

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Matthew Cantrell, Project Manager, Office of Agriculture and Environmental Projects

THRU: Steve Minnis, Deputy Executive Director, Business and Community Services

DATE: July 3, 2020

RE: Contract to Provide Cost-Share Funding to Frank Quincey, Levy County

**RECOMMENDATION**

Authorize Executive Director to enter into contract with Frank Quincey in the amount not to exceed \$59,700

**BACKGROUND**

The District has provided agricultural cost-share funds along with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) as part of the Suwannee River Partnership (SRP) to help agricultural producers implement Best Management Practices (BMPs). These BMPs help farmers conserve water and improve water quality in the District.

The District's Agricultural Cost-Share Program has been supported through funding from the District, FDEP, and FDACS over time. In Fiscal Year 2011-2012 (FY 2012), the Governing Board allocated \$6 million dollars to the program. Since FY 2012, approximately 71% of District funds have been spent and obligated through contracts with agricultural producers. In conjunction with Agricultural related FDEP Springs Grants this has resulted in approximately 13.47 million gallons per day of water conserved and 775,680 pounds of Nitrogen reduced.

At the November 2019 Governing Board meeting, the Board authorized the Executive Director to execute an agreement with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) for pivot retrofits to improve irrigation efficiency and reduce groundwater pumping for an amount totaling \$500,400.

This cost share project is with Frank Quincey located in Levy County. The producer proposes to install one weather station, two GPS end-gun shutoffs, two controller panels, two remote controls, one portable fertigation system, two stationary fertigation systems, and retrofit two center pivots. This will increase the producer's management of irrigation events and nutrient applications and increase the efficiency of the producer's center pivot system.

The upgrades to these irrigation systems are expected to reduce water use by approximately 85,000 gallons per day at a cost to the District of \$0.13 per thousand gallons over the estimated life of the equipment. The fertigation equipment is expected to prevent 17,340 pounds of nitrogen from being leached at a cost to the District of \$0.12 per pound over the estimated life of the equipment. This project is located within the Suwannee River Basin Management Action Plan Area, the Western Water Supply Planning Area, and the Fanning-Manatee Priority Focus Area.