

MEMORANDUM



To: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commissioners

From: Colonel Curtis Brown, Director, Division of Law Enforcement

Date: July 17, 2019

Subject: Consent Agenda - Amendment to Florida Boating Improvement Program Grant Rule (FBIP)

Purpose:

To amend the Florida Boating Improvement Program Rule (FBIP) with clarifying language for the 2020 applicants and to make necessary substantive changes.

Summary:

In February, 2019, proposed changes to the Florida Boating Infrastructure Grant Program (BIGP) were approved by the Commissioners and adopted into rule. BIGP funding is derived from federal funds through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In an ongoing effort to continue to make improvements to benefit the boating public, staff now proposes changes to the FBIP grants which are supported by funds derived from state sources including fuel taxes and vessel registrations.

Subsection 9 of Rule, 68-1.003 Florida Administrative Code (FAC) establishes the criteria for FBIP grants. Staff proposes to incorporate by reference updated guidelines and a new application form dated July 2019. These changes have been prompted by stakeholder input asking for more clarification. Revisions appear throughout the guidelines and on the application form using clarifying and more detailed language to assist applicants in navigating the FBIP proposal process and enabling them to produce more competitive, high quality applications.

The new guidelines and application form are provided as background documents for this agenda item. The substantive changes made to the program guidelines simplify the application process, clarify many issues identified in the past as confusing to applicants, and incorporate requirements that must be followed after successful grant awards are initiated.

The Notice of Proposed Rule Development was published on October 17, 2018. If approved, these changes will be advertised and filed for adoption without further hearing, as allowed by s. 120.54 Florida Statutes.

Staff Recommendation:

Approve the proposed amendments to Rule 68-1.003, FAC.

Staff Contact and/or Presenter:

Major Rob Rowe, Boating and Waterways Section Leader, Division of Law Enforcement