

Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Budget Status Report – Week 5

FY 2019/20 Legislative Budget Request

Charlotte Jerrett, April 5, 2019

Senate

The Senate took up and passed its General Appropriations Act (GAA), and budget conforming bills this week. The Implementing Bill is currently retained on the calendar on second reading. The Senate overall position on FWC's budget remains the same as reported last week; the Senate GAA (SB 2500) can be found [HERE](#); the FWC budget starts on page 250, line item 1788. Further details on Senate budget recommendations are available below and on the attached side-by-side comparison spreadsheet. Budget conferees are expected to be appointed, in preparation for budget conference meetings.

New Issues:

The Senate recommended the following FWC Strategic Support Initiatives: Public Assistance and Management of Invasive Species, Derelict Vessel Removal Program and Wildlife Management Area Private Landowner Remittance.

The following Operational Support Initiatives were funded: Transfer Environmental Crimes Investigators to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Law Enforcement Officer Reserve Program, Babcock Webb Wildlife Management Area Office and Septic Upgrades, Replacement Lease Space, Cybersecurity Remediation, Bryant Building Facility Repairs and Upgrades, Enterprise Mobile Development Initiative, Youth Conservation Education Donations, Stone Crab Research and Monitoring, FWRI Facility Safety and Security Repairs, and Red Tide Research.

The following Optimize Federal and Grant Funding Initiatives were recommended: Hurricane Irma Marine Fisheries Disaster Recovery, Hurricane Irma Marine Debris Removal, Boating Infrastructure, Florida Boating Improvement Program and Artificial Reef Construction Program.

The following projects were recommended to be funded with non-recurring appropriations: Facility Upgrades to Parker Manatee Aquarium, ZooTampa Florida Panther Medical Facility and Habitat, Zoo Miami Expansion and Renovation of Hospital, and Florida Aquarium – Expansion of Threatened Coral Archive Project.

Reductions:

The Senate recommended a reduction \$18,450,000 of excess budget authority.

Trust Fund Sweeps:

No Trust Fund Sweeps were recommended.

Employee Compensation:

No adjustments to employee compensation were recommended.

Budget Conforming Bills: Budget conforming bills are bills traveling with the GAA that contain substantive changes to law that are necessary to support the budget as outlined in the GAA. Implementing bills are available here:

[SB 2502 - Implementing the 2019-2020 General Appropriations Act](#)

[SB 2504 - State Employees](#)

[SB 7016 - State Administered Retirement Systems](#)

House

The House also took up and passed its GAA and budget conforming bills this week. The House Implementing Bill has been read for a 3rd time but temporarily postponed and is considered unfinished business. The House overall position on FWC remains the same as reported week; the House GAA (HB 5001) for FWC can be found [HERE](#); the FWC budget starts on page 249, line item 1788. Further details on House budget recommendations are available below and on the attached side-by-side comparison spreadsheet. Budget conferees are expected to be appointed in preparation for budget conference meetings.

New Issues:

The House recommended the following FWC Strategic Support Initiatives: Derelict Vessel Removal Program, Fish Eating Creek WMA Campground Phase II and Wildlife Management Area Private Landowner Remittance.

The following Operational Support Initiatives were funded: Transfer Environmental Crimes Investigators to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Law Enforcement Enhanced Patrol and Support, Aviation Enhancement, Support Aircraft Maintenance, Repair and Enhancement, Law Enforcement Officer Reserve Program, Regional Communications Center Consolidation, Overtime Pay for Sworn Law Enforcement Officers, Law Enforcement Body Worn Camera's, Non-Native Conflict Species Management, Cybersecurity Remediation, Bryant Building Facilities Repairs and Upgrades, South Regional Office Flood Abatement - Phase II, Southwest Regional Office Roof Replacement, Enterprise Mobile Development Initiative, Youth Conservation Education Donations, Stone Crab Research and Monitoring, FWRI Facility Safety and Security Repairs, Center for Red Tide

Research, Replacement of Motor Vehicles, Replacement of Boats, Motors and Trailers.

The following Federal and Grant Funding Initiatives were recommended: Hurricane Irma Marine Fisheries Disaster Recovery, Hurricane Irma Marine Debris Removal, Boating Infrastructure, Florida Boating Improvement Program and Artificial Reef Construction Program.

The following projects were recommended to be funded with non-recurring appropriations: Coral Reef Disease Response and Restoration, ZooTampa Manatee Hospital, Parker Manatee Aquarium at the South Florida Museum, and Lake Restoration Projects.

Reductions:

The House recommended a reduction \$17,389,582 of excess budget authority. They recommended the reduction of two FTE positions that were vacant in excess of 180 days. The following reductions were included in the Agency Schedule V-IIIB reduction schedule and recommended in the House proposed budget: Reduce Lake Restoration, Reduce Transfer to the Department of Agriculture/Institute of Food and Agriculture (IFAS) for Invasive Exotic Plant Research, Eliminate the Fostering Success Pilot Program, Reduce Small-Game Management, Reduce Public-Information Related to Game Wildlife, and Reduce Game Management and Hunting Opportunity Development.

Trust Fund Sweeps:

No Trust Fund Sweeps were recommended.

Employee Compensation:

No adjustments to employee compensation were recommended.

Budget Conforming Bills:

Budget conforming bills are bills traveling with the GAA that contain substantive changes to law that are necessary to support the budget as approved in the GAA. Implementing bills are available here:

[HB 5003 - Implementing the 2019-20 General Appropriations Act](#)

[HB 5005 - Collective Bargaining](#)

[HB 5007 - State-Administered Retirement Systems](#)

[HB 5009 - State Employees Group Insurance Program](#)

[HB 5301 - Information Technology Reorganization](#)

[HB 5401 - Department of Environmental Protection](#)

Next Steps

Now that the Senate and House have each passed their respective budgets, procedurally they are positioned to hold a budget conference to work out the differences. The Senate passed its versions of the budget bills and sent them to the House. The House amended the Senate bills to contain the substance of the House bills, and sent the amended Senate bills back to the House for concurrence. When the Senate meets again, next week, it will refuse to concur with the House amendments, and the budget conference will be able to begin (to see the differences between the two versions, still refer to the bills linked above, or in the attached chart). Once the differences are resolved, the Senate and House will then take up the agreed-upon conference budget bills and, when passed, will send them to the Governor for final action. After the Governor completes his line item veto list, the State will have its beginning budget for Fiscal Year 2019/20.