

Office of Agricultural Water Policy Update

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**Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS)
Office of Agricultural Water Policy (OAWP)**

April 2017



FDACS - OAWP

- New Director – Steve Dwinell
- New Responsibilities – Water Bill
- Current Financial Status - \$50 + M Budget



What does the FDACS – OAWP do?

- Maintains a Best Management Practices Program for Non-Point Source Agriculture
- Delivers Cost share funding to Agricultural Producers
- Participates in the development of the agriculture section of Basin Management Action Plans
- Advocates for Agriculture
- Central Florida Water Initiative
- Coordinates with SWCDs and AFCD



FDACS – OAWP Program Growth

- From 8 to 50 Full-time Staff
 - From 3 to 27 in Tallahassee
 - From 6 to 23 Field Staff Statewide
- 18 Field Technicians Statewide
- 2 Financial Assistants
- From \$1 M to a Budget of \$50 M



How the OAWP can assist Soil and Water Conservation Districts

- Monitor Legislative Activities
- Contracting with SWCDs for Services
- Building Capacity in additional SWCDs
- Building Capacity in AFCD



SWCD Capacity Building

- **Assist SWCDs with maintaining a full board of supervisors**
- **Assist SWCDs with compliance Issues**
- **Contract with additional SWCDs to deliver services**
- **Strengthen and Utilize AFCD to Assist with SWCD Capacity Building**



FDACS Contracts with SWCDs

- FDACS/OAWP has contracts with 19 SWCDs
 - Cost share Delivery to Agricultural Producers - \$25.4 M
 - Technician Services - \$1.2 M
 - Mobile Irrigation Lab Services - 1.0 M



FDACS' Contract with AFCD Provides:

- Two Full-time Staff
- Office Equipment and Furniture
- Travel Funds for the Staff
- Maintaining a list of SWCDs, Supervisors and District Staff
- Assistance to SWCDs with Reporting Requirements and the Special District Program
- Supervisor Training Along With OAWP
- Website Design and Hosting
- Advertising SWCD meeting Schedules Annually



How Soil and Water Conservation Districts Can Assist the OAWP

- Stay compliant with paying fees and filing reports
- Provide information to Agricultural Producers
- Deliver services for the OAWP
- FDACS/OAWP has contracts with 19 SWCDs
 - Delivery of Cost share to Agricultural Producers
 - Technician Services
 - Mobile Irrigation Lab Services
- Help Build Capacity in additional SWCDs



Questions?



Thank you!

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