

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 30, 2020

RE: Contracts for Regional Initiative Valuing Environmental Resources Cost-Share Program

RECOMMENDATION

Authorize the Executive Director to enter into agreements with the appropriate entities for the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Regional Initiative Valuing Environmental Resources Cost-Share Program to implement the projects.

BACKGROUND

The Governing Board final budget includes funding for Regional Initiative Valuing Environmental Resources (RIVER) projects that enhance or address the District's water supply, water quality, flood protection and/or natural systems responsibilities. This funding is consistent with sections 373.703 and 373.705, Florida Statutes (F.S.), which state that water management districts may provide assistance to local governments, regional water supply authorities, and water utilities. The funding awarded in prior years has facilitated the District mission and achieved improvements to the infrastructure, economy, and public health of communities throughout the District.

Since 2013, the District has funded 74 projects, reducing over 8,000 pounds of nutrients, conserving 0.5 million gallons of water, protecting over 50,000 acres from flood protection, and restoring five acres of natural systems.

Applications submitted to the District through June 16, 2020 were considered for the 2020 RIVER funding cycle. Staff recommends dispersing a total of the \$512,000 for four projects. Attached is a list of the proposed recipients and proposed funding amounts, a map showing the recommended project locations and a brief description of project submittals recommended for the Calendar Year 2020 RIVER Cost-Share Program.

Funding for this recommendation is included in the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Final Budget and will be funded under budget codes 53-6-930-7-2201-00-00, 53-6-930-7-2202-00-00, 53-6-930-7-2300-00-00, and 53-6-930-7-2400-00-00.

PW/tm
Attachments