# Fountara, LLC – Moss Bluff Wetland and Resilience Planning Project

FDEP Resilient Florida Planning Grant – Full Proposal Package

## 1. Project Abstract

Fountara LLC (UEI X7UEPLPY4J15), a Florida Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business, proposes to partner with Moss Bluff Properties LLC, the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD), and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) to evaluate and plan the restoration of approximately 60 acres of former Ocklawaha River floodplain and upland buffer north of the Moss Bluff Lock and Dam in Marion County.

The project area contains mature cypress and mixed hardwood swamp, historic river meanders, and upland zones degraded by invasive vegetation and sediment accumulation. The site lies directly adjacent to state and federal conservation lands and provides a unique opportunity to integrate private-land restoration with regional watershed resilience goals.

The proposed planning phase will: (1) Conduct ecological and hydrologic assessments, (2) Develop engineered restoration alternatives, (3) Evaluate renewable-energy integration opportunities, and (4) Produce design drawings and benefit models suitable for construction-phase grants in 2026.

All work will be performed under a Right-of-Entry from the landowner. Fountara LLC will manage administration and compliance; public agencies will provide technical oversight and data support.

Estimated Planning Budget: $350,000 – $600,000 | Anticipated Cost-Share: 75–100% | Duration: 12–18 months | Deliverables: Restoration & Resilience Engineering Report, GIS maps, hydrologic models, and shovel-ready projects.

## 2. Problem Statement / Need

The Moss Bluff corridor forms the northern gateway to the Ocklawaha River system and plays a critical role in regional flood control and water-quality protection. Over decades, portions of the private lands adjoining the lock and dam have experienced heavy infestation by invasive vegetation, muck buildup, and loss of hydrologic connectivity. These impairments reduce flood storage, water filtration, and habitat diversity, weakening the resilience of adjacent public investments.

A cooperative public-private planning effort will restore connectivity between state-managed waters and private wetlands, expand flood storage, demonstrate a veteran-led renewable-energy model, and generate design data for future implementation. Without this project, the degraded floodplain will continue to lose ecological function, and public resilience investments will remain partially isolated.

## 3. Work Plan and Timeline

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Phase | Duration | Lead / Partners | Key Tasks | Deliverables |
| Phase 1 – Site Assessment & Planning | 0–6 months | Fountara LLC, UF IFAS, NRCS EQIP staff | Collect baseline vegetation, soil, hydrology, flood elevation, and invasive mapping. | Baseline condition report + maps + initial restoration concepts. |
| Phase 2 – Engineering & Design Alternatives | 6–12 months | Fountara LLC + SJRWMD engineers | Model hydrologic reconnection; design muck-removal and replanting schemes. | Restoration alternatives analysis + draft cost estimates. |
| Phase 3 – Stakeholder & Regulatory Coordination | 9–15 months | Fountara LLC + FDEP Resilient Florida | Coordinate meetings, identify permitting pathways, integrate with regional resilience plan. | Regulatory readiness summary + letters of consistency. |
| Phase 4 – Final Plan & Grant Readiness Package | 12–18 months | Fountara LLC + consultant engineers | Prepare design drawings, budgets, schedules, and benefit-cost analysis. | Final Restoration and Resilience Engineering Report. |
| Phase 5 – Energy Retrofit Feasibility (optional) | 18–24 months | Fountara LLC + Prometheon Ventures LLC + SJRWMD + USACE | Evaluate renewable retrofit potential; model hydropower/micro-grid feasibility. | Feasibility study + coordination plan for DOE/FDEP funding. |

Total Duration: 18–24 months | Reporting: Quarterly progress reports and one final comprehensive deliverable.

## 4. Budget Narrative (Grantnomics Integration)

Total estimated planning cost: $350,000–$600,000. Public share: 75–100% via FDEP Resilient Florida and SJRWMD Cost-Share. Private/in-kind match: land access, data sharing, and administrative support by Fountara LLC and Moss Bluff Properties LLC.

Funds will be managed through Fountara’s SAM-registered account. The Grantnomics priority sequence applies: (1) Compliance and engineering, (2) Restoration vendors, (3) Insurance/audits, (4) Landowner installment, (5) Administration ≤10%.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Category | % of Total | Example Amount ($500,000 phase) | Description / Responsible Party |
| Restoration & Invasive Removal | 40% | 200,000 | Contracted vegetation/muck removal – Fountara LLC supervision. |
| Hydrologic & Ecological Engineering | 20% | 100,000 | SJRWMD or consultant modeling, topography, design. |
| Landowner Installment | 20% | 100,000 | Principal payment to Moss Bluff Properties LLC per Conditional Agreement. |
| Administration & Reporting | 10% | 50,000 | Grant management, audits, and reporting by Fountara LLC. |
| Insurance & Contingency | 10% | 50,000 | Liability coverage and unforeseen site conditions. |

Each draw request will include verified invoices and progress certifications. Fountara LLC remains fiscal agent and assumes all audit liability; Moss Bluff Properties LLC only receives verified grant-based payments.

## 5. Future Cooperative Energy Retrofit Partnership

The parties recognize long-term potential to evaluate renewable-energy retrofits at the Moss Bluff Lock and Dam. Fountara LLC may, after restoration grants are awarded, pursue a cooperative feasibility study with SJRWMD, FDEP, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to examine the viability of low-impact hydropower or hybrid microgrid integration.

No structural modification or construction will occur until separate approvals are issued. Any retrofit pilot will operate as a stand-alone cooperative project under its own funding and compliance framework. Moss Bluff Properties LLC retains approval rights for any energy-related construction. All retrofit feasibility funding will follow the Grantnomics flow plan.

## Signatures

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Owner, Moss Bluff Properties LLC Date

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Authorized Representative, Fountara LLC Date