

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

COOPERATIVE FUNDING PUBLIC MEETING

SOUTHERN REGION COOPERATIVE FUNDING INITIATIVE PUBLIC MEETING

GOVERNING BOARD

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

BROOKSVILLE, FLORIDA

APRIL 2, 2020

Due to the COVID-19 virus, this meeting was held through electronic media to reduce public gatherings and practice social distancing.

The Southern Region Cooperative Funding Initiative Public Meeting hosted by the Southwest Florida Water Management District Governing Board convened at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, April 2, 2020 at the District's Brooksville Office at 2379 Broad Street, Brooksville, Florida.

Governing Board Members Present

Mark Taylor, Committee Chair

Joel Schleicher *via Phone

Jack Bispham *via Phone

Recording Secretary

Lori Manuel

Staff Members Present

Mandi Rice *via phone

Jennette Seachrist

Michael Molligan *via phone

JP Marchand

Kevin Wills

Committee Chair Taylor explained the logistics of the meeting. He called a short recess to allow for public comments to be received.

The meeting reconvened at 10:05.

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

1. Call to Order and Pledge Allegiance

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

2. Introductions

Committee Chair Taylor introduced the other members of the committee.

3. Action Item: Approval of February 12, 2020 Meeting

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the February 12 meeting. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

4. CFI Final Staff Rankings and Recommendations

Mr. Kevin Wills, Cooperative Funding Initiative Program lead, provided a presentation. This presentation included a comparison of applications and requests funded for all four regions from Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 to present. Mr. Wills explained that 16 projects for FY2021 have been withdrawn and are not included in the final evaluations and rankings.

The presentation outlined the project funding requests for FY2021 by ranking for the Southern Region. A map was included that depicted the location of the projects throughout the Southern Region.

Mr. Wills updated the Committee regarding changes that had occurred since the February 12 meeting.

Mr. Wills stated that project Q141 was not initially recommended for funding as Manatee County (County) was unable to provide a cost-benefit analysis with the original submission. The County has submitted the information, which demonstrated a high cost effectiveness. Staff revised the project ranking to high.

Mr. Wills stated the City of Venice submitted a revised application for project Q179, which indicated a reduction in rebates and resulted in lower costs.

Mr. Wills explained that the Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority (PRMRWSA) has increased the request for funding by \$80,000 for project Q202. In addition, the PRMRWSA has incorporated security measures into its new feasibility study as requested by the Committee at the February meeting.

Mr. Wills stated the City of Palmetto submitted a revised application for project Q214, which indicated a reduction of rebates and resulted in lower costs.

Mr. Wills stated low ranked project Q180 was withdrawn.

Mr. Wills stated that project Q208 is a septic-to-sewer request that is not eligible for funding since it is located outside of the springs priority focus area of a Basin Management Action Plan.

Mr. JP Marchand provided a presentation regarding project Q145. He provided an overview, costs, associated project benefits and staff evaluation.

Mr. Marchand addressed the benefits of the District's partnerships with private entities and how it relates to cooperative funding projects.

Mr. John Riley, Longboat Key Club agronomist, spoke in favor of project Q208.

Committee Member Joel Schleicher asked about the completion of the nine holes versus the proposed 27 holes for project Q145. He asked if this project would proceed based on current economic circumstances. He also expressed concern regarding the funding of projects during this time.

Committee Member Jack Bispham asked what type of turf is being used for this project and will reclaimed water be utilized.

In response to Committee Member Schleicher's questions, Mr. Marchand stated that his presentation referenced the portion of the golf course that is associated with this project, not the entire course. He also stated that the benefit of the District funding this project is the acceleration of achieving the water-saving benefits. Mr. Marchand provided historical information regarding reduction of water use as related to the entire project.

In response to Committee Member Bispham's questions, Mr. Marchand stated there is no reclaimed water available on the island. He also stated that salt tolerant turf is being utilized on the golf course.

Mr. Riley added that water reduction has been achieved with the nine holes that have been completed. He also confirmed the project is proceeding as planned. Mr. Riley confirmed the entire facility has been converted to paspalum salt tolerant grass.

Committee Member Schleicher reiterated his concerns regarding funding new projects during this time. He also suggested that consideration should be given to a cooperator's ability to fiscally provide for a project when requesting cooperative funding.

Committee Chair Taylor stated that Committee Member Schleicher's concerns should be addressed at the May Governing Board meeting.

5. Receive Additional Public Comments

No Blue Cards were submitted.

6. Action Item: Approve Project Rankings and Recommendations

Staff recommended the Committee approve the project rankings for the Cooperative Funding projects in the Southern Region ranked 1A, High and Medium; recommend the Governing Board include these projects in the District's budget for Fiscal Year 2020-21; and drop from consideration those projects ranked Low or Not Recommended.

A motion was made to reject project Q145 and not include it in projects forwarded to the Governing Board. The motion was not seconded and failed.

A motion was made to approve staff's recommended ranking for project Q145. The motion was seconded and passed with two in favor and one opposed.

A motion was made to approve staff's original recommendation. The motion passed with two in favor and one opposed.

Committee Chair Taylor made a motion to provide a presentation of project Q145 at the May Governing Board meeting. Committee Member Bispham amended the motion by adding that information be provided regarding the inability to utilize reclaimed water. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

7. Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.