Board of County Commissioners
Agenda Request

Date of Meeting:	May 13, 2008
Date Submitted:	May 7, 2008
To:	Honorable Chairman and Members of the Board
From:	Parwez Alam, County Administrator Alan Rosenzweig, Assistant County Administrator Tony Park, P.E., Director of Public Works
Subject:	Acceptance of a Status Report on Lake Munson Restoration

Statement of Issue:
The Board directed staff at its February 12, 2008 regular meeting to provide a status report for the Lake Munson muck removal project.

Background:
At the September 11, 2007 meeting, the Board accepted a status report regarding Lake Munson. During the meeting two citizens spoke regarding the availability of funding (several million dollars) from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) for additional lake restoration. As a result of these comments, the Board directed staff to meet with FWC staff and to schedule a workshop to address the possible funding for additional lake cleanup. The funding was to come from the FWC Aquatic Habitat Restoration/Enhancement Section (AHRES), an internal FWC fund allocation that is not directly granted to local communities but is provided based on an internal allocation method depending upon specific projects across the state. The Board workshop was scheduled for November 27, 2007 to review the funding program and restoration activities within the Lake Munson Basin.

During the fall of 2007, staff met on a number of occasions regarding this matter. Staff worked closely with FWC regarding the AHRES funding, and had been assured throughout the meetings that funding was available and the County should continue with its efforts. County staff provided all requested information to support the funding application being prepared by FWC staff. Unfortunately, on November 15, 2007 Public Works staff received a brief voice mail stating that funding would not be available and FWC staff would not be attending the Board workshop. Consequently, the Board workshop intended to focus on the AHRES funding was cancelled on November 16, 2007.

Analysis:
Subsequent to receiving the FWC staff voice mail, Tony Park followed up to determine what additional efforts could be made to secure funding. Mr. Lawson Snyder, Section

Leader, Aquatic Habitat Conservation and Restoration, identified the following issues:

1. FWC staff had concerns that the level of toxicity in the muck that needs to be removed could result in difficulty in disposal;
2. FWC funding reviewers wanted a better understanding of what habitat (i.e. fish/wildlife) would be enhanced as part of the clean-up; and
3. FWC's internal calculations for cost caused them some concern.

Mr. Snyder stated that a future meeting with County staff would be appropriate to discuss some of these issues; however, current year funding would not be available. He further indicated that FWC may consider the lake restoration for an in-house project due to the complicating sediment contamination.

A follow-up meeting was held with FWC and County staff on April 11, 2008. Mr. Snyder explained that the intent of the AHRES program is to enhance aquatic habitat and that funds from the program are not to be used as lead agency funding for water quality improvement projects where significant portions of the funding would not result in direct improvements to the aquatic habitat. Mr. Snyder and his staff described their other activities around the state where projects similar to the Lake Munson project have been funded and that, typically, the AHRES funding accounts for less than 10 percent of the project costs. Further, the AHRES funding is typically part of a multi-agency task force where various agencies fund a project to the extent that their mission is accomplished.

In summary, the AHRES funds are potentially available to Leon County, but at a later stage in the development and implementation of the Lake Munson project. Until such time as other agencies participate in its funding, AHRES cannot justify allocating funds to a Lake Munson project.

Options:
Accept the Lake Munson Status Restoration Report.
1. Do not accept the Lake Munson Status Report.
2. Board Direction.

Recommendation:
Option #1.

Attachments:
1. April 16, 2008 Letter from Lawson Snyder/FWC