

# MANATEE COUNTY GOVERNMENT

## AGENDA MEMORANDUM

<b>SUBJECT</b>	Donation of unusable artificial reef modules to Tampa Bay Watch and Sarasota Bay Watch.	<b>TYPE AGENDA ITEM</b>	Consent
<b>DATE REQUESTED</b>	January 12, 2010	<b>DATE SUBMITTED/REVISED</b>	December 30, 2009
<b>BRIEFINGS? Who?</b>		<b>CONSEQUENCES IF DEFERRED</b>	Deterioration or breakage of materials
<b>DEPARTMENT/DIVISION</b>	Natural Resources Department	<b>AUTHORIZED BY TITLE</b>	Charlie Hunsicker, Director <i>Charlie Hunsicker</i>
<b>CONTACT PERSON TELEPHONE/EXTENSION</b>	Alan Lai Hipp, ext 4614	<b>PRESENTER/TITLE TELEPHONE/EXTENSION</b>	Alan Lai Hipp, ext 4614
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE APPROVAL</b>		<i>[Signature]</i>	

**ACTION DESIRED**  
INDICATE WHETHER 1) REPORT; 2) DISCUSSION; 3) FORM OF MOTION; OR 4) OTHER ACTION REQUIRED

Request the Board of County Commimssioners to authorize Natural Resources Department's donation of artificial reef modules valued at \$2,000 to non-profit environmental organizations Sarasota Bay Watch and Tampa Bay Watch.

**ENABLING/REGULATING AUTHORITY**

Federal/State law(s), administrative ruling(s), Manatee County Comp Plan/Land Development Code, Ordinance, Resolution, Policy

**APPROVED IN OPEN SESSION**

Manatee County Board of County Commissioners JAN 12 2010

**BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION**

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

- In approximately 2004, former staff of the Environmental Management Department's Coastal Program initiated a project to install concrete artificial reef balls along residential canal seawalls. The intent was to provide additional habitat for fish and benthic organisms in order to promote biodiversity and benefit water quality while providing an educational experience for local students. Harlee Middle School science students participated in the project by constructing some of the reef balls.
- An agreement was entered into between the Board of County Commissioners and the Manatee County School Board which called for the County to purchase reef module molds, concrete, and other miscellaneous items such as hand tools and electric concrete mixers required for students to construct a certain number of reef balls during the school year. Two sizes of reef balls were constructed: oyster balls (weighing approximately 40 pounds each) and low-pro balls (weighing approximately 100 pounds each). To supplement this project, approximately 200 oyster balls and approximately 30 low-pro balls were purchased directly from the manufacturer, Reef Innovations, Inc. The middle school students constructed approximately 60 oyster and 5 low-pro balls during the school year.
- The scope of the project called for the placement of the reef balls along the seawalls of at least 100 homes on residential canals. Staff assumed that the project could be covered under a single Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) permit. However, during the permitting process it was determined that the ACOE would require individual permits for each location without exception. It is unknown at this time whether or not the Florida Department of Environmental Protection also would have required individual permits. It was decided that it would not be feasible to apply for, and maintain, that number of permits and the project was subsequently abandoned.
- Since 2004 the reef balls have been stored in the Parks and Recreation storage yard adjacent to the Manatee Golf Course on 53rd Avenue West. These reef balls are unsuitable for placement on any of the County's permitted artificial reef sites because they are too small and are not of sufficient weight to prevent them from being moved by strong currents or being quickly covered by sediments.
- Recently, staff contacted the non-profit environmental organizations Sarasota Bay Watch and Tampa Bay Watch to inquire if they would be able to use the reef balls for projects within Manatee County waters and adjacent areas; both organizations replied affirmatively. Tampa Bay Watch conducts seawall reef ball placement projects in situations where the upland site owner already possesses a submerged land lease and multiple permits are not required. Sarasota Bay Watch has expressed interest in partnering with Manatee County on a habitat enhancement project that would involve placing reef balls at the base of bridge pilings in Perico Bayou; in this case, the County would need to apply for the appropriate permits.
- The total worth of the remaining reef balls is estimated at approximately \$2,000.00. The reef ball molds, concrete mixers and other non-consumable materials were returned to the County as agreed. The larger low-pro reef balls will be donated to Tampa Bay Watch while the smaller oyster reef balls will be donated to Sarasota Bay Watch.
- The donations will promote the use of these materials for their intended purpose, free up storage space within the Parks and Recreation storage yard and benefit coastal habitats within Sarasota Bay and Tampa Bay.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY REVIEW**

Check appropriate box

<input type="checkbox"/>	<p><b>REVIEWED</b></p> <p>Written Comments:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Attached</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Available from Attorney (Attorney's initials: _____)</p>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>NOT REVIEWED (No apparent legal issues.)</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>NOT REVIEWED (Utilizes exact form or procedure previously approved by CAO.)</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>OTHER</b>

<b>ATTACHMENTS: (List in order as attached)</b>		<b>INSTRUCTIONS TO BOARD RECORDS:</b>	
Photos of reef balls		None	
<b>COST:</b>	\$2,000 value of reef balls donation	<b>SOURCE (ACCT # &amp; NAME):</b>	NA
<b>COMMENTS:</b>	NA	<b>AMT./FREQ. OF RECURRING COSTS: (ATTACH FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT)</b>	NA

Smaller oyster reef balls to be donated to Sarasota Bay Watch



Larger low-pro reef balls to be donated to Tampa Bay Watch

