

Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Budget Status Report – Week 8

FY 2019/20 Legislative Budget Request

Charlotte Jerrett, May 1, 2019

The Budget Conference held an organizational session on Tuesday afternoon April 23, after Senate and House leadership reached agreement on the conference budget allocations. Senate and House members were appointed to serve on conference committees shortly before the organizational session started. The Senate is hosting conference negotiations this year since the House hosted conference negotiations during last Session. The committee handling the FWC budget is the Agriculture, Environment and General Government/Agriculture & Natural Resources Budget Conference Committee (AEGG/ANR), which includes 10 Senate members and 13 House members. There are also several “at large” members on both sides who may participate in any of the budget conference committee meetings.

Conference work by the Appropriations Committee Chairs was completed Tuesday evening with a favorable outcome for FWC; the final budget includes a total of \$393.1 Million and 2,112.50 positions. The General Appropriations Act (GAA) can be found [HERE](#) the FWC budget starts on page, 260 line item 1788. Specific budget details are available below and on the attached side-by-side comparison spreadsheet.

New Issues:

The budget includes the following FWC Strategic Support Initiatives: 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 Enhanced Patrol and Support, Law Enforcement Officer Reserve Program, Body Worn Camera's, Overtime Pay for Sworn Law Enforcement Officers, Aviation Enhancement, Support Aircraft Maintenance and Enhancement, Regional Communications Center, Replacement Lease Space, Cybersecurity Remediation, Bryant Building Facility Repairs and Upgrades, Enterprise Mobile Development Initiative, Youth Conservation Education Donations, Southwest Regional Office Flood Abatement - Phase II, Southwest Regional Office Roof Replacement, Non-Native and Conflict Species Management, Coral Reef Response and Restoration, Stone Crab Research and Monitoring, FWRI Facility Safety and Security Repairs, The Center for Red Tide Research, Gulf Coast Marine Fisheries Hatchery, Replacement of Motor Vehicles, and Replacement of Boats, Motors and Trailers.

The following Federal and Grant Funding Initiatives were funded: 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: ZooTampa Manatee Hospital, Facility upgrades to Parker Manatee Aquarium, Lowry Park Zoo, Zoo Miami, Florida Aquarium and Lake Restoration Projects.

Reductions:

Agency reductions include \$13,776,784 of excess budget authority, Lake Restoration, Public-Information Related to Game Wildlife, and 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:

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

[SB 2504 - State Employees](#)

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

Next Steps

The GAA was not printed and distributed to members by midnight on Tuesday, which means the mandatory 72-hour “cooling off” period will not be met in time for a Friday vote. Session will extend into Saturday May 4th before the General Appropriation Act (GAA) can be voted on by both chambers. The budget bills are expected to pass the Senate and House on Saturday. Once passed it will be delivered to the Governor for his action. The Governor has 15 days from receipt of the bills to take action, if he so chooses. He may veto, sign, or allow a bill to become law without his signature. For the General Appropriations Act, the Governor is authorized to veto specific line items within the bill without vetoing the entire budget. After the Governor completes his actions on the budget bills, the State will have its beginning budget for Fiscal Year 2019/20.