

## **Agricultural and Green Industry Advisory Committee**

MEETING DATE – SEPTEMBER 15, 2020

LIAISON REPORT – JACK BISPHAM

### **Leaching Fraction Adjusted Irrigation Impact on Nutrient Load and Plant Water Use**

Dr. Tom Yeager, professor and extension specialist, University of Florida, provided a presentation on a leaching fraction project to determine the impact on nutrient loss. Dr. Yeager explained leaching fraction is a ratio of the amount of drainage out of the container relative to the amount of water that went into the container. The study lasted one year, and samples were collected weekly to analyze the amount of nutrient loss in each plant. Results indicated no significant difference in the total amount of nitrogen and phosphorus loss between 20 and 40 percent leaching fraction. Same results applied to plant size.

Mr. Carraway asked as these plants developed, whether the root mass would have an impact on the amount of nutrient loss. Dr. Yeager replied he believes it could, although this was not a part of the study. Mr. Carraway asked whether they should be reaching for less than 20 percent leaching fraction. Dr. Yeager explained ideally, yes, but it would be extremely difficult to maintain less than 20 percent on a pot larger than three gallons.

### **Review of Citrus Task Force Final Report**

Mr. Ross Morton, ombudsman, reviewed the Citrus Task Force's final report with the committee and asked for the committee's acceptance. Mr. Morton also discussed the committee's previous request to draft a letter of support from the Agricultural and Green Industry Advisory Committee to go to the Governing Board.

Mr. Travis Council shared his appreciation for the team's effort.

Mr. Carraway suggested to create a timeline to draft a resolution for the committee. Ms. Jarvis suggested staff a draft letter to committee members for review.

***Mr. Council made a motion for the committee to review the letter and send to the Governing Board. David Kemeny seconded, and the committee unanimously voted in favor of the motion.***

### **Regional Water Supply Plan Update**

Mr. Joseph Quinn, Water Supply project manager, provided an overview of the draft 2020 Regional Water Supply Plan (RWSP) and explained this plan provides a guide to water management decisions over a 20-year planning period. Mr. Quinn reviewed the components of the RWSP and noted the current five-year evaluation finds that water supply demands can be met through 2040.

Mr. Alan Jones asked for information on future funding of FARMS programs. Ms. Carole Estes, FARMS Program manager, said the FARMS program has been funded for fiscal years 2021 and 2022 for \$6 million per year for future projects.

### **Hydrologic Conditions Update**

Mr. Granville Kinsman, Hydrologic Data manager, provided an update on the District's hydrologic conditions. He explained the wet season is coming to an end and the District has experienced mixed results in hydrologic conditions this year. Mr. Kinsman explained water supply systems are healthy but there were delays in filling them. He also stated the hurricane

season is extremely active and may bring additional rainfall. La Niña conditions have developed in the Pacific Ocean, which tends to result in a drier than normal winter and spring for Florida.