

7.0 FINANCING REQUIREMENTS AND OPTIONS

7.1 Funding Requirements

The total cost for implementing the Plan can be broken down into the following line items: engineering design and environmental permitting fees; land acquisition costs; construction costs; and annual recurring costs for ongoing operation and maintenance activities, and program administrative functions. For most watershed management projects, the costs associated with land acquisition and construction are typically the greatest. Because the recommended Plan does not include management actions that require substantial land acquisition, construction costs by far constitute the greatest single line item associated with the implementation of the Plan. Table 7-1 shows a breakdown of construction cost by phase, whereas Table 7-2 shows a detailed breakdown of construction costs, annual recurring costs, and 10-year total costs for each component of the Plan.

Table 7-1. Construction cost breakdown by Plan implementation phase.

Plan Implementation Phase	Construction Cost
Phase I (FY-2002 through 2003)	\$4,420,000
Phase II (FY-2004 through 2005)	\$9,310,000
Phase III (FY-2006 and beyond)	\$750,000
Total Construction Cost	\$14,480,000

The total construction cost of implementing the Plan is estimated at \$14,980,000. This cost estimate assumes that all components of the Plan, including the most ambitious optional alternatives, are fully implemented as recommended. Therefore, this cost represents a maximum construction cost estimate. It should, however, be noted that the total estimated construction cost does not include design and permitting fees, or land acquisition costs.

The total annual recurring cost of Plan implementation is estimated to be \$537,000. This annual recurring cost estimate includes all ongoing operation and maintenance activities, and program administrative functions. As with the total construction cost estimate, this cost estimate assumes that all components of the Plan, including the most ambitious optional alternatives, are fully implemented as recommended. Therefore, this cost represents a maximum annual recurring cost estimate.

The total 10-year cost assumes that the construction of all structural components of the Plan will be completed within five years of initiation (e.g., by September 2006), and is estimated at \$17,665,000. As such, the total 10-year cost includes the construction costs, and 5-years of accrued annual

recurring costs, for all components of the Plan. Therefore, this cost represents an estimate of the maximum total cost of Plan implementation over a 10-year planning and budgeting window (e.g., through September 2011). All cost estimates are figured in FY-2001 dollars and do not account for inflation.

Although the above cost estimate was prepared using the best available information to date, it should be noted that it is only a rough approximation of the total costs to implement the Plan. Design plans and specifications have not been prepared for the major structural components of the Plan, and market-driven unit costs (e.g., land, materials, labor, etc.) can vary significantly due to many factors (e.g., inflation, competition). More detailed and accurate cost estimates for each component of the Plan can only be developed based on designs, specifications, programs, and economic conditions in place at the time of implementation.

7.2 Funding Options

Several state and federal matching-fund and grant programs have been identified to help defray the local government costs of Plan implementation. Based on the information obtained during this study, the following conclusions and recommendations can be made regarding funding options for the Plan.

Federal Programs

- Federal grants under the EPA 319 program, administered by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, should be pursued to generate funding for the proposed stormwater rehabilitation projects.
- Funding available from the EPA Clean Lakes Program has been under-utilized in Florida in past years, and current funding cuts now threaten the viability of the entire program. Political support of the Clean Lakes Program by Pinellas County is recommended.

State Programs

- Cooperative funding support from the Pinellas-Anclote River Basin Board should continue to be sought to the greatest extent feasible. This funding source, being generated by ad valorem taxes, represents perhaps the single most stable and predictable funding source for water resource and lake management initiatives in Pinellas County.
- Currently, the funding of District SWIM programs is dependent upon a yearly appropriation from the Florida Legislature. Funds generated by FDOT contributions to the Ecosystem Management Trust Fund for mitigation purposes are being evaluated as a potential long-term funding source for the District SWIM programs. Such funds are to be used for aquatic weed control programs, habitat restoration planting programs, and other remediative programs

associated with eutrophication. Pinellas County should continue to closely track the rule making for this legislation to determine if such funds will be available through District cooperative funding programs in the future.

- The Florida Forever Act passed by the Florida Legislature in 1999 will generate approximately \$5.2 million per year for fishery enhancement projects statewide, for a total of 10 years. This program is to be administered by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and funds from this program should be pursued for fishery management and in-lake habitat restoration projects.
- Funds generated from the Florida Forever Act will also be directed to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Aquatic Plant Management Program. Funds from this program should be pursued for aquatic weed harvesting and in-lake habitat restoration projects.

Local Funding Options

- Pinellas County should pursue cooperative funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Funds from this private foundation can be used to finance habitat restoration and fishing enhancement projects, as well as other nature-based recreational improvements.
- Pinellas County should consider the creation of a stormwater utility to provide a long-term, stable funding source for drainage and water quality improvement projects. In addition to the "Penny for Pinellas" sales tax, a stormwater utility could provide the County with a long-term and stable source of needed funding for continuing the watershed management initiatives already underway.
- Pinellas County should undertake a survey of lakefront and watershed property owners to determine if a Municipal Service Taxing Unit (MSTU) would be supported. If initial support is indicated, Pinellas County should give strong consideration to this management option in lieu of general revenues or a stormwater utility.
- A local boat registration fee is considered to be the most cost-effective and equitable approach to collecting user fees; however additional manpower will be needed to administer and enforce such a program.

Table 7-2 below provides a cost summary of the various components of the Plan and list potential funding sources for each.

Table 7-1. Cost summary for components of the Lake Seminole Watershed Management Plan, and potential funding sources for each.

Plan Component	Construction Cost*	Annual Recurring Costs**	Total 10-year Cost***	Potential Funding Sources
<i>Structural Component 1</i> - Construct Enhanced Regional Stormwater Treatment Facilities in Priority Sub-Basins	\$2,000,000	\$150,000	\$2,750,000	SWFWMD Basin Board Funds; EPA 319 Grants
<i>Structural Component 2</i> - Divert Seminole Bypass Canal Flows to Improve Lake Flushing and Dilution	\$500,000	\$35,000	\$675,000	SWFWMD Basin Board Funds; EPA 319 Grants
<i>Structural Component 3</i> - Excavate Organic Peat Sediments from Shoreline Areas	\$1,600,000	N/A	\$1,600,000	SWFWMD Basin Board Funds; EPA Clean Lakes Funds
<i>Structural Component 4</i> - Dredge Organic Silt Sediments from Submerged Areas	\$7,600,000	N/A	\$7,600,000	SWFWMD Basin Board Funds; EPA Clean Lakes Funds
<i>Structural Component 5</i> - Restore Priority Upland and Wetland Habitats	\$500,000 for In-Lake Projects \$530,000 for Upland Projects	\$5,000 \$10,000	\$525,000 \$580,000	SWFWMD Basin Board Funds Florida Forever Act Funds
<i>Structural Component 6</i> - Install Stage and Flow Measurement Instrumentation on the Lake Seminole Outfall Control Structure	\$20,000	\$2,000	\$30,000	SWFWMD Basin Board Funds
<i>Management Component 1</i> - Implement an Enhanced Lake Level Fluctuation Schedule	New Outfall Structure is Already Funded	\$5,000	\$25,000	County General Administrative Funds
<i>Management Component 2</i> - Inactivate Phosphorus through Whole Lake Alum Applications	\$700,000 per application	N/A	\$700,000	SWFWMD Basin Board Funds
<i>Management Component 3</i> - Mechanically Harvest Nuisance Aquatic Vegetation	Pinellas County Already Owns a Harvester	\$200,000	\$1,000,000	Florida Forever Act Funds
<i>Management Component 4</i> - Biomanipulate Sport Fish Populations	\$300,000 for Phase I-III Activities	N/A	\$300,000	Florida Forever Act Funds
<i>Management Component 5</i> - Improve Treatment Efficiency of Existing Stormwater Facilities	\$200,000 for Program Implementation	N/A	\$200,000	SWFWMD Basin Board Funds; EPA 319 Grants
<i>Legal Component 1</i> - Amend the Florida Statutes to Temporarily Exempt Lake Seminole from Aquatic Preserve And Outstanding Florida Water Regulatory Restrictions	Implement with Existing Staff and Resources	N/A	\$0	County General Administrative Funds

Plan Component	Construction Cost*	Annual Recurring Costs**	Total 10-year Cost***	Potential Funding Sources
<i>Legal Component 2 - Adopt a Resolution Designating the Lake Seminole Watershed as a "Nutrient Sensitive Watershed"</i>	Implement with Existing Staff and Resources	N/A	\$0	County General Administrative Funds
<i>Legal Component 3 - Strengthen and Standardize Local Ordinances for Regulating Stormwater Treatment for Redevelopment in the Lake Seminole Watershed</i>	Implement with Existing Staff and Resources	N/A	\$0	County and City General Administrative Funds
<i>Policy Component 1 - Establish a Lake Seminole Watershed Management Area (WMA) through Amendments to the Pinellas County, and Cities of Largo and Seminole Comprehensive Plans</i>	Implement with Existing Staff and Resources	N/A	\$0	County and City General Administrative Funds
<i>Compliance and Enforcement Component 1 - Expand and Enforce Restricted Speed Zones on Lake Seminole</i>	\$100,000	N/A	\$100,000	County General Administrative Funds
<i>Compliance and Enforcement Component 2 - Dedicate a Pinellas County Marine Unit Sheriff to Enforce Laws on Lake Seminole</i>	N/A	\$100,000	\$500,000	County General Administrative Funds
<i>Social and Recreational Component 1 - Construct a Public Pedestrian Fishing Pier and Boardwalk in Lake Seminole County Park</i>	\$400,000 for Alternative B	N/A	\$400,000	National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Funds
<i>Social and Recreational Component 2 - Establish and Protect Fishing Enhancement Zones on Lake Seminole</i>	\$30,000	N/A	\$30,000	Florida Forever Act Funds; National Fish & Wildlife Foundation Funds
<i>Public Education Component 1 - Develop and Implement a Comprehensive Public Involvement Program for the Lake Seminole Watershed</i>	N/A	\$10,000	\$50,000	County General Administrative Funds
<i>Public Education Component 2 - Develop and Implement a Local Citizens LakeWatch Program for Lake Seminole</i>	Implement with Existing Staff and Resources	N/A	\$0	County General Administrative Funds
Monitoring and Success Evaluation	Implement with Existing Staff and Resources	\$20,000 over current County monitoring programs	\$100,000	County General Administrative Funds
Total Costs	\$14,480,000	\$537,000	\$17,165,000	---

* Construction costs are exclusive of design, permitting and land acquisition costs.

** Annual recurring costs include ongoing O&M and other expenditures for staff labor and equipment.

*** Total 10-year costs include construction costs plus 5-years of accrued annual recurring costs. Assumes that all components of the Plan are fully implemented.