



Budget and Administrative Service Fiscal Services Division, Grants

Attention: David Johnston
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www.CharlotteCountyFL.com

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#19
5391615

Charlotte County Marine Advisory Committee

Application for Grant funding for the FY2015/2016 Budget year from 10/1/2015 to 9/30/2016

Please complete the following information and submit to the Charlotte County Fiscal Services Division Office by Thursday, February 5, 2015. All funding requests will be compiled and presented to the Marine Advisory Committee (MAC) at their monthly meeting on Thursday, March 12, 2015 (9:30 am, BCC Room 119). All departments/agencies requesting funds should have a representative present at the March 12th meeting to present their request and answer questions from the Committee. Blank copies of this Application can be found at <http://www.charlottecountyfl.com/BoardsCommittees/MAC/> then clicking on "Boater Improvement Fund Application Information."

Name of Organization: Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center

Principal Officer, President, Chairman etc.: Dorothea Cysko, Board President and Thomas Hecker, CEO

Address: 10941 Burnt Store Road, Punta Gorda, FL 33955

Telephone number: (941) 575-5435 Email: ashley@checflorida.org

Amount of Funding Requested: \$155,244.00

Total Cost of Project: \$213,204.00

Does your organization/department receive any other funding sources: YES. If yes, please list: Southwest Florida Water Management District, public and business donations, and donations/discounts on goods and services from area marine business such as Punta Gorda Marina and Cape Haze Marina.

Project Location: The greater Charlotte Harbor area: Peace River, Alligator Creek, and Lemon Bay

Estimated Completion Date: February 2015

Purpose of Funding Requested: To continue and expand upon CHEC's boat-based environmental education programs for Charlotte County. These programs currently include a field studies program for the Charlotte County Public School 4th grade students, teachers and chaperones. CHEC hopes to expand to include boat-based programming for adults. These programs would include the addition of a kayak/paddle board launch and an electric boat for use in Alligator Creek estuary tours. The boat based funding will allow us to operate and maintain two pontoon vessels - a 2004, 29' Fiesta and a 2008, 26' Fiesta and trailer in a safe and seaworthy manner, 5 tandem fishing kayaks, 5 stand-up paddle boards, and 1 electric boat, all while also delivering programs and educational materials to students and teachers. This program, since inception, has provided 24,200 students and 3,810 teachers and their adult chaperones with educational water-based journeys. We hope to expand to include more adult participation.

If permits are required, list each required, it's type and status. Attach all permits that have been issued to this application along with the estimated length of time to complete the project by phase and a vicinity map. No Permits are required.

Benefit to the County: There are many significant benefits to the county. The funds acquired through the Marine Advisory Committee will directly benefit the community by protecting our valuable water sources for the boating public, residents, and visitors of all ages. A portion of these funds will allow CHEC to focus educational efforts on Charlotte County's 4th graders, targeting an age in which educational lessons tend to leave a lifelong impression, thus making the most efficient use of a limited amount of available funding. The programs offered will focus on the nature and care of the county's estuarine and coastal habitats. This education will be coupled with lessons in boating safety and courteous use of the waterways, topics critical to our continued use of this valuable resources. All remaining funds will be used to develop similar educational programming for use with adult guests during our new kayak/paddle board estuary tours and electric boat tours. These programs help ensure Charlotte County develops an educated, courteous, and concerned population that helps provide responsible stewardship of our natural resources and places fewer demands on government agencies, especially law enforcement and regulatory agencies. In almost every way, education is more cost effective than enforcement and restoration.

Any operating costs associated with the project: Yes, see attached.

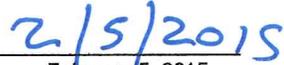
Other justification: Yes, see attached.

Please, attach any additional supporting information or documentation you feel is pertinent or supportive for your request.

Signature of authorized individual responsible for this application, and should funding be granted, the person responsible for assurances that funds are spent as proposed.



Thomas Hecker, CEO



February 5, 2015

BUDGET ESTIMATE DETAIL	Grant Funds	Matching Funds	Total
4th Grade Field Studies Program			
Program delivery	41,000	41,000	82,000
Boat operations	6,850	6,850	13,700
Travel	200	200	400
Routine Maintenance	750	750	1500
Fuel	750	750	1500
Seat replacement	2,000		2,000
Transportation (student Bussing)	7,210	7,210	14,420
Sand blasting and bottom repairs	3,500		3,500
Printing	450	450	900
Water Testing Supplies	200	200	400
Miscellaneous Supplies (nets, etc.)	550	550	1,100
4th grade program TOTAL	63,460	57,960	121,420
ALL Boat Education Programs			
Part-time Licensed Boat Captain/ Naturalist	25,000		25,000
Kayak/Paddle Board Tours			
5 Stand up Paddle Board (includes life jacket and paddle) <i>see attached supporting images</i>	5,000		5,000
5 Tandem Fishing Kayaks <i>see attached supporting images</i>	4,500		4,500
12 Kayak Paddles	900		900
12 Kayak Life Vests	540		540
30 Chains and locks	750		750

Program Description and Public Benefits

CHEC has been offering water resource educational programs to the Charlotte County community since its inception in 1987. The 4th grade program alone has provided scientifically based experiences to over 24,000 children and 3,700 teachers and their adult chaperones. In the interest in reaching a higher number of adult participants, CHEC is interested in maintaining current programming while also expanding to include a kayak/paddle board launch, electric boat, and guided estuary tours for our adult guests.

Much like the 4th grade program is designed to give students a better understating of the water systems of Florida with an introduction to safe and courteous boating practices, the kayak, paddle board, and electric boat tours will launch with these same goals in mind. Our outdoor water resource programs are intended to help students, adult and child alike, develop an understanding and appreciation for the beauty, complexity, and fragility of our local water systems. We work to create an awareness of the roll water plays in our local ecosystems and a sense of place within that system. The creation of a personal connection to these environments not only diminishes the effects of nature deficit disorder, but also helps encourage the next generation to become responsible environmental stewards, thus preserving our natural systems. This year CHEC will provide programming to approximately 1,500 4th grade students, nearly 60 teachers, and around 115 adult chaperones. With additional funding our adult numbers are expected to triple.

All participants in the existing 4th grade field-trips take an estuary pontoon boat tour in the Peace River and Lemon Bay. Students begin with an introduction to boating safety, chart reading, and basic navigation, with courteous boating practices discussed throughout the day. Students are also involved in the collection and identification of the native estuarine and freshwater species that inhabit our rivers, harbor, and adjacent habitats. These activities allow students to experience the unique characteristics of the estuary, it's plants, and the animals that live where the river meets the sea. To aid in this process of educating the public, CHEC has crab traps set at specific locations to collect specimens and utilizes nets to collect others. In addition, students will study upland, freshwater wetlands, coastal elements, and learn the importance of these systems in water conservation efforts.

CHEC always seeks to highlight the importance of water quality and the roles conscientious humans play in protecting the Charlotte Harbor / Lemon Bay watersheds. Students are instructed in water quality testing methods and the steps they can take in improving the water quality in their area. Some of the topics they study in more detail during this segment include: water clarity, salinity, ph, phosphate, depth, dissolved oxygen, and the effects each of these items have in the health of our ecosystem. Students will then test the water in small groups with each child being provided the opportunity to perform each step and interpret the results.

Many of the same water-testing and collection activities would be made available to educate our more mature, kayak/electric boat tour audiences, with the exception of the boats and locations used. While on the Peace River students observe the changes from the lower Harbor to the more fresh water areas of the Peace River and Shell Creek. In Lemon Bay the program includes travel to sea grass areas along intracoastal water ways and observations of species along the beach front and coastal strands. The adult kayak, paddle board, and electric boat tours will follow this same standards from our Alligator Creek location. In all cases, participants and

students will learn about the different types of sea grasses, mangroves, and other plants found locally, along with their importance to our water quality and local ecosystems..

All CHEC programs are conducted by experienced educators or volunteer naturalists, with fully licensed captains employed to run our boat programs. Regardless of what expertise they bring to the table, our staff is dedicated to producing field studies and estuary tour programming that brings an understanding and appreciation of the complexity, interrelatedness, and fragility of our local watershed. We work tirelessly to create an awareness of the important role water plays in our environment and in creating a sense of place within that system for all visitors regardless of age. The creation of a personal understanding of these ecosystems and the environmental factors that effect them can help create a population that recognizes the need to preserve and maintain the highest quality watershed and supporting systems.

The Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center deeply appreciates the support of the Marine Advisory Committee, the county, local businesses, and sponsors that are committed to our continuing efforts in marine education. We look forward to continuing our 4th grade field studies program, public wading trips, and the opportunity to add kayak, paddle board, and electric boat tours to our highly successful programming. For 27 years CHEC has stood by the belief that education is more cost effective than enforcement and restoration. With grant funding from he Marine Advisory Committee we can carry out that belief to the benefit of our community and its water resources.

2 floating dock for easier access to boating equipment.
Estimated Cost: \$1,800.00



Electric Boat for Alligator Creek/Peace River Estuary Boat Tours.
Estimated Cost: \$47,999.00

22 Bay Island

Length: 22' - 0"
Beam: 9' - 3"
Draft: 29"
Capacity: 12 Adults
Displacement: 4,315 lbs.
Top Speed: 6.0 MPH
Running Time:
@ Cruising Speed: 12.5 hours
@ Top Speed: 6.5 hours



5 Kayaks for guided kayak tours.
Estimated Cost: \$6,190 (includes kayak and all associated safety equipment)



OCEAN KAYAK

Malibu Two XL™

Length: 13' 4" | 4.1 m

Width: 34" | 86.4 cm

Weight: 68 lbs | 30.8 kg

5 Sea Eagle NeedleNose 126 Stand-up Paddle Board Start-up Package.
Estimated Cost: \$5,000

