

## **M E M O R A N D U M**

**To:** Howard Tipton, Town Manager  
**From:** Charles Mopps, Assistant Public Works Director  
**Report date:** June 7, 2024  
**Meeting date:** June 17, 2024  
**Subject:** Canal Navigation Maintenance Program Update

### **Recommended Action**

Provide direction to Town Manager.

### **Background**

Prior briefings:

At the December 11, 2023, Regular Workshop, staff provided an update regarding the Canal Navigation Maintenance Program. This update followed a Regular Meeting on November 6, 2023, and resulted in the arrangement of one-on-one meetings with Commissioners due to the complexity of the briefing and the volume of questions it generated.

At the most recent update on December 11<sup>th</sup>, staff received the following direction from the Commission:

- Resurvey Canal/Channel System
- Determine cost-reduction options
- Present updated information to the Commission.

The Town has since engaged engineering consultant First Line Coastal (First Line) to assist staff in completing the directed work. The completed work effort included a conditional resurvey, seagrass checks, and a field Canal Navigability Assessment. In this presentation, staff and the consultant will provide a brief overview of program developments before discussing the results of this reassessment. We will explain the programmatic tools developed to complete the reassessment. The resulting information has been utilized to update a strategic approach, which provides significant cost savings to the program. These cost savings will be further explained by showing how the Engineer's recommended adjustments, the use of the developed tools, and the updated survey resulted in the reduction compared to previously presented estimates. Last, a demonstration of several programmatic tools developed to assist with decision-making will be provided and how they can be used in the future.

### **Next Steps**

The following is staff's assessment of the next step actions for continued program development:

- Synchronize dredging and seagrass mitigation projects for additional cost savings
- Develop an annual maintenance cost

- Additional programmatic advancements:
  - Conceptualize and strategic project sequencing
  - Develop dredging project number one (most needed)
  - Initiate a canal monitoring plan.

**Staff Recommendation**

Staff will be requesting direction from the Commission regarding:

- Adoption of the updated dredging estimates
- Finalization of the program funding assessments
- Advancement of canal assessment tools
- Progression of seagrass mitigation area planning.

**Attachments**

PowerPoint Presentation (Available in Town Clerk's Office)

**End of Agenda Item**