intended recreational and quality-of-life uses and return it to a useable condition for residents.
- Offer some much needed protection to the wildlife living in and around the lake from the harmful effects of the pollution.
- Protect property values in the area.
- Contribute in a POSITIVE way to protecting the entire Rocky/Brushy Creek Watershed area...including the delicate balance of the estuary of Tampa Bay.
- Continue educating our residents about the need for and value of individual environmental stewardship and accountability.

General Project Information

The results and success of the proposed system will be very easy to measure. We have significant and up-to-date baseline data of which will serve as a comparison before and after system installation. We will continue to measure, monitor, and evaluate water coming through the pipe and make adjustments through the selected Contractor/Vendor as needed.

In addition to the baffle system...the WLNA is going to prepare a "Prioritized List" of additional recommendations (based on the just completed Lake Management Plan) and will set out to implement those on a short-term and long-term basis. With each implemented recommendation, we will continue to test and evaluate water quality.

Project Scope

The exact project scope is not possible to state with absolute certainty at this time. We are not engineers so we will depend on a Contractor/Vendor to provide this information. We have been in discussion with David Zigler of CDS Technology in Orlando, FL. David has provided some guidance and cost estimates (the \$94,500) and will be available to assist as we narrow the design. At a very high level, we anticipate the following steps:

1. Initial indepth review by Contractor.
2. Final project design.
3. Permitting as necessary.
4. Construction to begin.
5. Inspection.
6. Acceptance.

We have also spoken with Shawn Sullivan of Big Brand Water in California regarding the UV portion of the design. As we stated in the application...we know that UV could have a positive impact on the fecal coliform and E.coli bacteria. We understand that it is very expensive technology and we're not prepared to include that in this grant request. We will however, work with the designer of the baffle system to ensure it is customized and tailored to our needs and any future expansion to allow for such technology.

Figure 2

Little Lake Wilson Stormwater Infrastructure Schematic

