

Operations, Lands and Resource Monitoring Committee
April 27, 2021
Consent Agenda

Acceptance of a Sovereignty Submerged Lands Easement from the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund of the State of Florida required for road and culvert repair at Deer Prairie Creek, SWF Parcel No. 21-708-127X

Purpose

The purpose of this item is to request Governing Board approval and acceptance of a Sovereignty Submerged Lands Easement from the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund of the State of Florida (Easement) required for road and culvert repair at Deer Prairie Creek.

Background and History

The District is a co-owner of Deer Prairie Creek (SWF Parcel No. 21-708-127X) with Sarasota County (County), and the County manages Deer Prairie Creek pursuant to a management agreement. The County is working on a natural lands small access park at Deer Prairie Creek, and the access road to the proposed park crosses a branch of Deer Creek that has been deemed by Florida Department of Environmental Protection to be sovereign submerged land of the State of Florida. Due to the nature of the work being done by the County, which involves improving an access road including installation of a culvert, an easement from the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund of the State of Florida is required, and since the County and the District co-own the property to which the easement will serve, both the County and the District must join in the conveyance. The County Board of County Commissioners approved the acceptance of the Easement on behalf of the County at their regular meeting on April 6, 2021.

Benefit/Costs

Pursuant to the management agreement between the County and the District, the County is the lead agency and is responsible for providing public recreation opportunities at Deer Prairie Creek. Acceptance of the Easement will enable the County to continue to provide recreation opportunities at Deer Prairie Creek as well as improve the infrastructure at Deer Prairie Creek by improving the access road.

Cost:

There is no cost to the District.

Staff Recommendation:

- Approve and accept the Sovereignty Submerged Lands Easement from the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund of the State of Florida; and
- Authorize the Governing Board Chair to execute the Easement on behalf of the District.

Presenter: Ellen Morrison, Land Resources Bureau Chief

cc: Brian Starford