

Resource Management Committee June 23, 2020

Consent Agenda

Central Florida Water Initiative (CFWI) Water Conservation Cost Share Program

Purpose

To provide the Board an overview of the CFWI Water Conservation cost share program, to request Board approval of two selected projects, and request a budget transfer of \$151,758 from the Water Supply and Water Resource Development Grant Program (H103) funded by state appropriation for projects approved by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP).

Background

The FY2020 adopted budget included \$3,000,000 in state funds appropriated by the 2019 Florida Legislature for the establishment of the Water Supply and Water Resource Development Grant Program (H103) to develop and implement conservation, reuse and other water supply and water resource development projects. At the November 2019 Governing Board meeting, a budget transfer from the \$3,000,000 was approved in the amount of \$2,674,000 for three projects selected by the FDEP, leaving a balance of \$326,000 in the Water Supply and Water Resource Development Grant Program (H103). An additional budget transfer of \$151,758 from this fund is proposed to address the projects described below.

In January, FDEP collaborated with the South Florida, St. Johns River, and Southwest Florida Water Management Districts (WMD) to develop a funding program that would solicit conservation projects within the CFWI to utilize state appropriation funds for water supply and water resource development that became available from a canceled project in the South Florida WMD. Staff from each of the three districts collaborated on guideline and application development for the CFWI Water Conservation cost share program. On February 17th, the application period opened, and on March 27th the application period closed.

An internal review team with staff from each district and FDEP reviewed 10 project applications. Five projects were ultimately recommended for funding. The projects were presented to the CFWI Steering Committee on May 29th and approved for funding. The projects also require approval by the respective Governing Boards of each district.

Discussion

Two of the five projects selected by the CFWI Steering Committee are within the Southwest Florida Water Management District. The requested funding amount for the two projects is \$151,758 and they will conserve approximately 49,500 gallons per day (gpd).

The first project, High Efficiency Toilet (HET) and Irrigation Controller Rebates, was submitted by the Polk Regional Water Cooperative (PRWC). This project had also been submitted to the District for FY2021 cooperative funding. The project includes toilet and urinal rebates, irrigation evaluations, enhanced conservation kits, and smart irrigation controllers. The project also includes program promotion, public outreach, and administrative costs. The anticipated water savings for this project is approximately 23,300 gpd. The total cost for this project is \$168,710 with \$84,355 coming from the state appropriation. The project's cost effectiveness is \$2.63 per thousand gallons saved, which is within the high range for cooperative funding projects.

At the May 19th Governing Board meeting, the Board approved this project through the District's Cooperative Funding Initiative process under a different name: PRWC - Demand Management Implementation (Q187). The project was proposed to be funded with \$84,355 in ad valorem

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dollars as the District's share. With Board approval to utilize \$84,355 in state appropriation dollars for this project, both the District's and PRWC's share will be offset equally. This will result in a reduction of \$42,177 as part of the July FY2021 Budget Update.

The second project, Ag Irrigation System Improvements (P928), was submitted by Ray Bob Grove, Inc. It includes the purchase and installation of hydraulic control valves to reconfigure irrigation zones within the citrus grove. The anticipated water savings is approximately 26,200 gpd. The total cost for this project is \$171,808 with \$67,403 coming from the state appropriation (remaining funds available) and \$104,405 from Ray Bob Grove, Inc. The project's cost effectiveness is \$1.19 per thousand gallons of groundwater reduced, which is within the range established for similar projects.

Staff Recommendation:

1. Approve the two selected projects within the District's boundaries.
2. Approve a budget transfer of \$151,758 in state appropriations from Water Supply and Resource Development Grant Program (H103) to:
 - PRWC - Demand Management Implementation (Q187) in the amount of \$84,355; and
 - Ray Bob Grove - Ag Irrigation System Improvements (P928) in the amount of \$67,403.
3. Approve the reduction of \$42,177 from the \$84,355 currently in the FY2021 proposed budget for the PRWC - Demand Management Implementation project (Q187).

Presenter: Jay Hoecker, Water Supply Section Manager