FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Public invited to reception recognizing dunes restoration project staff

April 25, 2019 – Flagler County is hosting a reception to recognize the efforts of its contractors and staff who worked on the dunes restoration project. The public is encouraged to attend.

The reception will be held at 8:30 a.m. May 6 – immediately before the regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners – in the Commission Chambers of the Government Services Building, 1769 E. Moody Boulevard, Bunnell. Light refreshments will be served.

The unique, in-house 11.4 mile project was completed ahead of schedule and under budget. It was initially estimated at $28.3 million, but the actual costs rounded up to about $18 million.

“It was a lot of hard work, but the result is nice buffer of sacrificial sand between the properties and the ocean,” said County Engineer Faith Alkhatib, who oversees the Engineering and Road and Bridge departments that worked on the project.

Flagler County is the first known local government within the state has completed such an expansive project, which included 19 reaches with different funding sources – most of which was covered by FEMA, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and Flagler County. Three homeowners associations – Hammock Beach Club, Ocean Hammock, and Hammock Dunes – kicked in at least a third of the funding for the length of dunes in front of their individual properties.

While Flagler County staff completed the actual dune construction, subcontractors were hired for supporting services. These services include the following: construction engineering inspection (Eisman & Russo); dune planting (EarthBalance); gopher tortoise surveying and relocation activities (Atlantic Ecological Services); sea turtle surveying and relocation activities (Volusia/Flagler Turtle Patrol); off-road dump truck rental (Eastman Aggregate Enterprises); tracked dump truck rental; sand source (Vulcan Materials Company); and, survey services (ATS Land Surveying).

“This is a nice opportunity for residents to meet the staff who worked long days and weekends to get this protective dune in place as quickly as possible,” said Commission Chair Donald O’Brien. “We have a very capable and dedicated staff.”

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