



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2728

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Homosassa River is a first magnitude spring and designated an Outstanding Florida Waterway which has been identified as a priority waterbody by SWIM. It has been listed as impaired for nutrients and filamentous algae by FDEP and USEPA. The goal is to restore water quality by vacuum removal of filamentous algae (Lyngbya) and benthic detrital matter, then planting and maintaining submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV)

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted? No

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	2,000,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	2,000,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	2,000,000	100%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	2,000,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding? Yes

If yes, provide the most recent instance:

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2024-25	0	2,000,000		No

9. Is future-year funding likely to be requested? Yes

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.

b. Describe the source of funding that can be used in lieu of state funding.

N/A

Complete questions 10 and 11 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects



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10. Status of Construction

a. What is the current phase of the project?

- Planning
 Design
 Construction
 N/A

b. Is the project "shovel ready" (i.e permitted)?

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

e. What funding stream will be used for ongoing operations and maintenance of the project?

11. List the owners of the facility to receive, directly or indirectly, any fixed capital outlay funding. Include the relationship between the owners of the facility and the entity.

12. Details on how the requested state funds will be expended

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Project Administration/Accounting/ Public Information services will be secured by our organization, HRRP. Project Administration includes oversight of the project as it relates to the DEP contract requirements and accounting practices. Public Information included, but is not limited, to supplying and directing information about the project to the media, local government officials, other state agencies	50,000
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	HRRP will continue to utilize the same contractor providing vacuum removal services, planting SAV,cages, monitoring, and maintenance. This also includes any land lease costs, mobilization and demobilization performed by the same contractor. Additionally, we will continue to utilize an independent biologist to perform an evaluation of the whether or not the vacuum removal services meet standards for plant install and survival	1,950,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		2,000,000

13. Program Performance

a. What specific purpose or goal will be achieved by the funds requested?



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These funds will restore a critical habitat that is designated as an Outstanding Florida Waterway. This project will also help local governments and agencies to meet a variety water quality improvement mandates (SWIM plans, BMAP plans, Comp plans, etc.) through the reduction of phosphorus and nitrogen

b. What activities and services will be provided to meet the intended purpose of these funds?

The majority of the funds are spent on vacuum removal of the detrital material (muck/lyngbya), install plants (SAV), then monitor and maintain the SAV and cages for a full year after the installation. A project evaluation study from a third party biologist is performed to confirm that sufficient substrate removal occurred to insure plant survivability post restoration. The study will provide an assessment of restoration success or impairment through a statistical analyses of pre and post restoration sampling performed by the independent biologist

c. What direct services will be provided to citizens by the appropriation project?

The tourism industry is one of the largest economic drivers in the region. The loss of Water Quality (clarity) associated with current conditions and degrading habitat conditions could potentially cause a collapse of this economy. Improvements proposed by this project will help to improve and maintain condition's for which residents, local, regional, national, international tourists come to expect

d. Who is the target population served by this project? How many individuals are expected to be served?

The citizens and the economy of the State of Florida , Citrus County, and Homosassa. Citrus County enjoys > 500,000 local,national and international visitors per year, which contribute a significant amount in sales tax and tourism related jobs

e. What is the expected benefit or outcome of this project? What is the methodology by which this outcome will be measured?

The expected outcome is an overall improvement in the water quality leading to thriving aquatic flora and fauna communities, including the West Indian manatee. The methodology being utilized by the independent biologist to measure successful outcome in the post restoration versus pre restoration areas are through core sampling (pre and post de-mucking),macroinvertebrate sampling, fish sampling, SAV surveys and field water chemistry

f. What are the suggested penalties that the contracting agency may consider in addition to its standard penalties for failing to meet deliverables or performance measures provided for in the contract?

per DEP standards

14. Is this project related to mitigation, response, or recovery from a natural disaster? No

a. If Yes, what phase best describes the project?

- Mitigation (reducing or eliminating potential loss of life or property)
- Response (addressing the immediate and short-term effects of a natural disaster)
- Recovery (assisting communities return to normal operations, including rebuilding damaged infrastructure)

b. Name of the natural disaster (or Executive Order # for events not under a federal declaration):

15. Has the entity applied for or received federal assistance for this project?

- Yes, Applied
- Yes, Received
- No
- No, but intends to apply



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a. If yes, provide the FEMA project worksheet ID#:

b. Provide the total project cost listed on the FEMA project worksheet:

16. Has the entity applied for or received state assistance for this project (other than this request)?

- Yes, Applied
- Yes, Received
- No
- No, but intends to apply

a. If yes, specify the program and state agency (ex. Local Government Emergency Bridge Loan, Department of Commerce):

Please complete questions 17 through 21 for Water Projects only.

17. Have you been awarded or applied for alternative state funding for this project?

- Water Quality Improvement Grant Program
- Resilient Florida Grant Program
- Wastewater Revolving Loan
- Drinking Water Revolving Loan
- Small Community Wastewater Treatment Grant
- Other (please specify, ex. Alternative Water Supply Grants)
- N/A

18. What is the population economic status?

- Financially Disadvantaged Community (ch. 62-552, F.A.C)
- Financially Disadvantaged Municipality (ch. 62-552, F.A.C)
- Rural Area of Economic Concern
- Rural Area of Opportunity (s. 288.0656, Florida Statutes)
- N/A

19. What is the status of construction?



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the project is moving into phase 3

20. What percentage of the construction has been completed?

40%

21. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

12/31/2030

22. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name Steve **Last Name** Minguy

b. Organization Homosassa River Restoration Project

c. E-mail Address sminguy@aol.com

d. Phone Number (407)832-1598 **Ext.**

23. Recipient Contact Information

a. Organization Homosassa River Restoration Project

b. Municipality and County Citrus

c. Organization Type

For Profit Entity

Non Profit 501(c)(3)

Non Profit 501(c)(4)

Local Entity

University or College

Other (please specify)

d. First Name Jo Anne **Last Name** Coop

e. E-mail Address jcoop@homosassariverrestorationproject.com

f. Phone Number (352)220-3365 **Ext.**

24. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name None

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number

The information provided will be posted to the Florida Senate website for public viewing if sponsored by a Senator.