

## **Adopt-A-Pond Pasco Criteria for Acceptance into the Program**

1. No wetland or protected conservation areas are allowed in the program.
2. Adopt-A-Pond Pasco may not be used to satisfy permit conditions for the Southwest Florida Water Management District or any other agency.
3. The pond group must submit an Adopt-A-Pond Pasco application and demonstrate a commitment to fully participate in the program and maintain their pond.
4. Access to pond must be available for Adopt-A-Pond Pasco Inc. and/or County crews and equipment for initial cleanup or any purpose pertaining to the project.

## **Adopt-A-Pond Pasco Policies and Procedures**

### **Intent**

It is the intent of the Adopt-A-Pond Pasco Program that the program be promoted and conducted as an entirely voluntary cooperative program between Pasco County residents and Adopt-A-Pond Pasco Inc. No aspect of this program should be construed to reflect a right or responsibility on the part of either party.

### **Initial Cleanup**

Each pond group is entitled to the benefits and agreements listed on page 26 of the Pond Management Plan Workbook. Initial cleanup is specific to each pond and will be determined on a case by case basis.

Please be advised that every property owner whose property will be worked on or crossed during the cleanup must have signed the Adopt-A-Pond Pasco Application or would need to sign a Right of Entry Agreement if county access is necessary.

Should a property owner refuse to participate in the program, no work will be performed on that property or in the immediate area.

### **Provision of Plants**

Adopt-A-Pond Pasco Inc. will provide pond groups with up to \$600.00 worth of native plants at the initial planting stage of the project. The quantity of plants, determined by Adopt-A-Pond Pasco Inc. will depend on pond shape, size, need, condition, number of participants who will be planting, and the species of plant being planted. In any event, every pond will receive enough plants to provide effective vegetative cover in their restoration.

Adopt-A-Pond Pasco Inc. also offers an additional quantity of plants, not to exceed \$200.00 worth every 2 years upon renewal of agreement. A group may elect not

to receive these plants. Eligibility, quantity, and species will be determined by Adopt-A-Pond Pasco Inc.

### **Provision of Other Miscellaneous Items**

The Adopt-A-Pond Pasco Program is intended to be fun and interesting to all involved. To this end, the program occasionally offers various educational and promotional items that may be of interest to our participants. These items are subject to availability and are not a responsibility of Adopt-A-Pond Pasco Inc. or a right of program participants.

Please note that Adopt-A-Pond Pasco Inc. does not provide hand tools, waders, boots, boats, herbicides, pesticides, fish, or any other items not specifically mentioned in this document.

### **Renewal of Agreement**

The Adopt-A-Pond Pasco Agreement states that a pond group shall remain in effect for a period of 2 years and shall be extended for successive 2 year periods subject to the criteria as set out in the Policies and Procedures.

At the end of the initial 2 year term, Adopt-A-Pond Pasco Inc. will review each group file to determine if they submitted quarterly reports. Adopt-A-Pond Pasco Inc. will then contact the group representative to determine if the group would like to remain in the program. If the program is unable to contact the representative, the group will be removed from the program in accordance with the Adopt-A-Pond Pasco Agreement. If contact is made and the group has not submitted quarterly reports or submitted less than 3 per year, the group may remain in the program, but must agree to resume reporting. This process shall continue at the end of every 2 year term until the group is removed from the program.

A pond group may decide not to participate in the program at any time as long as a 30 day written notice is provided to Adopt-A-Pond Pasco Inc. The Adopt-A-Pond Pasco Program may remove a pond group from the program upon 30 days written notice to the pond group representative. These procedures are detailed in the Adopt-A-Pond Pasco Agreement.

### **Reactivation**

A pond group may be reactivated at any time within their 2 year agreement term so long as the pond group resumes responsibilities as detailed in the agreement and submits the required reports. Once the pond group has been reactivated and is in good standing as defined above, the pond group may become eligible for program benefits as detailed herein.

If a pond group reapplies for the program, the pond group forfeits its previous status, starts anew, and becomes subject to all policies and procedures provided herein and in the Agreement. A reapplication is not possible within the initial 2 year term of the agreement. In addition, Adopt-A-Pond Pasco Inc. may require a pond group to provide reasonable assurance that they will maintain their pond as required under the program. Reasonable assurance may be provided by submitting a letter signed by all pond group members stating that the group shall fulfill the responsibilities detailed herein and in the Agreement. Please note that if the pond group defaults on these responsibilities, the pond group will be immediately removed from the program in accordance with the Agreement. Adopt-A-Pond Pasco Inc. shall determine if a pond group that has been removed from the program shall be allowed to reapply.

### **Effective Date of Policies**

These policies shall apply to all pond groups accepted into the program on or after January 1, 2006.