

REQUEST FOR CITY COUNCIL CONSIDERATION

Meeting Date: December 3, 2007

Agenda Item: 3 (F)	Prepared By: Steve Olmsted, Comm. Dev. Director Date: October 29, 2007
Agenda Section: Business: Discussion	
Subject: Project Greenscape: Landscape Contractor Certification and Registration Program	Department: Community Development

BACKGROUND: City Council is asked to consider additional information provided by staff and to provide direction regarding preparation of a policy to require lawn and landscape maintenance professionals working within the City of Marco Island to be registered and to provide proof of competency training or proficiency in best management practices.

On October 1, 2007, City Council considered and discussed the possibility of implementation of a landscape contractor certification and registration program that would require registration of landscape professionals with the City of Marco Island. No action was taken. Subsequently, on October 15, 2007, following discussion, City Council agreed to bring this item back for discussion again at a subsequent meeting. In response to questions that were raised during the October 1, 2007 Council meeting, staff has collected additional information regarding all licensing and registration requirements applicable to landscape professionals. Planning staff has met with Mike Barbush, owner of Barbush Landscape Design, and has also requested additional information from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and Collier County.

The following requirements currently apply to all landscape professionals working within Collier County, including the City of Marco Island:

Lawn Maintenance

Occupational License - issued by Collier County

Landscaping

Landscape Specialty Contractor's License - issued by Collier County - Requires exam and demonstration of competency

Tree Removal and Trimming

Tree Removal and Trimming Specialty Contractor's License – issued by Collier County - Requires exam and demonstration of competency

Irrigation

Irrigation Specialty Contractor's License – issued by Collier County - Requires exam and demonstration of competency

Application of Chemicals (herbicide, pesticide)

Various requirements and licenses – Required by Florida Bureau of Compliance Monitoring, administered by Florida Department of Agriculture.

Training in best management practices is currently not required for smaller landscape professionals who provide limited lawn maintenance services. Lawn maintenance companies require an occupational license only. A local registration requirement with demonstration of training in best management practices would ensure that smaller contractors who provide lawn cutting and fertilizer services have received a minimum amount of training that is not otherwise required through Collier County.

A local registration program would allow for more expedient enforcement of all licensing and competency requirements through display of a decal on landscaping vehicles.

During previous discussion of this agenda item with City Council on October 1, 2007, staff suggested that a landscape registration program could include a requirement that demonstration of best management practices training or other competency be provided at the time of registration. Demonstration of competency could be accomplished through any recognized source of training including, but not limited to Rookery Bay's Project Greenscape Best Management Practices Course. Landscape contractors who provide landscaping services beyond lawn maintenance, that require a competency card from Collier County, would not need to demonstrate additional competency beyond that required for specialty contractor licensing.

Additional materials provided by Rookery Bay and Collier County are attached for your consideration. Also attached is a copy of the earlier yellow sheet considered by City Council on October 1, 2007.

Following review and consideration of the information and materials that have been provided, it appears that there are several possible options regarding registration and best management practices training. Some alternative options for consideration include:

Option 1

Take no further action.

Option 2

Require contractors who provide limited lawn maintenance services only to register with the City of Marco Island every year, or every two years, and require that they demonstrate completion of training in Best Management Practices through any recognized source of training, including Rookery Bay's Project Greenscape or other source at time of registration.

Option 3

Require all landscape professionals to register with the City of Marco Island every year, or every two years, and require that they provide proof of competency in their respective specialties at time of registration. Demonstration of competency could be provided in the form of a copy of their Collier County competency card for those specialties requiring it, or in the form of a certificate from Rookery Bay or other recognized source for lawn maintenance contractors who currently only require an occupational license.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Discuss proposed landscaper registration and certification program and provide staff direction.

Reviewed by Department Director
Council Action: Motion by:

Gene Obando

Reviewed by City Manager
Second by:

A. Wilkins