

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board
FROM: Bob Heeke, Sr. Land Resources Manager
THRU: David Still, Executive Director DS
Joe Flanagan, Director of Land Acquisition and Management JF
DATE: January 19, 2010
RE: Agreement with Williams Timber Inc. for the Steinhatchee #4 Timber Sale

RECOMMENDATION

Staff requests authorization for the Executive Director to execute a license to cut timber with Williams Timber, Inc. for the Steinhatchee #4 Timber Sale. Williams Timber bid \$12.07/ton for pine pulpwood and topwood and \$15.00/ton for pine chip-n-saw.

BACKGROUND

Staff advertised a request for bids for the Steinhatchee #4 Timber Sale on January 4, 2010. Located in Dixie and Lafayette Counties, this is a thinning operation on approximately 153 acres of planted slash pine plantation. It is a pay-as-cut sale. Estimated revenues based on the five responses received by the January 12, 2010, deadline are listed below.

<u>Company Name</u>	<u>Estimated Revenue</u>
Williams Timber	\$110,160
Harley Forest Products	\$108,146
Nature Coast Timber	\$98,246
Greenville Timber Inc.	\$97,469
J D Sunny Isle	\$8,923

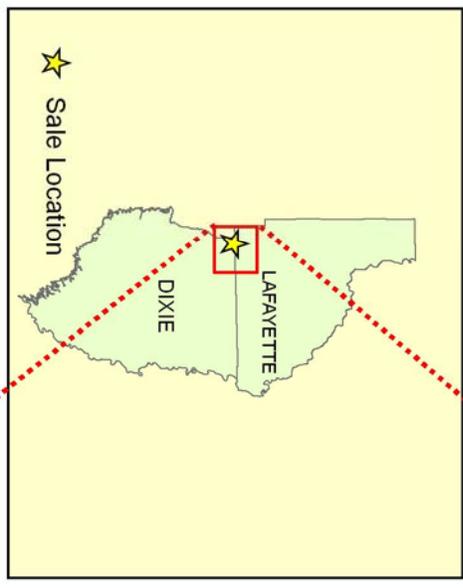
Total revenue from this sale is estimated to be between \$97,000 and \$123,000. Using the volume estimates by timber product as provided by our consultant, the anticipated revenue is \$110,160.

gal
cc: Charles H. Houder, III, Assistant Executive Director

STEINHATCHEE SPRINGS TRACT

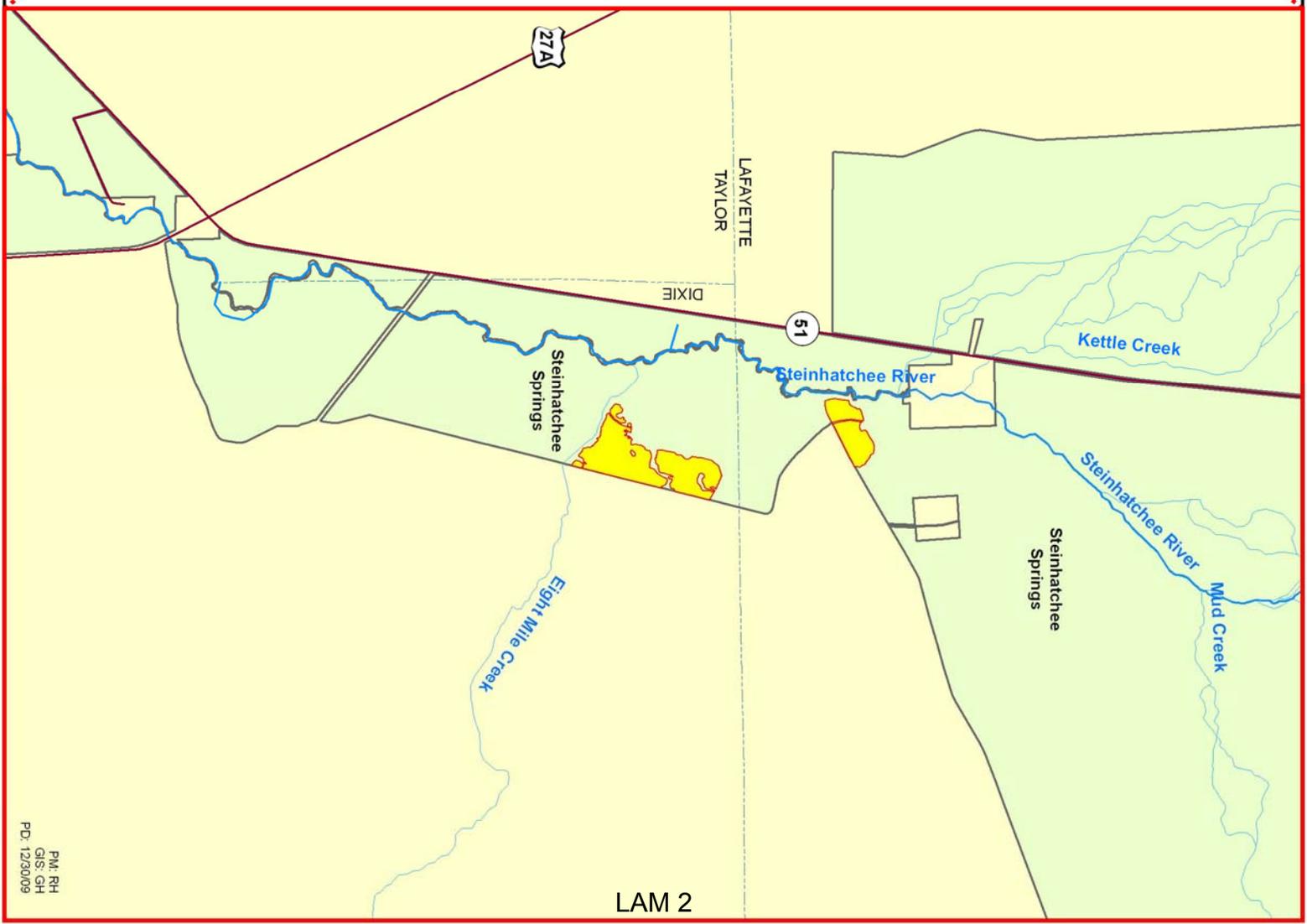
Steinhatchee Springs Timber Sale #4

Lafayette & Dixie Counties, FL

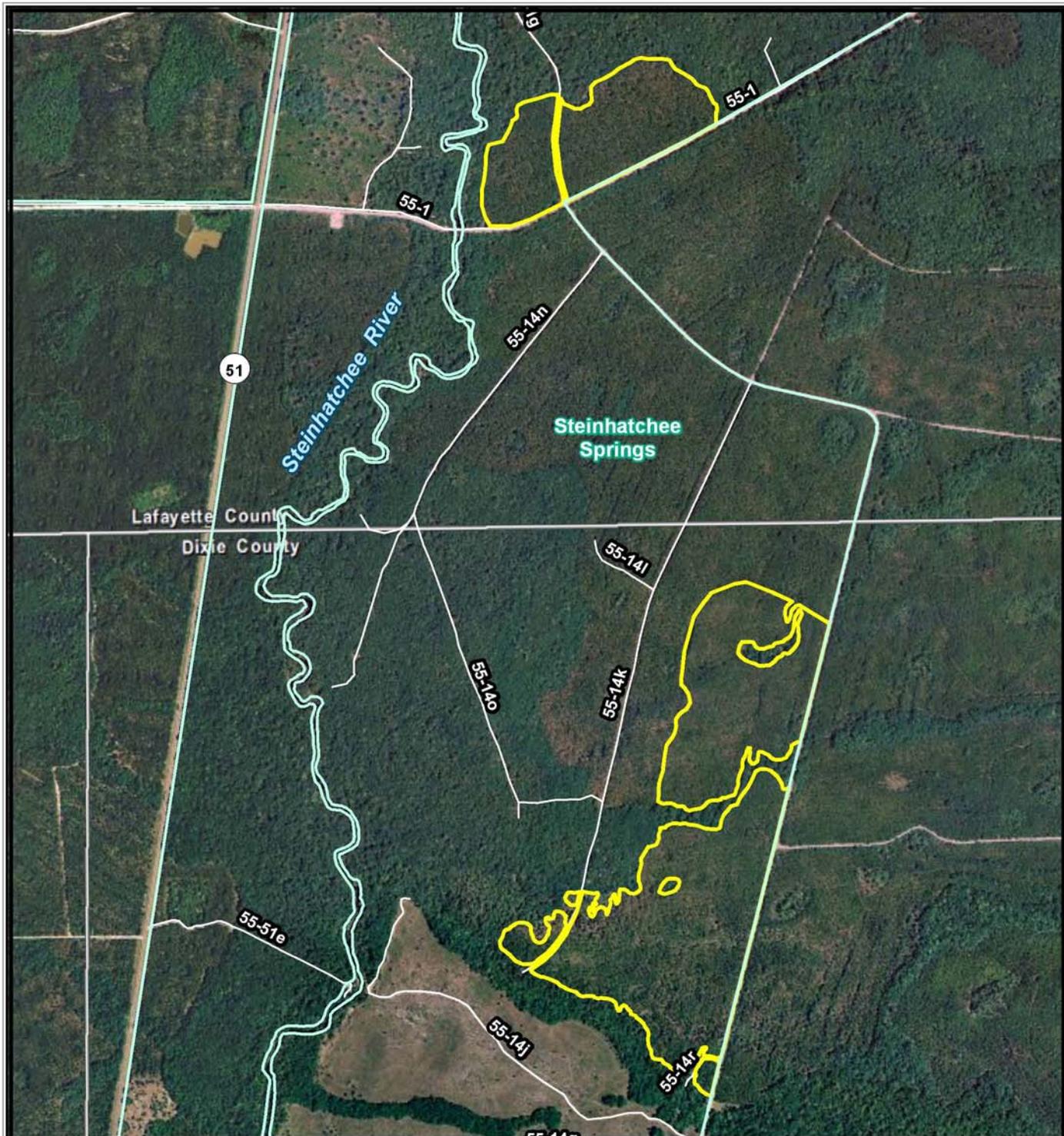


- Timber Sale Area
- SRVWMD Tracts

NOTE: This map was created by the Suwannee River Water Management District (SRVWMD), Department of Land Acquisition and Management (LA&M), to be used for planning purposes only. SRVWMD shall not be held liable for any injury or damage caused by the use of the data distributed as a public records request regardless of their use or applications. SRVWMD does not guarantee the accuracy, or suitability for any use of this data, and no warranty is expressed or implied. For more information please contact the SRVWMD Department of LA&M at 1-396-362-1001.



LAM 2



-  Timber Sale Area
-  SRWMD Lands

Steinhatchee Springs Timber Sale #4 Lafayette & Dixie Counties, FL



Note: This map was created by the Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD) to be used for planning purposes only. SRWMD shall not be held liable for any injury or damage caused by the use of data distributed as a public records request regardless of their use or application. SRWMD does not guarantee the accuracy, or suitability for any use of these data, and no warranty is expressed or implied. For more information please contact the SRWMD at 386-362-1001.
Map Created on 12/30/2009 ESRI World Imagery

PM:RH
GIS:GH
PD: 12/30/09

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Terry E. Demott, Senior Land Resource Coordinator

THRU: David Still, Executive Director DS
Joe Flanagan, Director, Land Acquisition and Management



DATE: January 21, 2010

RE: Renewal of Sovereignty Submerged Lands Lease for Atsena Otie Key

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approval and execution of a lease agreement renewal with the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund of the State of Florida for the docking facilities at Atsena Otie Key in Levy County.

BACKGROUND

In 1997 the District acquired several parcels at Atsena Otie Key that included a dock. The District was granted a five-year sovereignty submerged lands lease for the dock in August 1999.

In August 2004 the Governing Board approved a renewal of the lease for an additional five years. Another lease document was requested by DEP and executed by the Governing Board in October of 2005 because we were in the process of dismantling parts of the dock.

The District recently received notice that renewal of the 2004 lease was past due. This current renewal will extend the lease until August 2014.

/gal

cc: Charles H. Houder III, Assistant Executive Director
Atsena Otie Key Lease 00/01-080

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Scott Gregor, Natural Resource Specialist *SG*
Bob Heeke, Senior Land Resources Manager *BH*

THRU: David Still, Executive Director *DS*
Joe Flanagan, Director Land Acquisition and Management *JF*

DATE: January 21, 2010

RE: Increase in Prescribed Fire Budget

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Governing Board provide authorization to increase the prescribed burning budget and amend contracts with the following two firms: Wildland Fire Services Inc. by \$75,000 with a new not to exceed of \$275,000 and B&B Dugger Inc. by \$50,000 with a new not to exceed of \$90,000. This would increase the entire prescribed burning budget by \$125,000.

BACKGROUND

Prescribed burning is one of the most important and cost effective management activities occurring on District land. This practice is instrumental in helping the District meet its vegetation management and natural community restoration goals as well as protecting against the damaging effects of wildfire.

Current weather patterns are providing optimal burning conditions. Dormant season burns are being conducted in areas that require cool temperatures and good soil moisture. Over the last few years soil moisture has been poor in many parts of the District and has limited burning in these areas. Additional funds would be used to help maximize dormant season acreage and help contractors reduce the District's backlog of unburned acres.

Crews with the Florida Division of Forestry (FLDOF) are working at full capacity on Twin Rivers State Forest (TRSF) and have already exceeded their FY2010 target acreage by approximately 46%.

B&B Dugger and Wildland Fire Services have expended much of their budgets and are currently in the best position to receive additional funds to help maintain their momentum. The Forestry Company is under contract to roller-chop vegetation and conduct burns in Mallory Swamp. Historically, the optimum time for conducting this work is spring and summer when conditions are drier. Their activity is expected to increase as conditions improve. The current status of both contractors and agencies is listed in the table below.

If optimal conditions persist and contractors continue production, staff may seek future authorization to increase the budgets for Natural Resource Planning Services and The Forestry Company.

Funding for this increase would come from surplus timber sale revenue and is contingent on approval of the Governing Board.

Prescribed Fire Program Status 1/22/2010

Contractor Status				
SRWMD Contractors	FY 2010 Budget	Acres Complete (approx.)	Remaining Budget (approx.)	% Expended (approx.)
B&B Dugger	\$40,000	560	\$15,365	62%
Natural Resource Planning Services	\$100,000	730	\$67,150	33%
The Forestry Company	\$100,000	0	\$100,000	0
Wildland Fire Services	\$200,000	2,480	\$57,640	71%
TOTAL	\$440,000	3,770	\$240,155	

Agency Status		
Agency	2010 Target Acres	Acres Complete (approx.)
SRWMD	8,500	3,770
FLDOF (TRSF)	2,000	2,918
TOTAL	10,500	6,688

gal
 cc: Charles H. Houder III, Assistant Executive Director
 08/09-042
 08/09-046

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Brian Kauffman, Facilities Director *BCK*,

THRU: David Still, Executive Director *DS*
Joe Flanagan, Director of Land Acquisition and Management *JF*

DATE: January 14, 2010

RE: Reappointment of Annette Land to the R.O. Ranch Board of Directors

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Governing Board reappoint Annette Land to serve a four-year term on the R. O. Ranch Board of Directors ending in February 2014.

BACKGROUND

According to the By-Laws of R. O. Ranch, Incorporated: The Board of Directors of the Corporation shall have five (5) members. The Governing Board of the Suwannee River Water Management District shall appoint up to four directors, at least one of whom shall be a Governing Board member (currently Heath Davis). Frank E. Schulte may serve as or appoint one director. Upon the death of Mr. Schulte or in the event that he is unable to appoint a director, the Governing Board may appoint one additional director. Any member except the Schulte's appointee may be removed, with or without cause, by the Governing Board of the Suwannee River Water Management District.

Mrs. Land is a very active member of the Board of Directors and serves as the board's Vice-Chair. She is very excited about continuing her service for the R. O. Ranch and the Suwannee River Water Management District. Mrs. Land resides in Branford and is owner of Land Brokerage Realtor. In 2002 she was named "Woman of the Year in Agriculture" by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the Florida State Fair Authority. She is a member of the Florida Cattlemen Association, National Angus Association, Florida Cutting Horse Association, National Cutting Horse Association, and Suwannee River Riding Club.

gal

cc: Charles H Houder III, Assistant Executive Director
023-00040

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Gwen Lord  Business Resource Specialist IV

THRU: David Still, Executive Director 
Joe Flanagan, Director of Land Acquisition and Management 

DATE: January 11, 2010

RE: Consideration of Resolution 2010-01 Requesting Reimbursement of
Preacquisition Costs and Land Management Expenses for the Quarter
Ending December 31, 2009

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approval and execution of Resolution 2010-01, requesting the Department of Environmental Protection reimburse the District from the Water Management Lands Trust Fund (WMLTF) for preacquisition costs in the amount of \$139,832.15 and quarterly land management expenses in the amount of \$497,423.09 expended during the quarter ending December 31, 2009.

BACKGROUND

Section 373.59, F.S., allows the payment of preacquisition and land management costs from the WMLTF. Staff prepares quarterly reimbursement requests for costs associated with the District's activities.

Preacquisition costs cover most expenditures involving program administration and parcel-specific costs incurred prior to execution of a purchase agreement. Direct acquisition costs, including land costs, surveys, appraisals, and legal fees are either requested at the time of contract execution or are reconciled with preacquisition funding after the closing of each particular transaction. Preacquisition costs for the last quarter totaled \$139,832.15.

Land management costs for the same period totaled \$497,423.09. The largest share of this amount was for contractual services, which included site preparation, recreation facilities' construction, and forest management agreements.

gal

cc: Charles H. Houder, III, Assistant Executive Director
003-00100

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

RESOLUTION NO. 2010-01

**RESOLUTION REQUESTING RELEASE OF FUNDS
FROM THE WATER MANAGEMENT LANDS TRUST FUND
FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF PREACQUISITION COSTS AND
FOR MANAGEMENT, MAINTENANCE, AND CAPITAL
IMPROVEMENTS EXPENSES**

WHEREAS, the Suwannee River Water Management District has expended funds for certain costs in the acquisition of fee or other legal interest in lands necessary to carry out the five-year plan of acquisition filed with the Legislature and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and consistent with Section 373.59, Florida Statutes (F.S.); and

WHEREAS, prior to acquisition, said lands will be appraised by at least one independent real estate appraiser, and were approved for acquisition after duly noticed public hearing thereon; and

WHEREAS, said lands shall not be acquired as right-of-way for canals or pipelines; and

WHEREAS, the acquisition of said lands has required the evaluations, negotiations, or closings for lands, including those specific projects listed on the Acquisition Summary attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, upon acquisition, said lands are made available for general recreational uses not inconsistent with the water management purposes for which they are being acquired; and

WHEREAS, upon acquisition, said lands are maintained in an environmentally acceptable manner, and to the extent practical, in such a way as to restore and protect their natural state and condition; and

WHEREAS, should this District subsequently dispose of said lands, all revenues derived therefrom will be used to acquire other lands for water management, water supply, and the conservation and protection of water resources; and

WHEREAS, the Suwannee River Water Management District has expended funds and committed funds for management, maintenance, and capital improvements to land acquired with moneys from the Water Management Lands Trust Fund; and,

WHEREAS, said committed funds were used, consistent with Chapter 373.59, F.S., to develop management plans which include an evaluation of the resource value, environmental sensitivity, and recreational suitability of these lands; and,

WHEREAS, moneys expended for field equipment are for equipment whose sole use shall be on District's Save Our Rivers Lands; and,

WHEREAS, the requested funds are within the 2010 Fiscal Year Budget for preacquisition costs and management costs; and,

WHEREAS, any revenues generated from the management of these lands shall be used for management, maintenance, and capital improvements of said lands; and,

WHEREAS, District desires to be reimbursed for District's moneys so expended or committed; and,

WHEREAS, the specific acquisition costs are set forth in attachments to this resolution showing expenditures and commitments from October 1, 2009, through December 31, 2009, in the amount of \$139,832.15, and

WHEREAS, the specific commitments and expenditures for said management, maintenance, and capital improvements are set forth in attachments to this resolution showing expenditures and commitments from October 1, 2009, through December 31, 2009, in the amount of \$497,423.09.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Governing Board of the Suwannee River Water Management District:

(1) The above statements are hereby certified and declared to be true and correct.

(2) District hereby requests the Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection to release from the Water Management Lands Trust Fund to District the sum of \$139,832.15 for District's acquisition costs necessary to carry out the five-year plan of acquisition.

(3) District hereby requests the Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection to release from the Water Management Lands Trust Fund the sum of \$497,423.09 for District's expenditures for management, maintenance, and capital improvements of lands previously acquired under Water Management Lands Trust Fund as specifically set forth in the attachments to this resolution.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 9th DAY OF FEBRUARY 2010, A.D.

**SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
BY ITS GOVERNING BOARD**

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD:

**DON QUINCEY, CHAIRMAN
DAVID FLAGG, VICE CHAIRMAN
GEORGIA JONES, SECRETARY/TREASURER
C. LINDEN DAVIDSON
HEATH DAVIS
JAMES L. FRALEIGH
OLIVER J. LAKE
CARL E. MEESE**

ATTEST:

MANAGEMENT COSTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2009

Staff Salaries - Land Acquisition	\$167,408.22
Insurance	\$22,738.15
Retirement	\$17,597.44
FICA	\$12,012.40
TOTAL SALARIES & BENEFITS	\$219,756.21
Other Personal Services	\$4,945.50
Legal services	\$5,278.50
Contractual Services	\$212,570.31
TOTAL OTHER PERSONAL SERVICES	\$222,794.31
Payments In Lieu Of Taxes	\$0.00
Printing & Binding	\$60.00
Publication of Notices	\$183.27
Postage	\$0.00
Meetings	\$0.00
Registrations & Training	\$307.00
Travel	\$649.16
Utilities	\$771.83
Communications	\$507.35
Vehicle Maintenance	\$0.00
Facilities Maintenance	\$735.60
Equipment Maintenance	\$514.98
Field Supplies	\$34,648.93
Office Supplies	\$0.00
Computer Supplies	\$0.00
Fuel & Lubricants	\$0.00
Maps & Aerials	\$0.00
Books & Documents	\$24.00
Non-Capital Land Improvements	\$0.00
Photographic Supplies	\$0.00
Graphic Arts Supplies	\$0.00
Property & Casualty Ins	\$616.00
Fees & Permits	\$6,166.95
Other Current Charges	\$0.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$45,185.07
Office Equipment	\$0.00
Computer Equipment	\$0.00
Mobile Equipment	\$0.00
Field Equipment	\$0.00
TOTAL OPERATING CAPITAL OUTLAY	\$0.00
Construction	\$0.00
Land Improvements	\$0.00
TOTAL OPERATING CAPITAL OUTLAY	\$0.00
Interagency Expenditures	\$9,687.50
TOTAL INTERAGENCY EXPENDITURES	\$9,687.50
TOTAL MANAGEMENT COSTS	\$497,423.09

PRE-ACQUISITION COSTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2009	
Staff Salaries - Land Acquisition	\$70,448.88
Insurance	\$7,292.96
Retirement	\$7,397.62
FICA	\$4,743.88
TOTAL SALARIES & BENEFITS	\$89,883.34
Other Personal Services	\$0.00
Legal services	\$12,123.15
Contractual Services	\$22,491.40
TOTAL OTHER PERSONAL SERVICES	\$34,614.55
Printing & Binding	\$0.00
Publication of Notices	\$0.00
Postage	\$0.00
Meetings	\$0.00
Registrations & Training	\$295.00
Travel	\$95.00
Utilities	\$0.00
Communications	\$0.00
Vehicle Maintenance	\$0.00
Facilities Maintenance	\$0.00
Equipment Maintenance	\$0.00
Field Supplies	\$0.00
Office Supplies	\$0.00
Computer Supplies	\$0.00
Fuel & Lubricants	\$0.00
Maps & Aerials	\$0.00
Books & Documents	\$85.50
Non-Capital Land Improvements	\$0.00
Photographic Supplies	\$0.00
Graphic Arts Supplies	\$0.00
Office Support Equipment	\$0.00
Other Commodities	\$0.00
Computer Software	\$0.00
Equipment Rental	\$0.00
Fees & Permits	\$0.00
Other Current Charges	\$0.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$475.50
Office Equipment	\$0.00
Mobile Equipment	\$0.00
Field Equipment	\$0.00
TOTAL OPERATING CAPITAL OUTLAY	\$0.00
Land Improvements	\$0.00
TOTAL OPERATING CAPITAL OUTLAY	\$0.00
Interagency Expenditures	\$14,858.76
TOTAL INTERAGENCY EXPENDITURES	\$14,858.76
TOTAL PRE-ACQUISITION COSTS	\$139,832.15

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Terry Demott, Senior Land Resource Coordinator 

THRU: David A. Still, Executive Director 
Joe Flanagan, Director of Land Acquisition and Management 

DATE: January 14, 2010

SUBJECT: Activity Report, Land Acquisition

The attached report summarizes the status of current projects and describes significant activities of staff for the preceding month. Staff will be prepared to address any tracts of particular interest the Board may wish to discuss at the February 2010 Governing Board meeting.

gal
cc: Charles H. Houder III, Assistant Executive Director
007-00035

PROJECTS UNDER CONTRACT	STATUS
Dixie County/Guaranto Springs Addition 17 acres and 0.7 acres	These properties were approved for detailed assessment on April 14, 2009. Closing is scheduled by February 19, 2010.
Feagle, A./Bonnet Lake CE Alachua County 445 acres +/-	Governing Board approval for purchase of this conservation easement was granted on July 14, 2009. Survey, environmental baseline inventory and title commitment have been finalized. The anticipated closing date is January 27, 2010.
APPROVED PROJECTS	STATUS
Guerry, Brian Surplus Property Exchange Columbia County	Governing Board approval was received October 13, 2009, to begin discussions with the Guerry family. Staff is requesting bids for appraisal of properties for an exchange proposal.
Jackson, Kevin & Patrice/ Jackson CE Lafayette County 150 acres +/-	This property was approved for detailed assessment on May 14, 2009. Title work and appraisal reports have been received. Negotiations have begun.
Limited Access Properties Inc./ Gilchrist Regional Well Field Gilchrist County 125 acres +/-	This property was approved for detailed assessment on April 14, 2009. Title work and appraisal reports have been received. Negotiations will not commence pending successful acquisition of another parcel for the well field.
Moore, Carol Hinton Landing Addition Dixie County 0.5-acre lot	This property is offered as a small parcel addition to District lands. The appraisal is being reviewed.
N.G. Wade Investment Co./ Gilchrist Regional Wellfield Gilchrist County 105 acres +/-	This property was approved for detailed assessment on May 14, 2009. Title work and appraisal reports have been received. Staff has prepared a proposed offer for Governing Board review.

<p>Osceola Land & Timber/ Santa Fe CE Alachua County 463 acres +/-</p>	<p>The Alachua County Forever program has agreed to be a 25% purchase partner in the project. Appraisal review by Michael Candler was completed on January 15, 2010. Staff has prepared a proposed offer for Governing Board review.</p>
<p>Sante Fe River Hammock LLC/ Santa Fe River Hammock CE Bradford County 176 acres +/-</p>	<p>Title review and abstract are complete. Terms of a conservation easement have been agreed to with the landowner, and legal counsel has finalized the conservation easement document. Two appraisers were selected by competitive bid. Appraisal inspection tour is scheduled for January 15, 2010.</p>
<p>Suwannee River Development LLC/Ace Ranch CE Lafayette County 694 acres +/-</p>	<p>On April 14, 2009, this property was approved for detailed assessment of a conservation easement. Staff and owners have agreed on the easement document. A formal offer was presented to the owner on December 7, 2009.</p>
<p>Taylor, Gary & Peggy/Gilchrist Regional Well Field Gilchrist County 260 acres +/-</p>	<p>This property was approved for detailed assessment on April 14, 2009. Title work and appraisal reports have been received. Negotiations will not commence pending successful acquisition of another parcel for the well field.</p>

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Bob Heeke, Senior Land Resources Manager *BH*

THRU: David A. Still, Executive Director *DS*
Joe Flanagan, Director of Land Acquisition and Management *JF*

DATE: January 20, 2010

RE: Land Management Activity Report

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

District staff and contractors have been working to upgrade District lands replacing cables with gates. Upgrades have been completed at Mattair Springs, Woods Ferry, Alapaha Bluffs, Falling Creek, and McAlpin Landing.

Road repair is under way in Mallory Swamp due to damages caused by a wet winter and heavy use during hunting season.

The Suwannee River Wilderness Trail (SRWT) user group is planning *The Great Suwannee River Clean Up* this fall and has enlisted the help of Gainesville-based group Current Problems to assist with the project. District and SRWT staff have divided the river into sections and will be working with Current Problems to enlist groups and organizations to sign up for a river section. Current Problems has organized many river, lake and creek cleanups in the Gainesville area and has graciously agreed to help with *The Great Suwannee River Clean Up*.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

Staff and contractors are monitoring the following timber sales:

- Withlacoochee Quail Farm, a 137-acre thinning operation in Madison County.
- Twin Rivers State Forest/River Road, a 221-acre timber sale in Madison County.

A contract is being prepared with Levings Forest Products Inc. for the Alapahoochee Timber Sale. This is an approximately 30-acre sale in Hamilton County.

District staff oversaw planting of longleaf and slash pine seedlings on 13 District tracts. Approximately 1,561 acres were planted.

Boundary Line Marking is underway in the Steinhatchee, Waccasassa and Upper Suwannee Basins. This work will be completed in April.

Sandhill natural community restoration is continuing at the Adams Tract within the Troy Springs Conservation Area. Management actions included the following:

District staff seeded with native grass seed about 13 acres of a 26-acre cut-over loblolly pine stand that was harvested in 2006. An implement designed specifically for native habitat restoration was loaned to the District by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for this project. The remainder of the 26 acres will be hand planted with containerized wiregrass tubelings in the near future. This site was also hand planted with containerized longleaf pine seedlings.

Containerized wiregrass tubelings were hand-planted on approximately 125 acres of sandhill habitat. The tubelings were planted in effort to reestablish and/or augment existing grasses. Groundcover restoration will allow District land managers to manage the sandhill community with prescribed fire.

VISITOR MANAGEMENT

Small game hunting season is open in Mallory Swamp and Steinhatchee Springs wildlife management areas. Taking of wild hogs is legal during small game season.

There will be a special hog-dog hog hunt in Steinhatchee Springs February 26-28 and March 5-7. Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission has issued 50 no-cost quota permits for the hunt. Each permit is for two hunters (up to three hunters with a guest permit), and each group can have one gun and up to three free-roaming hunting dogs.

The Spirit of Suwannee Music Park hosted their annual New Year's Trail Ride December 30, 2009, through January 3, 2010. They rode on the Allardt, Fox Trail, Suwannee Springs, Linville and Mattair Springs Tracts.

The table below shows Special Use Authorizations issued during the last month:

Recreation	Temporary Ingress & Egress	Mallory Swamp ATV Trail	RO Ranch	Goose Pasture Camping ¹	Other	Total
12		0	0	0	2	14

¹Goose Pasture is closed to camping during the general gun season and will reopen on January 25, 2010.

The table below shows SRWT River Camp use during the last month:

River Camp	Day Users	Overnight Users	Total
Woods Ferry	2	37	39
Holton Creek	22	144	166
Dowling Park		20	20
Peacock Slough	20	15	35
Adams Tract	5	41	46
Total	49	257	306

Charlie Houder and Joe Flanagan followed up on the Fox Trail recreational use questions posed by Janet Messcher at the January 12 Governing Board meeting and visited on site with Dr. Daniel Messcher and Ms. Janet Messcher. Based on the conditions observed while on site, which included unauthorized breaks in fence lines and evidence of unauthorized ATV use, District staff will initiate appropriate follow up action.

gal

cc: Charles H. Houder III, Assistant Executive Director
008-00025

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Brian Kauffman, Facilities Director

THRU: David Still, Executive Director DS
Joe Flanagan, Director of Land Acquisition and Management JF

DATE: January 13, 2010

RE: R. O. Ranch Equestrian Park Monthly Activity Report

The R. O. Ranch Board of Directors held their regularly scheduled meeting on January 7. Three members of the public attended the meeting. In addition to their normal business, the board approved two new Requests for Proposals (RFPs) which are scheduled to be advertised February 1. One RFP was for the construction of an outdoor arena, and the second was for a cell tower.

The District and the R. O. Park participated in the Mayo Christmas parade on the evening of December 19. The park's wagon and two mules delivered Santa and his sleigh to Veteran's Memorial Park. Staff and volunteers handed out gifts supplied by the Chamber of Commerce to over 135 children who had their picture taken with Santa.

McInnis Construction continues to make good progress on the visitor center. Subcontractors are roughing in the electrical and building the masonry fireplace. The District's attorney is reviewing the bathhouse contract.

Staff toured the R. O. Park on January 15 with representatives from the Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Land & Recreation. The group included Bob Ballard, Deputy Secretary Land & Recreation, and Mike Bullock, Director Florida Park Service. The group was impressed with the property and the facilities under construction.

The District's inmate crew worked primarily at "Panther Jim's Lodge," formerly used as the manager's residence. The R. O. Board of Directors recently decided to use the house as a rental lodge to generate revenue. In the mid 1800's, Panther Jim was a Native American who lived in the Cooks Hammock area of Lafayette County. He changed his name to Jefferson Painter when he ran for and was elected Judge of Lafayette County. To prepare the facility as a weekly rental, the inmate crew installed concrete sidewalks and built a pump house to protect the water treatment system. They will also build an ADA accessible parking lot and ramp.

R. O. Ranch Equestrian Park Monthly Activity Report
Page 2

A Request for Proposals (RFP) is being prepared for development of a Business Plan for an equestrian-based camping facility at the R. O. Ranch. This RFP is scheduled for release on February 5, and staff recommendation for Governing Board approval of the selected Consultant is anticipated to be presented at the April 13, 2010, Board meeting.

gal

cc: Charles H. Houder III, Assistant Executive Director
023-00010