

**MEETING SUMMARY**  
**Green Industry and Agricultural Joint Advisory Committee**  
**& FARMS Workgroup**  
**Southwest Florida Water Management District**  
**January 31, 2013**

The Green Industry (GIAC) and Agricultural (AAC) Joint Advisory Committee and FARMS Workgroup of the Southwest Florida Water Management District convened for a meeting at 9 a.m., January 31, 2013, at the Tampa Service Office, 7601 US Highway 301 North, Tampa, Florida.

**GIAC Committee Members Present**

Chair Travis Council, FL Sod Grwrs Coop.(GIAC/IAC/FARMS)  
Greg Brown, FL Parks & Recreation Assoc.  
Richard Carroll, FL Nurs, Grwrs & Lndscpe Assoc.(FARMS)  
George Cook, FL Golf Course Superintendent's Assoc.  
Shaun O'Brien, FL Sod Growers Coop (GIAC/IAC)  
John Miragliotta, FL Irrigation Society

**AAC Committee Members Present**

Chair Mac Carraway, FL Turfgrass Assoc. (FARMS)  
David Boozer, FL Tropical Fish Farms Assoc  
Barbara Carlton, Peace River Valley Citrus (FARMS)  
Travis Council, FL Sod Growers Coop. (GIAC/IAC/FARMS)  
Dale Lewis, FL Nurs., Grwrs & Landscape Assoc.  
Patsy Nathe, FL Forestry Association  
Shaun O'Brien, FL Sod Growers Coop (GIAC/IAC)  
Curt Williams, FL Farm Bureau Federation (FARMS)  
Michelle Wiliamson, FL Strawberry Growers Assoc.

**FARMS Workgroup Members Present in Addition to Those Listed Above**

Bill Bartnick, FDACS  
David Brown  
Rich Budell, Dept of Agriculture & Consumer Svcs  
Kerry Kates, FL Fruit & Vegetable Assoc.

**Governing Board Members Present**

Doug Tharp, GIAC Liaison  
Michael Babb, AAC Liaison  
Wendy Griffin, EAC Liaison

**GIAC Committee Members Absent**

Tom Burish, Landscape Maintenance Assoc.  
Lisa Coney, FL Cemetary, Cremation & Funeral  
K.C. Fisher, Assoc. Landscape Contractors of Amer.  
BJ Jarvis, University of Florida, IFAS  
George Kish, FL Native Plant Society  
Celia Nichols, American Soc. of Lndscpe Architects  
Brad Suder, City of Tampa Parks & Recreation Dept.

**AAC Committee Members Absent**

Steve Davis, Tampa Bay Wholesale Growers  
Laurie Hurner, FL Citrus Mutual  
Vice Chair Jeff Krieger, FL Citrus Prod. Managers  
Jerry Mixon, Jr., FL Fruit & Veg. Association (FARMS)  
Jim Strickland, FL Cattlemen's Association

**FARMS Workgroup Absent**

Scott Pierce, Tampa Bay Wholesale Growers

**Staff Members Present**

Lou Kavouras, Facilitator  
Veronica Craw, Environmental Section Mgr  
Eric DeHaven  
Darrin Herbst  
Colleen Thayer

**Recording Secretary**

Debby Weeks

Approved summaries from previous meetings can be found on the District's Web site at ([www.WaterMatters.org](http://www.WaterMatters.org)).

*The numbers preceding the items below correspond to the order of presentation.*

**1. Call to Order and Introductions**

AAC Chair Mac Carraway called the meeting to order. He welcomed members, staff, and interested persons and asked for member introductions.

**2. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda**

Ms. Lou Kavouras, Board & Executive Services Bureau Chief, stated that there were no deletions or additions to the agenda.

**3. Approval of the GIAC/AAC/FARMS Joint Committee Minutes of December 6, 2012**

Following consideration, the Committee approved the summary of the December 6, 2012 meeting.

**4. FARMS Work Group – Contract Agreements**

Mr. Eric DeHaven, Natural Systems and Restoration Bureau Chief, presented a background of the Facilitating Agricultural Resource Management Systems (FARMS) contract issue, as this was the third meeting in a series of meetings to discuss the FARMS contracts. Revisions were made to the contract template used by FARMS based on feedback received at previous meetings of this

group. He hopes to be using the contract form very soon. Mr. Dehaven thanked the group for all their assistance. He reiterated the District's high commitment to the Farms program. He indicated that all the contracts going forward will have the same language except contracts for frost cloth. The District is working on that language with the strawberry growers. They will be working with the Strawberry Growers Association mainly. Contract language regarding standby quantities were discussed as well as 20-year water use permits for permittees participating in FARMS. Committee members asked questions regarding maintenance of older projects and Water Use Caution Area (WUCA) issues. Ms. Laura Donaldson, General Counsel, addressed the questions. There was a discussion of Consumptive Use Permitting Consistency (CUPcon) and what rules will be addressed through that rulemaking process. The Committee was interested in meeting dates and notices for future CUPcon meetings. Mr. Rich Budell, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, stated that he has been working on FARMS contract language with Ms. Donaldson and he is satisfied that they have found middle ground. Mr. DeHaven provided a summary on the cost/benefit determination in the FARMS rule. Advisory Committee members were satisfied but felt it needed to be written in a rule or in a Governing Board policy or procedure. The Committee members were asked to provide Mr. DeHaven any additional information as soon as possible and the District will move forward with the new contract template.

**5. Numeric Nutrient Criteria Update**

Ms. Veronica Craw, Springs and Environmental Flows Section Manager, provided a timeline beginning with the Earthjustice lawsuit in August 2008 and ending with promulgation of the Phase II rule (estuaries and coasts) by September 2013. She provided a brief summary of the activities to date, discussing significant actions, challenges, and impacts. She described the content of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) 2012 rule, which is still under challenge, and listed the types of water bodies affected, which exclude estuaries of the Springs Coast and the East Coast region. She reported that significant actions occurred this past November. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was denied an extension for its draft rules, EPA conditionally approved DEP's rule, and EPA amended its 2009 determination indicating that downstream protective values were not necessary. EPA also clarified the basis of stream criteria for waters not covered in the DEP rule, and proposed marine and estuarine criteria using DEP's values. In January, EPA's request to delay the effective date for Phase I (lakes and springs) was denied. Ms. Craw described the details relative to these actions and reviewed the upcoming schedule. Webinars and information sessions are scheduled during the month of January. She said EPA's approval is contingent upon several actions including the withdrawal of EPA's rule. She answered questions about nutrient loads from rivers and streams passing through other states.

**6. Dover/Plant City Water Use Caution Area Status Report**

Mr. Darrin Herbst, Water Use Permitting Bureau Chief, reminded the Committee members that the WUCA was created following 2010 freeze events. Current conditions are stable, and he reviewed the fluctuations in water levels during a typical year. Water levels dropped as expected during crop establishment in October and rebounded slowly. He compared 18-month water levels, and said conditions are good at this time and answered questions about well construction compliance, sinkholes and success measures.

**7. Development of Agenda Topics for the March 14, 2013 Meeting**

- An update of the Numeric Nutrient Criteria is requested.
- The next regular joint meeting of the Green Industry/Agricultural Advisory Committees is scheduled for 9 a.m. on March 14, 2013, at the District's Tampa Service Office.

**8. Announcements or Other Business**

There were none.

**9. Adjournment**

There being no further discussions, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.