

INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT
between CHARLOTTE COUNTY on behalf of the
COASTAL AND HEARTLAND NATIONAL ESTUARY PARTNERSHIP
and CITY OF NORTH PORT
for SERVICES SUPPORTING CHNEP'S
COMPREHENSIVE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

This Interlocal Agreement ("Agreement") is entered into by and between Charlotte County ("CHARLOTTE COUNTY"), a political subdivision of the State of Florida, on behalf of the Coastal & Heartland National Estuary Partnership ("CHNEP"), whose address is 18500 Murdock Circle, Port Charlotte, Florida 33948, and CITY OF NORTH PORT ("CITY OF NORTH PORT"), a political subdivision of the State of Florida, whose address is 4970 City Hall Boulevard, North Port, Florida 34286, (individually the "Party", collectively the "Parties").

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, pursuant to the *Memorandum of Understanding for Administrative Services by and between Charlotte County and the Coastal & Heartland National Estuary Partnership*, effective February 25, 2026, CHARLOTTE COUNTY serves as the host agency to the CHNEP, entering into agreements with and receiving grant funds from private and public entities on behalf of the CHNEP; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 163 of the Florida Statutes permits governmental units, including counties and special districts, to enter into interlocal agreements to make the most efficient use of their power and resources by enabling cooperation on the basis of mutual advantage; and

WHEREAS, CHARLOTTE COUNTY, on behalf of the CHNEP, desires to engage CITY OF NORTH PORT to provide services on project-specific bases to support the CHNEP Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan ("CCMP") and annual Work Plans, as they may be amended from time to time; and

WHEREAS, CHARLOTTE COUNTY, on behalf of CHNEP, desires to implement each specific project via the issuance of a Work Assignment; and

WHEREAS, CITY OF NORTH PORT desires to provide such services in accordance with this Agreement and any associated Work Assignment(s); and

WHEREAS, this Agreement will serve as the Master Agreement between CHARLOTTE COUNTY and CITY OF NORTH PORT, with specific support services to be designated in individual Work Assignments.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants and promises contained herein, the Parties hereto do mutually agree as follows:

I. INCORPORATION

The above WHEREAS clauses are incorporated into and are made a part of this Agreement.

II. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Agreement is for CITY OF NORTH PORT to perform certain activities in support of the CHNEP's CCMP and annual Work Plans within its jurisdictional limits when authorized by CHARLOTTE COUNTY on behalf of CHNEP. Such services will be set forth in more detail in one or more Work Assignments. Work Assignments shall contain a scope of services, a schedule of fees and a time for completion of the services authorized. Each Work Assignment shall be subject to all the terms and conditions of this Agreement, be executed by both Parties, and a fully executed Work Assignment returned to CITY OF NORTH PORT shall serve as Notice to Proceed. After issuance, each Work Assignment shall become an amendment to this Agreement. A Sample Work Assignment is attached hereto as **Exhibit A**. No guarantee of any certain services, volume or quantity of work or projects is made or implied.

III. CHARLOTTE COUNTY'S DUTIES

- A. Work with CITY OF NORTH PORT and CHNEP to determine appropriate Scopes of Service.
- B. Provide fully executed Work Assignments to CITY OF NORTH PORT.
- C. Pay all invoices, on behalf of CHNEP and from CHNEP funds in accordance with Sections 218.70 through 218.80, Florida Statutes, the Florida Prompt Payment Act. Under no circumstances will CHARLOTTE COUNTY funds be used to pay any of the CHNEP invoices.

IV. CITY OF NORTH PORT'S DUTIES

- A. Work with CHARLOTTE COUNTY and CHNEP to determine appropriate Scopes of Service.
- B. Perform all mutually agreed upon services, provide deliverables, and complete the services within the schedule or timeline agreed upon in each Work Assignment issued and approved by CHARLOTTE COUNTY on behalf of CHNEP.
- C. Invoice CHARLOTTE COUNTY, on behalf of CHNEP, for all work performed using the process agreed to in the Work Assignment, in accordance with Paragraph IV of this Agreement.

V. COMPENSATION

The amount and method of compensation for CITY OF NORTH PORT'S services on any specific project shall be determined during negotiations for that specific project and set forth on each Work Assignment. Payment will be made by CHARLOTTE COUNTY, on behalf of CHNEP, upon receipt of invoices from CITY OF NORTH PORT detailing the tasks and deliverables for which payment is sought. CITY OF NORTH PORT shall submit all invoices to the CHARLOTTE COUNTY Purchasing Division for processing. Billings shall be detailed as to date, Work Assignment and nature of the services performed. All invoices must be reviewed and approved by the CHNEP Executive Director. CITY OF NORTH PORT shall bill any authorized travel and per diem expenses in accordance with the provisions of Section 112.061 of the Florida Statutes.

VI. PERIOD OF AGREEMENT

The effective date of this Interlocal Agreement is the date on which it is fully executed. The services of CITY OF NORTH PORT are to commence upon execution of this Agreement and issuance of a Work Assignment. This Agreement will remain in full force and effect until either Party chooses to terminate it, as outlined in Section VIII, below.

VII. MODIFICATION OF AGREEMENT

Any extensions or modifications of this Agreement shall be mutually agreed upon by and between CHARLOTTE COUNTY on behalf of CHNEP and CITY OF NORTH PORT and shall be incorporated in written amendments to this Agreement signed by the Parties.

VIII. TERMINATION

- A. Either Party may terminate this Agreement with or without cause with a minimum of thirty (30) days written notice. Written notice shall be delivered by certified mail, return receipt requested, or by other delivery method with proof of delivery. Any notice concerning this Agreement shall be sent to the addressees listed below:

To: CHARLOTTE COUNTY

Charlotte County
Administration
18500 Murdock Circle
Port Charlotte, FL 33948

With Copy to:
Charlotte County
County Attorney
18500 Murdock Circle
Port Charlotte, FL 33948

To: CHNEP

Coastal & Heartland National
Estuary Partnership
Executive Director
1050 Loveland Blvd.
Port Charlotte, FL 33980

and:

Charlotte County Purchasing
Kimberly A. Corbett
Senior Division Manager
18500 Murdock Circle, Suite 344
Port Charlotte, FL 33948

To: CITY OF NORTH PORT

City of North Port
City Manager
4970 City Hall Blvd.
North Port, FL 34286

With Copy to:
City of North Port
City Attorney
4970 City Hall Blvd.
North Port, FL 34286

- B. In the event the Agreement is terminated, each outstanding Work Assignment is terminated, and CITY OF NORTH PORT will be paid an amount commensurate with completed tasks and associated deliverables that meet scope requirements as of the effective date of termination.

IX. COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS, JURISDICTION, AND VENUE

- A. The Parties warrant, represent, and agree that each will comply with all federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations applicable to the fulfillment of the requirements of this Agreement.
- B. This Agreement and the provisions of any Work Assignment shall be construed, controlled and interpreted according to Florida law.
- C. Any legal action concerning this Agreement shall be filed in Charlotte County, Florida, which shall be deemed proper jurisdiction and venue for the action.

X. RIGHT TO WORK PRODUCTS

Copies of all writings, maps, charts, reports, findings, and other relevant non-copyrighted material are and shall become the property of CHARLOTTE COUNTY on behalf of CHNEP and delivered to CHARLOTTE COUNTY without cost.

XI. ASSIGNMENT

This Agreement shall be binding on the Parties, their representatives, successors, and assigns. Neither Party shall assign this Agreement or the rights or obligations hereunder to any other person or entity without the prior written consent of the other Party.

XII. UNAUTHORIZED ALIENS/EMPLOYMENT ELIGIBILITY VERIFICATION

The Parties agree that they will not knowingly employ unauthorized alien workers, which would constitute a violation of the employment provisions contains in 8 U.S.C. Section 1324a [Section 274A of the Immigration and Nationality Act ("INA")]. The employment by either Party of unauthorized aliens shall be grounds for termination of this Agreement.

The Parties agree that they each use and shall use the E-Verify system of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to electronically verify the employment eligibility of all newly hired employees. Pursuant to Section 448.095 of the Florida Statutes, either Party may terminate this Agreement for failure on the part of the other to use E-Verify. Contract termination for failure to use E-Verify is not considered a breach of contract pursuant to s. 448.095(5)(c)3, Fla. Stat.

CITY OF NORTH PORT shall include, and shall require the inclusion of, the requirements of this paragraph, appropriately modified for identification of the Parties, in each subcontract that includes work performed under this Agreement.

XIII. SEVERABILITY

This Agreement and attachments incorporated by reference constitute all the terms and conditions agreed upon by the Parties. If any term or provisions of this Agreement is found to be illegal, invalid, or unenforceable, then such term or provision shall be severed from this Agreement. This Agreement and the rights and obligations of the Parties shall be construed as if this Agreement did not contain such severed term or provision, and this Agreement otherwise shall remain in full force and effect.

XIV. DISPUTES

In the event of a dispute between CHARLOTTE COUNTY and CITY OF NORTH PORT under this Agreement, the CHARLOTTE COUNTY Administrator and the

CITY OF NORTH PORT City Manager shall review such dispute and negotiate a mutually acceptable resolution. CHARLOTTE COUNTY will make every effort to obtain and incorporate CHNEP's input when negotiating such resolution. The mutual decision of the Charlotte County Administrator and CITY OF NORTH PORT City Manager shall be final. In the event the Charlotte County Administrator and CITY OF NORTH PORT City Manager are unable to agree, the matter shall be referred to the respective Boards of Commissioners, who may jointly elect to hold a joint meeting to resolve the matter. This process shall substitute for the dispute resolution process set forth in Chapter 164 of the Florida Statutes.

XV. INDEMNIFICATION

Each Party agrees to indemnify, defend and hold the other harmless, to the extent allowed under Section 768.28 of the Florida Statutes, from all claims, loss, damage and expense, including attorney's fees and costs and attorney's fees and costs on appeal, arising from the negligent acts or omissions, or intentional tortious acts, of the indemnifying Party's officers, employees and agents related to its performance under this Agreement. This provision does not constitute a waiver of either Party's sovereign immunity under Section 768.28 of the Florida Statutes or extend either Party's liability beyond the express limits established in Section 768.28 of the Florida Statutes. Nothing contained herein shall be construed to be a consent by either Party to be sued by third parties in any matter arising out of this Agreement or any Work Assignment.

XVI. COUNTERPARTS

This Agreement may be executed in multiple counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original but all of which, taken together, constitute one and the same Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, CHARLOTTE COUNTY and CITY OF NORTH PORT have entered into this Agreement as of the last date written below.

[SIGNATURE PAGES TO FOLLOW]

ATTEST:

Roger D. Eaton, Clerk of the Circuit Court and Ex-Officio Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: _____
Joseph M. Tiseo, Chairman

Date: _____

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

By: _____
Thomas M. David, County Attorney
LR26-0287 _____ (GRP)

APPROVED AS TO SUFFICIENCY:

**CITY OF NORTH PORT
NORTH PORT, FLORIDA:**

MICHAEL FUINO, B.C.S.
City Attorney

A. JEROME FLETCHER II, ICMA-CM, MPA
City Manager

ATTEST:

HEATHER FAUST, MMC
City Clerk

As authorized for execution by the City of North Port at its INSERT DATE, 2026 regular meeting.

EXHIBIT A

WORK ASSIGNMENT # _____
CHARLOTTE COUNTY PURCHASING DIVISION
CONTRACT NO. _____

THIS WORK ASSIGNMENT

1.	Work Assignment #	
2.	Short Title	
3.	Date Submitted	
4.	Amount	
5.	Scheduled Completion	

In presenting this Work Assignment, Consultant agrees that:

Unless detailed herein, all drawings, data, electronic files and other information required for this Work Assignment has been accepted by Consultant. Specifically, all electronic files have been reviewed and accepted for the purposes of this Work Assignment. Unless specified herein, additional information will not be required.

SUBMITTED AND AGREED TO BY:

BY: _____
Name of Consultant (Type/Print)
See Attached
Signature

DATE: _____

RECOMMENDED AND APPROVED BY:

FISCAL REVIEWED BY: _____

CHARLOTTE COUNTY
DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR: _____

CHARLOTTE COUNTY PURCHASING: _____

CHARLOTTE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION: _____