



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

*Natural Resources
Department*

City Council Regular Meeting Date: June 3, 2025

To: City Council
From: Holly Milbrandt, Natural Resources Director
Dana A. Souza, City Manager
Date: May 27, 2025

SUBJECT: Approval of an agreement with Bayside Dredging, LLC, to complete the Wulfert Channel and Dinkins Bayou Dredging Project (including Sunset Bay channel and Pine Tree Drive canal) in the amount of \$3,154,650 and authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement.

BACKGROUND:

As a result of Hurricanes Ian, Helene and Milton, the Wulfert Channel and Dinkins Bayou (including Sunset Bay channel and Pine Tree Drive canal) channels have accumulated bottom sediment (material) that has impeded navigation. These areas require maintenance dredging to restore navigation channels and ensure safe passage of boats traveling to and from Sanibel residential docks.

Project Permitting

The City has received a federal emergency permit through the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for maintenance dredging in Wulfert Channel (SAJ-2024-01807 NWP-SJF). On 5/27/2025, the City was notified by USACE that the City's emergency permit application for Dinkins Bayou is under final review and is expected to be issued by 5/30/2025.

State authorization is provided under the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Emergency Final Orders (EFO) for Hurricane Helene (OGC No. 24-2534) and for Hurricane Milton (OGC No. 24-2580). Under the EFO, this activity (i.e. restoration dredging to conditions and configurations existing immediately prior to the storm) may be conducted by a local government without notification to FDEP. The EFOs will expire upon the expiration or rescission of the related Governor's Executive Orders for Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton.

Any subsequent dredging after the expiration of the current state and federal emergency authorizations will require non-emergency FDEP and USACE permits. Once the emergency

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maintenance dredging is completed, the City will consult with FDEP and USACE on plans to establish long term permits for routine dredging of the project areas.

Project Scope

Wulfert Channel dredging – The City is authorized to remove approximately 9,250 cubic yards (CY) of accumulated bottom material from an area approximately 2.9 acres in size as shown on the Wulfert Channel Dredging Plan, which is included in the agenda packet for this item.

Dinkins Bayou (including Sunset Bay channel & Pine Tree Drive canal) dredging – The City has requested authorization to remove approximately 13,140 cubic yards (CY) of accumulated bottom material from areas shown on the Dinkins Bayou Dredging Plan, which is included in the agenda packet for this item.

Project Approach

Subject to City Council approval and notice to proceed, the contractor (Bayside Dredging LLC) is prepared to commence dredging operations in June 2025 beginning with Wulfert Channel and then proceeding to Dinkins Bayou. The Project Area will be dredged mechanically from a barge, except for the Pine Tree Drive canal & entrance (Areas 4 & 4a, see Plans) where hydraulic dredging may be used due to the narrow channel width and overhanging mangroves.

Dredged material will be loaded onto a barge and transported to the Henderson Road boat ramp. The material will be transferred to sealed and watertight dump trucks and hauled to the Wulfert Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) for dewatering. Trucks will travel approximately 1.2 miles between the loading area and the WWTP by traveling along Henderson Rd., Dinkins Lake Rd., and Wulfert Rd. The final destination of the dredge material is yet to be determined, but after dewatering it will need to be hauled from the WWTP to a proper disposal site either on or off the island.

The contractor estimates the project will take 60-90 days to complete. The USACE permit deadline for completion of the Wulfert Channel dredging is September 1, 2025; the deadline for completion of the Dinkins Bayou dredging is presumed to be approximately 180 days from the date of permit issuance (approximately December 1, 2025).

Project Cost & Contractor Award

On May 7, 2024, Sanibel City Council approved a 3-year contract with Bayside Dredging LLC to provide dredging services in the Shell Harbor/Sanibel Estates and Watershadows areas through FY26 (Contract PW24-028). Pursuant to that contract, the City requested proposals from Bayside Dredging LLC for the Wulfert Channel and Dinkins Bayou dredging.

The estimated cost to dredge the entire Project Area (both Wulfert Channel and Dinkins Bayou) and haul the spoil material for disposition off-island is \$3,154,650. Should a suitable location be identified for disposal of the spoil material on island, additional savings may be realized.

Location	Cost
Wulfert Channel	\$1,262,500
Dinkins Bayou	\$1,912,150
Total	\$3,174,650
Mobilization Savings	(\$20,000)
Total	\$3,154,650

FUNDING SOURCE:

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City of Sanibel (33.33%) and the Wulfert Channel and Dinkins Bayou Area Dredging Assessment District (66.67%)

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approve the agreement with Bayside Dredging LLC to complete the Wulfert Channel and Dinkins Bayou Dredging Project (including Sunset Bay channel and Pine Tree Drive canal) in the amount of \$3,154,650 and authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement.

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