

**AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY SHEET**  
**VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING**  
**November 20, 2024**

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**Agenda Item:** Estero River North Branch Regional Pond Project Permitting and Engineering Services Task Order

**Background:**

As Council knows, one of the Villages' primary areas of concern for flood mitigation projects is an area affected by both the Estero River North Branch and South Branch, located along Corkscrew Road and Three Oaks Parkway. This area frequently experiences prolonged flooding, impacting residential neighborhoods and major roadways for periods ranging from several days to over a week. In August and September of 2017, the Village encountered approximately 20 inches of rainfall over a 20-day span, primarily due to two major weather events, Invest 92L and Hurricane Irma. Following Invest 92L, local residential and major roads in Estero remained underwater for several days. The same situation occurred again after Hurricane Irma. These flood conditions made it difficult for residents to leave their communities, obstructed access to local businesses and emergency services, and forced commuters to seek alternative routes.

The section of Three Oaks Parkway between Corkscrew Road and Estero Parkway experiences occasional, prolonged flooding that lasts several days to a week and longer. Several residential communities are located along the Estero River North Branch in the vicinity of Three Oaks Parkway. These communities also experience occasional flooding due to heavy rainfall events. Similar to the flooding of Three Oaks Parkway, the flooding lasts several days or longer within these communities. Reducing the flow amounts reaching Three Oaks Parkway along with controlling the timing of flows would reduce the risk of prolonged flooding within the roadway and adjacent residential communities. The observed flooding in the Estero River North Branch area is the result of several factors. The river's upstream capacity is higher than downstream, causing stormwater to accumulate between Three Oaks Parkway and I-75. As a result, the portion of the river located downstream of the Three Oaks Parkway crossing still receives excessive stormwater flow, impacting residents within the area. As part of the focused analysis to mitigate the flooding occurrences, a proposed "regional pond" site was evaluated to determine benefits and impacts to the area. Through this analysis, an improvement project involving a new "regional pond" and associated stormwater infrastructure improvements was defined, and the quantity of flood risk reductions were identified. The

project was reviewed by the Florida Department of Emergency Management (FDEM) as a Hazard Mitigation Grant Project and has received acceptance.

On June 1<sup>st</sup> 2022, the Village entered a continuing contract for miscellaneous professional services with JR Evans Engineering, P.A. Work under the contract is to be assigned by individual task orders, with total “not to exceed” project amounts to be negotiated on a project-by-project basis. The Village is ready to move forward with the environmental permitting efforts to further the momentum of completing the mitigation project. This proposal provides the scope of services needed to secure an Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) through the State for the regional pond site and separate permit modifications for specific components of the project involving modifications to existing stormwater infrastructure. The regional pond site may require a federal permit, depending on the project criteria. The services which are the subject of this Task Order are within the scope of the Evans continuing contract and that firm has indicated it has the bandwidth to perform the services under the timelines set forth in the project schedule.

The Village staff recommends approval of the issuance of the Task Order subject to the not-to-exceed amount set forth below, and otherwise subject to the terms of the firm’s 2022 continuing contract.

**Action Requested:** Motion to approve Task Order for permitting and engineering study services between the Village of Estero and JR Evans Engineering, P.A.

**Process and Timeline:** If approved by Council, the firm will proceed with these permitting and study elements of the Project in accordance with the price and timeline it has agreed to. Future detailed engineering and construction elements of the Project will be the subject of separate contracts or work orders, and will be presented to the Council at such time as those phases are ready to be started, and proper funding is identified.

**Financial Impact:** Cost not to exceed \$471,100

**Prepared by:** Robert Eschenfelder, Village Attorney

**Attachments:**

1. Task Order issued under EC 2022-39
2. Project Scope of Services from Engineering firm
3. Project Schedule