

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Lands Committee

FROM: Stephen Schroeder, Chief, Office of Administration

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

DATE: October 28, 2020

RE: Detailed Assessment and Negotiations for a Fee Acquisition of the Crosby Lake Parcel, Bradford County

**RECOMMENDATION**

Staff requests the Lands Committee recommend to the Governing Board to authorize staff to enter into detailed assessment and negotiations for the acquisition of a 1,380 +/- acre parcel located in Bradford County and authorize staff to present the final proposed acquisition, related project plans and contracts directly to the Governing Board.

**BACKGROUND**

The District received an offer to purchase the fee interest in a 1,380 +/- acre parcel of real estate in Bradford County from Mr. Avery Roberts. The parcel is partially adjacent to Crosby Lake. The offer proposes a price of \$2,900 per acre to be determined by an appraisal and the offeror has also confirmed that a conservation easement would be considered in lieu of a fee purchase.

Staff continues to assess the parcel for potential projects to include alternative water supply projects and anticipates having a proposal before the end of November 2020. Further, staff believes that some partnership with Bradford County will be necessary to address concerns with a canal that crosses the parcel and connects Crosby Lake to Lake Sampson. The parcel contains 200 +/- acres of riverine surface waters, 810 +/- acres are within the 100-year floodplain, is within the Eastern Water Supply Planning Area and the Santa Fe Basin Management Action Plan.

Staff is recommending that the District conduct detailed assessments and enter into negotiations with the offeror and Bradford County while proceeding with conceptual project development options.

Because the final acquisition will include project plans and a contractual arrangement with another governmental entity, staff requests that the Lands Committee authorize the final proposal to be submitted directly to the Governing Board.

The acquisition has the potential to exceed \$1,000,000, and therefore it was submitted for review by the Executive Office of the Governor through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection pursuant to the Governor's Memo #12-019. On October 30, 2020, the District received approval to proceed as submitted.

The offer, an e-mail refining the offering price, triage summary map and a parcel assessment are attached.

SCS/rl  
Attachments  
File #2020-011