

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Tom Mirti, Deputy Executive Director, Water and Land Resources

DATE: August 31, 2019

RE: Authorization to Enter into an Agreement with the Florida Forest Service to Accept Grant Funding for Prescribed Fire and Roller-Chopping Work on the Mallory Swamp Tract

RECOMMENDATIONS:

**Staff recommends the Governing Board authorize the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with the Florida Forest Service to accept \$100,000 in grant funds for prescribed fire and roller-chopping work on the Mallory Swamp Tract.**

BACKGROUND

The Florida Forest Service Prescribed Fire Enhancement Program provides grant funding to cooperators for various vegetation restoration/management projects. Funding can be used for activities such as mechanical vegetation treatments and prescribed fire. Under this agreement, grant funding will be used for prescribed burning and roller chopping on the Mallory Swamp Tract to help meet vegetative restoration and management goals, as well as to protect against the damaging effects of wildfire.

This program is designed to reimburse the District for the cost of roller chopping and burning after the work has been completed. Funding to make the initial payment for this work is included in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2019-2020 Tentative Budget under code 13-2586-3-3100-02-06 and is contingent upon approval of the final FY 2019-2020 budget. All work will be completed and reimbursed by the end of FY 2020.

SG/pf