

March 31, 2015

Linda Fitzhugh
President
St. Andrew Bay Resource Management Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 15028
Panama City, FL 32406



Dear Linda,

Deane Bozeman School supports the St. Andrew Bay Resource Management Association's efforts to obtain funding to further their shoreline restoration initiatives in St. Andrew Bay, Bay County, FL. Deane Bozeman is a public school that serves a fast growing semi-rural area in northern Bay County. We have approximately 1,300 students in Pre-Kindergarten-12th grade, with elementary enrollment at 350, middle school enrollment at 380, and high school enrollment is 560. Our minority student population is 3% and our free and reduced lunch percentage is 44%.

Bozeman is fully accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and provides a comprehensive curriculum, which includes college preparatory as well as general diploma studies. Dual Enrollment is offered through a cooperative program with Gulf Coast State College in which students earn both high school and college credits. Advanced Placement courses are also offered, including Honors classes in English and History. Deane Bozeman School is a CTE (Career and Technical Education) school focusing on Environmental Resources. We have the only Agriculture program with a chartered Future Farmers of America (FFA) in Bay County.

Our mission is to produce life-long independent learners. All students are engaged in a rigorous curriculum through a disciplined and supportive environment that prepares them for college and career success in a diverse global society.

We are requesting assistance from the St. Andrew Bay Resource Management Association through this grant proposal to re-establish our "Bay Grasses in Classes" nursery program at our school. Through "Bay Grasses in Classes", youth will grow plants that will be used for restoration and shoreline stabilization in several areas of the County. We have some of the materials already in place at the school, but we need funds to purchase plants, a greenhouse, and supplies to get the nursery started. We also need funds to transport the students back and forth from school to the restoration site.

I expect to involve 100 students to participate in learning activities. Students will grow and maintain the plants in the nursery. If this project receives funding, it will allow the students to have a direct role in restoration projects that will demonstrate natural alternatives to shoreline armoring, provide valuable habitat for wildlife, and foster community stewardship of natural resources in the St. Andrew Bay watershed.

I am dedicated to providing hands-on environmental service learning projects for my students, so we fully support this grant proposal that will allow us to partner with the St. Andrew Bay Resource Management Association to provide these opportunities for youth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "Becky Peltonen".

Becky Peltonen
CTE Environmental Resources Teacher
Deane Bozeman School