

COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES IN OKALOOSA AND WALTON COUNTIES TO ESTABLISH A REGIONAL AQUATIC SPORTS AND TRAINING COMPLEX TO SERVE THE AREA'S NEEDS FOR COMPETITIVE WATER SPORTS AND AQUATIC TRAINING

This Cooperative Agreement is made and entered into this ____ day of _____, 2023 by the listed and undersigned public entities in Okaloosa and Walton Counties to establish an organized effort to facilitate the development of a permanent aquatic sports and training complex to provide recreation, sports competition, aquatic training, economic development, and enhancements to quality of life in the two-county area.

WITNESSETH

WHEREAS, the central area of Northwest Florida, while surrounded by the area's numerous water bodies, does not have the aquatic sports and training facilities commensurate with the other areas of the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, aquatic competitions and training in this area has been limited by sub-standard facilities and does not meet the usership needs of the growing demand; and

WHEREAS, the Niceville Community Redevelopment Agency has contacted area user groups in order to determine user needs and to assist in the preparation of an Aquatic Center Feasibility Assessment which supports a new aquatic center complex in a central location; and

WHEREAS, the Feasibility Assessment provides a determination of area aquatic training and competition needs, and also provides for adequate sites to develop a facility; and

WHEREAS, an aquatic center project development Steering Committee has been established and has solicited and received support from numerous public agencies.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the undersigned local governments and other area public entities do agree to work cooperatively to establish an organization to plan and construct a state-of-the-art regional aquatic center for Okaloosa and Walton Counties; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon all necessary approvals and the acquisition of adequate capital funding for construction, each participating government unit will determine the nature and extent of its further participation in the creation of a regional aquatic sports and training center.

CONSIDERATIONS

I. PURPOSE

It is the purpose and intent of this agreement to establish a cooperative public initiative to support, plan, site, secure funding, and advocate the placement of an aquatic sports training facility to serve the growing aquatic program needs of Northwest Florida.

II. COOPERATING GOVERNMENTS

The following governments are parties and signatories to this agreement:

1. City of Cinco Bayou
2. City of Crestview
3. City of DeFuniak Springs
4. City of Destin
5. City of Fort Walton Beach
6. City of Freeport
7. City of Laurel Hill
8. City of Mary Esther
9. City of Niceville
10. Northwest Florida State College
11. Okaloosa County
12. Okaloosa County School District
13. Town of Paxton
14. Town of Shalimar
15. City of Valparaiso
16. Walton County
17. Walton County School District

III. AUTHORIZE REPRESENTATIVE

The authorized representative of each participating governmental unit will include each of the undersigned for the participating governments or his/her designee.

IV. DEFINITIONS

- A. Aquatic Sports and Training Center: a facility to host various sanctioned aquatic competitions and to train for aquatic programs from basic swimming to Olympic competitions.
- B. Regional: substantially the areas between Panama City Beach and Pensacola, Florida and competition users from Alabama and Tennessee.
- C. User: the facility will be public and will accommodate all public use.
- D. Funding: funding included the acquisition of capital construction funds. There are no funding obligations associated with the agreement.

V. THE AGREEMENT

This agreement is to identify and secure public agency support and program development participation intended to facilitate the establishment of a regional aquatic sports and multi-purpose training facility in a central location in the Okaloosa/Walton County Region. The undersigned do support and recommend the development of such a facility.

VI. OBLIGATIONS

The only obligation under this agreement is to acknowledge support and endorsement for the planning and development of a regional aquatic sports and training facility to serve Okaloosa and Walton Counties.

VII. FUTURE AGREEMENTS

This agreement may be expanded in the future by the determination of each participating government to create a comprehensive Interlocal Agreement to provide for the overall development, the operational and a management structure of said facility, and to serve as a grant eligible organization to receive external funding.

VIII. TERMINATION

Any participating government unit may terminate its participation by notifying all other signatories.

IX. TERMS

This is a volunteer position and has no terms of service or limits. However, participating governmental units are expected to manage the terms of their individual representatives.

X. MEETINGS

Cooperative Agreement meetings are expected to occur bimonthly, or at the call of the chair or one-third of the membership.

This Cooperative Agreement shall, when executed, be used to demonstrate a cooperative position to access state and federal funding.

ATTEST:

Signature

Printed Name

Date