

**AGENDA REQUEST FOR
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
April 14, 2020**

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

THROUGH: Ann B. Shortelle, Ph.D.
Executive Director

FROM: Michael A. Register, Director
Division of Water Supply Planning and Assessment

SUBJECT: Authorization of Projects for the Silver Springs Agricultural Best Management Practice Cost Share

RECOMMENDATION

Approval of the ranking and authorization for the Executive Director to execute contracts for the Silver Springs Agricultural Best Management Practice (BMP) Cost Share Program with a cumulative dollar amount not to exceed \$113,501 and the related budget transfer.

Project Name: Silver Springs Agricultural BMP Cost Share Program

Initiative: Agricultural Partnership

Contractor: Multiple

Amount: \$113,501

Implementation: Project completion by September 30, 2021

Total Silver Springs Ag BMP Cost Share Funds Available: \$782,973

BACKGROUND

The Silver Springs Agricultural BMP Cost Share Program is a joint collaboration between St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). The program began in FY 2017-18 with the SJRWMD and FDEP providing a total of \$1,413,336 in funding split 50/50. Of that amount, \$782,973 is remaining. The purpose of the cost share is to assist farmers and growers in conserving water and reducing nutrient loading to the Silver Springs Springshed; thereby assuring the sustainability of agriculture within the region, while addressing the Silver Springs Minimum Flow Prevention Strategy and Silver Springs Basin Management Action Plan.

Applications were received March 20, 2020 and ranked by SJRWMD staff using the FDEP Springs Guidance Document. Preference was given to those projects that provide the greatest environmental benefit and the most favorable return on state investment. The cost share provides up to 75% of the project costs, not to exceed \$500,000 for the engineering, design, construction, and implementation costs of the project. Awardees are expected to cover project maintenance costs for the life of the project. Applicants agree to modify their Consumptive Use Permits as applicable and designate the water resource as the receiving entity of any excess benefit up to a maximum of the percentage of funding provided to the applicant.

DISCUSSION

The SJRWMD received three applications for cost share assistance in this program. One project ranked too low to be recommended for funding. The two remaining projects are being recommended for funding and are listed below in rank order.

Applicant	Total Project Amount \$	Applicant Share \$	SJRWMD Cost \$
Lochloosa Creek Farms	13,534	3,384	10,150
Southern Grace Berries	137,802	34,451	103,351
Totals	151,336	37,835	113,501

Staff recommends approval of the ranking for the Silver Springs Agricultural BMP Cost Share projects and authorization for the Executive Director to execute contracts with a cumulative total not to exceed \$113,501 and the related budget transfer.
