

Suwannee River Water Management District

Governing Board Materials

Executive Office

The following materials have been reviewed and approved for distribution to the Governing Board and the public.

Director of Governmental Affairs

Assistant Executive Director

Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Charlie Houder, Assistant Executive Director

DATE: May 25, 2011

RE: Staff Legal Counsel

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Governing Board approve the list of qualified firms, authorize the Executive Director to execute an agreement with each of the listed firms, and authorize expenditures for a total amount not-to-exceed \$150,000.00.

BACKGROUND

Staff has reviewed the qualifications of the firms that requested to be considered for staff legal counsel. All of the firms were judged to be well qualified although the range of expertise and other capabilities varied significantly. In the opinion of your senior staff, the most prudent course is to engage all of the firms and to make assignments based on factors including:

- Experience in the particular specialty needed,
- Expected total cost,
- Availability of counsel, and in some instances,
- Proximity to the District or the subject of the work.

The not-to-exceed amount reflects the amount remaining in the legal services budgets of the departments and the Executive Office, minus an amount expected to be needed to compensate Governing Board Counsel. Staff will provide the Governing Board with a monthly report of legal expenses so that members can monitor the use of these services. I anticipate returning to the Governing Board in October with an initial assessment of this arrangement and a recommendation for the 2011-2012 fiscal year.

CH

List of Firms Qualified for Staff Legal Services

Firm	Lead Attorney	Location
Brannon Brown Haley & Bullock, P.A.	William J. Haley	Lake City
Bryant Miller Olive, P.A.	Christopher Roe	Tallahassee
The Chase Firm	Jennifer L. Winegardner	Tallahassee
Marcy I. LaHart	Marcy I. LaHart	Gainesville
Lindsey B. Lander	Lindsey B. Lander	Cross City
McGee & Mason, P.A.	Carole Joy Barice	Brooksville
Prevatt Law Firm, P.L.	James W. Prevatt, Jr.	Live Oak
Robinson, Kennon & Kendron, P.A.	Bruce W. Robinson	Lake City
Springfield Law, P.A.	Jennifer B. Springfield	Gainesville

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: David Still, Executive Director
Charlie Houder, Asst. Executive Director
Steve Minnis, Governmental Affairs Director

DATE: May 26, 2011

RE: Activity Report, Executive Office

The following is a brief summary of Executive Office activities during the past month for David Still, Charlie Houder, and Steve Minnis.

David:

- Met with Secretary Herschel Vinyard of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.
- Met with Taylor County regarding hunting and fishing issues.
- Met with staff concerning the agreement with the St. Johns River Water Management District concerning water supply.
- Participated in meetings concerning the land acquisition of the Andrews tract.
- Met with the Florida Cattlemen's Association to discuss water policy.
- Participated in the Lake City Chamber of Commerce Legislative Breakfast.

Charlie:

- Attended the Dixie and Taylor Counties Board of County Commissioners meetings to discuss hunting on public lands.
- Attended the Advisory Board meeting for the School of Forest Resources and Conservation at Austin Cary Memorial Forest.
- Attended the meeting for the Suwannee Chapter of the Society of American Foresters in Clyattville, Georgia.
- Coordinated individual meetings with all shortlisted legal firms for staff.

Steve:

- Participated on the Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) conference call.
- Attended the 2011 Regular Legislative Session.
- Coordinated the legislative participation in the educational tour of the Suwannee River with the District's Governing Board.
- Visited the City of Monticello to confirm completion of the Monticello Reuse Project.