

RESOLUTION NO. R 013 20

A RESOLUTION TO SUBMIT A REQUEST TO THE DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL'S (DNREC) OUTDOOR RECREATION, PARKS AND TRAILS (ORPT) PROGRAM FOR A MATCHING GRANT TO FINANCE CONTINUED IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PHASE II JAMES FARM ECOLOGICAL PRESERVE MASTER PLAN

WHEREAS, in 1998, Sussex County began leasing the property, known as the James Farm Ecological Preserve, to the Delaware Center for the Inland Bays, a non-profit organization, to provide property management, offer educational opportunities, and allow public outreach to foster sustainable use and enhancement of the Inland Bays watershed; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, Sussex County agreed with the Delaware Center for the Inland Bays for the need of a James Farm Ecological Preserve Master Plan, detailing site improvements to accommodate the significant growth in the number of visitors at the Preserve; and

WHEREAS, from 2015 through 2018, Sussex County, allocated funds allowing the Delaware Center for the Inland Bays to submit DNREC matching ORPT Grant requests, and having been awarded DNREC ORPT Grants, completed design, permitting and construction of Phase I of the James Farm Ecological Preserve Master Plan in partnership with the Delaware Center for the Inland Bays, as more particularly described in County Resolution R 017 19; and

WHEREAS, in 2019 Sussex County allocated \$42,000.00 of FY20 Budget allowing the Delaware Center for the Inland Bays, with constituent donations as well as EPA programmatic funding in a total amount of \$40,250.00, to submit a DNREC matching ORPT Grant request in the amount of \$82,250 for partial Phase II Implementation of the James Farm Ecological Preserve Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the DNREC ORPT Grant was awarded allowing Sussex County and the Delaware Center for the Inland Bays, after a compliant selection process of Kimley Horn & Associates for a 5-year on-call professional services agreement, to enter into an agreement for partial design and permitting of Phase II of the James Farm Ecological Preserve Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, Sussex County received a recommendation from DNREC, based on their review of pre-application materials, to submit an ORPT matching Grant request in a not-to-exceed amount of \$100,000.00 to further support Phase II of the James Farm Ecological Preserve Master Plan;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Sussex County Council of Sussex County, Delaware hereby acknowledges its support of the ongoing operations and maintenance of the James Farm Ecological Preserve; approves and acknowledges the Engineering Department's application and submission on behalf of the Delaware Center for the Inland Bays for a 2020 DNREC matching ORPT Grant in the amount of \$100,000.00 consisting of \$57,000.00 in allocated FY21 funds and a commitment to introduce an amount of at least \$43,000.00 in the FY22 Sussex County budget ordinance for assistance in the continued funding of Phase II Implementation of the James Farm Ecological Preserve Master Plan; and furthermore, designates the Delaware Center for the Inland Bays' Program Manager, Bob Collins, to serve as the ORPT Grant's Project Manager, in conjunction with the County Engineer, if an ORPT Grant is awarded.

I DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF RESOLUTION NO. R 013 20 ADOPTED BY THE SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL ON THE 29TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2020.

**ROBIN A. GRIFFITH
CLERK OF THE COUNCIL**