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MEMORANDUM

TO: Estero Village Council
CC: Steven Sarkozy, Village Manager
FROM: Daphnie Bercher
DATE: October 10, 2016
SUBJECT: Membership to the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council

Funding for the RPC is based on a per capita assessment of \$.30 for Lee County or the municipalities that are members. If a municipality opts out of membership, the County is responsible for that portion of funding to the RPC. If a municipality chooses to pay to have a seat on the Council, then its per capita assessment is deducted from the amount due from the County.

Municipalities that pay its assessment/membership have a vote on the RPC. With the exception of the Village of Estero, all other Lee County municipalities are paying members of the RPC.

Pursuant to an Interlocal Agreement between the RPC and Lee County, and revised by-laws of the RPC, the County names one municipality each year that receives a free membership on the RPC. This decision is based on discussions with the municipalities within the County and has been rotated among the municipalities for many years. The County has been asked since June to name the municipality that will have the free membership for the year, but the County has not yet done so. The RPC's budget has been finalized (meaning the other municipalities are budgeted to pay its membership and Lee County is budgeted to pay the rest). Since all of the other Lee County municipalities are already paying members, by default, the Village of Estero has the free membership.

However, Lee County could ask the Council to revise the RPC's budget and choose a different municipality for the free membership.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Estero Village Council
CC: Steve Sarkozy, Village Manager
FROM: Mary Gibbs, Community Development Director
DATE: October 11, 2016
Subject: Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council and Agency on Bay Management

This is in response to Council questions from the October 5th Council meeting about the Agency on Bay Management (ABM). I contacted Jim Beever from the Regional Planning Council for the following responses:

Can the Village participate in the ABM separately and if so, what is the fee for that?

The Village can participate in the EBABM separately. There is no mandatory separate fee for participation. Some of the municipalities (Bonita Springs, Town of Fort Myers Beach) have voluntarily provided a \$1,000 per year contribution to the EBABM in order to support the activities of the EBABM. The City of Bonita Springs has also contributed substantially more in the year when we completed the last State of the Bay assessment.

Is there any general information you could get us for Council that would explain the role and purpose of ABM and the role and purpose of RPC?

Yes. There is a web page with links at <http://www.swfrpc.org/abm.html> there you can find all pertinent documents including the Principles, which constitutes the activities the ABAM cover; reports, meeting records, and some past presentations.

Negotiations over the permit issuance for the Florida Gulf Coast University led to a Settlement Agreement that called for the creation of the "Arnold Committee" and an assessment of overall land uses and natural systems, environmental protection and mitigation tools in the Estero Bay watershed. Upon completion of the Assessment and its adoption by the Arnold Committee in October of 1996, the council established and began providing staff support to the Estero Bay Agency on Bay Management (ABM). The ABM is a non-regulatory advisory committee to the Council. Its directive is to make comments and recommendations regarding the management of Estero Bay and its watershed. The ABM collects and maintains data and it reviews and comments to regulatory agencies on issues affecting the watershed. Its members include Lee County legislative delegates and representatives of the Council, local chambers of commerce, citizen and civic associations, the Responsible Growth Management Coalition, Lee County, Collier County, Fort Myers, Fort Myers Beach, the SFWMD, the Florida Department of

Environmental Protection, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Florida Gulf Coast University, federal agencies involved in natural resource management, commercial and recreational fishing interests, environmental and conservation organizations, scientists, affected property owners, and the land development community. The ABM typically meets on the second Monday of each month beginning at 9:30 a.m. Most meetings are held in the conference room of the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council, but some are occasionally held at other sites within the Estero Bay watershed.