

MINUTES
DON PEDRO & KNIGHT ISLANDS STREET & DRAINAGE
MUNICIPAL SERVICE TAXING UNIT (MSTU)

ADVISORY BOARD REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, JULY 11, 2024

9:30 a.m. – 12:01 p.m.
West County Annex, Room 120
6868 San Casa Drive, Englewood, Florida

Members Present: David Cohen, Vice Chair
Lisa Haney
Lindsay Yates
Kim Kitchen

Members Absent: Linda Cotherman

County Staff: Lorraine Moneypenny, Community Liaison
Joey Jackson, ROW Supervisor
Chuck Peters, Safety Mowing & Landscaping Project Manager

Guests: Sign-in sheet attached

Call to Order / Roll Call:

The Chair being absent, the Vice Chair, David Cohen, called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. He called roll. A quorum was established.

Changes to the Agenda / Motion to Approve Changes:

None

Citizen Input on Agenda Items (3 Minute Limit):

None

Approval of the Minutes:

The April 25, 2024 minutes were read aloud. A correction was made to the number of dump trucks of sand required to replenish the roads. The minutes were unanimously approved as corrected.

Unfinished Business:

- a. Iguana Control: Mr. Cohen stated that island residents were notified that iguana control would be on the agenda of this meeting. He directed questions about methodology and working on private property to Stuart Jump, Jr. assistant district supervisor, SW Florida USDA APHIS Wildlife Services, and Coady Lundy, district supervisor. They displayed a trap and explained that it is baited and then checked at least within 24 hours (USDA rule) but usually more often. On Gasparilla, the traps are checked three times a day. It's rare to catch rabbits or possums in the traps. The other method used for iguana removal, when safe, is a pellet gun. To get permission to trap on private property, trappers ring doorbells and present a permission slip. On Gasparilla, neighbors encourage one another to report sightings; many of them have the trapper's mobile phone number. Ms. Kitchen opined that the Palm Island Resort would have

to participate. She will approach the manager and possibly introduce him to Mr. Jump. She moved to proceed with the contracting of a half-time iguana trapper on Don Pedro and Knight Islands. Ms. Yates seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

- b. Right-of-Way Landscape Project: Mr. Peters reiterated the County's recommendation not to landscape in the right of way. Challenges would include design time and expense, permitting, lack of irrigation, protected species, traffic control. Cohen explained that the Board is interested in planting grasses along wide stretches of two straight roads, in order to narrow them and thereby reduce speeding. Ms. Haney averred that vegetation narrowing her road does slow drivers. Mr. Jackson said that had been tried in Manasota Key, but cars drove right over the grass. Mr. Jackson said sod could be used to signal the ideal 14-foot width to drivers. Mr. Peters suggested curbing or reflector poles to delineate the roadway. The Board agreed that those solutions are not ideal, but the reflector poles could work -- if they were installed by Kelley Enterprises, the contractor that knows the unique roads of the island. Mr. Mallet of Kelley Enterprises agreed to submit an estimate for reflector pole installation under the current contract. The RLI for landscape design is abandoned.
- c. Right of Way (ROW) Permitting: Board members have mentioned ROW violations at previous meetings. Some homeowners allow their stone driveways to extend into the ROW, diverting rainwater to neighbors. Some install boulders or large planters. The utilities are worse. Cable companies dig up the ROW, seemingly without regard for the laws protecting endangered species. It will be still worse if EU procures a contract to install sewers. Mr. Jackson said any work in the right of way (generally ten feet from the road) must be permitted and follow procedures, including keeping clear zones, tortoise burrow protection. Since the margins of the ROW are unclear, a homeowner cannot be cited for extended road pavers – but the homeowner is responsible for any damage those pavers cause. Mr. Mallet said they impede roadway maintenance. Is it okay to inform contractors laying pavers or, after the fact, homeowners? Mr. Jackson said that is a good approach. Although long driveways might redirect stormwater, the pervious island drains well. Residents may call Code Enforcement to report boulders. The boulder owner would receive a letter giving thirty days to cure the violation. He moves it, takes a picture, and sends it to the County. The enforcement case is closed. Then often, the boulder is moved back to its original location. The County has a ROW permitting team of five, including one enforcement officer. Egregious violators may be forced to appear before a magistrate, but the burden of proof is on the County. Utilities are required to abide by a raft of rules in order to get a ROW permit, including environmental rules, and the County checks their work when it is finished. However, it is understood that subcontractors do most of the work and there's little oversight. Ms. Haney ventured that a private utility could decimate the tortoise population by digging without an environmental survey. Mr. Cohen asked for a list of firms approved to do such a survey. Mr. Jackson replied that the permit seeker may hire any firm licensed by the State of Florida. Ms. Kitchen wondered whether island residents could supply the coordinates of known active gopher tortoise burrows, so the County permitters could spot any omissions in an application. Ms. Yates said the island has many residents trained to monitor tortoises. Ms. Haney offered that FWC has a citizen science website plotting the location of tortoises. Mr. Jackson encouraged residents desiring grass plants in front of their homes to apply for ROW permits. He demonstrated where to find information on the County website.
- d. Bridge Maintenance: Mr. Cohen noted there are no decisions to be made about the wooden bridge. He pointed to the Litherland memo, which recommends maintenance in FY25.

- e. Community Plan: Mr. Cohen explained that the update to the community plan was put out to bid twice and no bids were received. He asked the community liaison to poll the advisory board members, respecting Sunshine Law, to measure the appetite for raising the proposed budget from \$50,000 to \$75,000 or \$100,000.
- f. Brush Cutting at N. Gulf Blvd: Vegetation is growing into the roadway near the ferry. Mr. Peters directed the community liaison to submit a work order.
- g. Speed Limit Reduction to 15 mph: The community liaison said the speed limit reduction is on track to be introduced with other traffic ordinances at a Board of County Commissioners meeting in September.

New Business:

- a. Financial Reports: Ms. Yates asked if MSBU administration charges on the maintenance report reflected community liaison time spent. Yes. There were no other questions.
- b. Road Grading: Mr. Mallet said his company's plan is to take delivery of quantities of road sand in September or October, then proceed with recrowning the roads. The installation of reflector poles would aid the desired narrowing of the perceived travelway.

Citizen Input on MSTU items (3 Minute Limit):

Mr. Kent remarked that private property owners including the Resort must participate in iguana control measures.

Advisory Board Open Discussion:

Ms. Yates noted two signs needing attention. The stop sign near the ferry landing is bent over. And two beach access signs installed after Hurricane Ian must be moved. A public access sign sits south of a private access point at 189 North Gulf Blvd. It should be moved to 181.

Schedule Meetings / Items for Next Agenda:

Future meetings are scheduled at 9:30 a.m., at the Mac V. Horton West County Annex as follows:

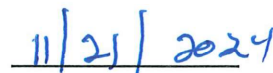
- Thursday, November 21, 2024

The meeting was adjourned at 12:01 p.m.

Submitted by Lorraine Moneypenny
Public Works Department



Chair Signature


Date

AGENDA

DON PEDRO & KNIGHT ISLANDS STREET & DRAINAGE MUNICIPAL SERVICE TAXING UNIT (MSTU)

ADVISORY BOARD REGULAR MEETING THURSDAY, JULY 11, 2024

**9:30 a.m., West County Annex, Room 120
6868 San Casa Drive, Englewood, Florida**

BOARD MEMBERS: Linda Cotheman, Chair
David Cohen, Vice Chair
Lisa Haney
Lindsay Yates

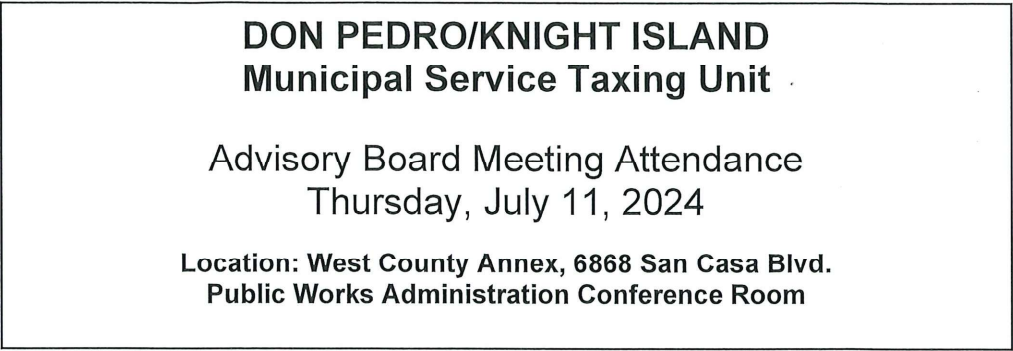
COUNTY STAFF: Lorraine Moneypenny, Community Liaison
Joey Jackson, ROW Supervisor
Chuck Peters, Safety Mowing & Landscaping PM

Guests: Stuart Jump, Jr., USDA APHIS Wildlife Services

PURPOSE: Regular Meeting

1. Call to Order / Roll Call
2. Changes to the Agenda / Motion to Approve Changes
3. Citizen Input on Agenda Items (3 Minute Limit)
4. Approval of the Minutes: April 25, 2024
5. Unfinished Business
 - a. Iguana Control
 - b. Right-of-Way Landscape Project
 - c. ROW permitting
 - d. Bridge Maintenance
 - e. Community Plan
 - f. Brush cutting at N. Gulf Blvd.
 - g. Speed limit reduction to 15 mph
6. New Business
 - a. Financial Reports
 - b. Road grading
7. Citizen Input on MSBU items (3 Minute Limit)

8. Advisory Board Open Discussion
9. Meeting Schedule / Items for Next Agenda
10. Motion to Adjourn

[illegible]

**MINUTES
DON PEDRO & KNIGHT ISLANDS STREET & DRAINAGE
MUNICIPAL SERVICE TAXING UNIT (MSTU)**

**ADVISORY BOARD REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2024**

**9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
West County Annex, Room 120
6868 San Casa Drive, Englewood, Florida**

Members Present: Linda Cotherman, Chair
David Cohen, Vice Chair
David Cohen
Lisa Haney
Lindsay Yates

Members Absent: None

County Staff: Lorraine Moneypenny, Community Liaison
Karlene McDonald, Operations Supervisor

Guests: Sign-in sheet attached

Call to Order / Roll Call:

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. A roll call was taken, and a quorum was established.

Changes to the Agenda / Motion to Approve Changes:

None

Citizen Input on Agenda Items (3 Minute Limit):

None

Approval of the Minutes:

The January 11, 2024 minutes were unanimously approved as written.

Unfinished Business:

- a. Community Plan: Staff presented a draft Request for Letters of Interest (RLI) soliciting a consultant to update the community plan. The scope of work calls for community input at the end of each chapter. Ms. Cotherman proposed, and, after discussion, members agreed that community input is desirable before and after chapters. Mr. Cohen moved, and Ms. Haney seconded that this be added to the scope of the RLI: "Solicit public input at the beginning of each phase in addition to the end of each chapter – Phase 1 being chapters 1-2; Phase 2 being chapters 3-5; and Phase 3 being chapters 6-7." The motion carried.
- b. Iguana Control: Stuart Jump, Jr. assistant district supervisor, SW Florida USDA APHIS Wildlife Services, determined iguana control is warranted on Don Pedro Island and possibly Knight Island. Ms. Moneypenny presented a sample of the work plan he proposes. His contractor would provide one trapper, at half time, for \$50,000 a year. The trapper would work on private property if invited; homeowners would likely have to sign a form allowing temporary right of entry. Ms. Haney suggested that homeowners adopt a flag system. She asked whether humane methods would be used, whether other animals might be harmed, and how often traps would be checked. Ms. Cotherman suggested, and all agreed, that Mr. Jump be invited to present at a town hall at Palm Island Estates in May, to answer questions from the community. Ms. McDonald clarified the Sunshine Law implications of board members attending a public event.
- c. Bridge Maintenance Plan: Ms. Moneypenny presented an email (attached) from Jeff Litherland, project engineer, which says: (1) the warranty walk-through concluded the sealant applied in May 2023 performs as expected under bridge conditions; (2) worn deck boards

should be replaced in FY25 and FY27, and the whole deck in FY29; (3) there is an option to replace travel lanes or the whole deck with IPE or Jatoba lumber. A table summarizes suggested maintenance intervals and costs. Discussion ensued.

New Business:

- a. Right-of-Way Landscape Project: The first step would be landscape design. Ms. Moneypenny conveyed the estimated cost, per Chuck Peters, Safety Mowing and Landscape Projects Manager: \$50,000. Ms. McDonald reminded the board that the County no longer permits citizen volunteer groups planting in the ROW for liability reasons. The board asked that Chuck Peters attend the next meeting with a draft RLI for consideration.
- b. Financial Reports: The FY24 Q2 actual expenditure and activity maintenance reports were provided for review. The Board had no questions at this time.
- c. Central sewer project - ROW impact: Environmental Utilities (EU) is seeking permission from the Public Service Commission to install sewers on the island. Contractors are bound to restore ROW to original condition, but the board is concerned that neither EU nor the county has the expertise to restore DPKI's unique sand roads. Ms. McDonald offered that funds can be earmarked in the next budget for a consultant to research the issue if it comes to pass.

Citizen Input on MSTU items (3 Minute Limit):

- Mr. Mallet: On wooden bridge maintenance, he suggested that sealing the deck is futile; boards should be replaced as needed. On sand road maintenance, he suggested adding 6 dump trucks of sand to improve road crowns.

Advisory Board Open Discussion:

Ms. Moneypenny reported that the speed limit reduction to 15 mph is in process and Public Works has declined to entertain consultant Ziegler's recommendations for speed bumps, roadside swales, raingardens, or road narrowing. The ROW landscaping will create a perception of narrowing.

Ms. Cotherman asked staff to check on brush cutting work order at N. Gulf Blvd. and to add road grading to the next agenda.

The board discussed encroachment on ROW by utilities (mostly cable companies) and homeowners – permitting, enforcement, and impacts on drainage. They asked that Joey Jackson, ROW supervisor, attend the next meeting.

Schedule Meetings / Items for Next Agenda:

Future meetings are scheduled at 9:30 a.m., at the Mac V. Horton West County Annex as follows:

- Thursday, July 11, 2024
- Thursday, November 21, 2024

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Submitted by Lorraine Moneypenny
Public Works Department

Chair Signature

Date

Don Pedro and Knight Islands Street and Drainage Unit

Project	WO Number	WO Description	Location	Date Worked	Labor Hours	Labor Cost	Materials Cost	Equip. Cost	Contractor Cost	Work Accomp	Total Cost
	20033	MSBU Administrative Work		04/18/2024	1.00	93.24	0.00	0.00	0.00		93.24
	20033	MSBU Administrative Work		04/19/2024	3.00	279.72	0.00	0.00	0.00		279.72
	20033	MSBU Administrative Work		04/05/2024	0.50	36.95	0.00	0.00	0.00		36.95
	20033	MSBU Administrative Work		04/17/2024	1.50	110.85	0.00	0.00	0.00		110.85
	20033	MSBU Administrative Work		04/18/2024	1.50	110.85	0.00	0.00	0.00		110.85
	20033	MSBU Administrative Work		04/19/2024	2.50	184.75	0.00	0.00	0.00		184.75
	20033	MSBU Administrative Work		04/23/2024	3.50	277.99	0.00	0.00	0.00		277.99
	20033	MSBU Administrative Work		04/24/2024	6.50	577.05	0.00	0.00	0.00		577.05
	20033	MSBU Administrative Work		04/26/2024	0.50	36.95	0.00	0.00	0.00		36.95
	20033	MSBU Administrative Work		04/30/2024	1.50	110.85	0.00	0.00	0.00		110.85
	20033	MSBU Administrative Work		05/01/2024	1.00	73.90	0.00	0.00	0.00		73.90
	20033	MSBU Administrative Work		05/16/2024	2.50	184.75	0.00	0.00	0.00		184.75
	20033	MSBU Administrative Work		05/17/2024	2.00	147.80	0.00	0.00	0.00		147.80
	20033	MSBU Administrative Work		05/21/2024	0.75	55.43	0.00	0.00	0.00		55.43
	20033	MSBU Administrative Work		05/30/2024	1.25	92.38	0.00	0.00	0.00		92.38
	20033	MSBU Administrative Work		06/05/2024	0.25	18.48	0.00	0.00	0.00		18.48
	20033	MSBU Administrative Work		06/06/2024	1.25	92.38	0.00	0.00	0.00		92.38
	20033	MSBU Administrative Work		06/07/2024	1.00	73.90	0.00	0.00	0.00		73.90
	20033	MSBU Administrative Work		06/14/2024	0.50	36.95	0.00	0.00	0.00		36.95
	20033	MSBU Administrative Work		06/20/2024	0.50	36.95	0.00	0.00	0.00		36.95
	20033	MSBU Administrative Work		06/26/2024	0.25	18.48	0.00	0.00	0.00		18.48
	20033	MSBU Administrative Work		06/27/2024	1.00	73.90	0.00	0.00	0.00		73.90
	20033	MSBU Administrative Work		06/28/2024	1.00	73.90	0.00	0.00	0.00		73.90

Monthly Funding Report

START DATE:

04/01/2024

END DATE:

06/30/2024

Don Pedro and Knight Islands Street and Drainage Unit

Project	WO Number	WO Description	Location	Date Worked	Labor Hours	Labor Cost	Materials Cost	Equip. Cost	Contractor Cost	Work Accomp	Total Cost
Administrative Time Total											
	20033	MSBU Administrative Work		04/25/2024	31.25	2,425.42	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,425.44
MSBU Meeting Total											
					4.50	332.55	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	332.55
					4.50	332.55	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	332.55
	20033	MSBU Administrative Work		04/25/2024	1.00	73.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	73.90
	20033	MSBU Administrative Work		04/26/2024	1.50	110.85	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	110.85
MSBU Minutes Total											
					2.50	184.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	184.75
Work Order 20033 Total											
					42.25	3,315.68	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,315.70
MSBU Administrative Work Total											
					42.25	3,315.68	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,315.70
	7030	Project Management		04/29/2024	0.25	21.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	21.60
	7030	Project Management		05/21/2024	0.50	43.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	43.21
	7030	Project Management		06/04/2024	0.25	21.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	21.60
Plan/Spec Review Total											
					1.00	86.41	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	86.41
					1.50	129.61	0.00	5.88	0.00	0.00	135.50
	7030	Project Management		04/18/2024	1.50	129.61	0.00	5.88	0.00	0.00	135.50
Project Inspection Total											
					2.50	216.02	0.00	5.88	0.00	0.00	221.91
Work Order 7030 Total 26 COLE PL, KNIGHT ISLAND, 33946											
#23-008 DPKI Sand Road Maintenance											
Project Management Total											
					2.50	216.02	0.00	5.88	0.00	0.00	221.91
	19044	Survey		04/03/2024	1.00	79.79	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	79.79
	19044	Survey		04/11/2024	1.00	79.79	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	79.79
	19044	Survey		04/30/2024	1.00	93.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	93.20
	19044	Survey		05/07/2024	0.25	19.95	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	19.95

Monthly Funding Report

START DATE:

04/01/2024

END DATE:

06/30/2024

Don Pedro and Knight Islands Street and Drainage Unit

Project	WO Number	WO Description	Location	Date Worked	Labor Hours	Labor Cost	Materials Cost	Equip. Cost	Contractor Cost	Work Accomp	Total Cost
	19044	Survey		05/10/2024	0.25	19.95	0.00	0.00	0.00		19.95
	19044	Survey		05/15/2024	0.25	19.95	0.00	0.00	0.00		19.95
	19044	Survey		05/16/2024	1.00	93.20	0.00	0.00	0.00		93.20
	19044	Survey		05/22/2024	0.25	19.95	0.00	0.00	0.00		19.95
	19044	Survey		05/23/2024	0.25	19.95	0.00	0.00	0.00		19.95
	KETTLE HARBOR DR, KNIGHT ISLAND, 33946										
	Work Order 19044 Total					5.25	445.72	0.00	0.00	0.00	445.73
	Survey Total										
	47492	Training/Education		04/18/2024	5.25	445.72	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	445.73
	Work Order 47492 Total										
	7000 FLORIDA ST, PUNTA GORDA, FL, 33950					4.50	332.55	0.00	0.00	0.00	332.55
	Training/Education Total										
	4.50	332.55	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.50	332.55	0.00	0.00	4.50	332.55
	Don Pedro and Knight Islands Street and Drainage Unit Total										
	54.50	4,309.97	0.00	5.88	0.00	54.50	4,309.97	0.00	0.00	4.50	4,315.89

Monthly Funding Report

START
DATE:

04/01/2024

END DATE:

06/30/2024

Project	WO Number	WO Description	Location	Date Worked	Labor Hours	Labor Cost	Materials Cost	Equip. Cost	Contractor Cost	Work Accomp	Total Cost
Grand totals for all MSBUs reported											
					54.50	4,309.97	0.00	5.88	0.00		4,315.89



Charlotte County Government

"To exceed expectations in the delivery of public services."

www.CharlotteCountyFL.com

MEMORANDUM

Date: Thursday, May 30, 2024

To: Kim Corbett, Senior Division Manager, Purchasing

From: Chuck Peters, Projects Manager

Subject: Purchase request for landscape design services

PURPOSE: Charlotte County is seeking professional services from firms employing a Registered Landscape Architect for design of its' Don Pedro/Knight's Island ROW landscape. Desired features of the ROW landscape project include, but are not limited to consistently attractive, sustainable beach ROW landscaping that conforms to Charlotte County Landscape Design Standards. The county proposes the following scope of services:

The following is a list of deliverables for the project.

- Engage in public input opportunities.
- Conceptual design images.
- 30%, 60%, 90% and construction-ready plans.
- bid specifications and bid tabulation form.
- bidding process assistance.
- technical support.
- opinion of probable cost.
- utilities location/correspondence with utility companies.
- environmental/protected species assessment.
- project management and on-site inspection through construction, plus one (1) year of specified maintenance and warranty.
- shop drawing and as-built drawing reviews
- procurement of all applicable permits.
- other related duties determined to be germane to the assignment.

The successful proposer shall hold a Certificate of Authorization to practice Landscape Architecture under FS 481 Part II. Proposers should demonstrate at least five (5) recent examples of work that indicate not only ability to address the required scope in the context of public facilities in Southwest Florida, but also familiarity with and experience using the Charlotte County Codes Chapter 3-5, Article, XVIII, Landscaping and Buffers and Chapter 3-2, Article IX, Tree Requirements.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

7000 Florida Street | Punta Gorda, FL 33950
Phone: 941.575.3600 | Fax: 941.637.9265



Iguana Management

Gasparilla Island

Three black spiny-tailed iguanas were introduced to Gasparilla Island in the early 1980s by a family that brought them from Mexico as pets. By 2003, they had spread across the island.

These iguanas are an invasive species. They prey on tortoises, turtles, and shorebirds – and their eggs. They occupy the burrows of gopher tortoises, almost certainly excluding them. They eat flowers and plants and sometimes burrow under structures.

In 2008, Boca Grande residents on the Charlotte County side of Gasparilla Island taxed themselves to contract USDA Wildlife Services to remove iguanas. From 2008 to 2023, fifteen thousand iguanas were removed. Residents say there are noticeably fewer sightings since iguana management was introduced.



Mcknight, Sean & Kluever, Bryan & Hall, Parker & Acevedo, Miguel & Johnson, Steve. (2023). **History, Status, Impacts, and Management of Invasive Black Spiny-tailed Iguanas (*Ctenosaura similis*) on Gasparilla Island, Florida**. EDIS. WEC459. 10.32473/edis-UW512-2023.
<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/UW512>

Don Pedro/Knights Island

Stuart Jump, the USDA APHIS Wildlife Services Assistant District Supervisor for Southwest Florida, has determined that a half-time trapper is warranted to control the iguana population. The cost is \$50,00 per year. It would be funded by tax dollars collected for the islands' MSTU.

The USDA workplan for Gasparilla Island is on the reverse. Don Pedro/Knights Island would enter into a similar agreement.

WORK PLAN

Cooperator: Charlotte County

Contact: Tina Powell

Location: Charlotte County, Florida

Dates: October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2024

In accordance with the Cooperative Service Agreement between Charlotte County, FL (County) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Wildlife Services (WS), this Work Plan sets forth the objectives, activities and budget of this project during the period of this agreement.

Program Objective

The objective of this agreement is to assist the residents of the Charlotte County portion of Gasparilla Island in reducing damage caused by the black spiny-tailed iguana (*Ctenosaura similis*) otherwise known as ctenosaurs to an acceptable level.

Plan of Action

WS will provide a full-time Wildlife Specialist to conduct ctenosaur management activities for 12 months (1 year) on the Charlotte County portion of Gasparilla Island. The WS employee will have appropriate training and professional expertise to conduct ctenosaur population reduction activities. The Wildlife Specialist will initiate and carry out or cooperate in the implementation of controlling ctenosaurs throughout the entirety of the project.

Technical Training and Scientific Advice

The Wildlife Specialist shall be available to provide technical training for persons assigned responsibilities to monitor or supervise the monitoring of ctenosaur populations as time and budgetary constraints allow. "Monitoring" as used herein refers to observations of ctenosaurs or ctenosaur sign.

Data Collection and Monitoring

The WS Wildlife Specialist shall collect data (i.e., number of animals trapped and removed, location, age, sex, length, etc.) accumulated in accordance with ongoing ctenosaur operational activities. The data will be provided to the County in a pre-determined format.

Operational Support

At the request of Charlotte County, Florida, Wildlife Services shall provide direct operational assistance on the Charlotte County side of the Island. Wildlife Services uses an integrated wildlife damage management (IWDM) plan. This means a variety of methods may be used in order the appropriately solve the problem. These methods may include but are not limited to; cage traps, snares, foothold traps, funnel traps, colony traps, and shooting. WS frequently must custom design capture technologies for unique species or situations. Novel applications could be applied to ctenosaurs as well.



MEMORANDUM

Date: Thursday, May 30, 2024

To: Kim Corbett, Senior Division Manager, Purchasing

From: Chuck Peters, Projects Manager

Subject: Purchase request for landscape design services

PURPOSE: Charlotte County is seeking professional services from firms employing a Registered Landscape Architect for design of its' Don Pedro/Knight's Island ROW landscape. Desired features of the ROW landscape project include, but are not limited to consistently attractive, sustainable beach ROW landscaping that conforms to Charlotte County Landscape Design Standards. The county proposes the following scope of services:

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- technical support.
- opinion of probable cost.
- utilities location/correspondence with utility companies.
- environmental/protected species assessment.
- project management and on-site inspection through construction, plus one (1) year of specified maintenance and warranty.
- shop drawing and as-built drawing reviews
- procurement of all applicable permits.
- other related duties determined to be germane to the assignment.

The successful proposer shall hold a Certificate of Authorization to practice Landscape Architecture under FS 481 Part II. Proposers should demonstrate at least five (5) recent examples of work that indicate not only ability to address the required scope in the context of public facilities in Southwest Florida, but also familiarity with and experience using the Charlotte County Codes Chapter 3-5, Article, XVIII, Landscaping and Buffers and Chapter 3-2, Article IX, Tree Requirements.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

7000 Florida Street | Punta Gorda, FL 33950
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Iguana Management

Gasparilla Island

Three black spiny-tailed iguanas were introduced to Gasparilla Island in the early 1980s by a family that brought them from Mexico as pets. By 2003, they had spread across the island.

These iguanas are an invasive species. They prey on tortoises, turtles, and shorebirds – and their eggs. They occupy the burrows of gopher tortoises, almost certainly excluding them. They eat flowers and plants and sometimes burrow under structures.

In 2008, Boca Grande residents on the Charlotte County side of Gasparilla Island taxed themselves to contract USDA Wildlife Services to remove iguanas. From 2008 to 2023, fifteen thousand iguanas were removed. Residents say there are noticeably fewer sightings since iguana management was introduced.



Mcknight, Sean & Kluever, Bryan & Hall, Parker & Acevedo, Miguel & Johnson, Steve. (2023). **History, Status, Impacts, and Management of Invasive Black Spiny-tailed Iguanas (*Ctenosaura similis*) on Gasparilla Island, Florida**. EDIS. WEC459. 10.32473/edis-UW512-2023.
<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/UW512>

Don Pedro/Knights Island

Stuart Jump, the USDA APHIS Wildlife Services Assistant District Supervisor for Southwest Florida, has determined that a half-time trapper is warranted to control the iguana population. The cost is \$50,00 per year. It would be funded by tax dollars collected for the islands' MSTU.

The USDA workplan for Gasparilla Island is on the reverse. Don Pedro/Knights Island would enter into a similar agreement.

WORK PLAN

Cooperator: Charlotte County

Contact: Tina Powell

Location: Charlotte County, Florida

Dates: October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2024

In accordance with the Cooperative Service Agreement between Charlotte County, FL (County) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Wildlife Services (WS), this Work Plan sets forth the objectives, activities and budget of this project during the period of this agreement.

Program Objective

The objective of this agreement is to assist the residents of the Charlotte County portion of Gasparilla Island in reducing damage caused by the black spiny-tailed iguana (*Ctenosaura similis*) otherwise known as ctenosaurs to an acceptable level.

Plan of Action

WS will provide a full-time Wildlife Specialist to conduct ctenosaur management activities for 12 months (1 year) on the Charlotte County portion of Gasparilla Island. The WS employee will have appropriate training and professional expertise to conduct ctenosaur population reduction activities. The Wildlife Specialist will initiate and carry out or cooperate in the implementation of controlling ctenosaurs throughout the entirety of the project.

Technical Training and Scientific Advice

The Wildlife Specialist shall be available to provide technical training for persons assigned responsibilities to monitor or supervise the monitoring of ctenosaur populations as time and budgetary constraints allow. "Monitoring" as used herein refers to observations of ctenosaurs or ctenosaur sign.

Data Collection and Monitoring

The WS Wildlife Specialist shall collect data (i.e., number of animals trapped and removed, location, age, sex, length, etc.) accumulated in accordance with ongoing ctenosaur operational activities. The data will be provided to the County in a pre-determined format.

Operational Support

At the request of Charlotte County, Florida, Wildlife Services shall provide direct operational assistance on the Charlotte County side of the Island. Wildlife Services uses an integrated wildlife damage management (IWDM) plan. This means a variety of methods may be used in order the appropriately solve the problem. These methods may include but are not limited to; cage traps, snares, foothold traps, funnel traps, colony traps, and shooting. WS frequently must custom design capture technologies for unique species or situations. Novel applications could be applied to ctenosaurs as well.