



City of Tarpon Springs, Florida

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Memorandum

Date: July 13, 2018
To: Website Update
From: Bob Robertson, P.E., Project Administration Department Director
Subject: Anclote River Dredge Project Status Update

Below is a brief summary of the Anclote River Dredge Project status.

Project work continues by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). This project falls under the USACE jurisdiction and is being monitored by City staff. The USACE is working with the City to finalize the legal agreement through which the City/County partnership can provide up to \$300,000, contributed by Pinellas County, to fund the design and permitting phase. While the paperwork on this agreement is still be finalized, the USACE began working on the design in early 2018 to avoid project delays.

In other funding news, the State of Florida has approved up to \$676,046 for securing a property and for the construction of a storage and dewatering system on the property for the sediments dredged from the river. This money will apply to the construction phase of the project. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) will be administering the grant on behalf of the State. City Staff recently completed work plan paperwork and submitted it to FDEP for processing and approval. The funds for this grant became available in July 2018 (the beginning of the State's fiscal year).

As this time, it is our understanding that the United States Congress has made funding available for dredge projects to the USACE for projects such as this one. The amount of funding is \$3.5 million according to a recent phone call from the USACE's project manager. Recently the US Coast Guard agreed with the USACE's recommendation to relocate the outer reaches of the Federal Channel in the vicinity of Anclote Key to deeper waters. This will move the outer reaches of the channel to safer depths and avoid having to dredge these sections of the channel. As such, the \$3.5 million U.S. Congressional appropriation should be enough funding to complete the dredge of the Anclote River to expected and restorative depths, not simply "pre-Hurricane Irma" depths. As of this update it is the USACE's intention to finalize design in this calendar year in hopes of beginning the construction bid process as early as late 2018 or more likely in early 2019.

City Staff continues to monitor the project and remain involved and available to assist the USACE during design and construction.