

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

COOPERATIVE FUNDING PUBLIC MEETING

HEARTLAND REGION COOPERATIVE FUNDING INITIATIVE PUBLIC MEETING GOVERNING BOARD SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

BARTOW, FLORIDA

FEBRUARY 12, 2020

The Heartland Region Cooperative Funding Initiative Public Meeting hosted by the Southwest Florida Water Management District Governing Board convened at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 12, 2020 at the Bartow City Hall/Commission Chambers, 450 North Wilson Avenue, Bartow, Florida.

Governing Board Members Present

James Murphy, Committee Chair
Michelle Williamson

Recording Secretary

Robyn Felix

Staff Members Present

Jennette Seachrist
Kevin Wills
Jay Hoecker
Eric DeHaven
J. P. Marchand
Cindy Rodriguez
Randy Smith

A list of others who signed the attendance roster is filed in the permanent records of the District. Approved minutes can be found on the District's Web site (www.WaterMatters.org).

The numbers preceding the items below correspond with the published agenda.

1. **Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**

Committee Chair James Murphy called the meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance.

2. **Introductions**

Committee Chair Murphy introduced the other members of the committee.

3. **Review CFI Preliminary Staff Evaluations and Rankings**

Mr. Kevin Wills, Cooperative Funding Initiative lead, provided a presentation of project evaluations and rankings. This presentation included a map depicting the location of the projects throughout the Heartland region, explanation of rankings and how they are associated with the District's Strategic Initiatives, regional priorities associated with projects, multi-year comparison of funding requests, total request for FY2021 and recommendations, and preliminary rankings of projects. Mr. Wills addressed the regional priorities, which include the implementation of the Southern Water Use Caution Area (SWUCA) recovery strategy and the improvement of the Ridge Lakes, Winter Haven Chain of Lakes and the Peace Creek Canal.

Mr. Wills outlined the 1A projects. He explained that projects ranked 1A are multi-year projects with prior District commitment.

Mr. Wills outlined high ranked projects Q166, Q184 and Q216. He stated projects Q184 and Q216 were initially submitted as one project application.

Mr. Wills outlined high ranked project Q200. Mr. Wills stated that project Q201 was withdrawn. Mr. Randy Smith, Natural Systems & Restoration Bureau chief, and Ms. Gaye Sharpe, representing Polk County, responded to questions regarding the withdrawal of project Q201. Mr. Wills outlined high ranked project Q209. Mr. Jay Hoecker, Water Supply manager responded to questions.

Mr. Wills outlined low ranked projects Q164 and Q187.

4. **Receive Public/Stakeholder/Applicant Input**

Mr. Jay Jarvis, representing Polk County, spoke in favor of low ranked project Q164. Mr. Jarvis responded to questions.

Mr. Gene Heath, representing the Polk Regional Water Cooperative, spoke in favor of low ranked project Q187. He stated there is an educational component associated with this project. Mr. Jay Hoecker, Water Supply Manager, responded to questions.

5. **Board Discussion and Selection of Project Presentations in April**

Mr. Wills stated the following projects would be presented at the April meeting: Q184, Q216, N926, Q209, Q181, Q187 and Q164. Board member Michelle Williamson asked that project Q209 specifically address the educational component associated with this project.

6. **Timeline and Next Steps**

The next Heartland CFI meeting is scheduled for April 9 at 10:00 a.m. at the Bartow City Hall/Commission Chambers. Action will be taken at the next meeting.

7. **Adjournment**

There being no further discussion, Committee Chair Murphy thanked everyone who attended.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.