

# MANATEE COUNTY GOVERNMENT INTENT TO NEGOTIATE

<b>SUBJECT</b>	Wildlife Biologist and Ecologist Services	<b>DATE POSTED</b>	MC _____ DS _____ CC _____
<b>PURCHASING REPRESENTATIVE</b>	Jacob Erickson, 3053	<b>DATE CONTRACT SHALL BE AWARDED</b>	Upon Completion of Successful Negotiations
<b>DEPARTMENT</b>	Parks and Natural Resources	<b>CONSEQUENCES IF DEFERRED</b>	None <i>Ami N. Walsh</i>
<b>SOLICITATION</b>	RFP 16-1772EC-JE	<b>AUTHORIZED BY DATE</b>	Melissa M. Wendel, <i>for</i> CPPO

### NOTICE OF INTENT TO NEGOTIATE

Notice of Intent to Negotiate with Quest Ecology Inc. and Scheda Ecological Associates, Inc. to provide Wildlife Biologist and Ecologist Services.

### ENABLING/REGULATING AUTHORITY

Federal/State law(s), administrative ruling(s), Manatee County Comp Plan/Land Development Code, ordinances, resolutions, policy.

Manatee County Code of Laws

### BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

**PROJECT BACKGROUND:**

Manatee County Parks and Natural Resources Department is seeking professional service firms to provide Wildlife Biologist and Ecologist Services on an as required basis. Services shall consist of (but not be limited to): Wildlife population surveys through Manatee County as needed for purposes of establishing annual quotas for game species and/or management targets for other species, listed species monitoring, flora and fauna species lists, and creating Geographic Information System (GIS) habitat maps.

**SOLICITATIONS:**

The RFP was advertised on the Manatee County website, DemandStar and was provided to the Manatee County Chamber of Commerce for release to its members. Five (5) proposals were received.

**Firm that submitted proposals include:**

- |                                    |                     |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Bio-Tech Consulting, Inc.          | Orlando, FL         |
| Keith and Schnars                  | Fort Lauderdale, FL |
| Quest Ecology Inc.                 | Wimauma, FL         |
| Scheda Ecological Associates, Inc. | Tampa, FL           |
| Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.      | University Park, FL |

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<b>ATTACHMENTS</b> (List in order of attached)		<b>FUNDING SOURCE</b> (Acct Number & Name)	Term Agreement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Funds Verified <input type="checkbox"/> Insufficient Funds
<b>COST</b>	\$320,000 before negotiation	<b>AMT/FREQ OF RECURRING COSTS</b> (Attach Fiscal Impact Statement)	N/A

**EVALUATION COMMITTEE (VOTING) MEMBERS:**

Mike Elswick – Resource Management Division Manager, Parks and Natural Resources Department  
Kayse Hasiak-Sloan – Laboratory Supervisor, Utilities Department  
Jacob Erickson - Contracts Negotiator, Financial Management Department (Chairperson)

**EVALUATION RESULTS:**

The Evaluation Committee (the "Committee") convened in August 2016 to review evaluation committee responsibilities, discuss member's availability for future meetings, and the Florida Sunshine Law as applicable to public meetings. The Evaluation Committee then proceeded to review each of the five (5) proposals for their responsiveness to the requirements of the RFP.

**Quest Ecology, Inc.**, Wimauma, FL – Based in Wimauma, FL, Quest Ecology, Inc. is a business specializing in ecological studies and natural resource management. Their past experience includes deer herd surveys and harvest recommendations, anuran surveys, scrub-jay surveys and banding, baseline and comparison floristic surveys, and production of short term and long term management plans. During the course of the evaluation, the Committee determined that Quest Ecology, Inc. presented a strong project approach, a vast amount of local knowledge based on previous experience, and well-qualified key personnel. Based on these factors, the Evaluation Committee determined that Quest Ecology, Inc. should be recommended for the Intent to Negotiate award.

**Scheda Ecological Associates, Inc.**, Tampa, FL – Based in Tampa, FL and with offices in Sarasota, Delray Beach, Sunrise, Destin and Orlando, Scheda Ecological Associates, Inc. provides ecological services and environmental services including but not limited to: wetland and wildlife studies, wildlife population surveys, wildlife monitoring and permitting, compiling flora and fauna species lists, habitat restoration design, wetland permitting and mitigation, environmental construction inspection and monitoring, GIS and GPS services, and habitat mapping and analysis. Upon further review by the Evaluation Committee, it was determined that Scheda Ecological Associates, Inc. was well versed in wildlife biologist and ecologist services. They also presented an advantageous cost proposal and provided a strong staff of key personnel. Based on these factors, the Evaluation Committee determined that Scheda Ecological Associates, Inc. should also be recommended for the Intent to Negotiate award.

Upon completion of the Evaluation Committee meeting on August 4, 2016, the Committee ultimately recommended the Intent to Negotiate award for **Quest Ecology, Inc.** and **Scheda Ecological Associate, Inc.** to the County Administrator.

**REMAINING RESPONDENTS**

**Bio-Tech Consulting, Inc.**, Orlando, FL – The Evaluation Committee determined the firm did not propose a strong project approach in relation to the other proposers.

**Keith and Schnars**, Fort Lauderdale, FL – The Evaluation Committee determined that the firm was located too far away from the proposed work sites potentially leading to increased costs.

**Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.**, University Park, FL – The Evaluation Committee determined the rates proposed by VHB were not competitive relative to the other proposers.

**ESTIMATED COST OF SERVICES:** The estimated expenditure is \$320,000 before negotiations.

**FUNDING:** 401-009500 – Duette Preserve / 001-0012800 – All Other Preserves / 120-0012800 – Duette Preserve

*The above justifications are a generalized summary of major observations intended only to provide a sufficiently detailed overview of the main observations of a majority of Committee Members. Each Committee Member may have considered one or more facts or factors more or less important than the other Committee Members when voting, and this summary of the Evaluation Committee's decision is not an attempt to exhaustively describe each of the relevant factors which motivated each of the Committee Members to select the rankings described.*

The Evaluation Committee voted 3 to 0 to proceed with the award to **Quest Ecology, Inc.** and **Scheda Ecological Associates, Inc.**

The resulting agreement will be managed by the Parks and Natural Resources Department.