



Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee

**Tuesday, February 4, 2014
12:30 PM
Reed Hall (102 HOB)**

ACTION REPORT

COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT
Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee
2/4/2014 12:30:00PM

Location: Reed Hall (102 HOB)

Summary: No Bills Considered

Committee meeting was reported out: Tuesday, February 04, 2014 3:19:34PM

COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT
Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee
2/4/2014 12:30:00PM

Location: Reed Hall (102 HOB)

Attendance:

	<i>Present</i>	<i>Absent</i>	<i>Excused</i>
Matthew Caldwell (Chair)	X		
Halsey Beshears	X		
Jim Boyd	X		
Katie Edwards	X		
Tom Goodson	X		
Larry Lee, Jr.	X		
Cary Pigman	X		
Ray Pilon	X		
Elizabeth Porter	X		
Kevin Rader	X		
Betty Reed	X		
Patrick Rooney, Jr.	X		
Clovis Watson, Jr.	X		
Totals:	13	0	0

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COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT
Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee

2/4/2014 12:30:00PM

Location: Reed Hall (102 HOB)

Presentation/Workshop/Other Business Appearances:

Facilitating Agricultural Resource Management Systems (FARMS)

DeHaven, Eric - Bureau Chief, Natural Systems & Restoration (State Employee) (At Request Of Chair) - Information Only

Southwest FL Water Management District

2379 Broad St.

Brooksville Florida 34604

Phone: 800-423-1476

Facilitating Agricultural Resource Management Systems (FARMS)

Calhoun, Butch (Lobbyist) - Information Only

Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association

119 South Monroe St.

Tallahassee Florida 32301

Phone: 850-521-0455

Implementation of Numeric Nutrient

Bartlett, Drew - Deputy Secretary, Water Policy and Eco Restoration (State Employee) (At Request Of Chair) - Information Only

FL Department of Environmental Protection

3900 Commonwealth Blvd.

Tallahassee Florida 32399

Phone: 850-245-2092

Water Storage Projects on Privately Owned Land

Guillory, Blake, Executive Director (Lobbyist) (State Employee) (At Request Of Chair) - Information Only

South Florida Water Management District

3301 Gun Club Rd.

West Palm Beach Florida 33406

Phone: 561-686-8800

Water Storage Projects on Privately Owned Land

Cullen, David (Lobbyist) - Information Only

Sierra Club Florida

1674 University Pky #296

Sarasota Florida 34243

Phone: 941-323-2404

Water Storage Projects on Privately Owned Land

Bowman, Janet (Lobbyist) - Information Only

Nature Conservancy, The

625 N Adams St

Tallahassee Florida 32301

Phone: 850-251-9406

Water Storage Projects on Privately Owned Land

Draper, Eric, Executive Director (Lobbyist) - Information Only

Audubon of Florida

308 North Monroe St.

Tallahassee Florida 32301

Phone: 850-251-1301

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COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT
Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee

2/4/2014 12:30:00PM

Location: Reed Hall (102 HOB)

Presentation/Workshop/Other Business Appearances: (continued)

Water Storage Projects on Privately Owned Land
Matthews, Frank (Lobbyist) - Information Only
Association of Florida Community Developers, Inc
PO Box 6526
Tallahassee Florida 32301
Phone: 850-222-7500

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Audubon Florida recommends the Florida Legislature expand partnerships with landowners to store water and protect lands in the Northern Everglades through the following:

Dispersed Water Management and Water Farming – This program contracts with agricultural landowners to store and treat water on private lands. Initiated as the Florida Ranchlands Environmental Services Project (FRESP) with 8 pilot projects demonstrating initial success, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) began scaling up efforts and has gone through a series of project solicitations. SFWMD has also contracted for one large project (Nicodemus Slough), a shallow reservoir storing more than 30,000 acre feet of water drawn from Lake Okeechobee. Audubon recommends an engineering reconnaissance study and cost-benefit analysis by SFWMD to identify need, locations and projected financing for Dispersed Water Management and Water Farming projects.

Property Tax Relief for Water Retention Lands – Audubon supports SB 312 to extend green belt tax relief to agricultural land owners who use private land in agency approved beneficial water resource programs.

Rural and Family Lands Protection Act (RFLP) programs – This program of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) acquires conservation easements to keep lands in permanent agriculture. Audubon proposed the 2001 legislation creating the RFLP. Audubon supported the FY13 \$11.5 appropriation for RFLP, and recommends \$25 million appropriations for 2014. Audubon also supports Florida Forever projects in the Lake Okeechobee watershed.