

Suwannee River Water Management District

Governing Board Materials

Water Supply and Resource Management

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

Director of Water Supply and
Resource Management

Assistant Executive Director

Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Brian Kauffman, Professional Engineer

DATE: May 24, 2012

RE: Authorization to Apply for FEMA's FY 2012 Risk MAP Program

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Governing Board authorize the Executive Director to apply for and enter into an agreement with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to receive \$1,220,790 to administer the Risk MAP Program for FEMA's Fiscal Year 2012.

BACKGROUND

The Suwannee River Water Management District has been a Cooperating Technical Partner with FEMA for many years. As such, FEMA provides funds to the District to help administer the Risk MAP (Mapping, Assessment and Planning) Program. When this program started, its primary purpose was to convert the old paper floodplain maps to digital copies. Now the focus is on enhancing the digital maps with better data and developing better tools to evaluate the risk of flooding. The District's Strategic Plan includes the partnership with FEMA as a priority.

With Governing Board approval, funds for FEMA's FY 2012 Risk Map Program will be included in the District's FY 2014 budget and will be used to develop risk map products for the Coastal Rivers Basin and provide discovery in the Waccasassa Basin. FEMA has budgeted \$1,220,790 for work in this region and will reimburse the District monthly for all expenses including district staff time. Staff will request authorization from the Governing Board in FY 2013 to contract with prequalified engineering firms to complete the work.

/jl

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board
FROM: Bob Heeke, Senior Land Resources Manager
DATE: May 24, 2012
RE: Contract with Superior Forestry Services, Inc., for FY 2013 Tree Planting Services

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Governing Board authorize the Executive Director to execute a contract with Superior Forestry Services, Inc., for an amount not to exceed \$13,000 for tree planting services.

BACKGROUND

Request for Proposals (RFP) 11/12-026 for interplanting tree services was released on April 12, 2012. Interplanting is planting tree seedlings by hand between existing surviving trees to increase overall stocking.

Based on this year's seedling survival checks (for seedlings surviving one year post planting), the Cabbage Creek site (258 acres) had 196 trees per acre and Mattair Springs site (84 acres) had 179 trees per acre. Interplanting will be conducted to augment these areas (342 total acres) with longleaf pine tree seedlings so the final stocking rate is approximately 600 trees per acre, which is within the desired range for young plantations.

Along with references and previous work history, the RFP requested per-acre rates for hand planting of containerized longleaf pine and bare-root slash pine seedlings. The per-acre rates were to include all expenses needed to complete the scope of work. Enclosed in the RFP were planting standards, a scope of work for the project sites, and project area maps. The proposers had the opportunity to visit each site using maps provided in the RFP.

Members of the Selection Committee composed of Tim Sagul, Brian Kauffman and Terry Demott met and ranked the top three firms. The table below indicates the top three firms, their ranking, and the proposed rates.

Ranking	Firms	Planting Type (cost per acre)	
		Hand Plant Cont. Longleaf Pine	Hand Plant Bare-root Slash Pine
#1	Superior Forestry Services, Inc.	\$35.94	\$38.45
#2	Forestree Network Services, LLC	\$48.00	\$44.00
#3	Facilities Supply and Service, Inc.	\$70.00	\$65.00

Five firms submitted proposals for interplanting tree services. Below is a table showing firms and their associated business location based on the response form.

Firm	City
Facilities Supply and Service, Inc.	Keystone Heights, FL
Forestree Network Services, LLC	Roanoke, AL
Summitt Forests	Ashland, OR
Superior Forestry Services, Inc.	Tilly, AR
Superior Timber & Land Mgt	Lake City, FL

The principal for Superior Forestry Services, Inc., is John W. Foley. Funds for these services will be budgeted in the FY2013 budget and are contingent upon final budget adoption by the Governing Board.

gal
RFP 11/12-026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board
FROM: Bob Heeke, Senior Land Resources Manager
DATE: May 24, 2012
RE: Agreement with North Florida Reforestation Services, Inc., for Mallory Swamp Fireline Rehabilitation Services

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Governing Board authorize the Executive Director to execute a contract with North Florida Reforestation Services Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$27,545.55 for fireline rehabilitation services on the Mallory Swamp Tract in Fiscal Year 2012.

BACKGROUND

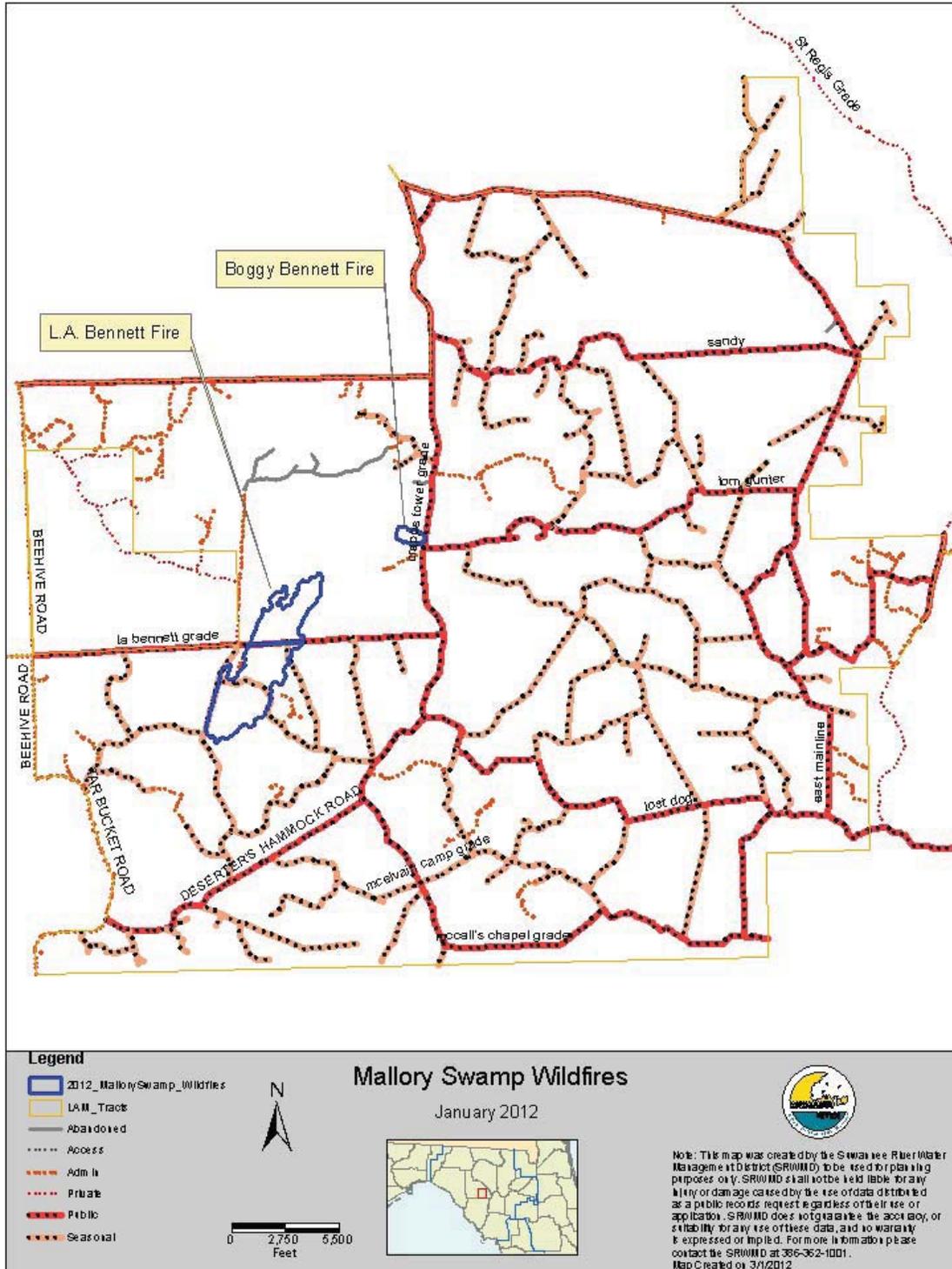
In January 2012 two separate wildfires occurred on the Mallory Swamp Tract in Lafayette County. Many of the containment lines installed by the Florida Forest Service to control these fires were installed through wetlands. Linear mounds of soil and vegetation were created that will alter the natural flow of water in this area. Rehabilitation work will consist of leveling these mounds back to natural grade. The extent of the work area is approximately seven miles.

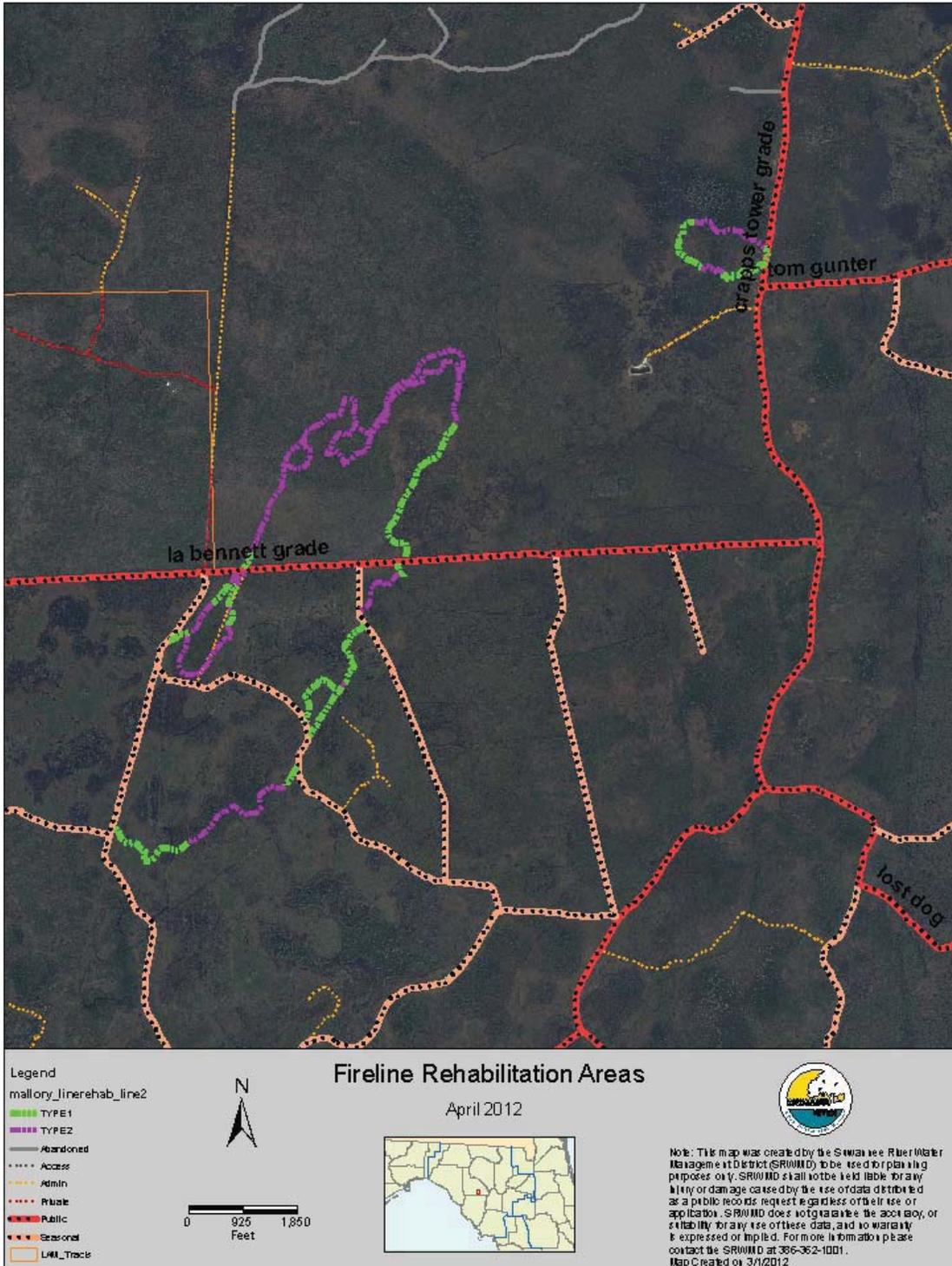
Based on the responses to Request for Bids 11/12-029, staff is seeking authorization to enter into a contract with North Florida Reforestation Services Inc. to complete this fireline rehabilitation project.

FIRM	Owner	Location	Northern Work Area	Southern Work Area	Total Project
North Florida Reforestation Services Inc.	Avery Roberts	Lake Butler, FL	\$18,780.00	\$12,450.00	\$27,545.55
J.D. Sunny Isle Inc.	Jason Wadsworth	Palm Bay, FL	\$23,272.73	\$15,709.09	\$36,485.00
Santa Cruz Construction Inc.	John Rodriguez	Merritt Island, FL	\$27,000.00	\$18,225.00	\$49,225.00
Wildland Fire Services Inc.	Doug Williams	Tallahassee, FL	\$33,000.00	\$24,000.00	\$57,000.00
The Forestry Company Inc.	Don Curtis	Perry, FL	\$44,500.00	\$24,200.00	\$66,000.00

Principals for North Florida Reforestation Services Inc. are Avery Roberts and Linda C. Boles. Funding for this contract is included in the Fiscal Year 2012 budget.

gal





MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board
FROM: Bob Heeke, Sr. Land Resource Manager
DATE: May 30, 2012
RE: Hunting Lease on Mud Swamp Tract

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approval and execution of Resolution 2012-17 and authorization for the Executive Director to execute the Mud Swamp Hunting Lease with Bryan W. Ward for \$16,929.

BACKGROUND

On May 3, 2012, staff released Request for Bids (RFB) 11/12-030 LM for exclusive recreational rights, including hunting and fishing, on the 836-acre Mud Swamp Tract in Alachua and Bradford Counties.

The intent to lease was advertised three times each in the *Bradford Telegraph* and *Gainesville Sun* as required by law. A news release was sent to papers of local distribution, and the information has been available on the District website as well as *Woods 'n Water* website (a magazine and website devoted to hunting and fishing).

Responses were due to the District by 12:00 noon on May 29, 2012. Four responses were received as shown below:

Bidder	Bid	City
Bryan W. Ward	\$16,929.00	Brooker, FL
Alex Pemberton	\$10,032.00	St. Petersburg, FL
Chad E. Thomas	\$8,778.00	Bell, FL
Daniel Pinkston	\$6,300.00	Williston, FL

Copies of the resolution and hunt lease are attached.

gal
RFB 11/12-030 LM

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-17

RESOLUTION OF THE SUWANNEE RIVER WATER
MANAGEMENT DISTRICT APPROVING A LEASE OF
PROPERTY TO A PRIVATE PARTY

WHEREAS, the SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT, an agency of the State of Florida (hereinafter the "DISTRICT") was created pursuant to Section 373.069(1)(b), Florida Statutes and exercises its statutory powers pursuant to Ch. 373, Florida Statutes; and,

WHEREAS, the DISTRICT is governed by a governing board (hereinafter called the "GOVERNING BOARD") as provided in Section 373.073, Florida Statutes; and,

WHEREAS, the DISTRICT owns certain real property; and,

WHEREAS, the DISTRICT has determined that it is in the best interest of the DISTRICT to lease a certain tract of real property (the "PROPERTY"), which is shown on the lease (the "CONTRACT"), a copy of which is attached hereto as an Exhibit "A"; and,

WHEREAS, Section 373.093, Florida Statutes, authorizes the DISTRICT to lease real property provided certain requirements are met; and,

WHEREAS, such statutory requirements have been met and the GOVERNING BOARD wishes to enter into the CONTRACT and lease the PROPERTY as set out therein.

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

1. The above recitals are incorporated herein as a part hereof.
2. The CONTRACT is hereby approved.
3. The lease of the PROPERTY as set out in the CONTRACT meets the requirements of Section 373.093, Florida Statutes as follows:
 - A. The lease of the PROPERTY as provided in the CONTRACT is consistent with the purposes for which the PROPERTY or any interest in PROPERTY was acquired.
 - B. The lease of the PROPERTY as provided in the CONTRACT is for the best price and terms obtainable.

C. A notice of intention to lease was published in a newspaper published in the county in which the PROPERTY is situated once each week for 3 successive weeks, the first publication of which was not less than 30 nor more than 90 days prior to the date this resolution was approved. The notice of intention to lease set forth the time and place of leasing and a description of the PROPERTY.

4. The Chair and Secretary of the GOVERNING BOARD, the Executive Director of the DISTRICT, the GOVERNING BOARD attorney and all other officers and employees of the DISTRICT are hereby authorized and directed to do all things necessary to complete the transaction contemplated in the CONTRACT, including, without limitation, execute, on behalf of the DISTRICT, all documents reasonably required thereby.

PASSED AND ADOPTED ON MOTION, SECOND AND AN AFFIRMATIVE VOTE OF THE GOVERNING BOARD, THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2012.

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
BY ITS GOVERNING BOARD

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD:

- DON QUINCEY, CHAIR
- ALPHONAS ALEXANDER, VICE CHAIR
- RAY CURTIS, SECRETARY/TREASURER
- KEVIN W. BROWN
- GEORGE M. COLE
- HEATH DAVIS
- VIRGINIA H. JOHNS
- CARL E. MEECE
- GUY N. WILLIAMS

ATTEST:

HUNTING LEASE
(DISTRICT Leasing to Private Entity)

THIS HUNTING LEASE, is made and entered into as of its EFFECTIVE DATE, by and between the DISTRICT and the LEASEHOLDER and for good and valuable consideration the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, the parties do hereby agree as follows:

1. **DEFINITIONS:** The following terms shall have the following meaning herein unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

(The first definitions are listed out of alphabetical order as they will need to be changed from lease to lease.)

LEASEHOLDER shall mean: Name:

BRYAN W. WARD

Address:

15100 SW C.R. 231

BROOKER, FL 32622

Phone:

(352) 665-5304 / (352) 485-1844

PAYMENT shall mean:

\$ 20.25 PER ACRE / TOTAL OF \$ 16,929.00

ARCHERY SEASON shall mean the yearly season for hunting called "Archery Season" set by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and which is applicable to the PROPERTY.

DISTRICT shall mean the Suwannee River Water Management District, a Florida water management district created pursuant to Section 373.069, Florida Statutes.

EFFECTIVE DATE shall mean the date this LEASE is fully executed by all parties and approved by written resolution of the Governing Board of the DISTRICT.

HUNTING AND FISHING shall mean the recreational, non-commercial, taking of those species of wildlife, fowl and fish allowed by law, in the quantities allowed by law and by and through those methods allowed by law.

LEASE shall mean this "Hunting Lease".

LEASEHOLDERS GUESTS shall mean all natural persons present on the PROPERTY with and by the permission of the LEASEHOLDER.

MAXIMUM NUMBER OF LEASEHOLDERS GUESTS shall mean a total of 14 persons.

PAYMENT DUE DATE shall mean 15 days after the EFFECTIVE DATE.

PROPERTY shall mean that certain parcel of real property as shown on the drawing attached hereto as Exhibit "A".

SPRING TURKEY SEASON shall mean the yearly season for hunting called "Spring Turkey Season" set by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and which is applicable to the *PROPERTY*.

TERM shall mean the period of time commencing at noon on the date 30 days prior to the first day of the *ARCHERY SEASON* next following the *EFFECTIVE DATE* and ending at noon on the date 30 days after the last day of the *SPRING TURKEY SEASON* next following the *EFFECTIVE DATE*, inclusive.

2. **LEASE OF PROPERTY**: During and throughout the *TERM*, the *DISTRICT* shall lease the *PROPERTY* to the *LEASEHOLDER* and the *LEASEHOLDER* shall lease the *PROPERTY* from the *DISTRICT*.
3. **LEGAL AUTHORITY FOR THIS LEASE**: This *LEASE* is authorized and entered into under the provisions of Section 373.093, Florida Statutes and Rule 40B-9.145, Florida Administrative Code. The parties understand that compliance with the above provisions of law is a condition precedent to the *DISTRICT*'s obligations hereunder.
4. **PAYMENT**: The *LEASEHOLDER* shall pay the *PAYMENT* to the *DISTRICT* as payment for the rights given it under this *LEASE*. The *PAYMENT* shall be paid in cash (by local certified check or wire transfer) no later than the *PAYMENT DUE DATE*.
5. **PERMITTED USES OF THE PROPERTY**: During the *TERM*, the *LEASEHOLDER* may use the *PROPERTY* for *HUNTING AND FISHING* and in doing so may also:
 - 5.1 Place temporary tree stands and other temporary structures on the *PROPERTY* at such places as approved, in advance and in writing, by the *DISTRICT*. Such structures shall not be permanently affixed to or damage the *PROPERTY* (including, without limitation, trees). A minimal amount of trimming of the branches of trees as necessary to facilitate the placement and usage of tree stands shall not be considered damages to the trees.
 - 5.2 Place and maintain game cameras on the *PROPERTY*, provided that such game cameras are not permanently affixed to and do not cause damage to the *PROPERTY* (including, without limitation, trees).
 - 5.3 Access, traverse and remain on the *PROPERTY* through motor vehicles or otherwise at all reasonable times for the above purposes.
 - 5.4 Remain overnight and camp on the *PROPERTY* provided that:
 - 5.4.1 All campsites shall be maintained in a clean and orderly manner.

5.4.2 All camping shall be done through the use of temporary structures, including but not limited to tents, recreational vehicles, and similar vehicles and structures.

5.4.3 Electrical, water, garbage and sewer/wastewater service shall not be provided. All electrical service and water used for camping shall be brought into the PROPERTY and all garbage and wastewater / brown water shall be removed from the PROPERTY and disposed of as allowed by law.

5.5 Permit the LEASEHOLDERS GUESTS to do any of the above.

6. **NON-PERMITTED USES OF THE PROPERTY:** During the TERM, the LEASEHOLDER shall not:

6.1 Do any act which may set fire to any part of the PROPERTY or unreasonably increase the risk of wildfire on the PROPERTY. (The LEASEHOLDER shall use its best efforts to suppress any fire that occurs on the PROPERTY during the term of this LEASE. Further, the LEASEHOLDER shall promptly notify the DISTRICT in the event of any fire on the PROPERTY.)

6.2 Allow dogs used for the chasing or taking of wildlife or fowl to leave the PROPERTY in the pursuit of wildlife or fowl.

6.3 Do any act which annoys or interferes with the property rights of any owner of real property adjacent to the PROPERTY.

6.4 Erect any permanent structure on the PROPERTY at any time.

6.5 Erect any temporary structure (including tree stands) without the prior written approval of the DISTRICT.

6.6 Drive nails, spikes, screws, bolts, or any other metal object into any tree on the PROPERTY.

6.7 Use any motor vehicle on any portion of the PROPERTY except the existing roads shown on Exhibit "A".

6.8 Damage, cut, injure, or destroy any trees, crops, roads, fences, buildings, or other improvements located on the PROPERTY. (LEASEHOLDER shall fully compensate the DISTRICT for any damage to the above, as determined by the DISTRICT.)

6.9 Fail to observe and follow all local, state, and federal laws or allow any person who fails to observe and follow such laws to remain on the PROPERTY. (Should LEASEHOLDER observe any illegal activity on the PROPERTY, it shall report such activity to the DISTRICT and the applicable law enforcement agency

immediately, and take immediate steps to cause such illegal activity to cease and desist.)

6.10 Engage in HUNTING AND FISHING on the PROPERTY without first obtaining all required licenses and permits from all applicable governmental authorities.

6.11 Take any wildlife, fowl or fish in excess of bag limits established by law.

6.12 Take any wildlife, fowl or fish outside of the season for taking the same, as established by law.

6.13 Engage in the taking of wildlife, fowl or fish for any non-recreational or commercial purpose.

6.14 Transport live wildlife, fowl or fish off of the PROPERTY.

6.15 Release any live wildlife, fowl or fish on the PROPERTY.

6.16 Release any live plants, animals, birds or fish on the PROPERTY.

6.17 Plant any seeds on the PROPERTY.

6.18 Use or store any fertilizer, herbicide or pesticide on the PROPERTY.

6.19 Alter, disturb or collect any plants, minerals, rocks, soil, fill or artifacts and transport the same off of the PROPERTY.

6.20 Use the PROPERTY in any manner which might interfere with the rights of the DISTRICT, its agents, assigns, contractors and/or employees to cut and remove any trees or stumps from the PROPERTY.

6.21 Interfere with any easements or right-of-ways for power, telephone, telegraph, and gas lines, mains, or cables; or with any easements or right-of-ways for highways, railroads, or drainage structures; or with any activities associated with oil, gas, or mineral leases; or with any conveyances shown in the public records of the county where the PROPERTY is located or evidenced by possession or use.

6.22 Possess or consume alcoholic beverages of any kind on the PROPERTY.

6.23 Harm any dam, impoundment, works, water control structure, road, or DISTRICT-owned facilities or equipment.

6.24 Leave or allow others to leave litter, garbage or other waste of any kind on the PROPERTY.

6.25 Allow any of the LEASEHOLDERS GUESTS to engage in any of the above activities prohibited to the LEASEHOLDER.

7. **MAXIMUM NUMBER OF LEASEHOLDERS GUESTS:** At no time shall the number of LEASEHOLDERS GUESTS exceed the MAXIMUM NUMBER OF LEASEHOLDERS GUESTS.
8. **DISTRICT SHALL CONTINUE TO MANAGE THE PROPERTY:** During the TERM, the DISTRICT shall continue to manage the PROPERTY, including without limitation, the right to cut and/or thin the timber located on the PROPERTY, use prescribed burning, plow and maintain firebreaks, maintain roads, fences and gates, and all similar or related activities. This LEASE shall not be construed to require the DISTRICT to consider HUNTING AND FISHING or the production of wildlife, fowl or fish in managing the PROPERTY. Further, the DISTRICT shall have no obligation to protect any wildlife, fowl or fish which may occur on the PROPERTY from injury or damage from natural causes, poaching or any other reason.
9. **DISTRICT MAY RESTRICT USE OF PROPERTY DUE TO WEATHER:** The DISTRICT reserves the right to restrict the LEASEHOLDER's and/or LEASEHOLDERS GUESTS' use of the PROPERTY, and the rights granted herein if, in the sole judgment of the DISTRICT, weather conditions create an unacceptable hazard to the PROPERTY or persons thereon. Examples of such hazards include, without limitation, wildfire, flooding, storm damage, tornado, hurricane and downdraft.
10. **LEASEHOLDER'S USE TO BE EXCLUSIVE:** During the TERM, except for the access given to the LEASEHOLDER under this LEASE, there shall be no free public access to the PROPERTY, other than the following:
 - 10.1 All lakes, rivers and streams large enough for canoe traffic, which may be on or adjacent to the PROPERTY shall be open to the public. The shoreline of any such lakes, rivers and streams and inland from such shoreline 100 feet, shall also be open to the public.
 - 10.2 All of the DISTRICT's officers, employees, agents and contractors, and all local, state, and federal law enforcement officers shall have free access of the PROPERTY.
11. **SURRENDER OF PREMISES:** At the end of the TERM, regardless of whether or not the LEASE was canceled, the LEASEHOLDER shall surrender the PROPERTY in as good condition as it was at the commencement of the TERM.
12. **CONDITION OF PROPERTY:** Except for the representations expressly set forth in this LEASE, the DISTRICT is leasing the PROPERTY "as is, where is", and the DISTRICT does not make and has not made any representations as to the condition or use of the PROPERTY. Further the DISTRICT does not and has not authorized anyone else to make any representations as to the condition or use of the PROPERTY. The LEASEHOLDER has made whatever inspection of the PROPERTY it deems appropriate

and has satisfied itself that the PROPERTY is suitable for its purposes. The LEASEHOLDER understands that there may be hidden hazards, including but not limited to, holes, fence wire, snakes, wells, swamps, ponds, harmful plants and animals, and unauthorized persons on the PROPERTY, or other risks that may cause injury or death. The LEASEHOLDER's use of the PROPERTY shall be at the LEASEHOLDER's sole risk. The LEASEHOLDER shall inform the LEASEHOLDERS GUESTS of the provisions of this paragraph prior to allowing them to come onto the PROPERTY and that the LEASEHOLDERS GUESTS' use of the PROPERTY shall be at the LEASEHOLDERS GUESTS' sole risk.

13. **LIABILITY AND INSURANCE:** The LEASEHOLDER shall be responsible for and pay for any and all damage, loss, injury and liability to the PROPERTY, to the property of others, or to any person, caused by LEASEHOLDER or LEASEHOLDERS GUESTS, or as a result (either directly or indirectly) of LEASEHOLDER's or LEASEHOLDERS GUESTS' use of the PROPERTY, or resulting from this LEASE, and the LEASEHOLDER shall indemnify the DISTRICT and shall hold the DISTRICT harmless for the same. LEASEHOLDER, at LEASEHOLDER's expense, shall maintain liability insurance with an insurance company, licensed to do business in the State of Florida, to cover LEASEHOLDER's activities on the PROPERTY and LEASEHOLDER's obligations under this LEASE, in an amount not less than one million (\$1,000,000.00) dollars for damage or injury to person and property. Prior to the beginning of the TERM, the LEASEHOLDER will file with the DISTRICT certificate(s) of insurance, acceptable to the DISTRICT, providing evidence that the LEASEHOLDER has in full force and effect the insurance required herein. These certificate(s) shall contain provision(s) that provide, without limitation, the following:

13.1 That the DISTRICT is a named or additional insured without waiving any defense of sovereign immunity or increasing the limits of DISTRICT's liability in excess of the statutory cap provided under Section 768.28, Florida Statutes.

13.2 That the coverage afforded under the policies will not be canceled or materially changed until at least 30 days prior written notice has been given to the DISTRICT.

14. **TAXES AND ASSESSMENTS:** LEASEHOLDER shall pay all taxes (including, without limitation, sales taxes, documentary stamp taxes, ad valorem taxes and assessments) due on the LEASE and the PAYMENT, if any.
15. **REMEDIES FOR DEFAULT:** Notwithstanding anything else herein to the contrary, the parties' sole and exclusive remedies for default of any of the provisions of the LEASE shall be as follows:

15.1 Should the DISTRICT default on any provision of this LEASE, then the LEASEHOLDER shall be entitled to cancel this LEASE and receive a full refund of the PAYMENT (as liquidated damages because actual damages would be difficult to estimate), in which event both parties shall be relieved of all further obligations to the other.

15.2 Should the LEASEHOLDER default on any provision of this LEASE, then the DISTRICT shall be entitled to cancel this LEASE and retain all of the PAYMENT (as liquidated damages because actual damages would be difficult to estimate), in which event both parties will be relieved of all further obligations to the other.

16. **CANCELLATION WITHOUT CAUSE:** This LEASE may be canceled by the DISTRICT at any time for any reason whatsoever upon giving ten (10) days written notice to the LEASEHOLDER. In the event this LEASE is canceled for any reason other than default of the LEASEHOLDER, the DISTRICT shall refund to the LEASEHOLDER a pro-ration of the PAYMENT based on the number of days remaining in the TERM.
17. **DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE:** The DISTRICT agrees that Robert G. Heeke is to be the DISTRICT representative and is to have direct, primary, and continuing contact for this LEASE. Mr. Heeke may be contacted by telephone at 386.362.1001 or 800.226.1066 (FL Only) or 386.647.6588 (cell) or by email at RGH@srwmd.org.
18. **THIS LEASE SHALL CONSTITUTE A SPECIAL USE AUTHORIZATION:** This LEASE shall constitute a Special Use Authorization as contemplated by Rule 40B-9.1411, Florida Administrative Code, for the LEASEHOLDER and the LEASEHOLDERS GUESTS to use the PROPERTY for the uses set out in this LEASE. Such Special Use Authorization shall be automatically revoked upon the expiration or cancellation of this LEASE.
19. **ASSIGNABILITY:** The rights granted by this LEASE may not be assigned by operation of law or otherwise, without the prior written approval of the DISTRICT.
20. **PERSONAL PROPERTY:** This LEASE does not lease any of the DISTRICT's personal property to the LEASEHOLDER. The LEASEHOLDER shall remove all of the LEASEHOLDER's personal property from the PROPERTY prior to the end of the TERM. Any of the LEASEHOLDER's personal property remaining on the PROPERTY as of the end of the TERM, may be retained by the DISTRICT or disposed of in any manner as may be determined by the DISTRICT.
21. **GOVERNING LAW:** This LEASE shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Florida, without regard to its conflict of laws rules.
22. **VENUE AND JURISDICTION OF LITIGATION:** The exclusive venue and jurisdiction for any litigation enforcing, construing or relating to this LEASE shall be the Circuit Court or the County Court in and for Suwannee County, Florida. If under applicable law exclusive jurisdiction over any such matters is vested in the federal courts, then exclusive jurisdiction and venue shall be in the United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida, Jacksonville Division.
23. **WAIVER OF JURY TRIAL:** The parties mutually and forever waive any and all right

to trial by jury in any legal proceeding arising out of or relating to this LEASE or this transaction. The parties agree to have any such actions decided by a judge alone, without a jury.

24. **NO WAIVER OF SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY:** Notwithstanding anything else herein to the contrary, nothing herein shall be construed to waive or to otherwise affect the DISTRICT's sovereign immunity and/or the protections given the DISTRICT under Section 768.28, Florida Statutes.
25. **NO THIRD PARTY BENEFICIARIES:** The provisions of this LEASE are for the sole and exclusive benefit of the DISTRICT and the LEASEHOLDER. No provision of this LEASE will be deemed for the benefit of any other person or entity, and no other person or entity shall acquire any rights under this LEASE.
26. **LEASE NOT TO CONVEY PROPERTY RIGHTS OR BE RECORDED:** This LEASE shall not be construed to convey to the LEASEHOLDER any property rights in the PROPERTY nor create any lien on nor security interest in the PROPERTY. Neither this LEASE nor any notice of this LEASE, shall be recorded in the public records of any County.
27. **ENTIRE AGREEMENT:** This LEASE supersedes all previous agreements, oral or written, between DISTRICT and LEASEHOLDER, and represents the whole and entire agreement between the parties. Neither party has entered into the LEASE in reliance upon any fact or representation not expressly provided in the LEASE.
28. **INCORPORATION OF RELEVANT PROVISIONS OF LAW:** The parties understand that, compliance with the relevant provisions of law governing the DISTRICT's authority to lease real property, including without limitation Section 373.093, Florida Statutes, is a condition precedent to the DISTRICT's obligations hereunder.
29. **NO EFFECT ON PERMITS OR REGULATIONS:** This LEASE shall not be deemed to grant any permit to the LEASEHOLDER or affect the requirements for any permit or regulatory approval which would otherwise be required by law.
30. **AMENDMENT, REVOCATION OR ABANDONMENT OF THIS LEASE:** This LEASE may not be amended, revoked, or abandoned except through a written agreement executed by the parties with the same formalities as this LEASE.
31. **LEASE NOT TO BE CONSTRUED AGAINST EITHER PARTY:** This LEASE is the product of negotiation between the parties, thus the terms of this LEASE shall not be construed against either party as the drafter.
32. **ATTORNEY REPRESENTATION:** The parties acknowledge that the law firm of Davis, Schnitker, Reeves & Browning P.A., a Florida professional corporation, with offices at 519 West Base Street, Madison, Florida 32340, (Mailing Address: Post Office Drawer 652, Madison, Florida 32341); Phone (850) 973-4186, is the attorney for the

DISTRICT and not the LEASEHOLDER regarding this transaction. The LEASEHOLDER acknowledges that it has received whatever legal advice it wishes from sources other than the above attorneys.

33. **MISCELLANEOUS:** This LEASE may be executed in any number of counterparts, each of which shall be an original, but all of which together shall constitute one and the same instrument. Correspondence regarding this LEASE may be executed and delivered by facsimile and/or email transmission, with the intention that such facsimile and/or email signature and delivery shall have the same effect as an original signature and actual delivery. In the event a day of performance falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday under the laws of the State of Florida, the day of performance shall be extended to the next day not a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

34. **LEASE CONTINGENT ON GOVERNING BOARD APPROVAL:** Notwithstanding anything else herein to the contrary, this LEASE shall not be binding on any party and shall have no effect unless and until this LEASE is fully executed and approved by written resolution of the Governing Board of the DISTRICT.

(The remainder of this page was intentionally left blank.)

EXECUTED on this _____ day of _____, 2012 by DISTRICT,
the Executive Director of the SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT, a
Florida water management district created pursuant to Section 373.069, Florida Statutes.

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT
DISTRICT

By: _____
Charles H. Houder, III
As its Acting Executive Director

EXECUTED on this 25TH day of MAY, 2012 by
LEASEHOLDER, BRYAN W. WARD.

Bryan Ward

STATE OF Florida

COUNTY OF Alachua

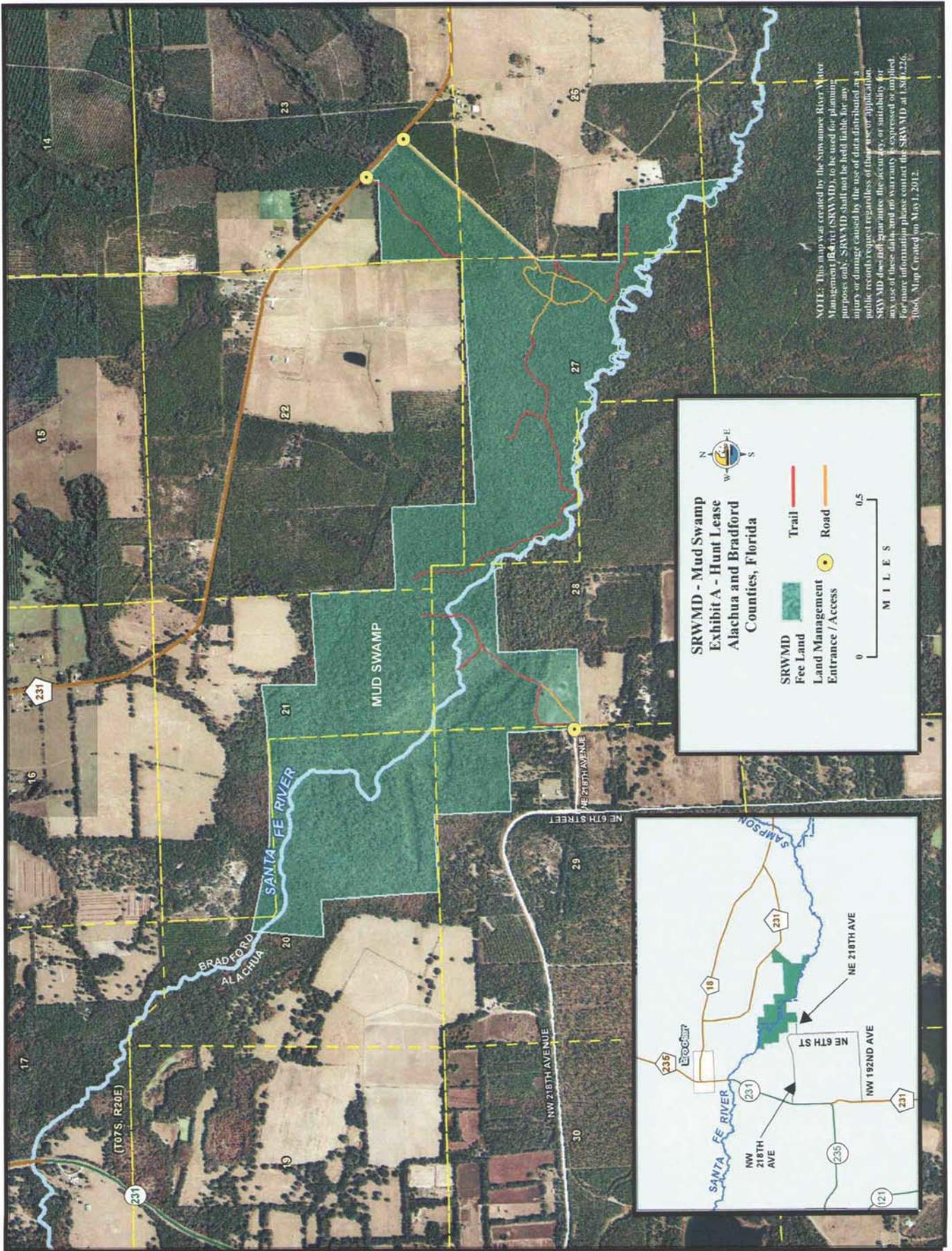
Acknowledged before me this 25 day of May, 2012, by
Bryan W. Ward who is

personally known to me or who produced Fla. Drivers License as identification.
W 630-079-83-423-0



TERRY W. JONES
MY COMMISSION # EE 121240
EXPIRES: December 12, 2015
Bonded Thru Budget Notary Services

Terry W. Jones
Notary Public



MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Tim Sagul, Senior Professional Engineer

DATE: May 24, 2012

RE: Approval of Resolution No. 2012-07 for Fiscal Year 2012-2013,
Legislative Appropriations

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Governing Board approve Resolution No. 2012-07, requesting the release of \$740,000 in Legislative Appropriations from the Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection.

BACKGROUND

The Florida Legislature has included funding for the District in House Bill 5001 in the 2012-2013 Appropriations Act as follows:

- Line Item 1640 \$453,000 for Environmental Resource Permitting from Water Management Lands Trust Fund
- Line Item 1641 \$40,000 for Permitting Assistance from the Water Management Lands Trust Fund regarding Delineated Areas
- Line Item 1642 \$247,000 for Wetlands Protection from the Water Management Lands Trust Fund

The Legislature directed that these funds be administered by the Department of Environmental Protection and be made available for use by the District. Approval of the recommendation will enable staff to receive funds in fiscal year 2012-2013. Staff will request disbursement of funds at the end of each quarter.

TS/rl

**SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
RESOLUTION NUMBER 2012-07**

**REQUEST TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FOR THE
RELEASE OF OPERATION BUDGET FUNDS
FISCAL YEAR 2012-2013**

WHEREAS, the District applied for funds to implement the Environmental Resources Permitting, Wetlands Protection Programs and Water Well Permitting Assistance in Delineated Areas within the District; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 5001, General Appropriations Act FY2012-2013, line items 1640-1642, the Florida Legislature appropriated four hundred fifty-three thousand dollars (\$453,000) from the Water Management Lands Trust Fund, forty thousand (\$40,000) from the Water Management Land Trust Fund regarding Delineated Areas, and another two hundred forty-seven thousand dollars (\$247,000) from the Water Management Lands Trust Fund to Suwannee River Water Management District to implement Environmental Resource Permitting, Wetlands Protection, and Water Well Permitting Assistance in Delineated Areas, respectively, and

WHEREAS, Section 373.501(1), Florida Statutes, includes a process for disbursing the funds to the water management districts upon receipt of a resolution adopted by the Governing Board.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Governing Board of the Suwannee River Water Management District hereby requests the Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection to release, in equal quarterly increments beginning July 1, 2012, those funds designated by the Legislature to implement the District's Environmental Resources Permitting, Wetland Protection Programs, and Water Well Permitting Assistance in Delineated Areas listed below:

- | | |
|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Line Item 1640 | \$453,000 for Environmental Resource Permitting from Water Management Lands Trust Fund |
| Line Item 1641 | \$40,000 for Permitting Assistance from the Water Management Lands Trust Fund regarding Delineated Areas |
| Line Item 1642 | \$247,000 for Wetlands Protection from the Water Management Lands Trust Fund |

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that these funds shall be subject to the requirements of Section 215.97, F.S., the Florida Single Audit Act.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these funds shall be subject to the requirements of Section 216.347, F.S. (Grant and Aids Lobbying Restriction); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be transmitted to the Secretary of the Department; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chairman of the Governing Board is authorized to affix his signature to this resolution on behalf of the Board and attested by its Secretary.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 12th Day of June 2012.

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

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD:

**DON QUINCEY, CHAIRMAN
ALPHONAS ALEXANDER, VICE CHAIRMAN
RAY CURTIS, SECRETARY/TREASURER
KEVIN W. BROWN
GEORGE M. COLE
HEATH DAVIS
VIRGINIA H. JOHNS
CARL E. MEECE
GUY N. WILLIAMS**

ATTEST:

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board
FROM: Tim Sagul, Senior Professional Engineer
DATE: May 24, 2012
RE: Extension of Temporary Water Use Permit Number
2-11-00063, Richard Douglas Farm, Gilchrist County

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Governing Board extend Temporary Water Use Permit number 2-11-00063 until July 11, 2012, with seventeen standard conditions and six special limiting conditions to Richard Douglas and Joshua Moore in Gilchrist County.

BACKGROUND

The applicant requested a temporary permit on March 23, 2012, following the petition for administrative hearing. This petition was dismissed without prejudice at the March 26, 2012, Intermediate Governing Board meeting. The Executive Director issued the first temporary permit on March 28, 2012, with an expiration date of April 11, 2012. The Governing Board reauthorized the temporary permit at its April and May meetings. The current temporary permit expires on June 13, 2012. The petition for hearing is currently before the Division of Administrative Hearings.

Section 373.244, Florida Statutes (F.S.), allows the District to issue temporary permits while the application is pending. It also notes that, if granted, temporary permits shall expire on the day following the next regular meeting of the Governing Board. Additionally, the Governing Board shall review temporary permits at each regular meeting and may terminate a temporary permit or refuse to extend it further upon a finding that the water use does not meet the criteria set forth in District rule 40B-2.441, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), that adverse effects are occurring as a result of water use under the temporary permit, or that the water authorized to be used under such permit is no longer required by the permit holder. If the Governing Board extends the term of a temporary permit for subsequent periods, the expiration date shall be on or before the day following the next regular meeting of the Governing Board.

Staff has determined that the temporary application is complete and satisfies the conditions for issuance in Chapter 40B-2, F.A.C., and Chapter 373, F.S.

KW/tm

May 24, 2012

Richard Douglas
6524 NE 55th Street
High Springs, FL 32643

Subject: Approval of Temporary Water Use Permit Number
2-11-00063, Richard Douglas Farm, Gilchrist County

Dear Mr. Douglas:

Suwannee River Water Management District (District) staff proposes to recommend that the Governing Board extend the above-mentioned temporary permit until July 11, 2012.

This proposed action is subject to final decision of the Governing Board at their regularly scheduled meeting on June 12, 2012, which is open to the public.

Please call permitting staff at 386.362.1001 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Tim Sagul, P. E.
Senior Professional Engineer

TS/tm

Enclosure

cc: Richard Maguire

Tommy Reeves

Certified Mail Receipt Number: 7010 1060 0001 1350 3646

May 24, 2012

Joshua Moore
PO Box 145
Bell, FL 32619

Subject: Approval of Temporary Water Use Permit Number
2-11-00063, Richard Douglas Farm, Gilchrist County

Dear Mr. Moore:

Suwannee River Water Management District (District) staff proposes to recommend that the Governing Board extend the above-mentioned temporary permit until July 11, 2012.

This proposed action is subject to final decision of the Governing Board at their regularly scheduled meeting on June 12, 2012, which is open to the public.

Please call permitting staff at 386.362.1001 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Tim Sagul, P. E.
Senior Professional Engineer

TS/tm

Enclosure

cc: Richard Maguire
Tommy Reeves

Certified Mail Receipt Number: 7010 1060 0001 1350 3639

STAFF REPORT
TEMPORARY WATER USE PERMIT

DATE: May 24, 2012

PROJECT: Richard Douglas Farm

APPLICANTS: Richard Douglas **PERMIT APPLICATION NO.:** 2-11-00063

6524 NE 55th Street **ORIGINAL APPLICATION DATE:** December 28, 2011

High Springs, FL 32643 **TEMPORARY PERMIT REQUEST DATE:** March 23, 2012

and
Joshua Moore
PO Box 145
Bell, FL 32619

	Previous Quantities:		Proposed Quantities:	
Average Daily Rate (ADR)	-	mgd	0.1671	mgd

Recommended Agency Action

Staff recommends extension of Temporary Water Use Permit 2-11-00063 for growing watermelons within Gilchrist County. The temporary water use permit meets the criteria of subsection 373.223(1), Florida Statutes, and all applicable administrative rules. The permit will include seventeen standard conditions and six special limiting conditions. The temporary permit will expire on July 11, 2012.

Project Review Staff

Kevin Wright, P.E.; Ronald Spencer; and Tim Sagul, P.E., have reviewed the application.

Project Location

The withdrawal facilities are located in Township 08 South, Range 16 East, Section 03 in Gilchrist County. The project is located within the Santa Fe River basin according to the USGS National Hydrography Dataset, Hydrologic Unit Code-8 sub-basins.

Project Description

The project area consists of approximately 145 acres with approximately 72 acres being irrigated with a drip system supplied by groundwater from the upper

Floridan aquifer. Richard Douglas is the landowner, with Josh Moore as the lessee. The temporary permit is for irrigation of a watermelon crop.

Since the temporary permit will have a duration of 29 days, staff converted the annual allocation for watermelon into a seasonal allocation (15.038 million gallons over the 90-day growing season). Staff then proportioned the 90-day growing season into a 29-day temporary allocation (4.8456 million gallons for 29 days).

The Average Daily Rate (ADR) will be 0.1671 mgd. The ADR equates to 3.1 inches of supplemental irrigation during the 29-day temporary permit duration.

The project has one 10-inch irrigation well with a capacity of 1,000 gallons per minute.

Demonstration of Need

The applicant has provided information that supports the requested allocation, based upon crop types and irrigated acres.

Water Conservation

Joshua Moore has completed the water conservation worksheets for the drip irrigation system.

Minimum Flows and Levels Compliance

Staff determined through the SRWMD North Florida Model, version 1.0, that the proposed water use would not violate minimum flows and levels (MFLs) at any downstream MFL points established along the Suwannee River or its tributaries. However, a special limiting condition has been included in the permit for the District to seek a modification to the permit to assist in the recovery and/or prevention strategy associated with an adopted MFL.

Unforeseen or Unforeseeable Circumstances

The applicant submitted the original application on December 28, 2011, well within the traditional timeframes for evaluation and issuance of this relatively low-quantity water use permit (i.e. one well, one irrigation system). Due to the relatively low quantities requested, the applicant did not foresee any administrative challenges to his permit application.

Due to the limited timeframes for marketability of watermelons in Florida, watermelon plants must be grown during the middle of March to meet the summer market. Watermelon plants will only last approximately four days in a

dry, unirrigated state. The applicant would be forced to lose his crop if this temporary water use permit is not issued.

Application Timeline

The original application was received on December 28, 2012. A request for additional information was sent on January 17, 2012. The applicant requested a temporary permit on March 23, 2012, following the petition for administrative hearing. This petition was dismissed without prejudice at the March 26, 2012 Intermediate Board meeting. The Executive Director issued the first temporary permit on March 28, 2012, with an expiration date of April 11, 2012. The Governing Board reauthorized the temporary permit at its April and May meetings. The current temporary permit expires on June 13, 2012. The petition for hearing is currently before the Division of Administrative Hearings.

Conditions of Issuance

Is this a reasonable–beneficial use?

[ref. 40B-2.301(1)(a)]

Yes, based on the evaluation of criteria listed in 40B-2.301(2)(a)-40B-2.301(2)(k).

Will this use interfere with any presently existing legal use of water?

[ref. 40B-2.301(1)(b)]

No. Based on the SRWMD North Florida Model, version 1.0, the use will not interfere with any presently existing legal uses of water.

Will this use be consistent with the public interest?

[ref. 40B-2.301(1)(c)]

Yes. Based on the provided information, the water will be used efficiently, will not be wasted, and is for an economically beneficial use. The use meets the criteria listed in 40B-2.301(2)(a)-40B-2.301(2)(k).

Will this use be in such a quantity and of such quality as is necessary for economic and efficient use?

[ref. 40B-2.301(2)(a)]

Yes. Based on IFAS crop water needs table, the use is such a quantity and such quality as is necessary for economic and efficient use.

Is this use for a purpose that is both reasonable and consistent with the public interest?

[ref. 40B-2.301(2)(b)]

Yes. Based on IFAS crop water needs this use is both reasonable and consistent with the public interest.

Will the source of the water be capable of producing the requested amounts and appropriate quality of water?

[ref. 40B-2.301(2)(c)]

Yes. Based on the SRWMD North Florida Model, version 1.0, of the source will be capable of producing the requested amounts and appropriate quality of water.

Will the use degrade the source from which it is withdrawn?

[ref. 40B-2.301(2)(d)]

No. Based on the SRWMD North Florida Model, version 1.0, the use will not degrade the source from which it is withdrawn.

Will the use cause or contribute to flooding?

[ref. 40B-2.301(2)(e)]

No. Based on crop types and proposed farm practices, flooding is not a concern for this operation.

Will the use harm offsite land uses?

[ref. 40B-2.301(2)(f)]

No. Based on the existing land uses surrounding the operation, harm to offsite land uses is not a concern.

Will the use cause harm to wetlands or other surface water? Harm to wetland or other surface waters must be mitigated after completion of reduction or elimination of harm in accordance with sections 3.1.8. through 3.1.10. of the Water Use Permitting Guide.

[ref. 40B-2.301(2)(g)]

No. Based on the SRWMD North Florida Model, version 1.0, the use will not cause harm to wetlands or other surface waters.

Will the use cause or contribute to a violation of either minimum flows or levels?

[ref. 40B-2.301(2)(h)]

No. Based on the SRWMD North Florida Model, version 1.0, the use will not cause or contribute to a violation of either minimum flows or levels.

Will the use cause or contribute to a violation of state water quality standard in waters of the state as set forth on Chapters 62-301, 62-302, 62-520, and 62-550, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.)?

[ref. 40B-2.301(2)(i)]

No. Based on the SRWMD North Florida Model, version 1.0, the use will not cause or contribute to a violation of state water quality standards.

Is this use otherwise a reasonable-beneficial use as defined in Section 373.019(2), Florida Statutes, (F.S.) with consideration given to the factors set forth on subsection 62-40.410(2), F.A.C.?

[ref. 40B-2.301(2)(j)]

Yes, Staff has deemed the use a reasonable-beneficial use after considering the factors set forth in subsection 62-40.410(2), F.A.C.

Has the permit applicant's proposed reasonable-beneficial use of an alternative water supply presumed to be in the public interest?

[ref. 40B-2.301(2)(k)]

No, the applicant has not proposed to use an alternative water supply.

Standard Conditions

1. Nothing in this permit should be construed to limit the authority of the Suwannee River Water Management District to declare a water shortage and issue orders pursuant to Section 373.175, Florida Statutes, (F.S.) or to formulate a rule for implementation during times of water shortage pursuant to Section 373.246, Florida Statutes. In the event of water shortage as declared by the Board, the permittee shall adhere to any limitations on withdrawal or use ordered by the District.

2. This permit is classified as unconfined Floridan aquifer for low volume irrigation.

3. Permittee shall allow District personnel at reasonable times and at District expense or with District equipment to monitor withdrawal rates and volumes authorized by this permit.

4. Capping of Withdrawals Not In Use: Any wells not in use, and in which pumping equipment is not installed shall be capped or valved in a water tight manner in accordance with Chapter 62-532.500(4)(a)4., F.A.C.

5. The permittee may apply for a permit modification at any time in accordance with Section 40B-2.331, F.A.C.
6. In the event of a District-declared water shortage, the permittee must immediately comply with any restrictions or requirements ordered in accordance with the District's Water Shortage Plan, Chapter 40B-21, F.A.C.
7. Permittee must mitigate interference with existing legal uses caused in whole or in part by the permittee's withdrawals, consistent with a District-approved mitigation plan. As necessary to offset such interference, mitigation may include, but is not limited to, reducing pumpage, replacing the existing legal user's withdrawal equipment, relocating wells, changing withdrawal source, supplying water to existing legal user, or other means needed to mitigate the impacts.
8. Permittee must mitigate harm to existing off-site land uses caused by the permittee's withdrawals. When harm occurs, or is imminent, the permittee must modify withdrawal rates or mitigate the harm.
9. Permittee must mitigate harm to the natural resources caused by the permittee's withdrawals. When harm occurs or is imminent, the permittee must modify withdrawal rates or mitigate the harm.
10. If any condition of the permit is violated, the permittee shall be subject to enforcement action pursuant to Chapter 373, F.S.
11. Authorized representatives of the District, upon reasonable notice to the permittee, shall be permitted to enter and inspect the permitted water use to determine compliance with the permit conditions.
12. This permit does not relieve the permittee from complying with any applicable local government, state, or federal law, rule, or ordinance.
13. This permit does not convey to the permittee any property rights or privileges other than those specified herein.
14. Permittee shall notify the District in writing within 90 days of any sale, conveyance, or other transfer of ownership or control of the real property on which the permitted water use activities are located. All water use permit transfers are subject to the requirements of section 40B-2.301, F.A.C.
15. Permittee must notify the District in writing prior to implementing any changes in the water use that may alter the permit allocations. Such changes include, but are not limited to, change in irrigated acreage, crop type, irrigation system, water treatment method, or entry into one or more large water use

agreements. In the event a proposed change will alter the allocation, permittee must first obtain a permit modification.

16. When the District provides a permanent identification tag, the tag shall be prominently displayed at the withdrawal site by permanently affixing such tag to the pump, headgate, valve, or other withdrawal facility. If the permit covers several facilities such as a well field, a tag shall be affixed to each facility. Failure to display a tag as prescribed herein shall constitute a violation of the permit. The permittee shall be allowed ten (10) days after the notice of violation of this section to obtain a replacement tag.

17. The District reserves the right to open this permit, following notice to the permittee, to include a permit condition prohibiting withdrawals for resource protection.

Special Limiting Conditions

18. All correspondence sent to the District regarding this permit must include the permit number 2-11-00063.

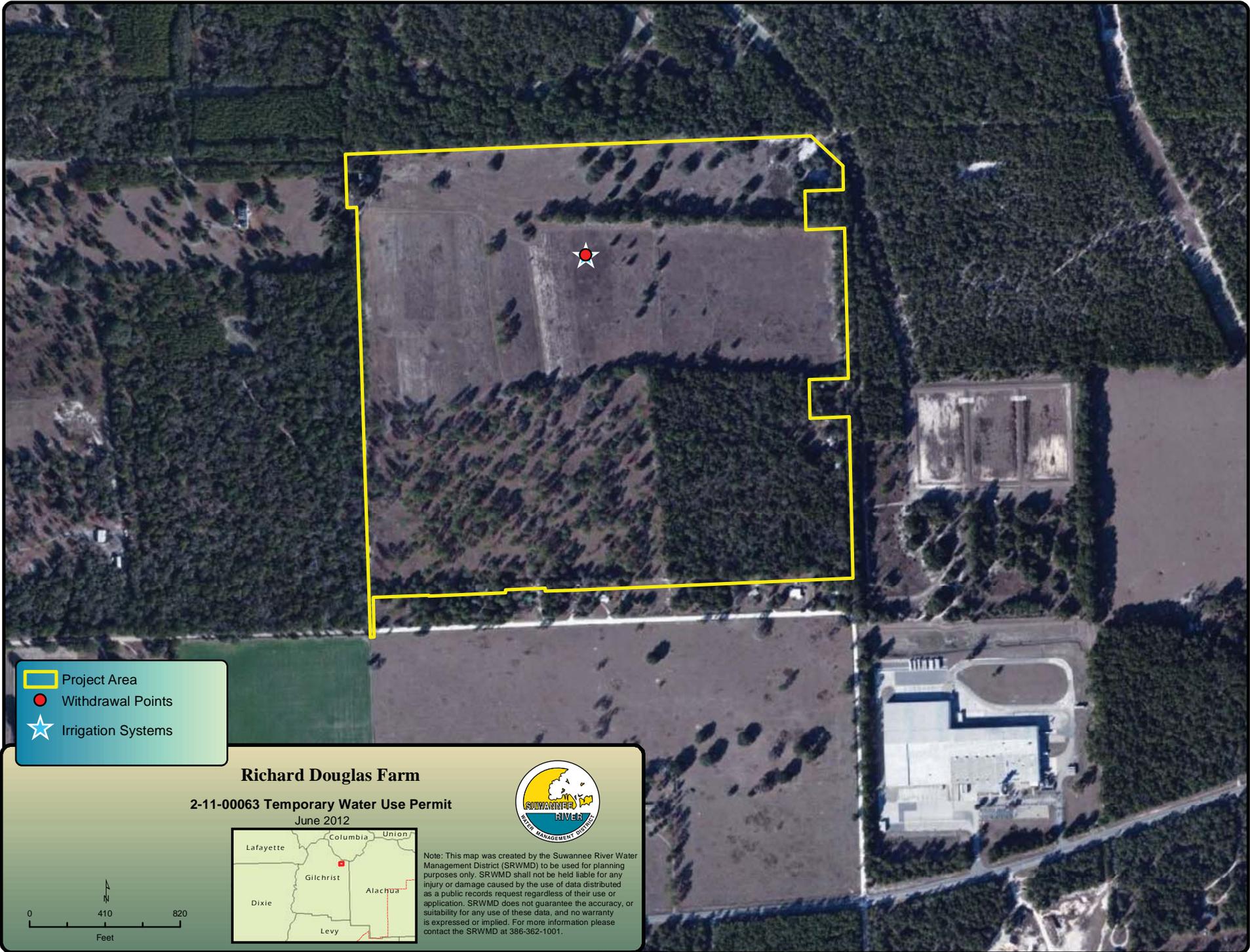
19. The Permittee shall ensure that the irrigation systems will water target areas only under field operations. Irrigation of non-target areas (roads, woods, structures, etc.) is prohibited.

20. The Permittee shall implement and/or maintain the conservation practices selected on the Water Conservation Worksheet(s) which are associated with this permit. Any new practices selected shall be implemented in one year from the date of permit issuance. Practices that involve scheduling methods or maintenance shall be documented. Documentation for implementation and/or maintenance shall be maintained on all practices and available upon request.

21. The permitted water withdrawal facilities consist of, and are limited to, one 10-inch well with the pumping capacity of 1000 gallons per minute.

22. This Permit is a temporary permit issued pursuant to Section 373.244, Florida Statutes. The issuance of this Permit shall not in any way be construed as a commitment by the District to issue any water use permit pursuant to Sections 373.219 and 373.229, Florida Statutes. Further, the issuance of this Permit shall not affect the ability of the District to deny any pending application for a water use permit pursuant to Sections 373.219 and 373.229, Florida Statutes.

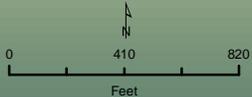
23. Unless extended by the District's Governing Board, this Permit shall expire on July 11, 2012.



-  Project Area
-  Withdrawal Points
-  Irrigation Systems

Richard Douglas Farm

2-11-00063 Temporary Water Use Permit
June 2012



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.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Tim Sagul, P.E., Senior Professional Engineer

DATE: May 24, 2012

RE: Approval of Water Use Permit Application Number
2-84-00703M, PCS Phosphate-White Springs, Hamilton County

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Governing Board approve Water Use Permit number 2-84-00703M, with seventeen standard conditions and six special limiting conditions to PCS Phosphate – White Springs, Hamilton County.

BACKGROUND

Staff has determined that the application is complete and satisfies the conditions for issuance in Chapter 40B-2, Florida Administrative Code.

KW/tm

May 24, 2012

PCS Phosphate
c/o Terry Baker
PO Box 300
White Springs, FL 32096

Subject: Approval of Water Use Permit Application Number
2-84-00703M, PCS Phosphate-White Springs, Hamilton County

Dear Mr. Baker:

Suwannee River Water Management District (District) staff proposes to recommend to the Governing Board that the above-mentioned project be approved.

This proposed action is subject to final decision of the Governing Board at their regularly scheduled meeting on June 12, 2012, which is open to the public.

Persons considered to be affected by this proposed agency action may request an administrative hearing. The request must be written and must adhere to the requirements of Chapter 28-106, Florida Administrative Code. Please see the enclosed Notice of Rights. All requests for administrative hearings shall be sent to the District at 9225 County Road 49, Live Oak, Florida 32060. Please call permitting staff at 386.362.1001 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Tim Sagul, P. E.
Senior Professional Engineer

TS/tm

Enclosure

Certified Mail Receipt Number: 7010 1060 0001 1350 1963

NOTICE OF RIGHTS

1. A person whose substantial interests are or may be determined has the right to request an administrative hearing by filing a written petition with the Suwannee River Water Management District (District), or may choose to pursue mediation as an alternative remedy under Section 120.569 and 120.573, Florida Statutes, before the deadline for filing a petition. Choosing mediation will not adversely affect the right to a hearing if mediation does not result in a settlement. The procedures for pursuing mediation are set forth in Sections 120.569 and 120.57 Florida Statutes. Pursuant to Rule 28-106.111, Florida Administrative Code, the petition must be filed at the office of the District Clerk at District Headquarters, 9225 C.R. 49, Live Oak, Florida 32060 within twenty-one (21) days of receipt of written notice of the decision or within twenty-one (21) days of newspaper publication of the notice of District decision (for those persons to whom the District does not mail actual notice). A petition must comply with Chapter 28-106, Florida Administrative Code.
2. If the Governing Board takes action which substantially differs from the notice of District decision to grant or deny the permit application, a person whose substantial interests are or may be determined has the right to request an administrative hearing or may choose to pursue mediation as an alternative remedy as described above. Pursuant to Rule 28-106.111, Florida Administrative Code, the petition must be filed at the office of the District Clerk at District Headquarters, 9225 C.R. 49, Live Oak, Florida 32060 within twenty-one (21) days of receipt of written notice of the decision or within twenty-one (21) days of newspaper publication of the notice of District decision (for those persons to whom the District does not mail actual notice). Such a petition must comply with Chapter 28-106, Florida Administrative Code.
3. A substantially interested person has the right to a formal administrative hearing pursuant to Section 120.569 and 120.57(1), Florida Statutes, where there is a dispute between the District and the party regarding an issue of material fact. A petition for formal hearing must comply with the requirements set forth in Rule 28-106.201, Florida Administrative Code.
4. A substantially interested person has the right to an informal hearing pursuant to Section 120.569 and 120.57(2), Florida Statutes, where no material facts are in dispute. A petition for an informal hearing must comply with the requirements set forth in Rule 28-106.301, Florida Administrative Code.
5. A petition for an administrative hearing is deemed filed upon receipt of the petition by the Office of the District Clerk at the District Headquarters in Live Oak, Florida.
6. Failure to file a petition for an administrative hearing within the requisite time frame shall constitute a waiver of the right to an administrative hearing pursuant to Rule 28-106.111, Florida Administrative Code.

NOTICE OF RIGHTS

7. The right to an administrative hearing and the relevant procedures to be followed is governed by Chapter 120, Florida Statutes, and Chapter 28-106, Florida Administrative Code.
8. Pursuant to Section 120.68, Florida Statutes, a person who is adversely affected by final District action may seek review of the action in the District Court of Appeal by filing a notice of appeal pursuant to the Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure, within 30 days of the rendering of the final District action.
9. A party to the proceeding before the District who claims that a District order is inconsistent with the provisions and purposes of Chapter 373, Florida Statutes, may seek review of the order pursuant to Section 373.114, Florida Statutes, by the Florida Land and Water Adjudicatory Commission, by filing a request for review with the Commission and serving a copy of the Department of Environmental Protection and any person named in the order within 20 days of adoption of a rule or the rendering of the District order.
10. For appeals to the District Courts of Appeal, a District action is considered rendered after it is signed on behalf of the District, and is filed by the District Clerk.
11. Failure to observe the relevant time frames for filing a petition for judicial review, or for Commission review, will result in waiver of the right to review.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing Notice of Rights has been sent by U.S. Mail to:

PCS Phosphate
c/o Terry Baker
PO Box 300
White Springs, FL 32096

At 4:00 p.m. this _____ day of _____, _____

Jon Dinges
Deputy Clerk
Suwannee River Water Management District
9225 C.R. 49
Live Oak, Florida 32060
386.362.1001 or 800.226.1066 (Florida only)

STAFF REPORT

WATER USE PERMIT APPLICATION

DATE: May 24, 2012

PROJECT: PCS Phosphate – White Springs

APPLICANT:

PCS Phosphate- White Springs

PO Box 300

White Springs, FL 32096

PERMIT APPLICATION NO.: 2-84-00703M

DATE OF APPLICATION: March 30, 2012

APPLICATION COMPLETE: March 30, 2012

DEFAULT DATE: June 28, 2012

MANAGER/MEMBER DETAIL:

Terry Baker	MGR
-------------	-----

Average Daily Rate (ADR)	Previous Quantities:		Proposed Quantities:	
Groundwater Withdrawals	93.5134	mgd	84.1621	mgd
Surface Water Diversion	343.7500	mgd	343.7500	mgd

* Consolidating 2-84-00701R, 2-84-00703R and 2-05-00091

Recommended Agency Action

Staff recommends approval of the consolidation of Water Use Permits 2-84-00701R, 2-84-00703R and 2-05-00091 with a 10% reduction in groundwater allocation for a water use permit located within Hamilton County. The permit includes seventeen standard conditions and six special limiting conditions. The permit will expire on March 8, 2025.

Project Review Staff

Ronnie Spencer, Kevin Wright, P.E., and Tim Sagul, P.E. have reviewed the application.

Project Location

The withdrawal facilities are located in Township 01 South, Range 14 East, Section 13, Township 01 South, Range 15 East, Sections 01, 05, 07, 08, 10, 11 and 12, Township 01 North, Range 14 East, Sections 24, 25 and 36, Township 01 North, Range 15 East, Sections 29, 31 and 35 in Hamilton County. The project is located within the upper Suwannee River basin according to the USGS National Hydrography Dataset, Hydrologic Unit Code-8 sub-basins.

Project Description

The project area consists of approximately 100,551 acres of mined land, which uses surface water and groundwater.

Surface water (primarily collected rainfall) and water from the surficial aquifer (primarily from dewatering at active mine pits) is managed in a recirculating water system. The size and configuration of the recirculating water system changes from time to time as the mining operation progresses. All surface water in the active operational area is managed within the recirculating water system. The mining operation uses draglines to both remove and cast aside the overburden and to extract the phosphate ore (matrix), which contains phosphate, sand, and clay. The matrix is transported from the active mine pit in a water slurry, using water drawn from the recirculating water system. The slurry is pumped and piped to the washer and beneficiation facility (mill) which can be miles away from the active mine pit. The mill separates the phosphate from the sand and clay. The clay laden water flows to clay settling areas, and as the clay settles the top layer of clear water is decanted and recycled back to the plant. Water from the system is also used to transport sand separated at the mill back to mined areas for reclamation.

The separated phosphate (phosphate rock) is sent via conveyor or rail to one of PCS's two chemical plants where the phosphate rock slurry is mixed with and reacts with sulfuric acid to create the phosphoric acid products produced by PCS. The reaction of the rock with the acid creates phosphogypsum. The phosphogypsum is transported to phosphogypsum stacks (gypstacks) in a process water slurry. The phosphogypsum settles and the water is decanted for reuse. Water bound within the gypstacks also seeps into the ponds surrounding the gypstacks and is recycled. The pond systems include cooling ponds for collecting cooling water coming out of the plant, which is also recycled. Process water in the chemical operations is water that is used as a water source for phosphoric acid, air scrubbing media, transporting the phosphogypsum produced in the process to storage, operating barometric condensers, and a multitude of other uses in the chemical complex.

In addition to the surface water described above, water is withdrawn from the upper Floridan aquifer for drinking water and for use in mining related activities, production of chemical compounds, and to recharge surface water features.

Most of the surface water is not discharged but is recycled. Excess water in the mine recirculating water system is discharged in accordance with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. The volume of stormwater runoff depends upon the volume and intensity of the storm events and the antecedent conditions prior to those events. Surface water is only discharged from PCS when the volume of stormwater runoff that PCS can effectively store in the surface water management system is exceeded. When water levels are low, discharge is minimal. The surface water system at PCS is in effect a recirculation system where water is recirculated among the various uses and throughout the surface water systems serving the mining operation.

Excess water in the process water management systems at the chemical operations may be treated and discharged, again in accordance with the NPDES permit.

The Average Daily Rate (ADR) of groundwater use is calculated as 343.7500 mgd 84.1621 mgd, while the Average Daily Rate (ADR) of surface water use is calculated as 343.7500 mgd.

The project area includes 32 active wells with 8 wells having a capacity of greater than 1.0 mgd. Use of the wells will be for public supply and industrial use. The well inventory can be found in the table on Attachment A.

Demonstration of Need

The applicant has provided information that supports the requested allocation, based upon water balances.

Water Conservation

PCS Phosphate is committed to recycling surface water to the greatest extent possible. PCS Phosphate has agreed to a 10% reduction in allocation of groundwater from 93.5134 mgd to 84.1621 mgd.

Minimum Flows and Levels Compliance

Staff determined through the SRWMD North Florida Model, version 1.0, that the proposed water use would not violate minimum flows and levels (MFLs) at any

downstream MFL points established along the Suwannee River or its tributaries. However, a special limiting condition has been included in the permit for the District to seek a modification to the permit to assist in the recovery and/or prevention strategy associated with an adopted MFL.

Conditions of Issuance

Is this a reasonable–beneficial use?

[ref. 40B-2.301(1)(a)]

Yes, based on the evaluation of criteria listed in 40B-2.301(2)(a)-40B-2.301(2)(k).

Will this use interfere with any presently existing legal use of water?

[ref. 40B-2.301(1)(b)]

No. Based on the SRWMD North Florida Model, version 1.0, the use will not interfere with any presently existing legal uses of water.

Will this use be consistent with the public interest?

[ref. 40B-2.301(1)(c)]

Yes. Based on the provided information, the water will be used efficiently, will not be wasted, and is for an economically beneficial use. The use meets the criteria listed in 40B-2.301(2)(a)-40B-2.301(2)(k).

Will this use be in such a quantity and of such quality as is necessary for economic and efficient use?

[ref. 40B-2.301(2)(a)]

Yes. Based on provided water balance, the use is such a quantity and such quality as is necessary for economic and efficient use.

Is this use for a purpose that is both reasonable and consistent with the public interest?

[ref. 40B-2.301(2)(b)]

Yes. Based on provided water balance and documentation this use is both reasonable and consistent with the public interest.

Will the source of the water be capable of producing the requested amounts and appropriate quality of water?

[ref. 40B-2.301(2)(c)]

Yes. Based on the SRWMD North Florida Model, version 1.0, of the source will be capable of producing the requested amounts and appropriate quality of water.

Will the use degrade the source from which it is withdrawn?

[ref. 40B-2.301(2)(d)]

No. Based on the SRWMD North Florida Model, version 1.0, the use will not degrade the source from which it is withdrawn.

Will the use cause or contribute to flooding?

[ref. 40B-2.301(2)(e)]

No. The PCS Phosphate operation is heavily managed to eliminate any flooding concerns.

Will the use harm offsite land uses?

[ref. 40B-2.301(2)(f)]

No. Based on the existing land uses surrounding the operation, harm to offsite land uses is not a concern.

Will the use cause harm to wetlands or other surface water? Harm to wetland or other surface waters must be mitigated after completion of reduction or elimination of harm in accordance with sections 3.1.8. through 3.1.10. of the Water Use Permitting Guide.

[ref. 40B-2.301(2)(g)]

No. Based on the SRWMD North Florida Model, version 1.0, the use will not cause harm to wetlands or other surface waters.

Will the use cause or contribute to a violation of either minimum flows or levels?

[ref. 40B-2.301(2)(h)]

No. Based on the SRWMD North Florida Model, version 1.0, the use will not cause or contribute to a violation of either minimum flows or levels.

Will the use cause or contribute to a violation of state water quality standard in waters of the state as set forth on Chapters 62-301, 62-302, 62-520, and 62-550, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.)?

[ref. 40B-2.301(2)(i)]

No. Based on the SRWMD North Florida Model, version 1.0, the use will not cause or contribute to a violation of state water quality standards.

Is this use otherwise a reasonable-beneficial use as defined in Section 373.019(2), Florida Statutes, (F.S.) with consideration given to the factors set forth on subsection 62-40.410(2), F.A.C.?

[ref. 40B-2.301(2)(j)]

Yes, staff has deemed the use a reasonable-beneficial use after considering the factors set forth in subsection 62-40.410(2), F.A.C.

Has the permit applicant's proposed reasonable-beneficial use of an alternative water supply presumed to be in the public interest?

[ref. 40B-2.301(2)(k)]

Yes, the applicant will use surface water within the mine recirculation system to the greatest extent possible to act as an alternative water supply in the place of the upper Floridan Aquifer as a source.

Standard Conditions

1. Nothing in this permit should be construed to limit the authority of the Suwannee River Water Management District to declare a water shortage and issue orders pursuant to Section 373.175, Florida Statutes (F.S.) or to formulate a rule for implementation during times of water shortage pursuant to Section 373.246, Florida Statutes. In the event of water shortage as declared by the Board, the permittee shall adhere to any limitations on withdrawal or use ordered by the District.
2. This permit is classified as confined Floridan aquifer for phosphate mining.
3. Permittee shall allow District personnel at reasonable times and at District expense or with District equipment to monitor withdrawal rates and volumes authorized by this permit.
4. Capping of Withdrawals Not In Use: Any wells not in use, and in which pumping equipment is not installed shall be capped or valved in a water tight manner in accordance with Chapter 62-532.500(4)(a)(4), F.A.C.
5. The permittee may apply for a permit modification at any time in accordance with Section 40B-2.331, F.A.C.
6. In the event of a District-declared water shortage, the permittee must immediately comply with any restrictions or requirements ordered in accordance with the District's Water Shortage Plan, Chapter 40B-21, F.A.C.
7. Permittee must mitigate interference with existing legal uses caused in whole or in part by the permittee's withdrawals, consistent with a District-approved mitigation plan. As necessary to offset such interference, mitigation may include, but is not limited to, reducing pumpage, replacing the existing legal user's withdrawal equipment, relocating wells, changing withdrawal source, supplying water to existing legal user, or other means needed to mitigate the impacts.
8. Permittee must mitigate harm to existing off-site land uses caused by the permittee's withdrawals. When harm occurs, or is imminent, the permittee must modify withdrawal rates or mitigate the harm.
9. Permittee must mitigate harm to the natural resources caused by the permittee's withdrawals. When harm occurs or is imminent, the permittee must modify withdrawal rates or mitigate the harm.

10. If any condition of the permit is violated, the permittee shall be subject to enforcement action pursuant to Chapter 373, F.S.

11. Authorized representatives of the District, upon reasonable notice to the permittee, shall be permitted to enter and inspect the permitted water use to determine compliance with the permit conditions.

12. This permit does not relieve the permittee from complying with any applicable local government, state, or federal law, rule, or ordinance.

13. This permit does not convey to the permittee any property rights or privileges other than those specified herein.

14. Permittee shall notify the District in writing within 90 days of any sale, conveyance, or other transfer of ownership or control of the real property on which the permitted water use activities are located. All water use permit transfers are subject to the requirements of section 40B-2.301, F.A.C.

15. Permittee must notify the District in writing prior to implementing any changes in the water use that may alter the permit allocations. Such changes include, but are not limited to, change in irrigated acreage, crop type, irrigation system, water treatment method, or entry into one or more large water use agreements. In the event a proposed change will alter the allocation, permittee must first obtain a permit modification.

16. When the District provides a permanent identification tag, the tag shall be prominently displayed at the withdrawal site by permanently affixing such tag to the pump, headgate, valve, or other withdrawal facility. If the permit covers several facilities such as a well field, a tag shall be affixed to each facility. Failure to display a tag as prescribed herein shall constitute a violation of the permit. The permittee shall be allowed ten (10) days after the notice of violation of this section to obtain a replacement tag.

17. The District reserves the right to open this permit, following notice to the permittee, to include a permit condition prohibiting withdrawals for resource protection.

Special Limiting Conditions

18. All correspondence sent to the District regarding this permit must include the permit number 2-84-00703M.

19. The following measures must be implemented within the first year of permit issuance or upon completion of the audit, unless the applicant demonstrates that implementation is not economically, environmentally, or technologically feasible:

- a. A leak detection and repair program;
- b. A water conservation program providing for technological, procedural or programmatic improvements to the applicant's facilities; and
- c. Other best available technologies to decrease water consumption.
- d. An employee awareness and customer education program concerning water conservation.
- e. Procedures and time-frames for implementation.

20. The Permittee shall implement automated monitoring of groundwater withdrawals, at Permittee's expense, upon commencement of withdrawals. The monitoring and reporting shall include reporting daily volume pumped by each well of inside diameter eight inches or greater at land surface and shall be delivered by 12:00 pm local time the following day via approved telemetry consistent with District data formats. The permittee may opt for a standardized SRWMD automated monitoring system to fulfill this requirement.

21. The permitted water withdrawal facilities are listed in Attachment A.

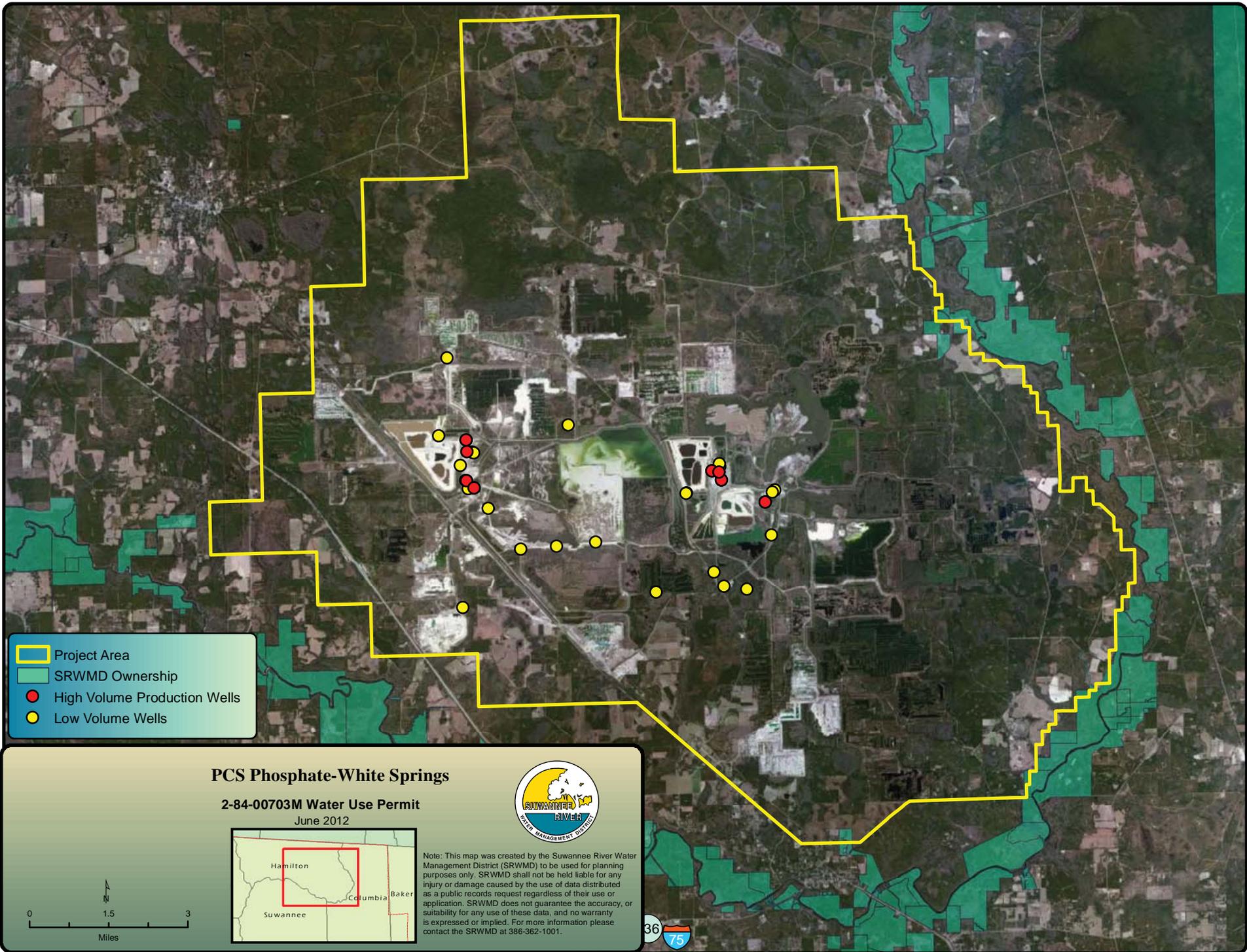
22. This permit shall expire on March 8, 2025. The permittee must submit the appropriate application form incorporated by reference in subsection 40B-2.041(2), FAC and the required fee to the District pursuant to section 40B-2.361, FAC, prior to this expiration date in order to continue the use of water.

23. The permittee shall be allowed to add additional production wells, with notification to the District, within the project area without modifying the permit, so long as the additional wells do not increase the overall groundwater allocation and the new well capacity is less than 1.0 million gallons per day. Addition of wells with a capacity of 1.0 million gallons per day or greater shall require a modification of the Water Use Permit.

Attachment A
2-84-00703M
PCS Phosphate

Name	Status	Diameter	Capacity (gpm)	Water Use
Well SC1	Active	26	7500	Industrial
Well SC2	Active	26	7500	Industrial
Well M3	Active	26	7000	Industrial
Well SCM1	Active	16	7000	Industrial
Well SCM2	Active	20	7000	Industrial
Well C1	Active	26	5500	Industrial
Well C2	Active	26	5500	Industrial
Well C3	Active	28	5500	Industrial
Well BP1	Active	12	300	Industrial
Well BP2	Active	8	300	Industrial
Well BP3	Active	8	300	Industrial
Well BP4	Active	6	300	Industrial
Well M1	Active	8	300	Industrial
Well CD4	Active	8	250	Public Supply
Well SCD1	Active	6	250	Public Supply
Well SCD2	Active	6	250	Public Supply
Well CD3	Active	6	206	Public Supply
Well MD4	Active	6	200	Public Supply
Well SC4	Active	8	150	Industrial
Well SCMD3	Active	6	100	Public Supply
Well MD5	Active	5	90	Public Supply
Well SCNPP	Active	4	70	Industrial

Well SCOPP	Active	4	65	Industrial
Well MD3	Active	8	60	Public Supply
Well SC3	Active	6	50	Industrial
Well CC	Active	4	30	Public Supply
Well SCM3	Active	4	25	Industrial
Well VAC1	Active	5	25	Public Supply
Well VAC2	Active	5	25	Industrial
Well M4	Active	4	20	Public Supply
Well MF	Active	4	20	Public Supply
Well SR	Active	4	16	Public Supply



MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Hugh Thomas, Suwannee River Partnership Coordinator

DATE: May 24, 2012

RE: Authorization to Amend Contract Number 03/04-258 with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) for Continuation of the Two Positions for the Suwannee River Partnership for the Period July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Governing Board authorize the Executive Director to amend Contract Number 03/04-258 with FDACS to continue funding a third of the costs associated with providing two Suwannee River Partnership positions at a cost not to exceed \$45,000 for the period covering July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013.

BACKGROUND

On October 13, 1998, the District first contracted with FDACS to provide an Environmental Manager who would have the responsibility of providing staff leadership to the Suwannee River Partnership. Another position (Environmental Specialist III) has been added to assist in working within the District. The present contract, which was signed by FDACS in October 2004, has a provision to allow this contract to be renewed for additional years.

These positions are jointly funded by FDACS, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the District. They coordinate the local development and implementation of an overall work plan for the Suwannee River Partnership in the Suwannee and Santa Fe River Basins.

This amendment provides for the District's share (33.33 percent of the total salary and benefits associated with these positions) of funding during FDACS Fiscal Year 2012-2013 which runs July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013.

HT/dd

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Hugh Thomas, Suwannee River Partnership Coordinator

DATE: May 24, 2012

SUBJECT: Authorization to Continue Suwannee River Partnership Cooperative Conservation Technician Services

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Governing Board continue co-funding three Conservation Technician positions associated with the Suwannee River Partnership (SRP) program with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) for a contract period of twelve months. The District's cost for these positions will not exceed \$90,000.

BACKGROUND

FDACS and the District have recognized the need to provide technical support services to farmers operating within the Suwannee River Water Management District to implement and maintain Best Management Practices (BMPs). These services have been critical to the overall SRP mission to help protect and save water in the District.

FDACS and the District have been providing funds for this effort for the last five years with FDACS entering into agreements with the Gilchrist County Soil & Water Conservation District, Lafayette County Soil & Water Conservation District, and Suwannee County Conservation District for these three positions. The Conservation Districts employ three conservation technicians who work under the

direction of FDACS to supply assistance with BMPs and outreach services to the farmers.

Garrett McCray – Suwannee, Hamilton, Lafayette, Jefferson, Taylor, and Madison Counties

William Hart – Suwannee, Hamilton, Lafayette, Jefferson, Taylor, and Madison Counties

John Stubblefield – Gilchrist, Dixie, Levy, Alachua, Columbia, Union and Bradford Counties

Among other things, these technicians work one-on-one with farmers to help implement BMPs for fertilizer, irrigation, and waste management.

Funds for this project are included in the Fiscal Year 2012 budget within fund 29.

HT/dd

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Bob Heeke, Sr. Land Resources Manager

DATE: May 24, 2012

SUBJECT: FY 2012 Land Management Review Team Report

The goal of the Excellence in Land Management (ELM) Report is to quantify District land management in achieving the goals of the District Land Management Plan (Plan). The Plan establishes the land management policies of the Governing Board that guide the management of all fee lands held by the District. The ELM Report is developed from scores and comments provided by the Land Management Review Team.

As part of updating the Plan, staff also developed a new Land Management Report and ELM report. The new format is a combination of text and tables that addresses the items in the Plan. Feedback about the format was positive from Review Team members.

The District was found to be in compliance in all 32 items that were reviewed. Recommendations for improvements to ditching and ditch blocks are being reviewed to find a way to implement beginning in FY 2013. The LIDAR recently acquired by the District will a critical piece of data for this review and implementation.

gal
008-LMRT FY 2012

Suwannee River Water Management District
Excellence in Land Management Report
2011 Fiscal Year

INTRODUCTION

The District has completed its seventh year of implementing the Excellence in Land Management (ELM) program. The program was established to quantify District land management. The ELM scorecard is calculated annually to report on the prior fiscal year's activities and operations. District staff developed an Annual Report and revised the ELM Report this year.

The Land Management Report and revised ELM Report were presented to members of the Land Management Review Team (LMRT) on April 17, 2012. The review team's response to the revised ELM Report was positive, and staff will continue to use the revised format in reporting compliance with the District Land Management Plan to the Board.

The DLMP has four sections: Resource Protection, Public Use, Communications, and Fiscal Responsibility. Each section contains objectives that drive land management actions across District lands. The review team members were asked to score District land management efforts in achieving the objectives outlined in the DLMP on the following scale:

- 0 – District is not meeting the objectives of the DLMP.
- 1 – District is meeting the objectives of the DLMP.
- 2 – District is meeting and exceeding the objectives outlined in the DLMP.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

RESOURCE PROTECTION

The team was impressed with efforts to protect and monitor the lands given the limited resources available. Several members commended staff in the use of current data with GIS technology in planning and implementing management. Staff was commended on efforts to earn maximal financial return from timber harvests. High marks were given to the prescribed fire program, and new reporting metrics were suggested for next year. The aesthetics of District lands impressed at least one member.

Whereas staff efforts were lauded by the team, there were several concerns as well. Multiple members commented on ditching and felt the District should look into more hydrological restoration projects. Members felt this would further help

District efforts in restoring natural communities. The use of natural community delineations was questioned as was reforesting lands with slash pine. Suggestions were provided that would increase pine seedling survival; several of those suggestions are now being reviewed. However, one member felt the District currently focuses too much effort on tree management, thus limiting management efforts on other components in the natural plant community (i.e. native groundcovers).

Comments were made in regards to the District's surplus lands program. Review team members had a chance to see the recently disposed Bay Creek South parcel. Their concerns included the 1) loss of public resources (planted timber, rare species, archeological artifacts, 2) potential degradation of floodplain function, and 3) management costs of bringing the updated boundary line to District standards (firelines, gates, boundary marking).

PUBLIC USE

The review team gave high marks for public use. No member scored the District as being out of compliance with the management plan.

COMMUNICATIONS

The review team felt District staff was doing a good job with outreach and using the DLMP to guide management. The annual LMRT meetings continue to be informative for District staff and participating team members. No member scored the District as being out of compliance with the management plan.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

The review team felt District staff was doing a good job of protecting resources and providing the public with opportunities for resource-based recreation within the confines of the District's budget. No member scored the District as being out of compliance with the management plan.

While there were specific objectives where individuals scored the District as being out of compliance with the DLMP, on average the review team found the District to be in compliance with the management plan. District staff takes each of these comments into consideration moving forward with land management prescriptions.

Overall, the review team found the District in compliance with all the objectives of the statutes and the management plan. The review team commended staff and felt staff was knowledgeable and doing a good job.

Suwannee River Water Management District
 Excellence in Land Management Scorecard
 Land Management Review Team April 17, 2012
 2011 Fiscal Year

SUMMARY

RESOURCE PROTECTION

Soils, Topography, and Natural Community Objectives

Not in compliance	In Compliance	Exceeding Compliance	Average Score	Objective
0	8	6	1.4	Minimize soil degradation (erosion, compaction)
2	10	3	1.1	Manage and/or restore historic natural communities for a given site to Desired Future Condition (DFC) levels
0	6	3	1.5	Update and maintain reference maps as soon as new information is available

Soils, and Natural Community Objectives Comments/Opportunities for Improvement

While I think the District is doing a decent job of managing lands in general, from the sites we visited on the Review Team field trip (17 April 2012) and the LMR (Land Management Report), it appears that plans to restore natural communities fall short. I think leaving off-site slash and loblolly pine on site to provide needle cast to enable restoration of native ground cover through prescribed burning is good methodology. However, plans to allow slash pine to regenerate are not. Slash pine is not the natural dominant overstory species for flatwoods communities. It is doubtful that loblolly pine was ever a component of these communities, since in Florida the natural habitat of loblolly pine is floodplain terraces and natural levies along major streams. Slash pine naturally occurred within linear wetlands (slashes) or drains and within depressional ponds associated with pond cypress (communities protected from frequent fire). This provided readily available seed sources so that when the natural fire return interval was altered, slash pine seeded into adjacent flatwoods resulting in mixed stands of slash and longleaf, and of course later most of the former longleaf pine flatwoods were converted to slash pine plantations. The scientific community generally agrees that the fire return interval in flatwoods was 2-3 (4) years in most cases and that the occurrence of slash pine in flatwoods (pine/palmetto/wiregrass communities) was rare. Therefore, plans to artificially

regenerate slash pine on saw palmetto flatwoods (wet or mesic) does not appear to be in compliance with the stated goal of "restoring and enhancing natural communities." The more appropriate methodology would be to re-introduce longleaf pine either by removing the slash pine once the groundcover is in such condition to carry fire on a two to three year return interval or create openings within the slash pine and plant longleaf pine, therefore returning longleaf to the site in increments. Re-establishing longleaf on these sites would result in a sustainable, natural community. I also notice in the LMR, that 621 acres of Mallory Swamp was planted to slash pine. Having consulted with previous landowners on the restoration of Mallory Swamp, I consider this inappropriate since it is not the appropriate species and slash pine plantations will interfere with appropriate fire return intervals vital to restoration. I also see in the LMR that practically the same acreage was planted back to off-site slash pine as was planted to longleaf, which is inconsistent with the stated goal of restoring natural communities.

Special precautions are being made to prevent and reduce soil compaction during Mechanical operations. On sites that have already been highly disturbed in the past it may be beneficial to use a broadcast herbicide to reduce hardwood competition. I did like the idea of a ban spray followed by mowing. On the reforestation site we looked at it seemed that mowing would be a must to control hardwoods and to reach a flatwoods pine system.

The text in the plan (pages 5-6) would benefit from some editing. That aside, my concern about the objectives is that I am skeptical of our (District, FNAI, whomever) ability to accurately define "historic natural communities." (Someone says "this was mesic flatwoods" and everyone else nods in agreement, yet there is little evidence to back up those opinions.) Most ecological communities today on District lands are novel ecosystems—self-developing and self-sustaining assemblages that have resulted from human activities. I urge a more open-minded approach, one that recognizes that no two acres are the same, that we have a moral obligation to protect the unique products of evolution, that community types exist mainly in the eyes of the beholder, and that management actions need to ensure the presence of natural drivers such as fire and floods. I am concerned that District management is too heavily guided by out-dated thinking regarding forest types and community ecology. As a result, the District will be ill-prepared for the inevitable changes that will accompany shifts in weather, climate, frequency of fires and floods, and so forth. I urge you to let nature drive your thinking, and your management, and do your best to set preconceived notions of "communities" aside.

We were not aware of any reference maps that had to be updated.

I applaud the use of GIS program the District has developed and is utilizing on a regular basis to identify needs and document site conditions of each stand and database management for fire return intervals. Well done!
My personal opinion is that all road side ditches, and interior ditches should be blocked in order to keep water on the property. In the wetlands or stored in the surficial aquifer.
The district seems to plan ahead which makes you aware of future problems. The reference maps provided at the review look very current!
Not much opportunity for improvement here--SRWMD is doing a good job already.
Great effort to keep soil disturbance to minimum. Restoration is long term and ongoing and will take some time constantly working on better maps and GIS

Ground Cover Resource Objectives

Not in compliance	In Compliance	Exceeding Compliance	Average Score	Objective
1	9	2	1.1	Monitor the grass, herbaceous and shrub layers to detect if the resource falls outside the DFC parameter range
0	9	3	1.3	Reduce degradation of the existing native groundcover
2	7	2	1.0	Reintroduce or supplement current native ground covers with local stock from District lands or cooperating land management agencies

Ground Cover Resource Objectives Comments/Opportunities for Improvement

<p>I.3.1: While, according to the Land Management Report (LMR) a sampling design is being developed, apparently no monitoring has taken place.</p> <p>I.1: From what I observed during the field trip, it appears that this should be scored at a 1, however having observed some past site-prep activities involving broadcast herbicides (in Jefferson County) I'm not completely convinced. If this practice is discontinued, I would score this 1. Having some experience with ecological restoration, I consider chemical herbicides, as well as light roller chopping a valuable restoration (as well as silvicultural) tool. I think band spraying, directed spraying, and individual stem treatment can be very effective. However, broadcast herbicides and roller chopping in such a way that significant</p>

soil disturbance occurs is detrimental. Broadcast herbicides affect too many non-target species. This not only destroys native groundcover, but adversely affects rare plants, and may eliminate them from the site altogether. This is not consistent with the stated goal of protecting native vegetation.

I.2.1: I think reintroduction of native ground cover species with local stock is an excellent practice, however I don't recall seeing any evidence of this during the field trip on any mention of it in the LMR. However, I support any plans to do so in the future.

I would like to see the District fully develop and begin implementing its groundcover monitoring program, to include a consistent, reliable and accurate sampling method so that condition and occurrence data may be obtained throughout the range of natural community types.

The District is to be commended on its effort in planning, and commencing initial site preparation on the Withlacoochee Quail Farms site in an effort to try and restore the native groundcover. I would be interested to know what method(s) of groundcover reestablishment is planned and in visiting this site in a couple of years.

I would like to know the level of success in single drum chopping to control the hardwood resprouts that developed after whole tree chipping at Cuba Bay. Ultimately, controlling the hardwood competition is crucial to successful ground cover reestablishment and reintroduction of a prescribed fire regime. I would also like to see this site in a year or two, now that longleaf pines have been planted.

I did not see or read much about ground cover management. I did, however, note a strong tendency to manage trees (plant, kill, harvest, census, etc.); I did not see a commensurate effort on the ground cover. Nevertheless, it is the ground cover diversity that we always tout. Admittedly, growing trees is relatively easy, and the results are readily apparent. But with 250+ understory species, perhaps more of the effort should be shifted to groundcover enhancement, and not just growing pines and killing hardwoods.

No groundcover monitoring was done because a new sampling design is being developed and only one person is assigned monitoring responsibility. It is likely that missing one year will not affect Desired Future Condition significantly.

Unsure of efforts in I.2.1

I think burning is a great way to begin natural recruitment of native vegetative and I do realize that you are planting long leaf pine in places. I am not fond of seeing slash pine on properties and would cut it all and replant with long leaf in uplands and hydric flatwoods.

Was not discussed at this session.

According to the 2011 report the monitoring and reintroduction of groundcover is still in the development stages.

There needs to be a Rx fire component to this scorecard. Rx fire is essential to virtually all your resource objectives (Timber, ground cover, rare species).

I would like to see the Rx fire activity reported by community type. The current table does not provide enough detail on what communities or where Rx fire is not meeting Return interval DFCs. Also, with the broad return intervals specified in some communities it would be valuable to have some indication that the fire program is actually maintaining some acreage in the short end of the interval and not just burning at the long end of the interval.

Doing a good job with burning. Hopefully, burning during the growing season will be a lower cost way of attaining their objectives.

Monitoring surveys/vegetation plots to determine what is present.

Try to encourage more native groundcovers

Also need as much light fuels/grasses back in planted pine areas

Timber Resource Objectives

<u>Not in compliance</u>	<u>In Compliance</u>	<u>Exceeding Compliance</u>	<u>Average Score</u>	<u>Objective</u>
0	8	6	1.4	Manage for natural community heterogeneity to attain a multi-aged and vertically diverse forest, including select dominant and/or old growth trees and snags
0	10	4	1.3	Maintain the dominant and co-dominant tree species within the DFC parameter range
0	9	6	1.4	Reforest within DFC parameters using techniques that minimize damage to other natural community resources
0	10	5	1.3	Maintain an accurate and current forest resource inventory
1	9	5	1.3	Ensure that commercial harvests provide the maximum financial returns that are possible with the consistent attainment of natural resource values

Timber Resource Objectives Comments/Opportunities for Improvement

I.1.1.c: During the field trip, the stand of relatively mature slash pine that was to be thinned a second time and manipulated for slash pine regeneration didn't appear to need thinning at this time. I observed few diseased or suppressed trees and tree density/basal area didn't appear such that the stand is in need of thinning in the near future, since few, if any of the crowns were touching. Considering the depressed saw log market at this time, I don't think it would be in the best interests of the owners (tax-payers) to thin this stand (or others like it) again until either saw log prices rise or the canopy closes. I have timber stands that are much denser than the one we were shown and I'm certainly not going to thin again until the market is better. (If the purpose is to provide opportunities to regenerate the slash pine, I have already addressed that fallacy.)

<p>The District's effort to reforest 621 acres of slash pine is commendable. For longleaf pine, however, only 26 out of 622 acres planted, <5%, achieved the DFC parameters, 400-900, for the establishment age class. The low survival rates for longleaf occurred on multiple sites throughout the District's region. Realizing that the District's reforestation standards are to be revised, I would like to see staff consider combining a single drum chop, with pre band or broadcast, or post band treatments with a herbicide that has Imazapyr as its AI on mesic flatwoods sites when attempting to establish longleaf pine. I have seen longleaf pine successfully established on thousands of acres of formerly bedded, mesic flatwoods sites over the past 8-10 years using all three of these methods. All or most of the post band treatments occurred on sites that were single drum chopped in early summer, planted with containerized longleaf in or around September, and released (6 oz. Arsenal AC) the following calendar year in Spring, April-May.</p>
<p>I question the basic objective of "multi-aged, vertically diverse forest." Clearly, this is laudable and appropriate in many situations. Two concerns: first, many kinds of vegetation in north central Florida have historically regenerated following catastrophic events such as fire, hurricane, tornados, or prolonged flooding. As a result, they were likely dominated by a narrow range of cohorts. "Multi-aged" sounds great, but one size does not fit all. Second, the sites we visited and read about dealt primarily with pine-dominance, with the exception of some drier sites where fire-tolerant oaks are encouraged (or perhaps ignored). I did not see much emphasis on, or interest in, "vertical diversity."</p>
<p>Very knowledgeable staff who have a critical understand of the need to conduct prescribed burning during the appropriate conditions in order to minimize impacts to timber resources and carefully restore these lands back to DFC's. Creative use of contracted prescribed burning.</p> <p>It is apparent by traveling through district lands that scenic vistas are maintained and managed through prescribed fire.</p>
<p>Attempts to get maximum financial returns when doing a harvest.</p>
<p>Management of timber resources seems to be a primary focus probably a result of economic benefits of the harvest.</p>
<p>Regarding reforestation efforts I would like to see pond pine (<i>Pinus serotina</i>) included in wet flatwoods plantings. I think your establishment age class DFC should be community specific. While 400-900 is reasonable for mesic flatwoods 200- 400 is more appropriate for sandhill sites.</p>
<p>Due to clear cuts and planting in by previous landowners, SRWMD is "starting from scratch" at getting back to the original cover. Seems to be a good head start on this.</p>
<p>Maybe more longleaf interplanting where stands are lightly stocked</p> <p>Try to encourage as much native groundcover as possible</p> <p>Keep up active prescribed fire program</p>

Rare Species Resource Objectives

<u>Not in compliance</u>	<u>In Compliance</u>	<u>Exceeding Compliance</u>	<u>Average Score</u>	<u>Objective</u>
1	10	3	1.1	Identify and monitor rare species on District lands
1	9	5	1.3	Protect and manage biodiversity on District lands
1	9	3	1.2	Provide District staff with the most current rare species locations, status, and Rare Species Best Management Practices (BMP)
0	12	1	1.1	Maintain and/or increase existing rare and imperiled species populations

Rare Species Resource Objectives Comments/Opportunities for Improvement

I.3.3: We were informed and the LMR indicates that FNAI surveys newly acquired lands and the LMR indicates that staff conducts surveys for rare species. However it appears from what we were told during the field trip that most of the staff surveys were directed toward animals, especially gopher tortoises. I got the feeling that little effort was directed toward plants and as far as I know, the District has no one on staff qualified to conduct plant surveys. Initial surveys by FNAI are a step in the right direction, however, in order to be effective, plant surveys should be conducted following burns, since most plants found on pine dominated (fire dependant) communities are very difficult to detect except following burns. Therefore in order to have an adequate inventory of rare plant species, surveys need to be coordinated with burns and there should be at least two visits to a given site to catch spring and fall flowering species. While occasional surveys would be better, at least one thorough survey (at least an early summer and a fall visit) following fire would provide a good initial inventory.

1.1;1.3: Without good inventories, protection may not be adequate. With proper management using timely prescribed burns (2-4 year fire return intervals) most rare, as well as common component species, should do well since community health should be maintained. However, during such activities as harvesting and herbicide applications, knowing where populations of rare species are located is essential to protection. Another obvious concern is the lack of current data as far as rare species occurrences on surplus lands. The District is in the process of identifying and selling surplus lands without proper inventories of rare species on the lands being sold. This is a blatant violation of public trust since there is no way the Board can make an informed decision as to whether to dispose of these

lands without knowing what biological (and archeological) resources they are removing from protection by taking them out of public ownership.
I think the District has done well to manage and accommodate for the rare species that occur throughout its region. I commend the District for maintaining occurrence records and locations in a geodatabase that is available to District staff for planning and other purposes. I also think that ongoing monitoring of existing lands and surveying newly acquired lands to document associated imperiled species is important and it's good to know this is taking place.
Here, as elsewhere, you are severely limited by staff numbers and funding. I think you do a fine job with what you've got, but I think you would agree that you could do a much better job if you had more resources. This is particularly true on the all-important "maintain and/or increase" aspect of this component.
District should hire additional staff or utilize volunteers to monitor for these conditions, since these are truly the measurable products of their combined resource management efforts.
The good is the burning, which will re-establish traditional species if the communities are correct.
I question how comprehensive the monitoring and surveys can be with only one staff person dedicated to the effort. Expertise in a wide variety of fields would be necessary for an effective program.
The effort to monitor imperiled species is commendable. Currently FWC is implementing a focal species monitoring program that is somewhat broader and monitors a suite of species that ideally will provide feedback on overall ecosystem health and effectiveness of our land management. With this program we are standardizing our monitoring protocols to maximize the value of the data collected. We hope that in the future other land managers will consider adopting these monitoring protocols to provide consistent information on animal populations on public lands.
I'd suggest making available a rare species ID and check list so that volunteers who are using district lands can inform SRWMD about any possible finds.
Adding diversity to the lands will occur as land management practices convert timber lands to more natural communities.

Cultural and Historic Resource Objectives

<u>Not in compliance</u>	<u>In Compliance</u>	<u>Exceeding Compliance</u>	<u>Average Score</u>	<u>Objective</u>
0	12	3	1.2	Document location of significant cultural and historical resources on District-managed lands and share information with the Division of Historic Resources within the Department of State
0	8	5	1.4	Protect and prevent negative impacts to cultural and historical resources during all activities
0	11	3	1.2	Monitor the condition of cultural and historical resources on District-managed lands

Cultural and Historic Resource Objectives Comments/Opportunities for Improvement

I.1.1;I.3.4: Selling of surplus lands without a site-specific survey for archeological resources is a risk to any archeological resources that may occur on the site, since it loses protection provided by public ownership.
I think the District exceeds in its efforts to identify, protect and monitor existing cultural and historical resources on its property.
This is another instance in which you are entrusted with stewardship of important resources, yet you are not provided with the resources needed to do the job in the best possible way. You do well with what you've got, and you know what needs to be done, but you need the budget that would enable you to do it right.
Suggest use of internships, volunteers, or other paid resources to help with the routine monitoring and protection of cultural resources as well as identification of new historic resources. These cannot be given priority unless the district invests in additional resources to care for and monitor them. Similar challenges are faced within my own agency and specific unit.
SRWMD seems to be doing a good job on this. The 50 years time horizon for historical items seems a bit short--it means that if a junked Model A Ford is found, it would be a historical artifact instead of a piece of junk!
Cultural resources seem to be managed at the appropriate level

Water Resource Objectives

<u>Not in compliance</u>	<u>In Compliance</u>	<u>Exceeding Compliance</u>	<u>Average Score</u>	<u>Objective</u>
1	7	7	1.4	Minimize structural floodplain management on District-managed lands
0	11	3	1.2	Maintain surface and groundwater quantity and quality during land management activities
1	9	4	1.2	Restore hydrologic regimes to the DFC when needed and where possible
1	7	3	1.2	Rehabilitate or decommission outmoded water control features or structures

Water Resource Objectives Comments/Opportunities for Improvement

<p>During the field trip artificial drainage ditches were observed. Artificial drainage features (and artificial obstructions) should be eliminated in order to restore the natural hydroperiod of wetland features. Such wetlands and surface waters store water, increasing aquifer recharge and slowly release water into watercourses sustaining flows during drier periods. Ditches remove water quickly following rainfall, which causes more flooding during heavy rainfall events, while eliminating this source of water for aquifer recharge and sustainable flow.</p>
<p>The District exceeds in minimizing impacts/alterations to the "natural" and/or historical flow of water within the floodplain zones of which it has regulatory authority.</p> <p>The District continues to exceed in conserving and protecting the surface and groundwater quantity and quality while performing silvicultural and other land management activities.</p>
<p>Given the District's key word, "water", you are right in focusing on this aspect of the management program. You do a good job and would do it even better if you had additional resources.</p>
<p>We did not observe either water analysis sites or rehabilitated water control features during our visit.</p>
<p>I feel more attention needs to be given to the removal of old drainage structures throughout the district lands to allow for greater recharge needs of the aquifer (restoring swamps and wetlands to hold water instead of draining them). The district has placed a great emphasis on developing cross connectivity of natural communities and this effort is the next step in restoring these lands and the water table.</p>

There is so much ditching leading in to the rivers that a purposeful inventory of those needs to be done and the ditches blocked.
Mallory Swamp appears to have been a very successful project.
No work or comments on outmoded water control features, so I left this one blank. You might have a conflict with historical objectives above if you take out an old weir.
Water demands and drought will continue to put limitations on available water

PUBLIC USE

<u>Not in compliance</u>	<u>In Compliance</u>	<u>Exceeding Compliance</u>	<u>Average Score</u>	<u>Objective</u>
0	5	10	1.7	The District shall provide resource based recreation to the public consistent with DLMP
0	10	4	1.3	All District managed lands meet the Public Use Development and Maintenance Standards
0	7	7	1.5	Select District lands will be open for providing high-quality hunting and fishing opportunities

Public Use Comments/Opportunities for Improvement

<p>I think the District has done an outstanding job of providing resource based recreational opportunities for the public. There are ample single track mountain as well as hiking and horseback riding trails for the public to utilize throughout the region. In addition, there are canoe launches, boat ramps and picnic areas to name a few improvements that are available for use. These facilities are all well designed to help minimize potential impacts to other resources.</p> <p>The hunting opportunities on District lands are numerous and due to favorable habitat management and limited hunting pressure, offer a high-quality experience. I commend the District for its cooperative workings with the FWC and the USFWS. I also commend the District for its overall support of hunting and its recent recommendation to add 9,203 acres to the WMA system.</p>

Good job. This is the main area where cooperation with other agencies pays off. There may be additional opportunities with non-governmental organizations that merit exploration, but I suspect you are aware of most such opportunities.
The District is taking an active role in supporting resource based recreation while balancing these needs with the protection of natural and cultural resources. Multiple visitor improvements have been made for public access and I applaud their efforts in this area. They have provided significant financial resources towards facilities improvements which have a great economic impact on the 14 counties that it serves. Keep up the great work!
Great job.
It is curious that additional acreage was added for hunting when numbers for this user group is on the decline. Passive use and hunting do not always work well together.
The district does a good job on this. On Holton Creek, Camp Branch and similar areas it might not hurt of have a kiosk with a map showing hiking, biking & equestrian opportunities.
Many cooperative efforts for hunting with FWC.
Kayak/canoeing/fishing opportunities much better than many agencies.

COMMUNICATIONS

<u>Not in compliance</u>	<u>In Compliance</u>	<u>Exceeding Compliance</u>	<u>Average Score</u>	<u>Objective</u>
0	11	4	1.3	District land management is operating under a current Board approved DLMP
0	8	7	1.5	District staff held an annual Land Management Review Team meeting to review the previous fiscal year's activities and showcase land management operations
0	11	2	1.2	District land management staff represented the District to the public and peers through articles in District Newsletter, Public Workshops, Training Opportunities, Presentations, etc.

Communications Comments/Opportunities for Improvement

The ELM team is doing a fine job protecting wildlife habitats, managing for forest lands and are dedicated to preserving and using these lands effectively
More outreach is always better, but I have no idea how you would add that on to your current activities given the severe budgetary constraints under which you operate. In setting priorities, I think your obligation is to the natural resources first and outreach to the public second.
More consideration needs to be given to property disposition activities. Upland properties, especially adjacent to roadways provide good fire breaks, and eliminate urban interface challenges during prescribed fire activities and limit encroachment activities. Also reduces unnecessary soil impacts from fire line construction.
I applaud all of the District Staff for their partnerships with other agencies in public use, permitting and resource management efforts! Keep up the great work.
I am not sure about the last one because I can find maps but do not necessarily see articles, public workshops and training opportunities etc generally available to the public where they can see them. It could be I just do not see them in the newspaper or check your website often enough.
The Land Management Reviews are well done an informative.
It would be nice to get e mail updates on district meetings, articles etc.
Public workshops help get the word out and find out how the public feels. Encourage "public ownership" of District lands.
Try to encourage new participants on Land Management Review Team (new people = new ideas)

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

<u>Not in compliance</u>	<u>In Compliance</u>	<u>Exceeding Compliance</u>	<u>Average Score</u>	<u>Objective</u>
0	7	7	1.5	District staff are managing and protecting resources on District lands in an efficient manner within the limits of an annual budget
0	9	5	1.4	District land managers shall seek out and apply for grants and/or cost-share agreements to offset land management costs

Fiscal Responsibility Comments/Opportunities for Improvement

Overall the staff is doing a great job managing the district lands with the funds provided. One aspect that I think should be looked at closer is the lands that are being disposed. The overall concept of selling these lands and buying other floodplain lands seems to make sense. Although I believe that owning some land outside of the flood plain benefits the floodplain ecosystems, makes management easier, and keeps the land from being developed or farmed. I believe disposing of land near floodplains goes against the Florida Statute of protecting "aquifer recharge, water resource and water supply development".

Somehow we (that's all of us, not just District staff) need to convey to the public and to policy makers the importance of the District's programs to the quality of our lives. The time is long past when we should continue to regard water and the ecosystems that protect water supplies as "free" commodities. A quantitative assessment and valuation of the ecosystem services provided by District lands is long overdue. I think it would be an eye-opener.

District staff is utilizing creative programs combined with GIS information to help them manage these resources within their limits of an annual budget. When acquiring such a significant quantity of land, they are working hard to develop baseline needs of each parcel and begin a long process of restoring these resources to DFC's.

During the annual review, I found staff to be a dedicated team of individuals who diligently seek means and ways to comply and follow the District Land Management Plan. They are focused on achieving desired future conditions on under achieving parcels which should then be maintained by natural processes. Staff is efficient in cooperative agreements with other State agencies to manage titled lands and making them available to enhance the quality of life of those who enjoy them.

Under current economical conditions, the Governing board may wish to revisit the extent of active management of timberlands and the intensity of manipulation to achieve the high bar of DFC that has been placed as a goal of the District on titled lands. Maintaining a healthy balance of Resource Protection and Fiscal Responsibility may require the District to re-evaluate the costs of DFC at a time when the greatest concern is water quantity and water management, coupled with a declining budget. We are not only facing record low ground water levels but will be facing ever increasing legal challenges and litigation costs which will dip into the District's budget. Comparatively, we need to be focused on investing in the science of available clean water as we move forward into uncharted low flows and disturbing ground water levels.

Is doing an excellent job handling the budget reductions.

I believe every effort is being made to use funds efficiently and effectively. I think the staff is doing a great job considering the cuts that have been made to the

district budget over the past several years.
From what I've seen on the ground, and heard during the review, they are doing a good job of handling these resources.
Withlacoochee grant for quail management habitat

The Land Management Review Team is annually assembled to review District land management and is required by Florida Statutes to determine the following:

Florida Statute 373.591, reads that the Land Management Review Teams will “determine whether conservation, preservation, and recreation lands titled in the names of the water management districts are being managed for the purposes for which they were acquired and in accordance with land management objectives.”

Florida Statute 259.036, reads that the Land Management Review Teams, “in conducting a review, shall evaluate the extent to which the existing management plan provides sufficient protection to threatened or endangered species, unique or important natural or physical features, geological or hydrological functions, or archaeological features.

<u>Not in compliance</u>	<u>In Compliance</u>	<u>Exceeding Compliance</u>	<u>Average Score</u>	<u>Requirements set forth by Florida Statute</u>
0	8	7	1.5	Are District lands are being managed in a manner consistent with the purpose for which they were acquired, including public access?
0	10	5	1.3	Are District land managers implementing the District Land Management Plan? This includes sufficient protection to threatened or endangered species, unique or important natural or physical features, geological or hydrological functions, and/or archaeological features.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Carlos Herd, Senior Hydrogeologist

DATE: May 24, 2012

RE: Water Supply Program Activity Report

SRWMD/SJRWMD/DEP Interagency Agreement:

- Staff received comments and a revised cost from the Water Science and Technology Board on the scope of work. Staff from both Districts have started the review of literature.

Water supply planning:

- Staff continues to attend Consumptive Use Permitting consistency meetings and teleconferences with the other four water management districts and the Department of Environmental Protection. These meetings are being held to promote permitting consistency between all five water management districts.
- Staff will continue to attend consumptive use permitting application meetings by teleconference to participate in the development of consistent applications for water use permits.
- Staff will continue to attend consumptive use permitting allocation flexibility meetings by teleconference to participate in the development of consistent water use permit allocation methodology.
- Staff will continue to attend consumptive use permitting demand projections meetings by teleconference to participate in the development of consistent demand projection methodologies for water use permits.
- Staff will continue to attend consumptive use permitting conservation rule requirement meetings by teleconference to participate in the development of consistent conservation rule requirements for water use permits.
- Staff will continue to attend consumptive use permitting criteria/conditions of issuance meetings by teleconference to participate in the development of consistent permitting criteria for water use permits.
- Staff will continue to attend consumptive use permitting wetland harm meetings by teleconference to participate in the development of consistent wetland harm criteria for water use permits.
- Staff continues to meet regularly with SJRWMD via conference calls to coordinate activities in the water supply planning and permitting processes.
- Staff attended the Florida Leaders Organized for Water (FLOW) meeting on May 14 at the Florida Gateway College Library and Media Center.

- Staff hosted the second Interagency Agreement quarterly update meeting with executives from SRWMD, SJRWMD and DEP on May 16 at the SRWMD office in Live Oak.
- Staff attended the North Florida Utility Coordinating Group Executive Meeting on May 23 at the SJRWMD Headquarters in Palatka.

Aquifer Recharge Concepts:

- Following Board approval in May 2012, staff is proceeding with a contract to engage the services of Atkins, Inc., to proceed with the Upper Floridan Aquifer Regional Recharge Concepts and Feasibility Study.
- Staff and Board Council are working with the SJRWMD to develop an Interagency Cooperative Funding Agreement since the SJRWMD is co-funding the Atkins aquifer recharge project.

Interstate coordination:

- The next Florida/Georgia coordination meeting is scheduled for September 12, 2012, from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm, at the Wiregrass Technical College located in Valdosta, Georgia.

Thank you for your attention to this summary of current activities. Please feel free to contact staff prior to the June 12, 2012, Governing Board meeting if you would like further information.

CH/dd

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Megan Wetherington, Senior Professional Engineer

DATE: May 24, 2012

RE: Water Resource Monitoring Program Activity Report

Staff collected water chemistry samples at 20 groundwater sites; recorded levels and maintained stations at 181 wells, 21 lakes, and 19 stream stations; and reported rainfall from 38 sites to the National Weather Service. Agricultural water use was monitored at 190 wells on 48 agricultural operations. Levels at an additional 81 wells were recorded as part of the annual effort to create a potentiometric map of upper Floridan aquifer water levels.

Staff worked with St. Johns River Water Management District staff toward the completion of two monitor wells, an upper and lower Floridan aquifer, at the District's Falling Creek property. Other sites targeted for new or repaired wells are Jasper, the District's Bay Creek property in Columbia County, and the District's Santa Fe Swamp property in Bradford County.

Installation of telemetry on wells and surfacewater gages continued, with 88 new sites installed to date. The automation of the network has allowed data collection to proceed with two fewer staff positions than a year ago.

Staff participated in the quarterly meeting of the Salinity Network, a state-wide effort created by Florida Department of Environmental Protection to report aquifer conditions. Staff also attended an Inter-District Springs meeting, hosted by South West Florida Water Management District as a means to share information and studies about springs among the five water management districts.

Thank you for your attention to this summary of current activities. Please feel free to contact staff prior to the June 12, 2012, Governing Board meeting if you would like further information.

MW/dd

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: John Good, Chief Professional Engineer

DATE: May 24, 2012

RE: Minimum Flows and Levels (MFLs) Activity Report

Highlights

- During the last four weeks the MFL team has been involved with project field work and inter-agency activities with SJRWMD. Staff spent April 20-27 along the Upper Suwannee River facilitating access to multiple floodplain sites for soils and vegetation data collection.
- On the Middle Suwannee River, staff guided a contractor on a reconnaissance (April 24-26) to allow selection of river cross-section survey locations.
- Staff has developed a draft memorandum to outline how SRWMD and SJRWMD staff will work together to coordinate consistent MFL processes under the Interagency Agreement.
- On-going work efforts include weekly conference calls with selected contractors and weekly internal project team and management meetings.

The following sections summarize activity by water body, organized by anticipated completion order. Budgets shown are for work orders issued to date and do not include anticipated monies.

Lower Santa Fe and Ichetucknee Rivers & Springs

- Preliminary modeling results are under review and analysis by contractor.
- Staff met with Lower Santa Fe/Ichetucknee biological contractor to review work product.
- The stage data for the Ichetucknee head spring is under review by the USGS for subsequent District use.
- A draft document outline was developed for the Lower Santa Fe/Ichetucknee technical report.
- A one-day working meeting was held at the District with Lower Santa Fe/Ichetucknee contractors to collaborate on MFL development.
- District staff met with park staff at Ichetucknee to discuss use of recreational criteria in MFL development.

- Work Order Status:

Status	Contractor / Vendor	Fiscal Year		Grand Total
		2011	2012	
Completed	Delta Surveying	\$44,749		\$44,749
	Janicki	\$7,000		\$7,000
	USGS	\$5,000		\$5,000
In-progress	BCI	\$1,154	\$25,574	\$26,728
	Intera	\$37,710	\$105,176	\$142,886
	Janicki	\$26,040	\$104,311	\$130,351
		\$121,653	\$235,061	\$356,714

Upper Suwannee River & Springs

- Staff continued data collection at water level gages on the Upper Suwannee.
- Staff participated in field work with Upper Suwannee MFL Contractor for ecological data collection April 20 thru 27.
- Staff held an on-site meeting to plan scope of cave dive at White Sulphur Springs if needed if USGS contract approved (approved at May Board meeting).
- Discharge measurements were conducted on Swift and Hunter Creeks for use in model calibration.
- Work Order Status:

Status	Contractor / Vendor	Fiscal Year		Grand Total
		2011	2012	
Completed	EAS	\$13,170	\$32,620	\$45,790
	J Sherman Frier	\$28,616	\$6,384	\$35,000
In-progress	AMEC Surveying		\$96,360	\$96,360
	EAS		\$135,640	\$135,640
	HSW		\$497,150	\$497,150
	USGS		\$7,800	\$7,800
		\$41,786	\$775,954	\$817,740

Lake Butler

- The initial field recon with contractor is complete.
- The scope of work has been received and is under review.

- Work Order Status:

Status	Contractor / Vendor	Fiscal Year	
		2012	Grand Total
In-progress	Stantec	\$5,500	\$5,500
TOTAL		\$5,500	\$5,500

Middle Suwannee River & Springs

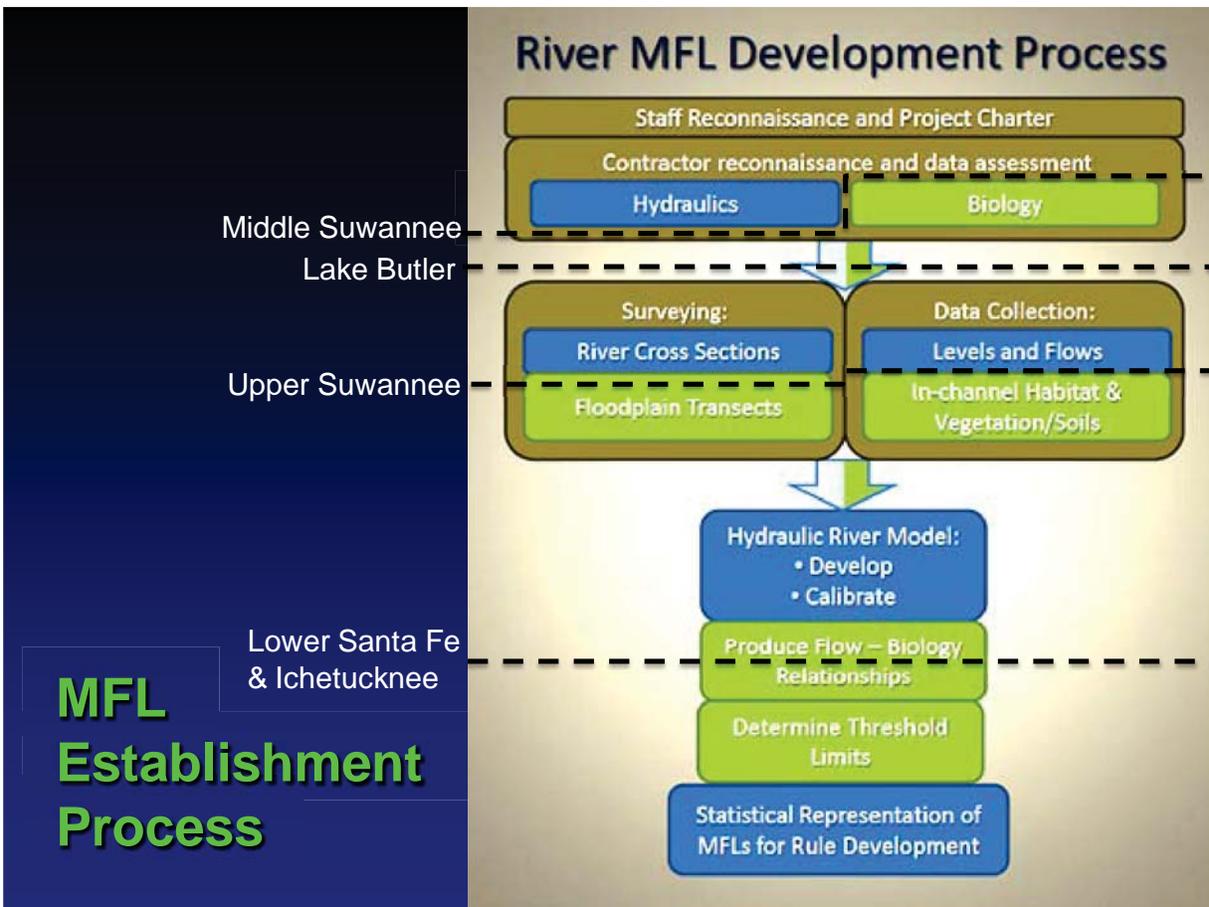
- The initial staff reconnaissance has been completed.
- A contractor was identified and a work order issued for a data review and field reconnaissance to select modeling locations for cross-section surveying.
- A Middle Suwannee River reconnaissance was made with Dr. Cole.
- Staff conducted a 3-day field reconnaissance with modeling contractor for surveying needs.
- Work Order Status:

Status	Contractor / Vendor	Fiscal Year	
		2012	Grand Total
In-progress	EAS	\$24,590	\$24,590
		\$24,590	\$24,590

Thank you for your attention to this summary of current activities. Please feel free to contact staff prior to the June 12, 2012, Governing Board meeting if you would like further information.

JG/dd

Graphic showing status of water bodies in MFL process



MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board
 FROM: Tim Sagul, Senior Professional Engineer
 DATE: May 24, 2012
 RE: Regulatory Services Activity Report

Environmental Resource Permitting (ERP) Activities

Permit Review

The following table summarizes the environmental resource permitting activities during the month of April.

April 2012	Received				
Environmental Resource Permits	Noticed General	General	Individual	Exemption Requests	Extension Requests
	18	10	0	3	0
	Issued				
	Noticed General	General	Individual	Exemptions Granted	Extensions Granted
	12	8	1	5	0

The following Individual Environmental Resource Permits were issued by staff, pursuant to 373.079(4)(a), Florida Statutes.

File Number	Project Name	County	Issue Date
ERP08-0201M2	SE 144th Street Wetland Mitigation Revisions	Bradford	5/8/12
ERP12-0008	CR 354 /SR 51 Bike Path	Lafayette	5/16/12

Inspections and as-built certification

The following chart shows staff activity on projects that have been permitted from January 1, 2009 to April 30, 2012.

		Under Construction	Operation & Maintenance*	Construction Inspections	As-Built Inspections
Permit Type	Issued			April 2012	April 2012
Exempt	45	22	23	2	0
Noticed General	504	367	137	12	1
General	280	177	103	3	1
Works of the District	112	55	57	3	3
Individual	45	32	13	4	0
Conceptual	4	3	1	0	0
TOTAL	990	656	334	24	5
PERCENT		66%	34%		

*O& M includes permits that have expired and were not constructed.

Water Use Permitting and Water Well Construction

The following table summarizes water use and water well construction permitting activities during the month of April.

April 2012	Received		Issued
Water Use Permits	14		16
Water Well Permits	143		143
Water well permits issued and received according to well use:			
Abandoned/destroyed	1	Livestock	3
Agricultural Irrigation	10	Monitor	11
Aquaculture	0	Nursery	0
Climate Control	0	Other	3
Fire Protection	2	Public Supply	0
Garden (Non Commercial)	0	Self-supplied Residential	110
Landscape Irrigation	3	Drainage or injection	0
Commercial or Industrial	0	Test	0

The following is a list of reported emergency wells that have been permitted from December 1, 2011 through May 10, 2012. Of the 28 wells, 24 are for residential uses, three are for irrigation and one is a public supply. Dry wells accounted for 18 of the emergency permits.

Permit #	Issue Date	TRS	Casing Diameter	Well Use	Emergency Type	County
101271	12/12/11	-040701	2	Residential	Dry Well	Taylor
101272	12/12/11	-040701	2	Residential	Dry Well	Taylor
101308	1/3/12	-062224	2	Residential	Dry Well	Bradford
101300	1/3/12	-081921	4	Residential	Dry Well	Alachua
101359	1/26/12	-040832	4	Residential	Dry Well	Taylor
101361	1/26/12	-091321	2	Residential	Dry Well	Dixie
101370	1/30/12	-101213	4	Residential	Other	Dixie
101382	2/7/12	-091327	2	Residential	Dry Well	Dixie
101394	2/9/12	-062216	4	Residential	Dry Well	Bradford
101421	2/23/12	-091820	4	Residential	Other	Alachua
101457	2/28/12	-051727	4	Residential	Dry Well	Columbia
101544	3/17/12	-081905	4	Residential	Dry Well	Alachua
101521	3/21/12	-131404	4	Residential	Other	Levy
101534	3/26/12	-052231	4	Residential	Dry Well	Bradford
101535	3/26/12	+010402	4	Residential	Dry Well	Jefferson
101540	3/27/12	-050822	2	Residential	Other	Taylor
101563	4/2/12	-051001	10	Irrigation	Other	Lafayette
101553	4/5/12	-091336	2	Residential	Dry Well	Dixie
101583	4/6/12	-062103	4	Residential	Dry Well	Bradford
101584	4/9/12	-051205	10	Irrigation	Other	Lafayette
101597	4/13/12	-010501	4	Residential	Other	Jefferson
101613	4/18/12	-101636	4	Residential	Dry Well	Gilchrist
101619	4/23/12	-081921	8	Irrigation	Other	Alachua
101623	4/23/12	-072207	2	Residential	Other	Bradford
101642	5/3/12	-072016	4	Public	Other	Bradford
101645	5/3/12	-111802	4	Residential	Dry Well	Alachua
101654	5/10/12	-040828	2	Residential	Dry Well	Union
101663	5/10/12	-072207	4	Residential	Dry Well	Bradford

Rule development and adoption

The rulemaking schedule follows this report. Staff is participating in weekly joint meetings and conference calls with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the other Water Management District's (WMD) to address any rule changes required as a result of the recent legislative session and as they relate to water use and environmental resource permitting consistency.

Staff has identified rules, as part of the agency rules review required by Executive Order of the Governor in 2011, which are no longer needed or are duplicative of statute. As a result of this identification, the Legislature passed a law that automatically repealed these rules. The repeal of these rules is set forth in Laws of Florida 2012-31, and are effective 60 days from March 28, 2012. To view Laws of Florida 2012-31, see <http://laws.flrules.org/2012/31>.

Staff Outreach

- Staff is working to implement the E-permitting process in cooperation with St. Johns River Water Management District. The Water Well construction portion will be implemented first with ERP and Water Use to follow. Testing for the water well construction portion began this month. Implementation will occur upon final acceptance of required documents from Bank of America.
- Staff hosted the May meeting of the North Central Florida Water Well Association (NCFWWA) and provided training on the new E-permitting portal.
- Staff continued to coordinate with FDEP and water management districts on reclaimed water policy.
- Staff continues to attend the Columbia County and Suwannee County Catalyst Working Groups to discuss regulatory issues.
- Staff continues to participate in discussions on water use permitting consistency with FDEP and the other water management districts.
- Staff continues to meet with FDEP and other water management districts to coordinate the implementation of HB503 and state wide ERP.
- ERP staff met with representatives for an economic development project in Taylor County.
- Staff continues the process of locating all impoundments on the Dam Inventory List within the boundaries of the Suwannee River Water Management District.

Thank you for your attention to this summary of current activities. Please feel free to contact staff prior to the Governing Board meeting if you would like further information.

TS/rl

Attachments

40B-2.301

Conditions of Issuance of Permits

Send to OFARR	6/29/11
Approved by OFARR	7/5/11
GB Rule Dev. Auth.	8/9/11
Notice of Rule Dev.	8/26/11
GB Proposed Rule Auth.	4/10/12
Notice of Proposed Rule	
Send to OFARR	
Send to JAPC	
Mail to DOS (tentative)	
Effective Date (tentative)	

40B-2.301

Water Use Monitoring

Send to OFARR	
GB Rule Dev. Auth.	2/14/12
Notice of Rule Dev.	3/2/12
GB Proposed Rule Auth.	
Notice of Proposed Rule	
Send to OFARR	
Send to JAPC	
Mail to DOS (tentative)	
Effective Date (tentative)	

40B-400.091

ERP Handbook

GB Rule Dev. Auth.	12/9/08
Notice of Rule Dev.	2/4/11
GB Proposed Rule Auth.	1/11/11
Send to OFARR	3/15/11
Notice of Proposed Rule	
Send to JAPC	
Mail to DOS (tentative)	
Effective Date (tentative)	

40B-400.103

ERP Handbook

GB Rule Dev. Auth.	1/11/11
Notice of Rule Dev.	2/4/11
GB Proposed Rule Auth.	1/11/11
Send to OFARR	3/15/11
Notice of Proposed Rule	
Send to JAPC	
Mail to DOS (tentative)	
Effective Date (tentative)	

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Hugh Thomas, Suwannee River Partnership Coordinator

DATE: May 24, 2012

RE: Suwannee River Partnership (SRP) Program Activity Report

Staff continues to work with USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to provide "Conservation Technical Assistance" to update the poultry farm conservation plans in the Middle Suwannee area.

District staff, Dr. George Hochmuth of the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF IFAS), and Kenneth Hall gave a tour of Suwannee Farms on May 22.

Staff worked with Farm Bureau and District staff to coordinate three outreach meetings for the agricultural community regarding the District's movement into a Phase III Water Shortage and to educate farmers about the District's Water Use Monitoring and Reporting Program.

As part of the Partnership's effort to help farmers save water, staff has worked with farmers to upgrade and retrofit 48 center pivot systems with funding from FDACS and administered by the Levy Soil and Water Conservation District.

Staff has continued to work with UF IFAS staff on the United States Department of Agriculture Conservation Innovation Grant for Advanced Irrigation Management.

SRP staff has been assisting UF IFAS staff in preparing and planting crops as part of the Sod-Based Rotation Project, funded by a Florida Department of Environmental Protection 319 Grant, to determine improved crop yields and water savings by using advanced crop rotation practices. Work is being conducted at three farms and the UF IFAS Agriculture Extension Center.

Staff continues to work with Farm Bureau, NRCS, and District staff to organize the June 28, 2012, CARES dinner and to identify recipients to be recognized at the dinner.

As part of the Partnership Agriculture Water Conservation working group, staff continues to work with the University of Florida Public Issues Education (PIE) Center for Agriculture and Natural Resources to administer the Partnership survey in an effort to develop strategies and recommendations related to water supply and water quality issues.

Staff continues to work with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection staff to determine outreach efforts in the Restoration Focus Area of Ginnie Springs as part of the Santa Fe Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP).

Staff continues to assist with resolving irrigation and other agriculture related complaints.

Staff visited farmers to assist with Best Management Practice (BMP) implementation assurance, BMP follow-up, sampling assistance, record keeping assistance, and other education.

Staff continues to work on the BMP implementation assurance program for dairy and poultry operations.

Staff assisted farmers with water use permit renewals.

Thank you for your attention to this summary of current activities. Please feel free to contact staff prior to the June Governing Board meeting if you would like further information.

HT/dd

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board
 FROM: Bob Heeke, Senior Land Resources Manager
 DATE: May 24, 2012
 SUBJECT: Land Management Activity Report
 NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Timber Sales

The Jones Mill Creek #1 timber sale is 100% complete. This harvest is estimated to have produced 29,690 tons of pine. The final tally of timber removed and revenues is underway. Final clean-up field inspection was performed May 22, 2012.

Prescribed Fire

**Summary of FY 2012 Prescribed Burns
 10/1/2011 – 5/11/2012**

	2012 Target Acres	Acres Complete
SRWMD	14,000	3,523
FFS TRSF	2,000	837
TOTAL	16,000	4,360

Contractors conducting prescribed burns on Suwannee River Water Management District (District) lands this year include: Wildland Fire Services (WFS) and B&B Dugger Inc. (B&BD). Also included are the acres the Florida Forest Service burns on Twin Rivers State Forest (FFS TRSF). The Florida Forest Service (FFS COOP) will also provide a crew to burn additional acres on both District tracts and Twin Rivers State Forest.

2012 Activity Table (4/7 - 5/11)

TRACT	COUNTY					Total Acres	Total Wildfire Acres
		WFS	B&BD	FFS COOP	FFS TRSF		
Ellaville	Madison	327				327	
<i>Sub-total for Period</i>		327	0	0	0	327	0
<i>Previous Acres Burned</i>		3,196	0	0	837	4,033	450
Total Acres		3,523	0	0	837	4,360	450

Dry weather conditions continued to limit prescribed burning activities during the report period. Activities were curtailed to both lower the chance of stress and potential mortality on pine trees and to also limit the chance of fire escaping during volatile burning conditions. Throughout the rest of the spring and summer, burn managers will continue to look for burning opportunities following any significant rain events.

Although no additional wildfires occurred on District land during the report period, wildfire activity has been increasing throughout the state. Because of this, the Florida Forest Service (FFS) has had to focus their attention and manpower on wildfire concerns. For this reason, FFS has advised that it will not complete its goal for SRWMD burning.

A complete Florida Forest Service Fire Weather Outlook can be found online at: http://www.floridaforestservice.com/fire_weather/forecast/seasonal_forecast.html

Rare Species Monitoring

The District has recorded rare and imperiled species occurrences on District lands over the course of several decades. District staff monitors rare species locations during the appropriate season to ensure the species persistence on District lands. Threats and/or stressors to the rare species are documented and addressed to prevent any further degradation of habitat.

During the weeks of April 16 –May, 11 2012, District staff monitored the following rare species:

- Seven District tracts were monitored for presence of Anglepods (*Gonolobus suberosus*; Threatened); specimens were observed on four of the tracts.
- Five District tracts were monitored for the presence of Bachman's Sparrow (*Aimophila aestivalis*); this species of bird is an indicator of high quality upland pine habitats. These sparrows were detected at the Mattair Springs and Holton Creek Tracts.
- Three District tracts were monitored for presence of Hooded Pitcherplant (*Sarracenia minor*; Threatened); specimens were observed on two of the tracts.
- Three District tracts were monitored for presence of Needle Palm (*Rhapidophyllum hystrix*); specimens were observed at each tract.
- One District tract was monitored for presence of Chapman's Sedge (*Carex chapmanii*; Threatened). The multiple specimens recorded on this tract were not observed; staff will survey again in the coming weeks.

No stressors or degradation to the above rare species were observed. Certain species may not have been observed due to current environmental conditions or failure to observe the species during the monitoring period.

Invasive Weed Monitoring and Control

Two invasive weed infestations were monitored on two District tracts; both were mimosa, which is a Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council Category I. No mimosa was observed at one site; an adult mimosa tree was treated with chemical herbicide at the other site.

Land Management Review Team

On April 17, 2012, staff showcased District land management to the Land Management Review Team (LMRT), a diverse group of 15 individuals from several public land management agencies, private industry, and private landowners. The review included staff presentations on the District Land Management Plan (DLMP), review of Performance Measures and the Excellence in Land Management (ELM) Program scorecard. Field review took place in the upper basin of the Suwannee River including the Big Shoals and Bay Creek Tracts.

All LMRT comments were very positive. Participants found the District to be in or exceeding compliance in managing lands for the purpose for which they were acquired and in meeting the management objectives that provide sufficient natural resource protection. This report is outlined in another agenda item.

FACILITY MANAGEMENT

District staff and contractors are working on the following improvements:

Bay Creek	0.31 miles of a new entrance road were completed along the south side of surplus parcel, 0.15 miles of fireline was completed along west side of surplus parcel, 2 gates were installed.
Withlacoochee Quail Farms	0.25 miles of new roads have been completed, 5 waterbars were installed, 0.50 miles of road improvements were completed, and 2 gates installed.

PUBLIC RECREATION SERVICES

The table below shows Special Use Authorizations issued this month.

Recreation	Temporary Ingress & Egress	Mallory Swamp ATV Trail	Goose Pasture Camping ¹	Other	Total
27	1	9	32		69

gal
008-00025

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board
FROM: Brian Kauffman, Senior Professional Engineer
DATE: May 24, 2012
RE: Water Resource Projects Program Activity Report

Edwards Road Wetlands Restoration Project, Bradford County

District staff met with the City of Starke's representatives on April 27, 2012, to discuss the proposed interlocal agreement. Based on the meeting, the agreement is being modified accordingly by District general counsel. District staff also met representatives from Bradford County to discuss the project on April 27, 2012. Staff also met with the Bradford County Soil & Water Conservation District to discuss the plan.

In addition, the District has received the appraisal for the back 14 acres of the KOA property. An offer to purchase the property was sent to the owner on April 4, 2012. The District and the owner met intend to meet on May 11, 2012, to discuss the offer.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Map Modernization and Risk MAP

Levy County: The Letter of Final Determination was issued on May 2, 2012, and based on this letter the new flood insurance study will become effective on November 2, 2012.

Fiscal Year 2009 projects: The appeal period for the Live Oak Detailed Study has been published in the Federal Register. Legal Notices will also be posted twice in the local newspaper. The studies in Dixie, Gilchrist and Lafayette County are all progressing towards preliminary map production.

Fiscal Year 2010 projects: District staff has amended contracts with AMEC, AECOM, and Atkins, to complete the Mapping Activity Statement that has been developed for the Lower Suwannee watershed.

Fiscal Year 2011 projects: District staff has amended contracts with Atkins to begin Discovery for the Upper Suwannee and Santa Fe rivers Risk Map Studies.

Lake Sampson Water Control Structure

Staff met with the Bradford County Commissioners to present the project status on April 19, 2012. Based on comments from that meeting further discussions will be held to determine if the County could receive an operation and maintenance permit for the current structure.

Algal Turf Scrubber Pilot System at Boston Farm

Hydromentia has submitted a Phase I proposal to the District to install an algal turf scrubber system on the Suwannee River. On April 6, 2012, staff requested additional information about the proposal. Hydromentia provided the additional information as requested. Staff continues to consider further implementation of this project.

Bell Springs Restoration

The Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) has applied for grant money to restore the Bell Springs' spring run on District land in Columbia County. It appears that FWC has been approved for \$55,000 of restoration funding for this project starting July 1, 2012. FWC has requested project management assistance from the District. In late May the agencies will discuss how to move forward with the project.

Home Depot/Cannon Creek Wetland Mitigation

District staff has prepared a draft interlocal agreement with Columbia County to outline the responsibilities of each entity as it relates to the mitigation of wetlands impacted by two stormwater projects proposed by Columbia County. The Army Corps of Engineers provided their evaluation of the wetland impacts to the District and the interlocal agreement was modified based on their evaluation. The agreement is being reviewed by the District's general counsel with subsequent review by Columbia County. Columbia County is working with the District to obtain an environmental resource permit for the Cannon Creek stormwater improvement project. District staff is exploring mitigation alternatives within the Cannon Creek Basin and the Santa Fe River watershed.

Water Conservation Program

The Florida Rural Water Association (FRWA) and District staff completed water conservation field audits for the following schools: Columbia County High, Trenton High, Suwannee County Primary, Hamilton County Elementary and Bronson Elementary. Reports outlining the results and recommendations for each school will be completed by May 30, 2012. After reviewing the results, the FRWA, District and school staff will meet to discuss the results and determine which water conservation recommendations should be implemented. District and FRWA staff also met with Gilchrist County and the City of Bronson to discuss providing a conservation audit for the utilities.

Big Bend Water Authority

In July 2011, the Governing Board agreed to provide \$250,000 towards the cost of connecting existing homes and businesses to the new centralized wastewater system being designed for the town of Steinhatchee. The new wastewater system will help ensure the protection of the estuary's water quality. The Big

Bend Water Authority board approved the interlocal agreement with the District at their meeting on March 22, 2012. Construction is scheduled to begin in July 2012.

Minimum Flows and Levels Survey Contract

The field work for the Upper Suwannee River Phase B is complete and the initial deliverables will be sent to the District staff for review the week of May 14, 2012. Field work for the Upper Suwannee River Phase A is still ongoing. Project completion is currently expected the final week in May.

A new Request for Qualifications to survey the next section of the Suwannee River is being developed to collect data in the most efficient and economic manner.

Please feel free to contact staff prior to the June 12, 2012, Governing Board meeting if you would like further information.

/bk

Compliance

updated 5/22/2012 10:27:19 AM

<i>CE #</i>	<i>County</i>	<i>Discovery Date</i>	<i>Date Action Required</i>	<i>Violation Summary</i>	<i>Respondent</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Staff</i>
CE06-0058	LEVY	8/2/2006	5/23/2012	Unpermitted construction.	Douglas McKoy	Permit denial removed from May 2010 Board agenda. 8/2/10; information received. 11/1/10; engineer stated the response submittal was in the mail. 1/3/11; RAI response received. 1/25/11; RAI sent. 4/21/11; received an extension request. Extension granted until 6/2/11. 6/8/11; received RAI information. 8/5/11; received RAI response. 9/2/11; RAI sent. Meeting 9/22/11; working on revising mitigation plan. As of 11/16/11, no response received. 12/6/11; emailed respondent for update. January 2012 Board for denial & enforcement proceedings. 1/4/12; received additional information concerning mitigation plan. 1/9/12; received environmental audit. Governing Board granted Respondent 60 days to complete application. 3/29/12; received response. Staff reviewing submittal. 4/24/12; RAI sent.	Webster, Patrick
CE10-0026	COLUMBIA	4/20/2010		Unpermitted construction.	Sam Oosterhoudt-Lake City Developers, LLC.	4/20/10; SWO delivered. 4/26/10; NOV sent. 5/21/10; file to legal. 5/26/10; Engineer hired. Legal action on hold. 7/26/10; received ERP application. 8/11/10; sent RAI. 11/15/10; sent 18 day letter. 1/11/11; extension letter sent. 2/4/11; meeting with Respondent. 2/25/11; Compliance Agreement (CA) sent for signature. 3/14/11; signed & executed CA sent to Respondent. 5/18/11; received admin. cost & partial penalty. 5/31/11; final payment not received. Respondent defaulted on CA. June 2011 Board for initiation of legal action. Board directed legal to contact Respondent. 7/12/11; Board contacted Respondent. As of 8/5/11; no information received. August 2011 Board for initiation of legal action. 8/8/11; paid balance of penalties, submitted application fee & as-builts. 8/8/11; close file. 9/12/11; file reopened. 9/1/11; surety check returned for stop payment. 10/4/11; 14 days to pay for returned check. November 2011 Board for revocation of permit and initiation of legal action. 11/8/11; Board deferred action until December 2011. 11/8/11; received Letter of Credit for review. January 2012 Board for revocation of permit & enforcement proceedings. 1/10/12; Respondent stated he would fix the issues. Enforcement action placed on hold. 2/1/12; staff coordinating with Respondent for on-site meeting. 3/1/12; on site meeting Respondent given outline of actions needed to bring project into compliance.	Marshall, Leroy

<i>CE #</i>	<i>County</i>	<i>Discovery Date</i>	<i>Date Action Required</i>	<i>Violation Summary</i>	<i>Respondent</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Staff</i>
CE11-0031	TAYLOR	6/6/2011	6/30/2012	No as-builts.	Fred Shore - Gulf Breeze Partners, LLC.	20 days to contact District. 06/17/11; received call from Respondent. 7/13/11; on-site meeting. Respondent to modify the permit. 09/13/11; sent e-mail sent requesting update. 10/13/11; call from Engineer; as-built to be submitted by 10/31/11. 10/27/11; call from engineer. Owners will not modify permit at present. Owners will submit corrected as-builts on or before 11/15/11. 11/21/11; call from engineer to discuss as-builts. Initial review indicates detention ponds are not adequate. 12/27/11: extended deadline. 1/05/12; call with engineer and owner. As builts complete and engineer is updating drawings to bring permit into compliance. DEP has requested optional plans since the site will be divided into dual ownership. New field data is being compiled and revised plans will be submitted jointly to District and DEP by 6/30/12.	Bowden, Jerry
CE12-0007	BRADFORD	2/3/2012	8/11/2012	Unpermitted excavation & fill in wetlands.	Michael VanZant	20 days to contact District. Mr. VanZant contacted District by 02/27/12. On-site meeting was conducted on 03/02/12, with Mr. VanZant. 3/26/12; Compliance Agreement (CA) mail for signature. 4/5/12: received signed CA. 4/13/12: returned executed CA. 4/13/12; received CA penalty check & ERP application. Staff reviewing submittal. 4/24/12; permit issued. Staff to monitor CA conditions.	Mantini, Louis
CE12-0009	TAYLOR	2/23/2012	6/13/2012	Unpermitted excavation & wetland fill.	Enrique Villagomez	Site visit was conducted on 04/06/12, and it was determined that dredging impacts existing but fill was not as clearly-defined. Fill might have been used on-site for the homesite and back yard. On 4/23/12, the certified NOV returned-unclaimed. However, Respondent did respond to the NOV that was delivered by conventional mail. Staff will proceed by encouraging Respondent to obtain permit or restore the site. Respondent will be contacted for a meeting by 6/13/12.	Mantini, Louis
CE12-0011	SUWANNEE	3/29/2012	6/21/2012	Unpermitted borrow pit.	Donna Whitfield	20 days to contact District. Respondent contacted District on 04/11/12. Site visit conducted on 4/17/12, with complainant's brother (John Cox. 386.935.4701), and impacts to neighbor's property were confirmed (erosion of property boundary). Staff will discuss with Ms. Whitfield by 5/9/12. 5/21/12; Compliance Agreement sent to Respondent for signatures.	Mantini, Louis

<i>CE #</i>	<i>County</i>	<i>Discovery Date</i>	<i>Date Action Required</i>	<i>Violation Summary</i>	<i>Respondent</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Staff</i>
CE12-0013	BRADFORD	4/20/2012	6/22/2012	Unpermitted excavation & fill.	Brian & Phyliss Margettes	Mr. Margettes contacted the District on 04/27/12, in response to an NOV sent on 4/24/12, and a site visit was conducted on 05/1/12, to discuss permitting or resrtoration options. A pre-application correspondence was mailed on 5/7/12, in order to present after-the-fact permitting options. 5/22/12; file being prepared legal for Consent Agreement approval.	Mantini, Louis
CE12-0016	LEVY	5/11/2012	6/11/2012	Clearing within 75-foot setback.	Greg Griffis	20 days to submit WOD application.	Hastings, John
CE12-0015	HAMILTON	5/1/2012	5/29/2012	Unpermitted excavation.	Faye Corbett	20 days to contact District.	Mantini, Louis
CE12-0004	ALACHUA	2/14/2012	6/13/2012	Unpermitted fill in wetlands.	Gary Yelvington/Yelvington on Distribution Center	20 days to contact District. District was contacted in the prescribed period and has been in contact with the Yelvington's environmental consultant, Ecosystem Research Corporation (ERC). ERC has been delineating wetland boundaries and assisting Eng Denman & associates with an alternative site plan that will involve fill removal from wetlands. A revised impact delineation was received on 04/25/12. A meeting was attended scheduled with Yelvington's engineering and environmental consultant's on 04/30/12, to discuss mitigation of impacted area). A revised mitigation report is expected on 06/13/12.	Mantini, Louis
CE12-0005	HAMILTON	2/16/2012	6/13/2012	Unpermitted clearing & fill in wetlands.	Everal B. Allen	20 days to contact District. Respondent called 02/27/12. Meeting 3/02/12 with Mr. Allen and consultant. Wetland fill issues were resolved, and plans and calculations were received by the District on 04/20/12, from Crews Engineering Services, LLC. However, an application was not received, so the engineering consultant was notified and instructed to complete the application that should be received by 06/13/12.	Mantini, Louis

<i>CE #</i>	<i>County</i>	<i>Discovery Date</i>	<i>Date Action Required</i>	<i>Violation Summary</i>	<i>Respondent</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Staff</i>
CE10-0042	UNION	10/10/2010	5/28/2012	Unpermitted construction.	John Rimes, III - New River Forest Villas	04/04/11; information received. 5/11/11; letter sent; 30 days submit compliance deadline. 05/26/11; engineer had been hired on behalf of the Town & will comply with the District. 6/29/11; staff met on-site to review the site. Engineers to propose a phased approach to permit application in order. The engineers sent a contract proposal on 7/1/11, and Mr. Rimes to meet with the City 7/6/11. 7/26/11; letter received stating that engineer had been hired and resolution should be reached soon. 9/22/11; meeting with Worthington Springs.10/5/11; sent letter to Respondent 30 days to submit ERP application & supporting documentation. 11/4/11; received ERP application. 11/30/11; RAI sent. An extension for RAI response was granted, per request, until 5/28/12.	Mantini, Louis
CE11-0005	BRADFORD	2/24/2011	6/13/2012	Unpermitted dredge & fill in wetlands.	Jacob Hake	20 days to contact District. Mr. Hake contacted the District on 2/26/11 and a site visit conducted on 3/11/11 with staff. Draft Compliance Agreement delivered 4/1/11. Meeting 4/8/11 to discuss agreement. A field visit with FPL was conducted downstream on 05/31/11; and upstream issues were addressed regarding DuPont properties and stormwater management. Meeting 6/24/11 to discuss watershed. Meeting 7/1/11 with County to determine ditch maintenance. Site visit conducted on 9/14/11 identifying current source of flooding concerns as DuPont - Staff to follow-up with another discussion with DuPont and site visit by 10/12/11. 10/20/11; updated compliance agreement mailed. 10/24/11; received returned (refused) certified compliance agreements. Compliance Agreement re-sent on 10/31/11 by first class mail. Staff inspected on 11/25/11, and remedial actions have not been performed which consist of restoring a berm adjacent to the ditch that traverses the property and drains towards the west. Presented at January 2012 Board for approval of enforcement proceedings. Received signed CA agreement 1/19/12.4/13/12; site meeting. Work to be complete by 06/13/12.	Mantini, Louis

<i>CE #</i>	<i>County</i>	<i>Discovery Date</i>	<i>Date Action Required</i>	<i>Violation Summary</i>	<i>Respondent</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Staff</i>
CE11-0007	GILCHRIST	2/9/2011	6/21/2012	Unpermitted structure in floodway.	Richard & Rebecca Tenaglia	20 days to contact District. Received WOD application 3/2/11. 3/30/11; sent RAI. District staff met with Respondent on 4/8/11 to discuss draft compliance agreement (CA). CA mailed for signature 4/13/11. RAI mailed 4/15/11. CA returned unclaimed 5/2/11. 5/2/11; resent CA. CA received by Respondent but Respondent cannot return it at this time. 9/20/11; sent letter requesting return of CA by 10/11/11. 10/7/11; received mail from Respondent stating sudden health issues.10/28/11; sent email extending his execution of the compliance agreement to 11/30/11. Met with Respondent on 1/26/12. 3/13/12; staff reviewing preliminary variance request. 5/18/12; received Variance Request. 5/23/12; Variance request sent to legal for review.	Webster, Patrick
CE11-0010	GILCHRIST	3/17/2011	5/25/2012	Unpermitted development.	Richard Roberts	20 days to contact District. 3/22/11: Compliance Agreement being prepared & RAI sent. Mr. Roberts contacted the District on 3/22/11. Compliance Agreement received by Mr. Roberts on 3/21/11. 4/5/11; meeting at District. Executed the compliance agreement and paid penalty. 4/11/11; mailed executed Compliance Agreement. Conducted site inspection on 4/15/11, fill was removed and regraded but large mounds of cleared vegetation must still be removed from the floodway. RAI responses received on 4/21/11. Permit issued 4/28/11. Owner has requested a burn permit to burn vegetative piles. Has not been able to burn because of drought conditions. 7/19/11; Respondent came in and reported that he will work on burning the vegetative debris. Site visit 8/18/11 & 9/1/11. 9/7/11; letter sent. 45 days to remove vegetation debris. 10/7/11; Mr. Roberts informed District that due to health conditions, he has stopped debris removal. As of 1/17/12, Mr. Roberts has been given clearance to do some light work activity. He has been slowly working on removing the piles. Staff will keep monitoring his progress and reinspect by 5/25/12.	Webster, Patrick

<i>CE #</i>	<i>County</i>	<i>Discovery Date</i>	<i>Date Action Required</i>	<i>Violation Summary</i>	<i>Respondent</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Staff</i>
CE11-0019	COLUMBIA	3/24/2011		Erosion & sediment control issues.	Palmer Daughtry - Emerald Cove Subdivision	21 days to contact District. Developer contacted the District within the allotted time and has scheduled a meeting for 6/22/11. At the 6/22/11 meeting, the developer agreed to request Columbia County take over operation and maintenance since he is no longer financially capable of providing such services. 8/23/11; letter sent stating 18 days to transfer to O&M to County or complete corrective action. 9/14/11; letter sent informing Mr. Daughtry staff is referring to Governing Board for initiation of legal proceedings. Staff to work with Columbia County to resolve maintenance issues.	Link, James
CE11-0036	TAYLOR	8/24/2011	6/13/2012	Unpermitted construction.	Oscar M. Howard, III/RT 207 Properties/Iron Horse Mud Ranch	Site visit 9/7/11. 9/13/11; NOV sent. 20 days to contact District. 9/16/11; received fax. Staff awaiting RAI response to proceed with Compliance Agreement. 1/27/12; sent 18 day letter. 2/10/12; requested 15 additional days to send RAI response. 3/8/12; received RAI information. Staff preparing Compliance Agreement. 4/4/12: sent RAI. 45 days to respond with a 05/19/12 deadline not satisfied; staff will consider an extension to 06/13/12, if requested.	Mantini, Louis