

**Environmental Advisory Committee
July 11, 2017**

Presentation

Review of Revised Annutteliga Hammock Surplus Strategy Guiding Principles

The purpose of this item is to receive comments on proposed guiding principles (shown below) that will be used to develop revisions to the current Annutteliga Hammock Surplus Strategy. A copy of the current strategy is attached.

Annutteliga Hammock is a 31,250-acre partnership acquisition project of the Florida Forever program, of which 12,231 acres have been acquired to date. The intent of the project is to provide for water quality protection of Chassahowitzka Springs and serve as a natural linkage between the Chassahowitzka Wildlife Management Area and Withlacoochee State Forest.

The Annutteliga Hammock Strategy (Strategy) was approved at the May 2015 Governing Board meeting. The Strategy recommendations identified parcels for surplus and retention, defined areas for consolidation, authorized staff to initiate changes to Florida Statutes 373.089 to allow the District to sell parcels valued under \$25,000 to adjacent owners prior to open sales, to develop special provisions for larger surplus parcels, coordinate with acquisition partners, Hernando County and Public Affairs Bureau, combine smaller parcels to reduce impacts caused by septic tanks and to initiate the surplus activities.

To date the areas for surplus and retention have been defined, Florida Statute 373.089 has been revised, special provisions for larger parcels have been developed and the parcels are listed for sale with the District's real estate broker. Coordination with acquisition partners, Hernando County and Public Affairs Bureau has occurred. The next steps, per the existing strategy, are to combine smaller parcels to reduce impacts potentially using a restrictive covenant, initiate trade with adjacent land owners and initiate sale of smaller parcels on the open market.

On January 24, 2017, a meeting was held with the Operations, Lands, and Resource Monitoring Committee (Committee). It was determined by the Committee that considering the increased emphasis on springs protection, and the environmental value of limiting septic tanks in the Chassahowitzka springshed, the Committee requested staff to review the Strategy and, with the Governing Board's concurrence, to continue to work with the Committee to revise the strategy to include guiding principles, priorities and an implementation plan, and return to the Governing Board this summer with the revised strategy for the Board's consideration. Staff has revised the Strategy's guiding principles and is requesting the Environmental Advisory Committee's comments.

Proposed Guiding Principles

- a. Reduce the District's ownership and associated management responsibilities of surplus residential parcel
- b. Improve the resource benefits of the District's property ownership
- c. Prioritize surplus methods that do not add additional septic tanks to the Chassahowitzka springshed
- d. Minimize, to the greatest extent possible, the addition of nutrients to the Chassahowitzka springshed
- e. Protect the investments of existing property owners
- f. Maintain alignment with the FDEP Basin Management Action Plan for Chassahowitzka springs
- g. Maintain alignment with the District's Chassahowitzka River Surface Water Improvement Plan
- h. Maintain alignment with the FDEP and District's Springs initiatives
- i. Regularly evaluate implementation plan to develop efficiencies to complete the project

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