

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

COOPERATIVE FUNDING PUBLIC MEETING

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

BROOKSVILLE, FLORIDA

APRIL 9, 2020

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

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, April 9, 2020 at the District's Brooksville Office at 2379 Broad Street, Brooksville, Florida.

Governing Board Members Present

Mark Taylor, Ad Hoc Committee Chair
Michelle Williamson *via Phone
James Murphy *via Phone

Staff Members Present

Mandi Rice *via phone
Jennette Seachrist
Michael Molligan *via phone
Eric DeHaven
JP Marchand
Kevin Wills
Randy Smith *via phone

Recording Secretary

Lori Manuel

Committee Chair Taylor explained the logistics of the meeting. He explained that he was serving as the Ad Hoc Chair and would not be voting on any items. Committee Chair Taylor called a short recess to allow for public comments to be received.

The meeting reconvened at 10:16.

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 Wills explained that 16 projects, for FY2021, have been withdrawn and are not included in the final evaluations and rankings.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 Heartland Region. A map was included that depicted the location of the projects throughout the Heartland Region.

Mr. Wills provided an update to the Committee regarding changes that had occurred since the February 12 meeting.

Mr. Wills addressed high ranked project Q187. He stated that staff coordinated with the cooperator to identify additional best management practices (BMPs) and opportunities to maximum the participation in other ongoing conservation projects. As a result, the project ranking has moved from a low to high and is recommended for funding.

Mr. Wills addressed high ranked projects Q184 and Q216. These are third-party review projects. He stated that staff evaluation forms have been revised to include the total conceptual costs.

Mr. Will stated that Polk County has withdrawn the application for low ranked project Q164.

Mr. Wills stated that the application for project Q201 has been withdrawn by the cooperator.

Committee member Williamson recommended that the presentations for projects Q184 and Q216 be postponed and presented at the full Governing Board meeting. Committee member Murphy concurred with this recommendation.

Mr. JP Marchand provided presentations for high ranked projects N926, Q209 and medium ranked project Q181.

Mr. Eric DeHaven provided a presentation on high ranked project Q187.

5. Receive Additional Public Comments

Mr. Morgan Tyrone, representing Highlands Hammock State Park, spoke in favor of project Q181.

6. Action Item: Approve Project Rankings and Recommendations

Staff recommended the Committee approve the project rankings for the Cooperative Funding projects in the Heartland 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 approve staff's recommendation. 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.