SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Leroy Marshall, Chief, Office of Agriculture and Environmental Projects

THRU: Tim Alexander, Deputy Executive Director, Business and Community Services

DATE: March 12, 2024

RE: Agricultural Cost-Share Contract with Gary Cone, Hamilton County

RECOMMENDATION
Authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract with Gary Cone to implement agricultural cost-share practices for an amount not to exceed $411,440 and allow for funding source LPS0087 to exceed the $300,000 threshold.

BACKGROUND
The Suwannee River Water Management District (District) has provided agricultural cost-share funding along with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection as part of the Suwannee River Partnership to help agricultural producers implement best management practices. Best management practices help farmers conserve water and improve water quality in the District.

Gary Cone has applied for agricultural cost-share under the District Agricultural Cost-Share Program to implement center pivot retrofits, control panels, GPS end-gun shutoffs, remote controls, pump upgrades, variable rate irrigation and a variable frequency drive for use across 325 acres of corn, peanuts, and carrots in Hamilton County. The District currently has no active contracts with Gary Cone. There are two funding sources that will be used to execute this contract. The amount allocated by one funding source, LPS0087, will exceed the $300,000 threshold by $51,720.

This project is located in the Suwannee River Basin Management Action Plan Area, and the Eastern and Western Water Supply Planning Areas. The associated water savings estimate is 0.171 million gallons per day and approximately 16,250 pounds of nitrogen reduction at land surface.

Attachment A lists the cost share items and funding breakdown. Funding for this project is included in the Fiscal Year 2024 Final Budget.

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Attachments