



## AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Corpus Christi B Corporation Meeting of June 19, 2023

**DATE:** June 1, 2023

**TO:** President and Honorable Board Members,  
Corpus Christi Business and Job Development Corporation

**THROUGH:** Peter Zanoni, City Manager

**FROM:** Mike Culbertson, CEO, CCREDC  
mculbertson@ccredc.com  
(361) 882-7448

Extension of the Type B Economic Development Grant for The Botanical and Nature Institute of South Texas, Inc.

### **CAPTION:**

Motion authorizing an amendment to the reimbursement Agreement with Botanical and Nature Institute of South Texas, Inc., to extend the performance deadline from August 21, 2023 to March 31, 2024

### **PURPOSE:**

The company is requesting an extension of the completion date of their agreement from August 21, 2023, to March 31, 2024, to improve a nature trail.

### **BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:**

The South Texas Botanical Gardens and Nature Center requested \$89,000 for the installation of 3,500 feet of new A.D.A. accessible trails to increase visitor access to more remote natural areas adjacent to Oso Creek referred to as Oso Creek Ridge. The proposed caliche/granite trail will replace existing grass/mulch trails in this area which are not accessible after rain. The new 10-foot wide trail will be constructed with a 4-inch caliche base and 1-inch decomposed granite top, an affordable, commonly used trail option that provides a natural look and eliminates the potential introduction of oils and chemicals associated with asphalt to sensitive native upland and wetland habitats. They used the Type B grant as a match for a \$200,000 grant from Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPW). They were notified on May 27, 2020, that they were awarded the TPW grant but that it would take 9-12 months for the TPW Legal department to finalize the grant. It took TPW twenty-two months to finalize the grant. I do not know if anyone knew the effect COVID would have on just the normal day-to-day operations of state agencies. They received the agreement for the grant on April 6, 2022. The Botanical Gardens then went out for proposals for the archeological survey that is required for matching funds. They submitted requests to six companies and only one replied and that was double the amount they expected. This would take 25% of the grant. They have subsequently gone out again for proposals and hope to get a better price for this survey.

The agreement has a term of three years from the effective date which was August 21, 2020. Therefore, the agreement expires on August 21, 2023. The latest date that construction can be completed is August 21, 2023. Due to the effects of COVID and the long lead times, the Botanical Gardens is requesting an amendment to extend the term of the agreement from August 21, 2023 until March 31, 2024.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

The Board may choose to not approve the amendment or approve a different date.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

This grant totals \$89,000 of the Type B funds.

**Funding Detail:**

Fund: 1145  
Organization/Activity: 15020  
Mission Element:  
Project # (CIP Only):  
Account: 530000

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends approval of an amendment to extend the agreement from August 21, 2023, until March 1, 2024.

**LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:**

Letter of Request  
Amendment