

Suwannee River Water Management District

Governing Board Materials

Executive Office

The following materials have been reviewed and approved for distribution to the Governing Board and the public.

Director of Governmental Affairs

Assistant Executive Director

Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Charlie Houder, Assistant Executive Director

DATE: October 31, 2011

RE: R. O. Ranch Operations and Funding

RECOMMENDATION

There is no recommendation at this time.

BACKGROUND

As per the Governing Board's discussion and direction at its workshop in September, three alternatives for the future operation and funding of the R. O. Ranch Equestrian Park (Park) have been developed. Each outlines potential actions with regard to the \$3.8 million R. O. Ranch Endowment, the future management of the Park, and any further capital development on the site. In summary, three options will be presented:

Option 1 is to transfer funds from the Endowment to a trust for the benefit of the Park and R. O. Ranch, Inc. and to maintain the current management agreement. Further capital improvements will be at the discretion of the Governing Board.

Option 2 is to transfer funds from the Endowment to a trust for the benefit of the Park and R. O. Ranch, Inc. and to amend the current management agreement such that the Governing Board and R. O. Ranch Inc. adopt a shared vision for further capital development of the Park. The timing of any such development would still be at the discretion of the Governing Board.

Option 3 is to terminate the management agreement and consider either soliciting another management entity or disposing of the developed portions of the Park. The Endowment funds could be moved to a trust or simply transferred to R. O. Ranch, Inc. to be used for the purposes set out in its Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. Further capital improvements will be at the discretion of the Governing Board.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: David Still, Executive Director
Charlie Houder, Asst. Executive Director
Steve Minnis, Governmental Affairs Director

DATE: October 14, 2011

RE: Activity Report, Executive Office

The following is a brief summary of activities during the past month by David Still, Charlie Houder, and Steve Minnis.

David, Charlie, and Steve:

- Participated in a conference call with the Governor's Office, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), and the other water management districts on preparation of a Fiscal Year 2013 draft budget.

David and Charlie:

- Participated in the bi-weekly telephone conference with Greg Munson, Deputy Secretary of Water Policy and Ecosystem Restoration, Florida Department of Environmental Protection.
- Met with the Friends of the Suwannee Springs group to discuss the condition and possible restoration of Suwannee Springs.
- Participated in a presentation by Hydromentia for the Final Report of the Suwannee River Water Quality Improvement – Algae Scrubber project.

David:

- Attended the Florida Farm Bureau Annual Meeting in Orlando.
- Attended the North East Florida Educational Consortium conference in Gainesville.

Charlie:

- Met with Governing Board member Ray Curtis and previous District Executive Director Jerry Scarborough concerning R. O. Ranch.
- Attended the Branford Rotary Club Luncheon and assisted Carlos Herd on a presentation concerning water supply issues. Mr. Meece also attended.
- Attended the Madison County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting. Mr. Alexander also attended.
- Attended a Conserved Forests Ecosystems Outreach and Research (CFEOR) workshop at the Osceola National Forest on landscape-scale

mechanical fuels reduction treatments and its effects on fire behavior, fuel loads, and forest ecology.

- Met with Clay Smallwood, Director, Division of State Lands at DEP in Tallahassee.
- Participated in the R. O. Ranch monthly meeting with Mr. Curtis presiding.
- Made a presentation on District programs to Paddle Florida participants at Spirit of the Suwannee.

Steve:

- Attended the Interim Legislative Committee Meetings for the week of September 19th and October 3rd.
- Provided a District Budget Overview Presentation to the House Agricultural and Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee.
- Attended the legislative Delegation Meetings for the counties of Alachua, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Levy, and Madison.
- Met with Representative Porter and Representative Perry on District legislative priority issues.
- Met with Senator Dean's Office staff regarding District legislative initiatives.
- Met with House staff analyst regarding District legislative initiatives.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: David Still, Executive Director
Charlie Houder, Assistant Executive Director

DATE: October 20, 2011

RE: Legal Services Report

There have been no invoices paid regarding legal services since the last report to the Governing Board on October 10, 2011. An update will be provided at the November 9, 2011 Governing Board meeting.

Firm	Monthly Total (paid as of October 10, 2011)	Cumulative Total*
Brannon, Brown, Haley & Bullock, P.A.	\$11,197.79	\$34,491.85
Springfield Law, P.A.	\$3,194.55	\$26,538.52

Cumulative total is through October 10, 2011.

/lgw