



**AGENDA MEMORANDUM**  
**Department**

*Natural Resources*

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**City Council Regular Meeting Date: June 2, 2026**

**To:** City Council  
**From:** Holly Milbrandt, Natural Resources Director  
Dana A. Souza, City Manager  
**Date:** May 15, 2026

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**SUBJECT:** 2026 SE Dinkins Bayou Maintenance Dredging Project

**BACKGROUND:**

City Council approved a contract with Bayside Dredging LLC for the Wulfert Channel Dredging Project on July 15, 2025, funded in accordance with Resolution 25-024 establishing the Wulfert Channel Area Dredging Assessment District. The purpose of this work was to do the minimum necessary to address the extremely shallow area in Wulfert Channel preventing safe navigation from Dinkins Bayou to Pine Island Sound. In order to complete the Wulfert Channel dredging, certain portions of the NW Dinkins Bayou "channel" were also dredged so that the contractor could navigate the loaded barge from Wulfert Channel to the Henderson boat ramp.

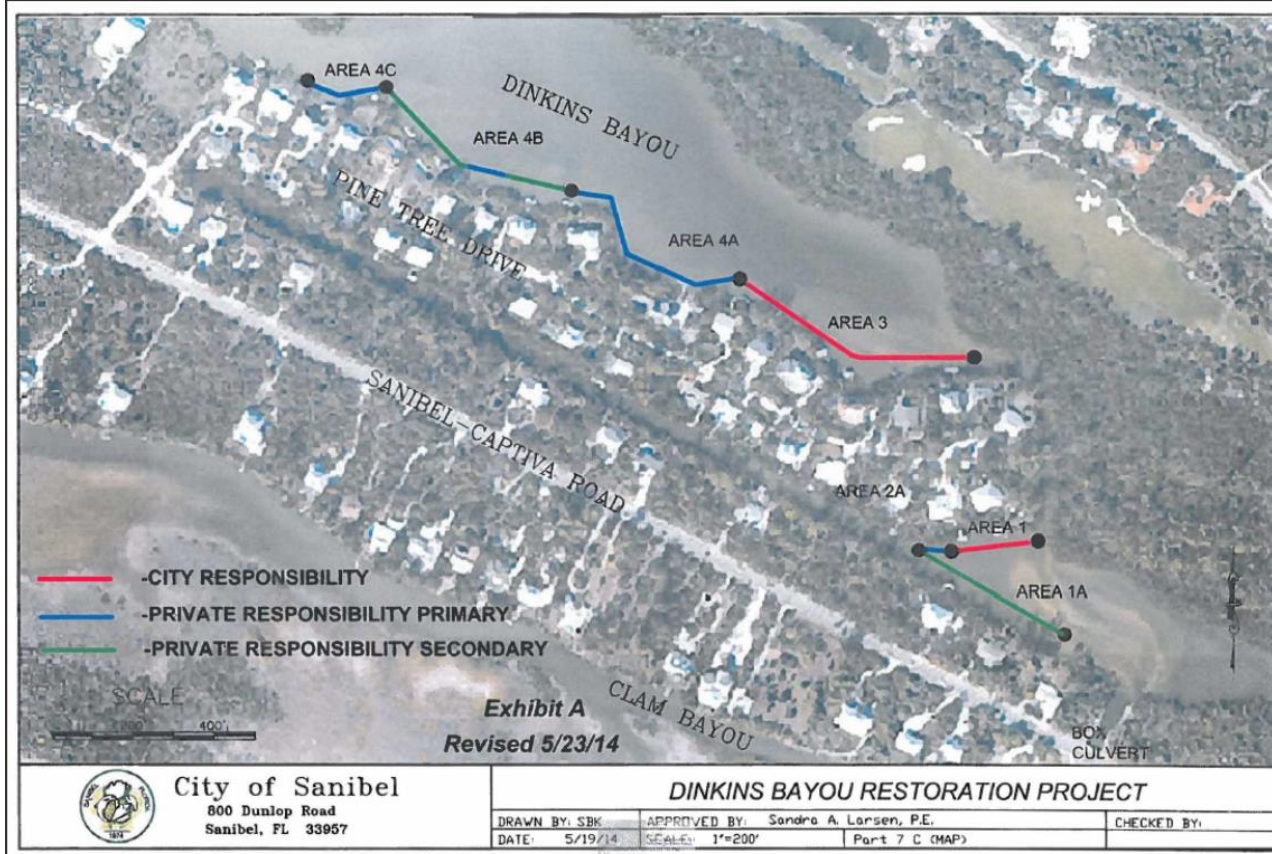
This project was funded by property owners in the assessment district (66%) and by the City (33%). A Notice to Proceed was issued on 8/6/2025, dredging operations commenced on 11/7/25, and work was completed on 3/23/2026.

Concurrently, staff continued to work with area residents to address remaining navigation issues in the SE portion (along Pine Tree Drive) of the Dinkins Bayou channel. The City and property-owners worked together to dredge these areas of Dinkins Bayou in 2014. The image below is the area that was dredged (plan is from May 2014). The City paid for the dredging in Areas 1 and 3 and the residents paid for the remaining areas.

The previous agreement came about as residents expressed concern that the sand accumulation in those areas resulted from the City's installation of the box culvert on Sanibel-Captiva Road to restore tidal flushing and improve water quality in Clam Bayou. The only areas currently needing dredging are Areas 1 and 3 and would be the City's responsibility based on the previous agreement.

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Dinkins Bayou Dredging Plan-May 2014



2026 SE Dinkins Bayou Maintenance Dredging Project Scope

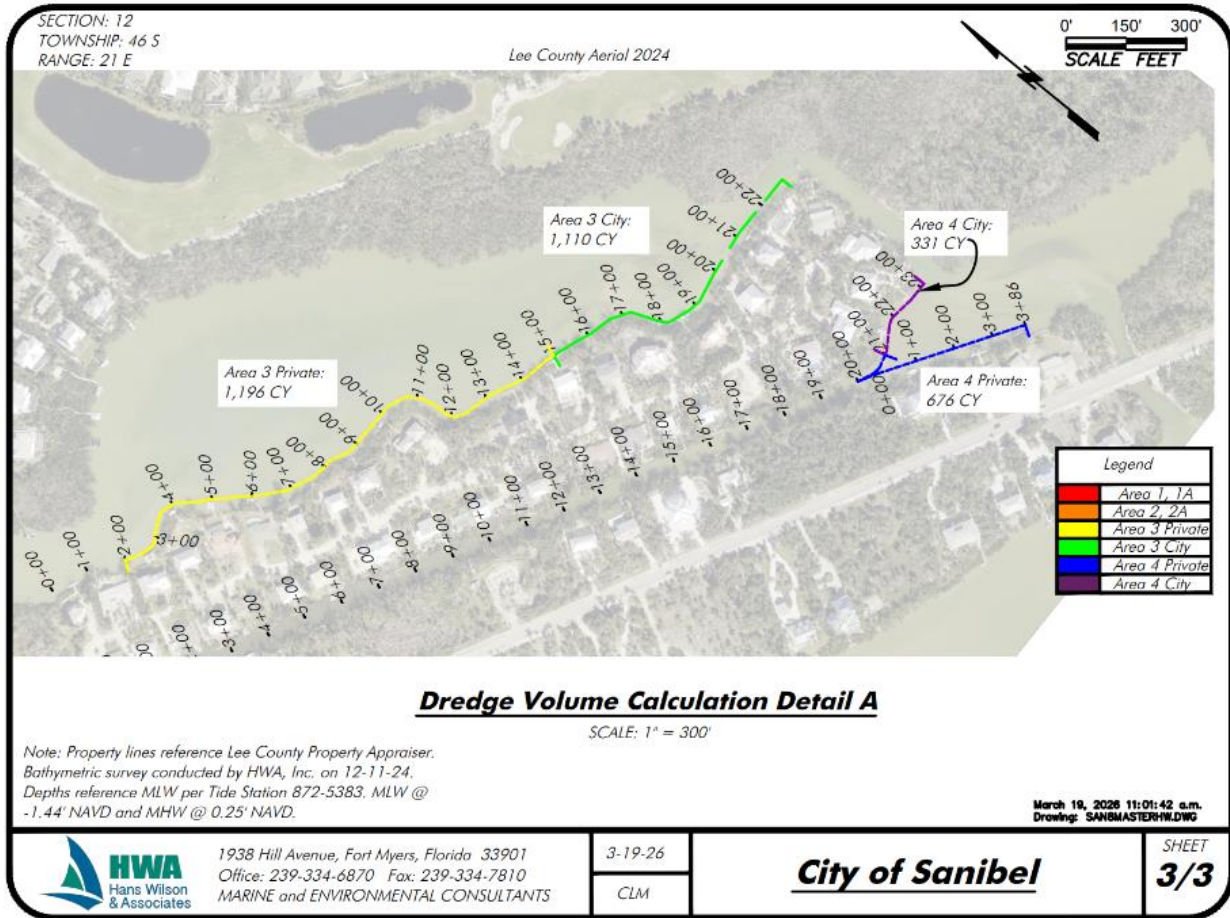
The proposed maintenance dredging will remove 1,441 cy of fill in “Area 3 City” & “Area 4 City”, in Dinkins Bayou, as designated on the plans from Hans Wilson & Associates (HWA), dated 3/19/2026 and included as an attachment to the agenda. An excerpt of the plan set is shown on page 3. Area 3 City & Area 4 City designated on the HWA March 2026 plans correspond to the areas of "City responsibility" dredged in 2014 (Area 1 and Area 3). Note that “Area 1” from the 2014 project is designated “Area 4 City” on the 2026 project plans.

Additionally, the HWA March 2026 plans show dredge volumes that correspond to the areas of private responsibility designated in 2014. These areas (labeled Area 3 Private and Area 4 Private) are not included in the proposed project and would only be dredged if requested and paid for by the associated property owners.

The contractor has confirmed that “Area 3 Private” has sufficient water depth to access “Area 3 City” without additional dredging.

Proposed 2026 SE Dinkins Bayou Dredging Plan-March 2026 (excerpt)

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Project Cost

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 2026 SE Dinkins Bayou Maintenance Dredging Project. Proposed costs are shown below. The full proposal is included as an attachment to agenda.

	Quantity	Rate	Amount
<b>Mobilization</b>	1	\$45,000.00	\$45,000.00
<b>Dredging (CY)</b>	1,441	\$100.00	\$144,100.00
<b>Haul (CY)</b>	1,441	\$15.00	\$21,615.00
<b>Staking/Surveying</b>	1	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$225,715.00</b>

Cost Context

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A comparison of unit costs for the proposed 2026 Dinkins Bayou dredging, the 2025-2026 Wulfert Channel Dredging, and the 2014 Dinking Bayou dredging is provided below.

	<b>Proposed 2026 Dinkins</b>	<b>Wulfert/Dinkins 2025-2026</b>	<b>Actual 2014 Dinkins</b>
Mobilization	\$45,000	\$45,000	\$20,000
Dredge	\$100/cy-Area 3	\$100/cy-Wulfert	\$52/cy-Area 3
Dredge	\$100/cy-Area 4	\$95/cy-Dinkins	\$125/cy-Area 1
Haul	\$15/cy	\$30/cy	\$6/cy
Staking/Surveying	\$15,000	\$35,000	0

In considering the above unit cost comparisons, it is important to note the following:

- For Wulfert/Dinkins 2025-2026, dredge material was hauled for dewatering at the Wulfert WWTP (\$15/cy) and then hauled off island for disposal (\$15/cy). the contractor is proposing to haul the dredge material off island directly in water-tight trucks, rather than dewatering at WWTP. Thus, the proposal only includes (1) hauling fee (\$15/cy) not two.
- For the 2014 Dinkins Bayou dredging project, the areas of City-responsibility were designated Area 1 and Area 3 (with a combined volume of 2,221 cy).
  - The total project cost including City & private responsibilities was \$304,592.00 (total dredge volume 3,678 cy). The City received ~\$93,500 from the property owners, resulting in a City cost of approximately \$210,000.
- The total dredging cost for Dinkins/Wulfert was \$739,000 (not including design & engineering costs). The City's share (33.3%) was \$243,870.

Project Approach

Subject to City Council approval and notice to proceed, the contractor (Bayside Dredging LLC) is prepared to commence mechanical dredging operations on or around August 2026, after completion of other City dredging projects on Sanibel's east end. 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 immediately off-island for dewatering and disposal. Unlike the previous Wulfert Channel dredging project, material will not undergo dewatering at the Wulfert Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). The contractor estimates the project will take approximately 60 days to complete.

Project Permitting

The City received a federal emergency permit through the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for maintenance dredging in Dinkins Bayou (SAJ-2012-01760 NWP-SJF) on 6/23/2025. Under this permit, the City had until March 14, 2026 to commence the work and then 1-year from the date of commencement to complete the work. Since the Wulfert Channel Dredging Project also included dredging in NW Dinkins Bayou, the date of commencement for work in Dinkins Bayou was 11/7/2025. Thus, any additional work under this permit must be completed by 11/7/2026.

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

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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 (extended for 60-days on 5/5/2026) and Hurricane Milton (extended for 60-days on 3/24/2026).

Any dredging conducted after the expiration of the current state and federal emergency authorizations would require the City to apply for new (non-emergency) FDEP and USACE permits.

**FUNDING SOURCE:** The funding for this project is being transferred from the General Fund available ending fund balance to the Wulfert Channel Dredging Special Assessment District Fund

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Approve the agreement with Bayside Dredging LLC to complete the 2026 SE Dinkins Bayou Dredging Project in the amount of \$225,715 and authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement.