

DEPT-3

2021 Legislative Program, Update, and Strategy

January 12, 2021

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Legislative Coordinator

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Successes of the Legislative Program

- 2019 (FY20) total funding specific to Martin County: \$3,595,000
 - \$2 million for septic to sewer (Golden Gate)
 - \$1.2 for a stormwater treatment area (East Fork Creek)
 - \$270,000 for Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative (LRPI) project
- 2020 (FY21) total funding specific to Martin County: \$2,600,000
 - \$2.5 million for septic to sewer (Old Palm City)
 - \$100,000 for Savannas South Weir



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8-17-2021

Martin County Legislative Leadership

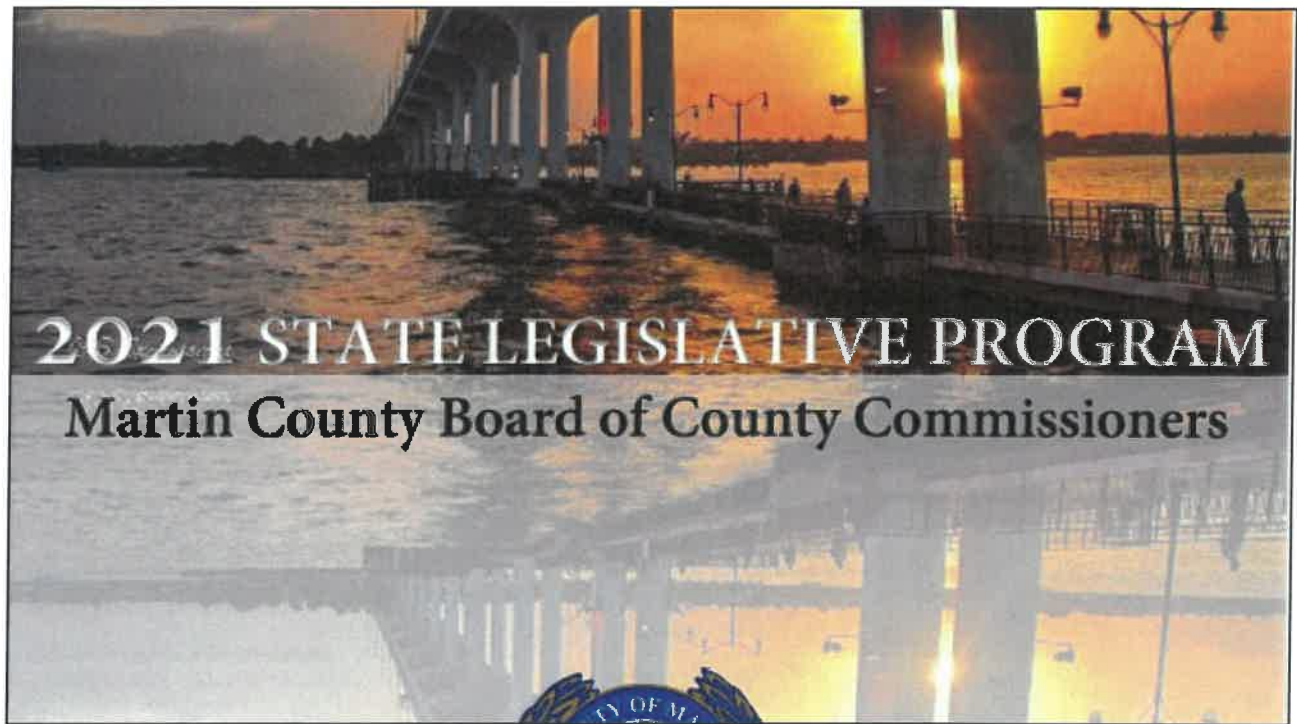
- Florida Association of Counties and the National Association of Counties have adopted Martin County's legislative priorities as top priorities for the state
 - Biosolids
 - Coral Reef Restoration
 - Indian River Lagoon annual \$25 million local government water quality project match dollars
- Indian River Lagoon- South

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Significant Federal Success

- FY21 Federal Budget includes \$250 Million for Everglades Restoration. (FY21 Budget was \$200 million)
- \$149 Million for IRLS in the US Army Corps of Engineers Work Plan
 - \$19 Million to finish the C-44 Reservoir
 - \$130 Million to construct the C-23/24 STA
- In the same legislation, WRDA 2020 was approved
 - Authorization of the Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Plan which will ultimately provide for 90% of the dry season fresh water flows needed and includes \$350 Million worth of wetland restoration in Martin County. This authorization makes the project eligible for a local sponsor project partnership agreement and future appropriations for funding.
 - Provision that obligates the USACE to consider the impacts of discharging harmful algal blooms to the estuaries and research ways to predict, prevent and mitigate future discharge events.
 - WRDA 2020 also included language that resolved the procedural challenge that could have delayed construction of the EAA reservoir.

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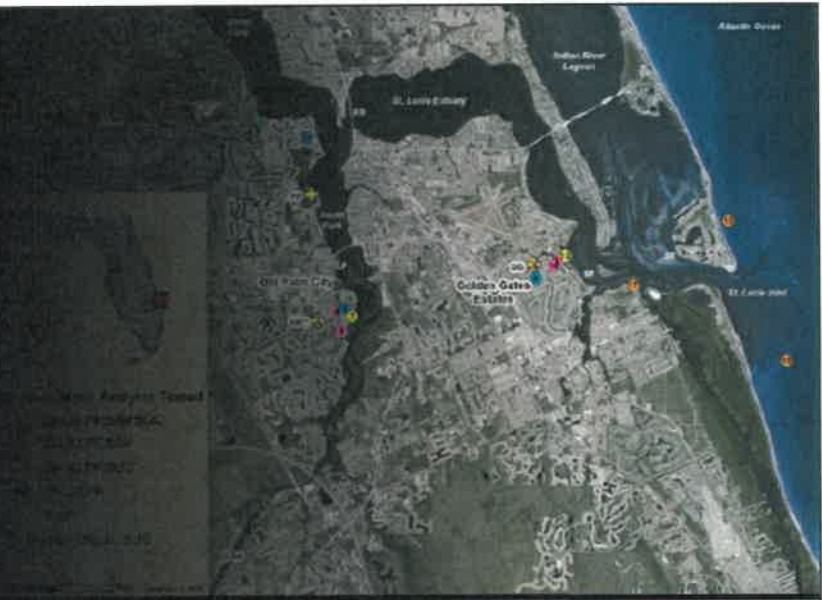
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Septic to Sewer Conversion - \$4 million

- **REQUEST** funding for Martin County's Septic to Sewer Conversion Program.
REQUEST reoccurring annual septic to sewer funding
- Next Project in our 10-year Conversion Plan is Port Salerno – New Monrovia



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Indian River Lagoon - South

- **SUPPORT** continued dedicated funding for the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) and **SUPPORT** long-term funding commitments to finance the completion of the projects on the Integrated Delivery Schedule (IDS), with a priority given to the Indian River Lagoon-South (IRL-S) Project including funding for the C-23/24 and C-25 reservoirs and STAs.
- **SUPPORT** the land acquisition of the Natural Lands Component of IRL-South, which includes 90,000 acres of wetland restoration.



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PalMar

- **SUPPORT** state funding for PalMar land acquisition and Florida Forever funding for state land acquisition.

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Dedicated Coral Reef Funding & Florida Resilient Coastlines Program

- **SUPPORT** efforts and dedicated funding for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to protect and restore the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Tract.
- **SUPPPORT** efforts and dedicated funding for resources to prepare Florida's coastal communities and habitats for the effects of climate change, especially rising sea levels
- **SUPPORT** language to name the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation Area, established in 2018, after the late State Representative Kristin Jacobs as the "Kristin Jacobs Southeast Florida Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation Area".

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Priorities Continued...

- **Biosolids**
 - **SUPPORT** establishing a pilot project program for funding new, state of the art wastewater technologies to improve recovery and afford more efficient use of human wastewater biosolids.
- **Amendment to Tree Trimming Protections**
 - **SUPPORT** amending Section 163. 045, F.S. , Tree pruning, trimming or removal on residential property to: clarify the meaning of “residential property”, to protect champion and heritage trees, to clarify the meaning of “an arborist certified by the International Society of Arboriculture”, and to clarify what is meant by a “tree presents a danger to persons or property”.
- **Affordable Housing**
 - **SUPPORT** the existing state housing trust funds for affordable housing programs, specifically the local S.H.I.P. programs.
- **Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program (IRL NEP)**

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Priorities Continued...

- **Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative**
 - **SUPPORT** continued funding of projects identified through the LRPI; a partnership of governmental agencies brought together for the common goal of the restoration and enhancement of the Loxahatchee River.
- **School Board Millage**
 - **SUPPORT** returning the school board to a 2.0 millage rate for Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) funding and ensuring the county’s contribution is equitable to what is received.
- **PFAS**
 - **SUPPORT** state efforts in rulemaking to ensure local governments are not disproportionately impacted for funding cleanups. **SUPPORT** funding for local government response costs. **SUPPORT** research to determine accurate rates of impact to human health and the environment from the presence of PFAS in non-potable groundwater.

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Strategy

- **Legislative Session**
 - March 2, 2021- April 30, 2021
 - Committee Week 1 Started this Monday, January 11, 2021
- **Unusual Protocols due to COVID-19 will require more extensive coordination**
 - Regular Delegation Staff Meetings
 - Local Squad
 - FAC Coordination
 - Treasure Coast Tri-County Meeting
 - Weekly Updates for staff and the public

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• **SB 62 - Regional Planning Councils**

- Revising a requirement for the Executive Office of the Governor to review and consider certain reports, data, and analyses relating to the revision of the state comprehensive plan; eliminating the advisory role of regional planning councils in state comprehensive plan preparation and revision; repealing provisions relating to the Florida Regional Planning Council Act; authorizing local governments to recommend areas of critical state concern to the state land planning agency, etc.

On the
Radar in
the First
Week...

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Recommended Action

- Move that the Board adopt the 2021 Legislative Program.
- Move that the Board send a Chair letter advocating for FY22 federal funding for the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) to both the Army Corps of Engineers and the incoming executive administration.
- Move that the Board send a Chair thank you letter to the Florida Department of Emergency Management and the delegation for assisting with the expedited review of the Hazard Mitigation Grants the county has received for the Hobe Heights flooding.