

RESOLUTION NO. R 017 19

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 50% MATCHING GRANT TO FINANCE PART OF PHASE II CONSTRUCTION OF THE 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 specific site improvements to accommodate the significant growth in the number of visitors occurring at the Preserve; and

WHEREAS, in 2015 Sussex County, allocated \$37,500.00 allowing the Delaware Center for the Inland Bays to submit a DNREC matching ORPT Grant request in the amount of \$37,500.00, to complete the engineering design and permitting for the Phase I Construction 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 professional services selection process, to contract with Century Engineering, for the design and permitting for the Phase I Construction of the James Farm Ecological Preserve Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, in 2018 Sussex County, allocated \$65,000.00 allowing the Delaware Center for the Inland Bays to submit a DNREC matching ORPT Grant request in the amount of \$85,000.00, to complete the Phase I Construction 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 to construct the Phase I improvements of the James Farm Ecological Preserve Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, Sussex County allocated \$42,000.00 in the FY20 Budget towards the partial Phase II Implementation of the James Farm Ecological Preserve Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Delaware Center for the Inland Bays received constituent donations as well as EPA programmatic funding and will use them to provide \$40,250.00 in matching monies towards the partial Phase II Implementation 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 submission on behalf of the Delaware Center for the Inland Bays for a matching ORPT Grant to the DNREC in the amount of \$82,250.00 for assistance in funding the partial 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 017 19 ADOPTED BY THE SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL ON THE 13TH DAY OF AUGUST 2019.

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