

TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES

155 F Road Loxahatchee Groves, FL 33470



AGENDA MEMO

TO: Town Council of Town of Loxahatchee Groves

FROM: Francine Ramaglia, Town Manager

DATE: May 21, 2024

SUBJECT: Discussion on Water Use Policy

Background:

Attached is a draft "Land Development Permit Application" that has been modified to include an Agricultural Water Use section for permitting. The edits and additions are highlighted in yellow and are recommended by Keith Jackson with Engenuity.

We and our engineers met with SFWMD (see attached meeting summary), and after that meeting Keith's opinion was that we can simplify continue our procedure for permitting of "dependent secondary users" (as recognized in our Master SFWMD Water Use permit). These permits would generally be for purposes of surface water withdrawals for agricultural and residential irrigation, fire protection and stabilization of pervious surfaces. Water consumption will remain a well production process, as it is now.

The revised form has an added section for the water use fee – \$250 application and \$2,000 escrow (Total \$2,250, similar to the standard FDA application fees). Water Use permits would be for a 5-year term and renewable if conditions remain unchanged.

The formula for the Agricultural Water Use Permit is located (also highlighted in yellow) at the end of the Land Development permit application/forms. This application covers all the engineering submittal information necessary for reviewing the water use application, including the Modified Blaney-Criddle calculation spreadsheet.

The Town intends to proceed with the attached revisions to the site development application reviewing water use concurrent with the FDA review, the Town has identified numerous historical "straws" and other unpermitted pipes using water from our system. We intend to send a courtesy letter out to all of the identified locations with a revised short form application to submit along

with stated fee of \$250 by a date certain. While we are in process of drafting and adopting a more tailored policy for the Town to adopt, we are essentially doing what SFWMD does for water use permits in light of the project information, calculations, and ensuring site plans are specific to needs for irrigation and stabilization (i.e. sand ring moisture control) as well as providing for compliance with the Master permit.

Recommendation: Receive and File.