

MEMORANDUM



To: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commissioners
From: Charlotte Jerrett, Chief Financial Officer
Date: June 23, 2015
Subject: Budget Workshop

Purpose:

The purpose of this presentation is to inform the Commissioners of the status of the FY 15/16 Budget resulting from “Special Legislative Session A”, with discussion on changes resulting from the passage of Amendment One to the Florida Constitution. This presentation will also address the process and framework for the development of the FY 16/17 Legislative Budget Request.

Summary:

Special Legislative Session A is scheduled from June 1 – 20, 2015, with the purpose of approving the FY 15/16 budget.

In 2014, Florida voters approved a constitutional amendment proposed by Florida’s Water and Land Legacy to provide a dedicated funding source for water and land conservation and restoration. The amendment created article X, section 28 of the Florida Constitution. The amendment requires that starting on July 1, 2015, for 20 years, 33 percent of net revenues derived from the existing excise tax on documents, as defined by the statutes in effect on January 1, 2012, must be deposited into the Land Acquisition Trust Fund. The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) has numerous activities currently funded with documentary stamp revenue (\$78.7M base budget) that are consistent with the activities and programs described in Amendment One. These programs and activities are largely within land management, lake restoration and invasive plant management. Based on the direction provided by the Commissioners at previous meetings and in coordination with the Chairman and Vice Chairman, staff focused first on maintaining existing levels of funding to those programs currently supported by documentary stamp tax revenue. Additionally, information was provided to the Legislature on land management priorities to aid deliberations on the allocation of Amendment One funding. The budgetary changes from this funding initiative will be discussed during this workshop.

Staff will provide an overview of the budgetary framework of the FWC. This overview will include a summary of state constitutional provisions for funding, legislatively authorized trust funds and revenue streams, and the internal process for development of the FY 16/17 Legislative Budget Request (LBR).

Staff Recommendation:

Staff will seek direction from the Commissioners on any policy guidance for the upcoming LBR development. The Commission may consider assigning a Commission Budget Liaison to work with staff over the summer on the development of the FY 16/17 LBR as well as other budget issues.

Staff Contact and/or Presenter

Charlotte Jerrett, Chief Financial Officer