

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: FY2021 Joint Funding Agreement with USGS

Work Session/Regular Session

DATE OF MEETING: September 22, 2020

BUDGET IMPACT: \$22,500

FUNDING SOURCE:

- Annual - \$22,500
- Capital
- N/A
- SPLOST
- TSPLOST

COUNTY ACTION REQUESTED ON: Approval of FY2021 USGS Joint Funding Agreement

HISTORY, FACTS AND ISSUES: In 2009, Lowndes County entered into an agreement with the US Geological Survey (USGS) to install and maintain a stream gauge to monitor water levels on the Little River. This gauge is installed on the Hwy 122 bridge, just west of Hahira. While the USGS provided all of the equipment and the installation costs, Lowndes County has entered into an agreement since that time to provide funding for the ongoing maintenance costs associated with keeping the equipment in operation. From 2009 until 2019, Lowndes County funded this single gauge site.

In 2019, the City of Valdosta notified the USGS that they would no longer be able to fund the main gauge site located on the Withlacoochee River at the Skipper Bridge location. At that time Lowndes County agreed to assist with additional funding to allow this gauge to remain in operation. This additional gauge is funded in a partnership with USGS and the Suwanee River Watershed Management District both providing funding towards this project location.

With the latest agreement, Lowndes County is responsible for \$22,500 in maintenance costs. This is broken down as \$14,200 for the Little River site and \$8,300 for the Withlacoochee River site.

- OPTIONS:
1. Authorize Chairman to sign the Joint Funding Agreement for continued maintenance of both USGS stream gauges.
 2. Board's Pleasure

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve

DEPARTMENT: Emergency Management

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Ashley Tye

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: