

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Patrick Webster, Chief, Office of Agriculture and Environmental Projects

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

DATE: October 2, 2020

RE: Agreements with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to Receive Springs Grant Funds and to Enter into Cooperative Agreements

RECOMMENDATION

Authorize the Executive Director to enter into agreements with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to receive Springs Grant Funds and to enter into agreements with the appropriate entities to implement the projects.

BACKGROUND

On June 29, 2020, Governor DeSantis signed the “Bolder, Brighter, and Better Future” state budget, which includes an investment of \$50 million for springs protection.

District staff collaborated with local governments and interested stakeholders throughout the 15-county area and invited them to submit spring protection and restoration project concepts. At the April 14, 2020 Governing Board meeting, the Board approved on the consent agenda for District staff to submit 12 projects to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) for Springs Grant Funding consideration.

On September 18, 2020 FDEP informed the District that it will receive over \$3.7 million in state Springs Grant Funding for five new projects and \$7.5 million for two multi-year commitment projects.

Attached is a list of the projects approved for Springs Grant Funding. The District or the FDEP will enter into agreements on the projects listed in the attached spreadsheet. Funding for these projects is included in the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 final budget.

PW/tm
Attachment