

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Governing Board Members

FROM: Stephen M. Collins, Real Estate & Land Management

DATE: March 10, 2022

SUBJECT: J & E Cattle Company, LLC, Cattle Grazing Lease, Glades County

Agenda Item Background:

The District currently leases 2,467.77 acres for cattle grazing located in the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project footprint in Glades County. This lease requires low-density grazing of one animal unit per six acres. This lease to J & E Cattle Company, LLC, was assumed by the District when the property was acquired from Pomcor-458 Acres LLC, Indian Prairie Groves, Inc., Sixty Nine Ranch, Inc. and J.F. Ranch, Inc., on May 10, 2006. The lease was amended several times and is set to expire on May 9, 2022. The District and the Lessee wish to extend the term of the lease by five years. As part of this extension, the use of fertilizer is prohibited, and the Lessee will be required to optimize water storage under the District's Dispersed Water Management Program. The lease has a provision for termination by the District for convenience of 180 days. The approximate annual revenue is \$51,300.

Core Mission and Strategic Priorities:

Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project area in Glades County. The District currently leases 2,467.77 acres to J & E Cattle Company, LLC, for cattle grazing. This lease was assumed by the District when the property was acquired from Pomcor-458 Acres LLC, Indian Prairie Groves, Inc., Sixty Nine Ranch, Inc. and J.F. Ranch, Inc., on May 10, 2006.

This lease was amended several times and is set to expire on May 9, 2022. The District and the Lessee wish to extend the term of the lease by five years as is typical for grazing leases located on project lands. This lease requires low-density grazing of one animal unit per six acres. As part of this extension, the use of fertilizer is prohibited, and the Lessee will be required to optimize water storage under the District's Dispersed Water Management Program. The lessee is required to adhere to stringent Best Management Practices for cattle grazing and comply with the District's land management requirements. All leased lands are inspected on a semi-annual basis. The lease has a provision for termination by the District for convenience of 180 days. The annual rent is based on the Cattle Grazing Formula provided for in the District's Real Estate Leasing Policy. The approximate annual revenue is \$51,300.

The objective of this Lease is to obtain assistance in the stewardship and maintenance of this land by utilizing beef cattle grazing as a tool in the maintenance of pastures and native range and provide revenue for the maintenance and management of District lands. The revenues generated from these leases will assist Land Management in managing these and other District-owned lands.

Funding Source:

There are no District costs associated with this item other than the cost of administering the lease. The Lease is estimated to bring in anticipated revenue of approximately \$256,500 over the five-year term.

Staff Contact and/or Presenter:

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ATTACHMENTS:

[Resolution 2022-0302](#)

[Exhibit A](#)