


BOARD POLICY			
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT			
TITLE: Agricultural Advisory Committee			
SECTION/DEPT: Executive	NUMBER: 170-1	PAGE: 1 OF 3	
APPROVED BY: 	C.A. "NEIL" COMBEE, CHAIR	EFFECTIVE DATE: 4/28/2009	SUPERSEDES: 12/18/2001

STATEMENT OF POLICY:

The purpose of this policy is to establish the Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) to the Southwest Florida Water Management District, and to set forth the purpose, activities and membership guidelines of the AAC.

The District Governing Board has established this Advisory Committee for the purpose of obtaining input on District programs, projects and related resource management issues. The Governing Board recognizes and appreciates the significant commitment of the organizations and individuals who agree to serve on this Committee. This Advisory Committee is a valuable resource to the District and the input it provides helps to ensure the District is meeting its responsibilities in an effective and efficient manner.

The District has a thirteen member Governing Board and seven Basin Boards comprised of at least twenty nine additional gubernatorial appointees. The Board appointees are citizens from throughout the District representing the numerous and varied interests which exist. These Governing Board and Basin Board appointees are the policy makers of the District and ensure that the District achieves its statutory responsibilities. It is the intent of these Board members that the advisory committees not be engaged in policymaking but continue in the mission of providing valuable feedback and advice on issues that are determined by Board members to be directly related to the District's statutory responsibilities.


It is in recognition of staff's ongoing obligations to these existing Boards that this Advisory Committee is established. District staff is charged with providing administrative support to the Committee, including developing and mailing meeting notices and agendas, making arrangements for meeting facilities, recording meetings and providing meeting summaries, monitoring membership and officer terms, and performing other related administrative matters.

Purpose

The purpose of the AAC is to provide professional and technical input into District programs and activities including regulatory programs, rule revisions, water conservation activities, water resource planning, water resource and supply development projects, research and other water resource management projects that relate to the agricultural industry. Subject matter considered by the AAC shall relate to the statutory duties and responsibilities of the District. AAC members serve as liaisons with the District, maintaining communication with members of their organizations and conveying input from the organization to the AAC. In addition, the AAC acts as an education extension of the District by helping to disseminate information and by advising and assisting the District in education programs and projects. A function of the AAC shall be to provide two-way communication between the District and the agricultural industry.

Membership

Membership will consist of representatives of agricultural commodity groups; these commodities are chosen on the basis of whether they are prevalent within the District. Members will be selected by the Executive Director at the recommendation of the Governing Board, designated District staff or from nominations by the President or appropriate person of the member organizations. The Chair of the AAC may recommend new members to the District. Each AAC member organization shall designate a primary representative. Alternates may also be

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designated for the primary representatives and will have full voting rights in the absence of the primary representative. The current AAC member organizations listed below may be supplemented or revised as deemed appropriate by the District in order to achieve optimal representation of the agricultural industry:

- Florida Cattlemen's Association
- Florida Citrus Mutual
- Florida Citrus Production Managers Association
- Florida Farm Bureau Federation
- Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association
- Florida Irrigation Society
- Florida Nursery Growers and Landscape Association
- Florida Strawberry Growers Association
- Florida Tomato Exchange
- Florida Tropical Fish Farms Association
- Florida Turfgrass Association
- Peace River Valley Citrus Growers Association
- Tampa Bay Wholesale Growers
- Florida Forestry Association
- Florida Blueberry Association
- Florida Sod Growers Cooperative

AAC member representatives shall be designated as authorized travelers of the District.

Terms of Membership

Term of membership on the AAC shall be three years. Multiple terms may be served. AAC members/designees who miss three consecutive meetings, without prior notice to the District, will voluntarily give up their place on the AAC.


Officers and Duties

The AAC will elect a chair and vice-chair who will serve two year terms of office and may be elected to those positions a maximum of two consecutive times. A majority of AAC members must be present for the election of officers. Election shall be by majority vote.

The chair shall be responsible for assisting the District staff in establishing meeting agendas, in soliciting input from AAC members, for chairing AAC meetings, for establishing subcommittees as may be appropriate, and for representing the AAC when necessary. The vice-chair shall serve as chair in the chair's absence.

Meetings

Meetings of the AAC will be held, at a minimum, quarterly when there are sufficient agenda items or as authorized by the Executive Director or his/her designee. The Chair of the AAC may request that special meetings be held. Notices of AAC meetings will be mailed in advance of the meetings by the District to members and interested persons. The AAC's meetings will be recorded by the District staff. Abbreviated meeting summaries will be provided to the AAC members. Topics for discussion at AAC meetings will be focused on priorities set by the Governing Board and limited to issues specific to those priorities. Other topics may be proposed

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by the AAC which shall be placed on the agenda for discussion; however, requests of staff requiring more than routine support will be subject to approval by the Executive Director or the Governing Board. All determinations of the AAC shall be by majority vote of the members present (no quorum requirement), except in the election of officers as provided for above and in cases where the AAC requests that a specific recommendation be presented to the Governing Board, whereby a majority of the AAC must be present and such request must be approved by a majority vote. The requested input from the AAC to the District will be reported to the Governing Board when requested by the AAC or when otherwise deemed appropriate. Such reports may be presented by the Governing Board Liaison, AAC chair, other AAC members designated by the chair or selected by the AAC, or by District staff. Meetings shall be conducted in accordance with *Robert's "Rules of Order"* as described in *Robert's "Rules of Order Newly Revised,"* originally written by General Henry M. Robert (1876), unless specified otherwise by law or this policy. The AAC is subject to the Government-in-the-Sunshine Law and all other applicable laws and regulations.

AUTHORITY: Chapter 373, Florida Statutes

REFERENCES: Section 286.011, Florida Statutes (Government-in-the-Sunshine Law)
Rules of Order Newly Revised, originally by Henry M. Robert (1876)