

Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Budget Status Report – Week 1

FY 2018/19 Legislative Budget Request

Charlotte Jerrett, January 12, 2018

This week, the first of the 2018 Legislative Session, budget subcommittees were scheduled to meet to begin their work on a balanced budget for next fiscal year (July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019). The subcommittee staff have been reviewing base budgets, the Governor's budget recommendations, and various technical issues while waiting for their subcommittee allocations. Allocations are the budget limits within which each subcommittee must balance its portion of the budget. Much of the decision-making will have to wait until the allocations are received.

Senate

In the Senate, the appropriations bill will be developed by the Senate Committee on Appropriations. This is an 18 member committee, chaired by Senator Rob Bradley, which includes the chairmen of its 8 subcommittees. The FWC budget will be developed in the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on the Environment and Natural Resources, chaired by Senator Lauren Book. There are 7 members on the subcommittee who will be developing the budgets for the following agencies: Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; Department of Citrus; Department of Environmental Protection; and the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

House

The House Appropriations Committee will develop the budget bill for the House of Representatives. This is a 30 member committee, chaired by Representative Carlos Trujillo, which includes the chairmen of its 7 subcommittees. FWC's portion will be worked out in the Agriculture and Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee, chaired by Representative Ben Albritton. There are 14 members on the subcommittee who will be developing the budgets of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the Department of Citrus, the Department of Environmental Protection, and the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Next Steps

House and Senate budget subcommittees and full committees plan to work intensively this month toward a goal of passing their respective Appropriations Acts. If all goes well, they will hold their budget conference meetings sometime in late February or early March to reconcile the

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differences between the respective House and Senate budgets, in time to pass the final budget before the end of Session on March 9th. After the Governor completes his line item veto list, the State will then have its beginning budget for Fiscal Year 2018/19.