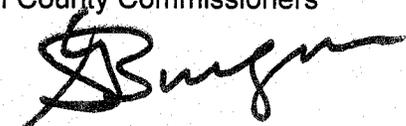


# Memorandum

MIAMI-DADE  
COUNTY

**Date:** February 13, 2007

**To:** Honorable Chairman Bruno A. Barreiro  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

**From:** George M. Burgess  
County Manager 

**Subject:** Resolution Approving Appointments of Five Replacement Members to the Agricultural Practices Study Advisory Board

GOE  
Agenda Item No. 2(Q)

## RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners appoint the following persons to fill seats on the Agriculture Practices Study Advisory Board (APSAB):

- John DeMott to fill the South Dade Soil and Water Conservation District seat as recommended by the South Dade Soil and Water Conservation District (SDSWCD);
- Danny Helms to fill the first of two vegetable industry seats as recommended by the Dade County Farm Bureau;
- Jorge Abreu to fill the second of the two nursery industry representative seats as recommended by the Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association (FNGLA);
- Robert Thompson to fill the farm labor representative seat as recommended by the Coalition of Florida Farm Worker Organizations (COFFO);
- Peter Schnebly to fill the first of two fruit crop industry seats as recommended by the Tropical Fruit Growers of South Florida.

## BACKGROUND

The APSAB consists of thirteen members representing a variety of agricultural industries. The terms for the current members representing the SDSWCD, the Dade County Farm Bureau, FNGLA, COFFO and the Tropical Fruit Growers of South Florida all expired on December 31, 2006. The Code of Miami-Dade County, Section 2-932, requires that the Board of County Commissioners appoint representatives to fill vacancies occurring on the board. These seats will each have a term of three years, ending December 2009, with the option to reappoint for a second term. Each of the above nominating organizations is required to submit resumes of two qualified individuals to represent their industry on the APSAB, and are encouraged to recommend the member they wish to have appointed as representative.

- South Dade Soil and Water Conservation District:

Mr. John DeMott and Mr. Cooper McMillan were selected to represent the SDSWCD.

Mr. Cooper McMillan graduated from the University of Florida with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture and is currently owner and operator of his family's farm.

Mr. John DeMott graduated from the University of Florida with a Bachelor of Science in Animal Biology as well as a second Bachelor of Science in Environmental Horticulture. Mr. DeMott has been the owner and operator of Redland Nursery Inc. since 1972. ***The SDSWCD recommends the appointment of Mr. John DeMott.***

- Dade County Farm Bureau:

Mr. Danny Helms and Mr. Sam Accursio were selected to represent the Dade County Farm Bureau.

Mr. Sam Accursio is the owner and operator of Sam S. Accursio and Sons Farms, Inc., and is also a member of the Vegetable Advisory Committee.

Mr. Danny Helms graduated from the University of Florida with a Bachelor of Science in Finance and Banking. Mr. Helms is currently the General Manager of Torbert Farms, one of Miami-Dade County's largest agribusiness operations, where he oversees over a thousand acres of vegetable row crops. ***The Dade County Farm Bureau recommends the appointment of Mr. Danny Helms.***

- Florida Nursery, Growers & Landscape Association:

Mr. Jorge Abreu and Mr. Barney Rutzke were selected to represent FNGLA.

Mr. Barney Rutzke is the owner of Rail Road Nursery and his family has been farming in the Homestead area since 1909.

Mr. Jorge Abreu graduated from the University of Florida with a Bachelor of Science in Animal Biology as well as a second Bachelor of Science in Environmental Horticulture. Mr. Abreu is currently the president and owner of West Kendall Nursery. ***The FNGLA recommends the appointment of Mr. Jorge Abreu.***

- Coalition of Florida Farm Worker Organizations:

Mr. Robert Thompson and Mr. Arturo Lopez were selected to represent COFFO.

Mr. Arturo Lopez is currently the Executive Director of the Coalition of Florida Farmworker Organizations, Inc. and was the former director of the Illinois Migrant Council.

Mr. Robert Thompson is currently a full time volunteer at the Coalition of Florida Farmworker Organizations, Inc. and is a retired Miami-Dade County employee. Mr. Thompson formerly worked in the Department of Human Services where he was employed as a Community Relations Program Officer and as a Contracting Officer. ***The COFFO recommends the appointment of Mr. Robert Thompson.***

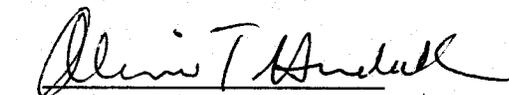
- Tropical Fruit Growers of South Florida:

Mr. Peter Schnebly and Mr. Forest Gordon were selected to represent the Tropical Fruit Growers of South Florida

Mr. Forrest Gordon is a graduate of Farmingdale University and is the owner and operator of Penfor Grove. Mr. Gordon is also an underwater inspector for Underwater Specialties Inc.

Mr. Peter Schnebly graduated from the University of Binghamton with both a Bachelor's and Master's in Business Administration. Mr. Schnebly is currently the co-owner of both Fresh King Farms Inc. and the Schnebly Redland Winery. ***The Tropical Fruit Growers of South Florida recommends the appointment of Mr. Peter Schnebly.***

The resumes of these individuals are each attached. After reviewing the qualifications of these nominees and considering the recommendations of the SDSWC, the Dade County Farm Bureau, FNGLA, COFFO and the Tropical Fruit Growers of South Florida, I am recommending Mr. John DeMott as the SDSWC representative, Mr. Danny Helms as the vegetable industry representative, Mr. Jorge Abreu for the nursery industry representative, Mr. Robert Thompson for the farm labor representative and Mr. Peter Schnebly as the fruit crop industry representative.

  
Assistant County Manager

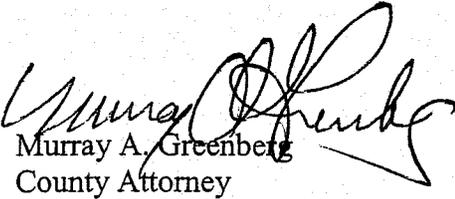


# MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

**TO:** Honorable Chairman Bruno A. Barreiro  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

**DATE:** March 6, 2007

**FROM:**   
Murray A. Greenberg  
County Attorney

**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item No.

Please note any items checked.

- "4-Day Rule" ("3-Day Rule" for committees) applicable if raised
- 6 weeks required between first reading and public hearing
- 4 weeks notification to municipal officials required prior to public hearing
- Decreases revenues or increases expenditures without balancing budget
- Budget required
- Statement of fiscal impact required
- Bid waiver requiring County Manager's written recommendation
- Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Manager's report for public hearing
- Housekeeping item (no policy decision required)
- No committee review

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Mayor  
Veto \_\_\_\_\_  
Override \_\_\_\_\_

Agenda Item No.

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE  
APPOINTMENT OF FIVE REPLACEMENT  
MEMBERS TO THE AGRICULTURE  
PRACTICES STUDY ADVISORY BOARD

WHEREAS, Sections 2-931, 2-932 and 2-933 of the Code of Miami-Dade County provide for the creation, composition, terms, purpose, and duties of the Agricultural Practices Study Advisory Board (APSAB); and

WHEREAS, a vacancy of the South Dade Soil & Water Conservation District representative seat exists on the APSAB; and

WHEREAS, a vacancy for the first of the two vegetable industry representative seats exists on the APSAB; and

WHEREAS, a vacancy for the first of the two nursery industry representative seats exists on the APSAB; and

WHEREAS, a vacancy for the farm labor representative seat exists on the APSAB; and

WHEREAS, a vacancy of the first seat for the fruit crop industry representative exists on the APSAB; and

WHEREAS, Section 2-932 of the Code of Miami-Dade County directs that vacancies on the APSAB are to be filled by the Board of County Commissioners from a slate of nominees selected by the County Manager; and

WHEREAS, the County Manager recommends the appointment of Mr. DeMott to represent the South Dade Soil & Water Conservation District, Mr. Helms to represent the vegetable industry, Mr. Jorge Abreu for the nursery industry

representative, Mr. Robert Thompson for the farm labor representative and Mr. Schnebly to represent the fruit crop industry.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that Mr. DeMott representing the South Dade Soil & Water Conservation District, Mr. Helms representing the vegetable industry, Mr. Jorge Abreu representing the nursery industry, Mr. Robert Thompson representing farm labor and Mr. Peter Schnebly representing the fruit crop industry, are hereby appointed to the Agricultural Practices Study Advisory Board for a three year term to expire on December 31, 2009

The foregoing resolution was offered by Commissioner  
who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner  
and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Bruno A. Barreiro, Chairman	
Barbara J. Jordan, Vice-Chairwoman	
Jose "Pepe" Diaz	Audrey M. Edmonson
Carlos A. Gimenez	Sally A. Heyman
Joe A. Martinez	Dennis C. Moss
Dorrin D. Rolle	Natacha Seijas
Katy Sorenson	Rebeca Sosa
Sen. Javier D. Souto	

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 6<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2007. This resolution shall become effective ten (10) days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
BY ITS BOARD OF  
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

HARVEY RUVIN, CLERK

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as  
to form and legal sufficiency.

  
\_\_\_\_\_



**South Dade Soil & Water Conservation District**  
**1450 N. Krome Ave., Suite 104**  
**Florida City, FL 33034**

[www.southdadeswcd.org](http://www.southdadeswcd.org)

Phone: (305) 242-1288

Fax: (305) 242-1292

September 20, 2006

Britton Wilson, APSAB Coordinator  
Department of Planning & Zoning  
111 N. 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Suite 1210  
Miami, FL 33128

Dear Coordinator Wilson:

The enclosed resolution by the South Dade Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors requests approval of John DeMott as its representative on the Agricultural Practices Study Advisory Board to replace Colleen Boggs whose two three-year terms have expired.

Mr. DeMott looks forward to representing local agricultural interests on the APSAB. A copy of his resume' is provided herewith.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Morgan I. Levy".

Morgan I. Levy, Administrator

Cc: Charles LaPradd, Ag Manager, M-D County



**South Dade Soil & Water Conservation District  
1450 N. Krome Ave., Suite 104  
Florida City, FL 33034**

www.southdadeswcd.org

Phone: (305) 242-1288

Fax: (305) 242-1292

**RESOLUTION**

**ORIGINAL**

WHEREAS: Miami-Dade County has established the Agricultural Practices Study Advisory Board (APSAB) in 1995 to study and make recommendations pertaining to the regulation of agriculture in Miami-Dade County.

WHEREAS: The South Dade Soil and Water Conservation District, a non-profit, governmental subdivision of the State of Florida, has been effectively working with the agricultural community of Miami-Dade County since 1982 to promote and enhance local agriculture and its concerns for the environmental issues associated with good stewardship of agricultural practices in Miami-Dade County.

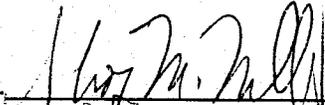
WHEREAS: The South Dade Soil and Water Conservation District has had a representative on the APSAB since the APSAB was organized.

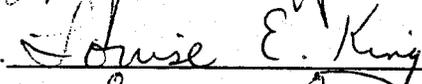
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the South Dade Soil and Water Conservation District (SDSWCD) Board of Supervisors submits the name of John DeMott, a SDSWCD Supervisor, in accordance with Article LXVII Code of Ordinances, to serve for a three (3) year term on the APSAB to the Department of Planning and Zoning for approval by the County Manager. Mr. DeMott is recommended as the replacement for Colleen Boggs who has successfully completed two three-year terms.

The SDSWCD Board of Supervisors requests that the county manager approve John DeMott for service on the APSAB.

Resolution Approved unanimously at the regularly scheduled meeting of the SDSWCD Board of Supervisors, September 20, 2006.

Cooper S. McMillan, III, Chairman..... 

Louise King, Secretary..... 

Dr. Tom Davenport, Treasurer..... 

Dr. Kati Magliaccio..... ABSENT

John DeMott..... abstained

**VI RESOLUTION - AG PRACTICES ADVISORY BOARD CANDIDATE**

Katie makes a motion to present John DeMott to the Mayor as the SDSWCD member of the Ag Practices Advisory Board, whose term would run from January 1, 2007 until December 31, 2009. Tom seconds the motion, all aye.

*Action Taken: Morgan Levy, SDSWCD Administrator, will write a letter to the Miami-Dade County Department of Planning and Zoning recommending Mr. DeMott to represent the SDSWCD on the Ag Practices Advisory Board.*

**VII NACD MEMBERSHIP FEE**

Invoice presented for FY 2006-07 NACD membership, expected to be 1% of budget. Cooper suggests a \$200 donation this year, to enforce our commitment.

*Action Taken: \$200 will be sent to the National Assoc. of Conservation Districts this year, doubling our last year's contribution.*

**Next meeting scheduled for September 20, 2006.**

**Meeting Adjourned at 11:40 a.m. by Chairman McMillan.**

## Profile

DOB April, 1948, Larchmont NY

Moved to South Florida 1951

St. Brendan grade school Miami, through 7<sup>th</sup> grade

Redland Jr. High School

South Dade High graduating in 1966

## Professional Accomplishments

### Aerospace

- Commercial Pilot License

### Agriculture

- Redland Nursery Inc. Est. 1972 -
- Alpha Foliage Inc. Est. 1981 -
- 2B Farms Inc. Est. 1985
- Keys Foliage 1979
- Florida Keys Botanical Center Inc. Est. 2004
- Tropical Treasures Inc. Est. 1987
- Greenland Nursery Est. 2002
- Zone10 Inc. Est. 1996
- East Glade Tropical Est. 1982
- FNGLA Seed-bank Est. 1997 [Http://www.botanicalauctions.com](http://www.botanicalauctions.com)
- Helped Defeat Flora Board (A marketing order, they still get their funding from our industry via. bond money placed on selective buyers of horticulture products.)
- Past President of the Dade County Chapter of the Florida Nursery and Growers Association. 1980
- VP of Friends of Chapman Field (grass roots organization that helped keep this ARS station from closure and becoming part of, or another, Dearing Bay Yacht and Country Club) 1996

### Family

- Married to Carol DeMott since 1970
- Children Jeff, Jennifer
- Both engaged
- Both in Collage

## Work History

Watercraft operator

US Army

1970-1972

Ft. Rucker Alabama, Fort Eustis

<b>Firefighter</b>	Virginia, Eglin Air force Base Florida,	1972- 2000
<b>Ornamental Horticulture</b>	Miami Dade County, Florida Dade County	1970-present

**Education**

<b>AA in Aerospace (Burnies' Bombers)</b>	Dade Community Collage, South Miami, Fla.	1969
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## Cooper McMillan's resume

### Education

South Dade High School

Miami Community College – A.A. 1979

University of Florida B.S. Agriculture – 1984 major- fruit  
crops

### Work Experience

Grew up on the family farm that I currently manage

Ag. Salesman for S&M Farm Supply Inc. 1983-85

Crop Production manager for SunFresh Farms 1985-87

Farming on my own since 1987

### Community Activities

Founding member and past chairman of Miami-Dade Ag.  
Practices Committee (retired)

Farm Service Agency committee member

Chairman of South Dade Soil and Water Conservation  
District

**Dade County Farm Bureau  
Board of Directors Meeting  
November 07, 2006**

Larry Dunagan called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

**Directors Present:** Sam Accursio, Mercedes Cantillo, Larry Dunagan, Robert Epling, Sal Finocchiaro, John Frederick, Steve Hoveland, Bill Losner, David Kaplan, Phil Marraccini, Robbie Martens, Robert Moehling, Alice Pena, John Sanchez, Bobby Shekels, Neal Spencer, Sandy Stein, Carolann Swanson and Erik Tietig.

**Directors Absent:** John Alger, Ivonne Alexander, Robbie Bishop, Michael Borek, Teena Borek, Colleen Boggs, Kern Carpenter, Angela DelliVeneri, Arturo de Leon, Jim Husk, Bobby Lee, Robert McMillan, Steve Sapp, Peter Schnebly, Jane Spurling, Vito Strano, Leo Talarico and Mark Wilson.

**Others Present:** Scott Andress, Ron Dorris, Charles La Pradd, Don Stringer, Charles Shinn and Ray Timmons.

**Staff Present:** Katie Edwards and Debbie Brady

**Presentations:** Scott Andress of the Ag Patrol updated the board on recent arrests and new law regarding ATVs.

Don Stringer of the Miami Dade Fire Department provided information on burn permits.

Architect, Ron Dorris presented board with a preliminary draft proposal of a new office building. Proposal included suggestions to upgrade current property and zoning issues that need to be further defined by county and state agencies.

Charles La Pradd, Miami Dade County Ag Manager discussed the results of the labor symposium to be well received. Miami Dade County Planning and Zoning had recently toured the agricultural area with Charles and he will be meeting with them to discuss more issues that the community has with the departments.

**President's Report:** Larry Dunagan commented on the town hall meeting that was held at South Dade High School with Commissioner Dennis Moss. The event was a success. Dunagan thanked the board members who attended the labor symposium. Dunagan also asked the board if they had any announcements or concerns to please contact Katie one week prior to have your item placed on the agenda.

**Secretary's Report:** John Fredrick moved that the October 2006 minutes be approved as mailed; seconded by Carolann Swanson. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** John Sanchez moved that the report for September 2006 financials be approved as presented; seconded by Erik Tietig. Motion carried.

**Executive Director's Report:** (See enclosed Executive Director's report).

**Agency Manager's Report:** Ray Timmons reported that Richard White was promoted to Assistant Sales Manager for FFB. Insurance Agent, Dawn Baird, is first in the state of Florida and second in the southeast United States in sales.

**Watershed Study and Plan Report:** John Frederick encouraged the board and others with agricultural interests to attend meeting on November 9 at the Deering Estate. Map of Trust for Public Land has been completed.

**New Business:** A vacancy on the Ag Practices Board is being posted. Two candidates were selected by the board, Danny Helms and Sam Accursio. Bill Losner moved to nominate Danny Helms and Sam Accursio to be submitted; seconded by Steve Hoveland. Motion carried.

American Red Cross has selected Paul DiMare as Humanitarian of the year. Sam Accursio moved that Farm Bureau participate as a sponsor for \$3,000.00; seconded by John Sanchez. Motion carried.

**Announcements:**

The Political Action Committee will be hosting a fundraiser for Commissioner Natacha Seijas on November 17.

Farm City Week will be November 17 - November 22 and will promote awareness of South Dade Agriculture. Presentations and book readings will take place at four area elementary schools.

The Holiday Party will be held at Capri on December 10.

Charles Shinn of Florida Farm Bureau announced that the deadline for public ruling on TMDL's is November 30. He asked that the president send a letter to extend the public comment period.

Alice Pena announced that more information needs to be obtained regarding wetlands issues.

South Florida Water Management Water Use Permit applications deadline is February 28, 2007.

The next meeting is scheduled on Tuesday, December 5 at 11:45 am.

With no further business to discuss John Fredrick moved that the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Sam Accursio.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Robbie Martens  
Secretary

# **DANNY HELMS**

27501 SW 166 Avenue, Homestead, FL 33031  
Office (305) 242-8899      Mobile (786) 255-3981

## **OCCUPATION**

General Manager, Torbert Farms, Florida City, Florida  
(2005-Present)

- Oversee vegetable row crop production of over 1,000 acres in Miami-Dade County

## **EDUCATION**

University of Florida, B.S. in Finance & Banking  
Florida International University, Post-Graduate Courses in Financial Management

## **INVOLVEMENT**

Dade County Farm Bureau, Member, Past Director  
Miami-Dade County Cooperative Extension Vegetable Advisory Committee, Member  
Farm Share, Director

## **BACKGROUND**

- Family has been directly involved in agricultural production for the past ten generations
- Owned and operated B&D Farms from 1972-1996
- Family has farmed in Miami-Dade County since 1933

## **PERSONAL**

Father of three children, Jennifer, Kristen and John  
Grandfather of two children  
Member of St. John's Episcopal Church in Homestead

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# SAM ACCURSIO

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P.O. Box 901767, Homestead, FL 33090  
Phone: (305) 246-3455 E-mail: samaccursio@bellsouth.net

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**EDUCATION** Colonial Christian High School 1978-1982

**EXPERIENCE** Owner/Operator of Sam S. Accursio and Sons Farms, Inc.

**PROFESSIONAL** Dade County Farm Bureau, Board of Directors  
2nd Vice-President, 2007  
Vegetable Advisory Committee, Miami Date County Cooperative  
Extension Service

**HOBBIES** Fishing and hunting

RECEIVED

NOV 30 2006

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY  
DEPT. OF PLANNING & ZONING  
METROPOLITAN PLANNING SECTION

BY \_\_\_\_\_



FLORIDA NURSERY, GROWERS and LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION

October 13, 2006

Ms Britton Wilson  
Dept. of Planning & Zoning  
Stephen P. Clark Center  
111 N.W. 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Ste. 1210  
Miami, Fl 33128-1902

Dear Ms Wilson,

In response to your department's request for a candidate to succeed Mr. Bullis on the Agricultural Practices Study Advisory Board we offer the County two candidates. The first is Mr. Jorge Abreu. He is the president and owner of West Kendall Nursery and his resume is attached to this letter. Mr. Abreu also serves as a director for the Miami-Dade Chapter Florida Nursery, Growers & Landscape Association, and he is our preferred choice. Our second candidate is Mr. Barney Rutzke of the Railroad Nursery. Mr. Rutzke also serves on our board of directors, and his resume is included as well.

The meeting minutes of August 8, 2006 have been included with this letter as evidence to our board's decision regarding the nomination of these two candidates. Please make the necessary arrangements for one these two nominees to be presented the Board of County Commissioners for confirmation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Erik Tietig'.

Erik Tietig, President

CC: Colleen Boggs

DADE CHAPTER

18710 S.W. 288th Street, Room 38 • Homestead, Florida 33030

Tel. 305-248-1117 • Fax 305-245-9992

www.nursery-report.com • nreport@bellsouth.net

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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
AUGUST 8, 2006**

**THOSE IN ATTENDANCE:** Erik Tietig, Sandy Stein, Racey Timmons, Douglas Miller, Peter Hew, Bill Hunt, Barney Rutzke, Ivonne Alexander, Marcello Siqueira, Jorge Abreu, and Jane Spurling

**ABSENT:** Dan Hodson and Lisa Greer

**Ex Officio:** Charles LaPradd

**Staff:** Kathryn Walters

**Guest:** Jerry Frye, Dean Richardson, Ray Rafie, Henry Mayer and Don Pybas

Jerry Frye spoke for Dean Richardson about the upcoming Grades and Standards Seminar in Broward on September 20<sup>th</sup> at the Research Station. He felt that the inspectors were not clear on the usage of the Grades and Standards as applied to trees in South Florida. He stated that a large segment of the agricultural industry is tree farms. He would like to establish a tropical tree conference, much like to Southern Tree Conference. This conference could be tied in with the HPX 2007. He stressed the importance of tree inspectors to be knowledgeable about the tropical trees. Dr Gillman, who wrote the document on Grades and Standards, will be speaking at this seminar. It will begin at 10:00am, lunch will be provided and the afternoon will be field exercises. Jerry asked Dade Chapter FNGLA to give \$500 to help sponsor this event. He will also ask other chapters and the inspectors to help contribute to the cost of this event

President Erik told them we will discuss giving the money and call them with our decision.

Don Pybas told us that Henry Mayer can hold seminars on this subject as he is an accredited inspector as well as a horticulturist. Bill Hunt complimented Ray on his last seminar. He said that it was one of the best ever given.

**ITEM #1 CALL TO ORDER**

Erik called the meeting to order at 6:00PM.

**ITEM #2 APROVAL OF MINUTES**

Jane reported the figure for the FNGLA State budget was incorrect. The figures should be 3.5 Million and asked BOD to correct their copies. Bill made the motion to approve the amended July minutes, Peter seconded and all approved.

**ITEM #3 PRESIDENT'S REMARKS**

**ITEM #4 TREASURER'S REPORT**

No report at this time.

**ITEM #5 STATE REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

Sandy reported that at the next State meeting they would address the 3% annual dues increase. He is leaving it open to see what the State strategic campaign for membership would be for this year. He is asking Dan Hodson and Ronnie Issenberg to form a committee with him to increase membership as much as 600, Ivonne, Erik and Marcello will help with this project. Bill stated that we now have around 382 total active members.

**ITEM #6 COMMITTEES**

**DINNER**

Doug stated that the August meeting will be a Integrated Pest Management Program at Redland Country Club. Dr. Ron Mossman of Miami Dade College will be explaining the accredited landscape program that will start in the Fall.

There will be no meeting in September because of FNATS.

The October meeting will honor landscapers, designers and architects.

**BUDGET AND FINANCE**

No report at this time.

**MEMBERSHIP**

Discussed above.

**WATERSHED UPDATE**

Jane stated that the INLOC Committee will meet at IFAS on October 3<sup>rd</sup> to hear concerns. We encourage everyone to attend so that they know the importance of our recommendations. FNGLA needs to inform the membership via fax and e-mail of our concerns. A draft of the South Miami Dade Watershed Implementation Strategies was sent earlier to BOD for review and for comments.

**BACKWATER FISHING TOURNAMENT**

Erik stated the committee had a preliminary conference earlier in the afternoon. Gary Bird of bwi Companies has already contributed \$4000 toward scholarships.

**ITEM #7 UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**State Dues Increase**

Sandy will vote as our BOD directed.

**Farm Bill Recommendation**

Charles LaPradd presented Farm Bill Recommendations that he received from the growers of Miami-Dade County. Florida and California are states which have specialty crops that have not been provided for in previous years. Each year commodities have gone to only five crops (wheat, rice, corn, soybeans and upland cotton). He and his committee will present their recommendations to the Department of Agriculture.

#### **Golf Tournament**

Racey will meet Redland County Club to make arrangements.

#### **ITEM #8 NEW BUSINESS**

##### **Selection two Ag Practice Representatives:**

After discussion about two candidates, Ivonne made the motion to nominate Jorge Abreu or Barney Rutzke to represent the Dade Chapter of the FNGLA on the Ag Practices Board, with Jorge Abreu as our preferred candidate. Sandy seconded the motion and all approved.

Erik asked Jorge and Barney to prepare their resumes for submission.

##### **JLUS Update**

Charles and Jane will make a list of nurseries that will be affected by the Air Force Base fly zones and letters will be sent to inform them of the new regulations.

##### **Dade Chapter FNGLA Survey**

Marcello will add the comments that he received to this survey and distribute at next month's BOD meeting for further discussion. Sandy distributed the Farm Bureau Survey and asked BOD to review.

#### **ITEM #9 ADJOURN**

Bill made the motion to adjourn, Racey seconded and all approved. The meeting was adjourned at 7:12PM.

# Jorge Abreu

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## Experience

2000 to present West Kendall Nursery, Inc. Miami, FL  
**President/Owner**

- Increased production area from 6 acres to 17 acres.
- Increased varieties of plants by 20% to clientele.
- 95% of material is grown from cuttings or liners to increase revenue.

1997-2000 Webster Veterinary Pharmaceutical Miami, FL  
**Regional Sales Manager**

- Increased regional sales to Hispanic doctors.
- Managed 200+ accounts in Miami-Dade County.
- Trained staff members to increase clinic revenue with products.

1995-1997 Sears Gainesville, FL  
**Assistant Hardware Sales Manager**

- Increased sales by 50% with team members.
- Increased lost sales by managing inventory.

## Education

2000-2002 University of Florida Homestead, FL

- B.S. in Environmental Horticulture.
- First graduate from program.

1991-1997 University of Florida Gainesville, FL

- B.S. in Animal Biology.

1982-1998 Belen Jesuit Prep School Miami, FL

## Activities

CARET (Council for Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching) delegate for the University of Florida, Director for FNGLA Miami-Dade Chapter.

10/10/2006

**Barney W. Rutzke Jr.**

17855 SW 248 Street Homestead, Florida 33031 Office: 305-245-4595  
Fax: 305-248-5938  
Email: Railroad Nursery@AOL.com

**Experience/History:** My family has been farming in the Homestead area since 1909. I went to work on the family farm part time during my high school years, then full time after graduation. We grew a variety of Tropical fruits and tomatoes on some 600 acres.

In 1992 hurricane Andrew hit and devastated most of our groves. We spent the next 9 years trying to rebuild and replant our groves.

In 2001 we started our container nursery on 40 acres. We have since grown to 90 acres and are continuing to expand.

We still operate some of our groves, but on a much smaller scale.

Over the years I have served on several industry related boards such as: The Tropical Fruit growers Association, The Florida Avocado and Lime Committees and am now a Director for the FNGLA.



FLORIDA NURSERY, GROWERS and LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION

October 13, 2006

Ms Britton Wilson  
Dept. of Planning & Zoning  
Stephen P. Clark Center  
111 N.W. 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Ste. 1210  
Miami, Fl 33128-1902

Dear Ms Wilson,

In response to your department's request for a candidate to succeed Mr. Bullis on the Agricultural Practices Study Advisory Board we offer the County two candidates. The first is Mr. Jorge Abreu. He is the president and owner of West Kendall Nursery and his resume is attached to this letter. Mr. Abreu also serves as a director for the Miami-Dade Chapter Florida Nursery, Growers & Landscape Association, and he is our preferred choice. Our second candidate is Mr. Barney Rutzke of the Railroad Nursery. Mr. Rutzke also serves on our board of directors, and his resume is included as well.

The meeting minutes of August 8, 2006 have been included with this letter as evidence to our board's decision regarding the nomination of these two candidates. Please make the necessary arrangements for one these two nominees to be presented the Board of County Commissioners for confirmation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erik Tietig". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Erik Tietig, President

CC: Colleen Boggs

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
AUGUST 8, 2006**

**THOSE IN ATTENDANCE:** Erik Tietig, Sandy Stein, Racey Timmons, Douglas Miller, Peter Hew, Bill Hunt, Barney Rutzke, Ivonne Alexander, Marcello Siqueira, Jorge Abreu, and Jane Spurling

**ABSENT:** Dan Hodson and Lisa Greer

**Ex Officio:** Charles LaPradd

**Staff:** Kathryn Walters

**Guest:** Jerry Frye, Dean Richardson, Ray Rafie, Henry Mayer and Don Pybas

Jerry Frye spoke for Dean Richardson about the upcoming Grades and Standards Seminar in Broward on September 20<sup>th</sup> at the Research Station. He felt that the inspectors were not clear on the usage of the Grades and Standards as applied to trees in South Florida. He stated that a large segment of the agricultural industry is tree farms. He would like to establish a tropical tree conference, much like to Southern Tree Conference. This conference could be tied in with the HPX 2007. He stressed the importance of tree inspectors to be knowledgeable about the tropical trees. Dr Gillman, who wrote the document on Grades and Standards, will be speaking at this seminar. It will begin at 10:00am, lunch will be provided and the afternoon will be field exercises. Jerry asked Dade Chapter FNGLA to give \$500 to help sponsor this event. He will also ask other chapters and the inspectors to help contribute to the cost of this event

President Erik told them we will discuss giving the money and call them with our decision.

Don Pybas told us that Henry Mayer can hold seminars on this subject as he is an accredited inspector as well as a horticulturist. Bill Hunt complimented Ray on his last seminar. He said that it was one of the best ever given.

**ITEM #1 CALL TO ORDER**

Erik called the meeting to order at 6:00PM.

**ITEM #2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Jane reported the figure for the FNGLA State budget was incorrect. The figures should be 3.5 Million and asked BOD to correct their copies. Bill made the motion to approve the amended July minutes, Peter seconded and all approved.

**ITEM #3 PRESIDENT'S REMARKS**

**ITEM #4 TREASURER'S REPORT**

No report at this time.

**ITEM #5 STATE REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

Sandy reported that at the next State meeting they would address the 3% annual dues increase. He is leaving it open to see what the State strategic campaign for membership would be for this year. He is asking Dan Hodson and Ronnie Issenberg to form a committee with him to increase membership as much as 600, Ivonne, Erik and Marcello will help with this project. Bill stated that we now have around 382 total active members.

**ITEM #6 COMMITTEES**

**DINNER**

Doug stated that the August meeting will be a Integrated Pest Management Program at Redland Country Club. Dr. Ron Mossman of Miami Dade College will be explaining the accredited landscape program that will start in the Fall.

There will be no meeting in September because of FNATS.

The October meeting will honor landscapers, designers and architects.

**BUDGET AND FINANCE**

No report at this time.

**MEMBERSHIP**

Discussed above.

**WATERSHED UPDATE**

Jane stated that the INLOC Committee will meet at IFAS on October 3<sup>rd</sup> to hear concerns. We encourage everyone to attend so that they know the importance of our recommendations. FNGLA needs to inform the membership via fax and e-mail of our concerns. A draft of the South Miami Dade Watershed Implementation Strategies was sent earlier to BOD for review and for comments.

**BACKWATER FISHING TOURNAMENT**

Erik stated the committee had a preliminary conference earlier in the afternoon. Gary Bird of bwi Companies has already contributed \$4000 toward scholarships.

**ITEM #7 UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**State Dues Increase**

Sandy will vote as our BOD directed.

**Farm Bill Recommendation**

Charles LaPradd presented Farm Bill Recommendations that he received from the growers of Miami-Dade County. Florida and California are states which have specialty crops that have not been provided for in previous years. Each year commodities have gone to only five crops (wheat, rice, corn, soybeans and upland cotton). He and his committee will present their recommendations to the Department of Agriculture.

### **Golf Tournament**

Racey will meet Redland County Club to make arrangements.

### **ITEM #8 NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Selection two Ag Practice Representatives**

After discussion about two candidates, Ivonne made the motion to nominate Jorge Abreu or Barney Rutzke to represent the Dade Chapter of the FNGLA on the Ag Practices Board, with Jorge Abreu as our preferred candidate. Sandy seconded the motion and all approved.

Erik asked Jorge and Barney to prepare their resumes for submission.

#### **JLUS Update**

Charles and Jane will make a list of nurseries that will be affected by the Air Force Base fly zones and letters will be sent to inform them of the new regulations.

#### **Dade Chapter FNGLA Survey**

Marcello will add the comments that he received to this survey and distribute at next month's BOD meeting for further discussion. Sandy distributed the Farm Bureau Survey and asked BOD to review.

### **ITEM #9 ADJOURN**

Bill made the motion to adjourn, Racey seconded and all approved. The meeting was adjourned at 7:12PM.

# Jorge Abreu

---

## Experience

2000 to present West Kendall Nursery, Inc. Miami, FL  
**President/Owner**

- Increased production area from 6 acres to 17 acres.
- Increased varieties of plants by 20% to clientele.
- 95% of material is grown from cuttings or liners to increase revenue.

1997-2000 Webster Veterinary Pharmaceutical Miami, FL  
**Regional Sales Manager**

- Increased regional sales to Hispanic doctors.
- Managed 200+ accounts in Miami-Dade County.
- Trained staff members to increase clinic revenue with products.

1995-1997 Sears Gainesville, FL  
**Assistant Hardware Sales Manager**

- Increased sales by 50% with team members.
- Increased lost sales by managing inventory.

## Education

2000-2002 University of Florida Homestead, FL  
▪ B.S. in Environmental Horticulture.  
▪ First graduate from program.

1991-1997 University of Florida Gainesville, FL  
▪ B.S. in Animal Biology.

1982-1998 Belen Jesuit Prep School Miami, FL

## Activities

CARET (Council for Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching) delegate for the University of Florida, Director for FNGLA Miami-Dade Chapter.

10/10/2006

**Barney W. Rutzke Jr.**

17855 SW 248 Street Homestead, Florida 33031 Office: 305-245-4595  
Fax: 305-248-5938  
Email: Railroad Nursery@AOL.com

**Experience/History:** My family has been farming in the Homestead area since 1909. I went to work on the family farm part time during my high school years, then full time after graduation. We grew a variety of Tropical fruits and tomatoes on some 600 acres.

In 1992 hurricane Andrew hit and devastated most of our groves. We spent the next 9 years trying to rebuild and replant our groves.

In 2001 we started our container nursery on 40 acres. We have since grown to 90 acres and are continuing to expand.

We still operate some of our groves, but on a much smaller scale.

Over the years I have served on several industry related boards such as: The Tropical Fruit growers Association, The Florida Avocado and Lime Committees and am now a Director for the FNGLA.

**FLORIDA CITY**

Administrative and  
Multi Services  
P.O. Box 344010  
Florida City, FL 33034  
305/246-0357  
Fax: 305/246-2445  
coffo.inc@coffo.org

**HOMESTEAD**

Immigration Project  
21 South Krome Ave.  
Homestead, FL 33030  
305/247-4779  
Fax: 305/242-0701

**IMMOKALEE**

Multi Service Office  
P.O. Box 1969  
Immokalee, FL 34143  
239/657-7272  
Fax: 239/657-6909

**BELLE GLADE**

Satellite Office  
P.O. Box 98  
Belle Glade, FL 33430  
561/992-0603  
Fax: 561/992-8618

**COALITION OF FLORIDA FARMWORKER ORGANIZATIONS, INC.**

November 27, 2006

Britton Wilson  
Metro Planning Department  
Miami Dade County Planning and Zoning  
111 NW 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Suite 1210  
Miami, Florida 33128-1974

Dear Ms. Wilson:

We understand that Mr. Garcia's term on the Agricultural Practice Study Advisory Board expires this year. Enclosed are resumes of the two individuals that the Board of the Coalition of Florida Farmworker Organizations (COFFO) is recommending to take Mr. Santiago's place.

The COFFO board's preference is Mr. Robert Thompson, who is a member of the board and their second choice is yours truly. Please let me know if you need additional information.

Respectfully,

  
Arturo Lopez  
Executive Director

C: COFFO Board



29  
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER





**COFFO**

# COALITION OF FLORIDA FARMWORKER ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

## RESOLUTION

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING Robert Thompson to represent the Coalition of Florida Farmworker Organizations on the Ag Practices Advisory Board.**

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF THE COALITION OF FLORIDA FARMWORKER ORGANIZATIONS, INC., that this Board

Nominates Robert Thompson as its representative on the Ag Practices Advisory Board.

The foregoing resolution was offered by: Pedro Narezo, who Moved its adoption, the motion was seconded by Ana Salazar, and upon being put to vote, the vote was as follows:

**Pedro Narezo, yes; Lupita Estrada, yes; Robert Thompson, yes;**

**Victor Larger, yes.**

Thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this

23rd day of  
June,

<sup>6.</sup>  
Thompson

*intfM/*

By:

**Board Secretary, Robert Thompson**

[corporate seal]

Robert Thompson  
9975 Marlin Road  
Miami, FL 33157

Experience  
Department of Human Services

Contract Officer  
1994-2000

Monitored community based organizations that received county funding and prepared written reports.

Prepared amendments to contracts.

Prepared agreements/contracts to be sent to the community based organizations.

Reviewed all contracts before sending them to the Director.

Acted as supervisor whenever the Director was not present.

Represented the Director at meetings and accompanied her to others.

Reviewed award letters for monetary accuracy.

Supplied technical assistance to CBO's.

Performed site monitoring.

Community Relations Program  
Officer  
1975-1994

Supervised a staff of subordinates engaged in the identification and investigation of community problems and issues that related to the Community Relations Board's function to foster mutual understanding, tolerance and respect among all economic, social, religious and ethnic groups.

Participated with departmental administration in planning goals and objectives as well as the implementations of programmatic activities.

Served as a resource person and professional staff to committees and task force created by the CRB board or director.

Implemented methods and techniques to be used for the establishment of close working relationships with municipal, county, state and federal governmental agencies.

Functioned as a liaison/ombudsman with citizen groups and non-governmental bodies and organizations especially within South Dade.

Robert Thompson

Organized a monthly forum that brought together decision-makers, resource persons, providers and recipients of services at a monthly forum focusing their attention on county-wide issues. (The forum not only involved local resources, but state and federal as well).

Intergroup Relations Officer  
1973-1975

Organized monthly interagency meetings that brought together resources to focus on localized geographical /functional community problems such as complaints, police/community relations, migrant/seasonal farm workers concerns. Supervised the South Dade office and worked with all grassroots organizations in the area.

Administrative Officer I  
1972-1973

Worked as a community outreach person in South Dade. Was a member of the first crisis response team that monitored the Democratic and Republican conventions on Miami Beach.

Other Activities

Consultant to N.B.C. on "Migrant 1980" documentary. This was the sequel to Edward R. Morrows "Harvest of Shame."

Consultant to Inspector General's Office of H.H.S. Washington D.C. on Migrant Affairs.

Consultant to the Office of Special Services of H.H.S. in conducting a survey of services to migrants in the United States.

Consultant for the U.S. Defense Department's Race Relations Institute, helping to design and administer four programs for military personnel in which young men and women in the service visited Miami-Dade County and underwent an intense three (3) day minority experience.

Organized the Coalition of Farm workers Immigration Office to address the concerns of IRCA in 1986.

**Arturo Lopez**  
**14970 S.W. 296 Street**  
**Leisure City, Florida 33033**

**PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**

Twenty years experience in operating federal., state and county sponsored programs under the Department of Labor, Health and Human Services, the Community Services Administration, Community Services Block Grants and Community Development Block Grants.

**PRESENT EMPLOYMENT**

Executive Director  
Coalition of Florida Farmworker Organizations  
778 West Palm Drive  
Florida City, Florida 33034  
(305)246-0357

Responsible for the administration of a statewide Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Organization. Duties include the solicitation and negotiating of contracts and grants for the agency and the grantees with whom it contracts with. Other duties include establishing compliance and monitoring procedures for each grant, insuring that each is audited as required, representing the agency on various issues and committees concerned about farmworkers, recommending policy to the Board and the hiring and supervising of key staff.

**PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT**

1977 - 1985  
Executive Director  
Illinois Migrant Council  
202 South state Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Administered a statewide migrant program and reported to a statewide twenty-seven member Board of Directors. Grants administered were Department of Labor, CETA and JTPA grants; Health and Human Services (formerly HEW) grants; Community Service Block Grants; Women, Infant and Children (WIC) grants; a Joyce Foundation Pesticide Program and several employment and training contracts from Service Delivery Agencies and Private Industry Councils.

Responsibilities included negotiating of the aforementioned grants, recommending policy to the boards of funding sources, responding to and resolving audit differences, reviewing and approving budget and expenditures. Spokesperson for the agency on public relations matters and represents the agency on various advisory committees. Position supervised included: Agency controller, Personnel/EEO Officer, Director of Health Services, Associate Director of Planning and Program Development, Associate Director of Program Operations and an Administrative Assistant.



**Tropical Fruit Growers of South Florida, Inc.**

18710 SW 288 St., Homestead, FL 33030

Telephone: (305) 401- 1502 Fax: (305) 246-2932

Email: [tropicalfruitgrowers@earthlink.net](mailto:tropicalfruitgrowers@earthlink.net) Website: [www.tropicalfruitgrowers.com](http://www.tropicalfruitgrowers.com)

November 16, 2006

**RECEIVED**

NOV 28 2006

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY  
DEPT. OF PLANNING & ZONING  
METROPOLITAN PLANNING SECTION

BY \_\_\_\_\_

Britton Wilson, Senior Planner  
Metropolitan Planning Section  
Miami-Dade County Dept. of Planning & Zoning  
111 NW 1 Street, Suite 1210  
Miami, Florida 33128-1974

Dear Ms. Wilson,

The Tropical Fruit Growers of South Florida, Inc. has selected two candidates for the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners consideration to represent the tropical fruit grower's interests on the Agricultural Practices Study Advisory Board of Miami-Dade County. I have enclosed both candidates' resumes, and the notes from the Tropical Fruit Growers of South Florida, Inc., TFGSF, meeting of October 12, 2006.

Our organizations candidate preference to represent the tropical fruit growers is Mr. Peter Schnebly, of Schnebly Winery.

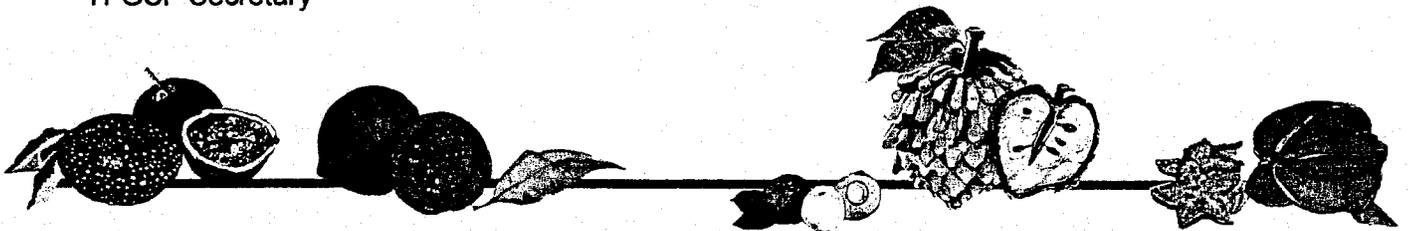
If you need to contact me, I can be reached by phone at (305) 401-1502, or by email at: [www.tropicalfruitgrowers.com](http://www.tropicalfruitgrowers.com)

Thank you.

Sincerely,

*Louise E. King*

Louise E. King  
TFGSF Secretary



# Tropical Fruit Growers of South Florida, Inc.

18710 SW 288 St., Homestead, FL 33030

Telephone: (305) 401- 1502 Fax: (305) 246-2932

Email: [tropicalfruitgrowers@earthlink.net](mailto:tropicalfruitgrowers@earthlink.net) Website: [www.tropicalfruitgrowers.com](http://www.tropicalfruitgrowers.com)

## Board of Directors

### Meeting Notes

October 12, 2006

#### Present

**Directors-** Dewey Steele, Ian Maguire, Erik Tietig, Dave Romney, Sal Santelli, Don Chafin, Harry Miller, Louise King

**Advisors-** Ray Rafie, Jonathan Crane, Carlos Balerdi, Gilley Evans, Sgt. Peacock

**Members & Guests-** Peter Schnebly, David Porter, Martin Dureiko

#### Secretary's Report

Louise presented the September minutes to the Board. No objections. Minutes accepted.

#### Treasurer's Report

Erik presents financial. No objections.

Erik says that we still cannot remove the lychee and longan account funds due to signature problems. Erik asks Louise to go the 1<sup>st</sup> National bank to provide signature.

#### New Business

##### **Ag manager**

There was no report as Charles was home with his new daughter!

##### **Ag Patrol report**

Sgt. Peacock gave the report on crime trends this month.

- Theft of nursery pots is still a problem. Also are seeing thefts of bananas, tractors, and computers lately.
- There were 16 felony arrests last month, and all incidents occurred on properties that displayed the Ag Theft signs. She reminds all growers to display these signs.
- Sgt. Peacock strongly urges all growers to engrave their equipment with their Drivers License number. Contact the Ag Station and they will come out to your grove and engrave the items for you.
- Also, keep any serial numbers from equipment in a file in case the equipment is stolen, and identification numbers are needed.

Action: None

##### **Ag Practices**

Martin Dureiko informs group that the Ag Practices Board discussed Miami-Dade Counties Home Rule Charter, and what the Board of County Commissioners can and can't do under this Charter. Among the things they can do is to write laws that override

state laws, and "to levy and collect taxes". There was a discussion as to whether or not the Storm Water Use tax is allowed or not. They are re-examining the Greenbelt Law to look at taxes. The Greenbelt Law allows for bona fide farming operations to pay fewer taxes, due to the land not needing as many services.

They also discussed zoning designations. There was a proposal from Comm. Dennis Moss that planned to tax farmers to help clean up storm debris. That group felt this would not work. Louise explained the effort made by the South Dade Soil & Water sub-group, ARM (Agricultural Resource Management), to work with the three groups of Ag industries to develop a plan to clean up storm debris.

Martin informed the group that there was another meeting for Oct. 24, 2006. Martin said that many of the sub-committees were not present.

*Action: None*

### **By-Laws**

Louise reviewed the changes that the directors had emailed to her since the September meeting. Those changes were:

1. Change the number of Board members from eleven to nine.
2. Eliminate the Assistant Secretary position
3. Change the total number of officers from five to four.
4. A quorum is now 5.
5. Eliminate phrase that states Board needs approval from General Membership for expenditures greater than \$1,000.

These changes are written in attached document.

Motion: Dave Romney – Move to accept new changes into By-Laws

2<sup>nd</sup>: Louise

Vote: unanimous

*Action: Louise to change By-Law amendments.*

### **Ag Practices rep**

Dewey tells group that two growers have agreed to volunteer to represent TFGSF on the Ag Practices Board. We are to send in two names to the County, with our preference as to whom we want as representative. Those growers are: Peter Schnebly, and Forrest Gordon. Dewey asks Peter to leave the meeting for a moment while the group discusses representatives, and votes.

Group wrote their votes on blank cards. Vote is 5/3 for Peter Schnebly. Peter is now the new TFGSF representatives on the Ag Practices Board.

Dewey reminds Peter to come to the meetings to keep Board informed of issues that are discussed at AG Practices, and to hear from Board of their decisions on these issues. Dewey thanks Martin for his years of work on behalf of TFGSF.

*Action: Louise to send in to the County the two names and TFGSF's preference for AG Practices Board representative.*

### **Promotion Boards for lychee and mamey**

Ray Rafie had set up a conference call with the Directors and William Watson, a consultant for establishing marketing grades and standards, and is president of the National Mango Board. He has help to set up the National Watermelon board. Other industries that have boards are mangos, blueberries, popcorn, peanut, and mushrooms. These boards bring small number of growers (watermelon = 1500–2000 growers) together to promote products. With this small number of growers it is hard to get ads, and programs established, but by joining together they can do more projects.

In the mango board, even though there is not much domestic production, all imported fruit pays into the board to promote mangos, as well as domestic. The program is managed by growers, both importers and domestic. Their board meets once/quarter and build plans to promote product, such as in-store demos, supplemental ads, etc.

Jonathan asks Mr. Watson how a Research & Promotion Board, R & PB, different from Federal Marketing Orders. Mr. Watson explains that the biggest differences between R&PB, and Marketing Orders are:

- R&PB is industry wide, and it tax sales to raise revenue to promote products. No grades or standards are implemented.
- Marketing Orders can be specific to a region, or state, and execute grades and standards.

Jonathan asks how a R&PB is formed, and what is the percentage of growers needed to form a R&PB? Mr. Watson says that the percentage is determined by the growers, within a certain range. Mr. Watson gave an example of the steps you could take to form a R&PB for lychees.

- First, we need to identify that there are enough product representatives/growers that are willing to participate.
- Go to USDA and tell them that 5% of this product is grown in the US, some in Florida, and some in California. the rest is all imported. This industry represents about \$ 30 mil of potential sales /yr. We need to talk to all involved in industry, producers as well as importers. And see if their interest is high enough to be willing to pay a little bit to promote product, say \$.05/lb for every lb sold or imported..
- Once that is determined then USDA will pay attention to you. We can put for example, a limit on acreage or tonnage to constitute if you are a major shipper and then can vote. USDA wants s to know if industry is committed, and if enough of industry volume is represented in that interest.
- Once they get that signal that they have that support, and want to move forward with a R&PB , then they start moving forward with the legislation. There is already legislation established that we can just plug in the commodity, the assessment amount, and the minimum volume. Then you start to build Board of Directors, what is the profile of the directors, how many importers, domestic producers, etc.

- Once this is established it is put into a piece of legislation, then it is put up for comment, and they notify the industry to comment.
- USDA will review the comments, and score them to get a sense that the legislation meets all the demands. The best people to tell them that is us, the industry.
- If enough of the comments are positive, USDA would conduct a referendum of the industry to vote.
- USDA will review the ballots to make sure they are from the industry, and then depending on if the percentage of votes (this was determined already) is met or not, the legislation is passed, and a R&PB is formed. If there are not enough votes, then the R&PB is not formed, and the industry tries other avenues.

Dave Romney asks if grower votes are determined by the number of acres owned by each grower. Mr. Watson says that in all the Boards he has worked on it is one vote/one entity – no acreage limit... He added that there could be flexibility to make a different determination, if desired.

Dewey thanked Mr. Watson, and asked him if the next step is to conduct a survey of the industry. He replied that he has already sent Dewey a list of importers from the Red Book that he has created, and suggested that a survey be conducted asking them of their interest. Mr. Watson company could developed a script of talking points, then they would contact the people on that list, and get a sense if they are interested in pursuing this, or not. If they are not, then it really makes no sense to continue.

Ray thanked Mr. Watson again, and ends the call.

Dewey asks Peter his opinion, as a large grower. Peter Schnebly felt that there isn't much benefit in this for Florida growers, and that in his opinion, there isn't much future for Florida lychees. We would be the minor players Fresh King is marketing their lychees in Florida. Dewey felt that we should do niche marketing.

*Action: None.*

### **Grades & Standards**

Ray Rafie tells group that currently there are no grades and standards for lychee and longan. If growers would adopt these standards, he felt that it would benefit the industry by creating a system of quality control. For example, if you said you sent an order of US grade #1 fruit to a buyer, and the buyer said it was bad, then an inspector would come to inspect the shipment, and use these established grades and standards to determine if in fact that fruit shipment was of US #1 quality. Ray said there would be no cost to the grower for this program, and there would be no enforcement.

Dewey asked of the current CODEX system of standards. Ray replied that CODEX was established by the United Nations, and Ray felt it was not that detailed. Ray replied that USDA works with the growers and packers in the industry to develop this program.

Peter Schnebly said that there is now no set of rules for shippers to use with which to base their claims if a shipment is contested on a quality issue, and he felt that this would be a good tool for our growers. It gives a clear picture of what fruit quality should be. With this set of standards, talks between buyers and shippers have a basis from which to negotiate. Peter suggested that the standards be written in the USDA format.

*Action: Ray to go forward with survey has been conducted, and also to get input from members at the General Membership meeting.*

### **General Membership meeting**

Dewey reminded group that TFGSF's General Membership meeting is scheduled for October 24, 2006 at 7:00 pm.

*Action: None*

### **Fig Fly project**

Jonathan informed group that Dr. Jorge Pena had collected guava and longan samples, exposed them to fig flies, and it appears that fig flies may attack guava and longan. Lychees still need to be tested. Dr. Pena has to verify the species, and determine in what stage of the ripening process does infestation occur. Dr. Balerdi reminds us not to make conclusions yet.

*Action: None*

### **Pest Update**

Carlos has no reports of any new pests, but he states that he has been getting calls of Sri Lanka beetles on lychee, longan, and mango lately.

*Action: None*

### **APHIS/SITC update**

No report.

### **Website Update**

Ian reports that the latest work on the website should be completed very soon. He will have the major changes done by the Oct 24 meeting to present to the membership.

*Action: None.*

### **Meetings & conferences**

Carlos says that he has just returned from the Inter American Society for Tropical Horticulture meeting in Puerto Rico. He said there were many interesting topics discussed at this conference. He visited a huge mango farm, 3,000 acres, mostly Keitt

mangos. They don't want a small mango in England. This may also be transferred to avocados, and may be a marketing opportunity for our US industry. All of this fruit is imported to England. They prune their mango trees up from the ground to lower incidence of anthracnose, and prune severely. Width of trees is about 4'. Height is about 14'. They also make interior cuts to allow light into the canopy.

He also visited a small coffee farm. Quality was poor. They are having labor problems there.

Have avocados with root rot. Have rambutan there, and mamey sapote, but he did not see any groves. Dewey suggested that Carlos write up a report and we could put it on our website Carlos agreed.

#### **Mail**

None.

#### **Last Minute Items**

Peter Schnebly suggests that our industry and area would be helped if we could get some sort of processing operation here, such as a freezing operation, or another winery. He feels there is a great opportunity for that sort of business here, so we can do more with our fruit. Also, agri-tourism should be encouraged as a way to increase farmers income and sustainability.

Dewey explains that Whole Foods has expressed interest in creating a Redland section in their Florida stores.

Louise informs group of the recent effort by TFGSF to stop the proposal in the Federal Register that would allow irradiated Thai lychees, longans, and mangos to enter the US. The deadline for all comments was Sept. 26. We are waiting word on the decision. Dave Romney thanks Louise and others for their work on this issue.

Dewey introduced Dr. Ed "Gilley" Evans to the group and said he has agreed to come to our board as an advisor. Peter Schnebly explained how Dr. Evans has been very supportive of agri-tourism at many meetings in the area.

A brief review of Water permits regulations was held.

Meeting adjourned.

# Peter B. Schnebly

19220 SW 280<sup>th</sup> Street  
Homestead, Florida 33031  
305-246-1617 Home  
305-248-7700 Fresh King  
305-242-1224 Schnebly Redland's Winery  
305-992-2058 Cell Phone  
305-242-1662 Fax Winery

Born: Poughkeepsie New York, September 23, 1961

Married: Wife Denisse Serge, two step-children Mauricio Mejia 29 and Monica Mejia 28, two children with Denisse Kody 10 and Gabriella 6.

## Education:

Graduated High School 1980, Mynderse Academy, Seneca Falls New York.

Cayuga Community College 1980 – 1982 part time

Northeastern University, Boston Ma, 1984-1985 full time Business Administration.  
Transferred to Binghamton University, New York

BS Degree Business Administration – Concentration Marketing, 1985-1988 Binghamton University, Binghamton New York 1988.

MBA Degree - Concentration Marketing, 1988-1989 University of Binghamton, Binghamton New York Jan 1990 finished course work May 1989.

## Work Experience:

1980-1982 Venture Vineyards, Warehouse Manager – Responsibility for receiving, pre-cooling, storing and shipping fresh grapes that were sold to supermarkets around the county. Managed seasonal crews of up to 20 employees.

1982 – 1984 Venture Vineyards, Sales Manager – Responsibility for managing 3 sales people for the sale of grapes grown in the Finger Lakes of New York and shipping them across the U.S. and into Canada. Help grow the company sales from \$500K to \$2M. Resigned to go back to college and get an education.

1989 Chef Italia, Binghamton New York, Director of Marketing – Responsible for all marketing for 18 restaurants located mostly throughout New York State and a Italian food processing plant that produced products for the restaurants and the food industry. Resigned because the company was going backwards and I was brought in to save it and I could not. I wanted to live in Florida and get back into the produce industry.

1990 – 1994 American Stores, Pompano Beach Florida, Produce Buyer in charge of buying produce for 1600 supermarkets owned by American Stores the holding company. The supermarkets owned by the holding company were; Acme Markets, PA, Jewel Foods, Ill, Star Markets, MA, Scaggs Alpha Beta, TX, Lucky Stores, CA. Worked as on man in a two man office that arrange all purchases from growers, arrange trucking and set up ads with the companies. Responsible for buying fresh produce from direct from the growers from Florida all the way up the east coast into Michigan and into to Canada. We would follow the crops up north during the summer and back to Florida for the winter. Resigned to help my new wife start Fresh King Inc.

1994 – Present Co-Owner with Denisse Serge (Wife) Fresh King Inc. Fresh King Inc. is a \$10M to \$12M located in the agriculture area of South Miami-Dade County. Fresh King Inc is a marketing company that represents growers from Florida, Central and South America. We specialize in tropical fruits and gourmet vegetables such as Mangos, Lychees, Longans, Star Fruit, Passion Fruit just to name a few of the fruits. We specialize in sno peas, sugar snaps, French beans, baby vegetables, Indian and Chinese vegetables just to name a few. Fresh King has around 6 full time employees including Denisse and I.

1998 – Present Co-Owner with Denisse Serge (Wife) Fresh King Packing Inc. Fresh King Packing handles around 1M packages for Fresh King Inc. (Marketing Company) and does all the packing, repacking, pre-cooling, handling and shipping for all the growers. Fresh King Packing Inc has seasonally up to 60 employees.

2002 – Present Co-Own with Denisse Serge (Wife) Fresh King Farms Inc. the company farms all 96 acres of farms owned by Denisse Serge and Peter Schnebly plus additional farms that amount to between 50 to 100 acres. Fresh King Farms grows tropical fruits such as; lychees, avocados, mangos, star fruit, guava, longans just to name a few.

2004 – Present Co-Own with Denisse Serge (Wife) Schnebly Redland's Winery makes wine out of the fruits owned by our farms. We employ 12 to 15 employees and make 30,000 gallons of wine a year. We have capacity for 90,000 gallons (37,500cases). Our wine consists of: Lychee, Mango, Guava, Passion Fruit and Carambola (Star Fruit) so far. We sell wine from our retail store, festivals and thru Southern Wine and Spirits.

7/14/2006

**FORREST B. GORDON**  
21695 S.W. 320th St.  
Homestead, Fl. 33030  
Telephone: (305) 246-3999

**R E S U M E**

Professional Experience

**November 2002 - Present**

**Underwater Specialties Inc.**  
**Homestead, Fl.**

Underwater inspection and construction.

**February 1998 - October 2002**

**C - Brand Tropical Inc.**  
**Goulds, Fl.**

Position: Manager

Duties: Duties include: accounts payable, accounts receivable, collections, purchasing, and over-seeing the repair and servicing of packing equipment.

**February 1997 - February 1998**

**Innerspace Research Inc.**  
**Hialeah, Fl.**

Position: General Manager

Duties: Responsible for the day to day operation of the business. Duties include: accounts payable, accounts receivable, collections, purchasing, new business development and over-seeing the repair and servicing of compressors.

**September 1995**

**Penfor Grove**  
**Homestead, Fl.**

Position: Owner

Bought grove and home in Homestead, Fl. Responsible for development of new markets for things that is grown at Penfor Grove.

**FORREST B. GORDON**  
**RESUME**  
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**March 1994 - January 1997**

**BIELER ROOFING SUPPLY**

Position: Fleet and Safety Director

Duties: Responsible for maintaining the fleet and D.O.T. compliance. As Safety Director I was also responsible for compliance with all company safety regulations. Also with insurance, and Federal (OSHA) regulations.

**December 92 - March 94**

Self-Employed worked as **General Contractor** overseeing and working on rebuilding of my home.

**April 1991 - October 92**

**PNEUMATIQUE CRAFT**

Ft. Lauderdale, FL

Position: Senior Boat Technician.

Duties: Responsible for training new employees. Handled repairs of inflatable boats.

**March 1990 - December 1990**

**BROOKLYN NAVY YARD DEVELOPMENT CORP.**

Position: Vice President, Facility/Maintenance.

Duties: Responsible for two departments, Maintenance and Security. Total number of personnel supervised, 100.

**March 1985 - March 1990**

**UNDERWATER INSPECTING & CONTRACTING, INC.**

Position: President and Owner. A minority owned business enterprise, (M.B.E.) certified by the states of New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Virginia and Pennsylvania.

FORREST B. GORDON

RESUME

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1981 - 1985

**INTERNATIONAL UNDERWATER CONTRACTORS**

Position: Diver/Manager.

Duties: Supervised underwater construction, surveys, salvage, inspections and the operations of Remote Operated Vehicles.

**PERSONAL DATA**

Attended Farmingdale University (1968)

Certified Professional Diver

Diving Instructor (Y.M.C.A.)

Remote Operated Vehicle Pilot

Traffic Manager

Honorably Discharged Veteran (U.S.A.F. 1964 - 1967)

Associations and Awards

National Association of Minority Contractors 1985-1990 Board of

Directors 1988-1989 / Regional Director of the Year 1989

Member of the Redland Mac (RAMAC) a Dade County Board

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FORREST B. GORDON  
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Homestead, Fl. 33030  
305-246-3999

PROFILE OF QUALIFICATIONS

- Training Developer
- Crisis Management
- Safety Manual Development
- Budget development
- Contract Negotiation
- Bid Preparation

SELECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**Developed and Implemented** training programs to help employees understand the importance of there jobs to the companies **objectives**. By this training program unit productive was increased by 40%.

**Developed and Implemented** the procedures to put divers in the waters of Greater New York Area in case of an emergency with in one hour of a call. This procedure was used for ship collision with bridges or other ships.

Created and **Wrote** a safety manual for the safe operation and efficiency of the day to day operations of two companies. This manual covered prevention and handling of all types of accidents from fire, electrical, chemical, falls, and other types of hazardous.

**Evaluated** the real needs of two departments and created a budget that would address there concerns. This resulted in a savings to the company and this procedures was adopted by the company for all departments.

**Successfully Negotiated Contracts** with two unions to prevent a work stoppage on a Navy job site where the company was under a time completion contract. Have negotiated strike settlements with labor and management.

As owner of a company I prepared **bids and proposals** that were the main reason for the steady growth of the company. By taking the time to read the plans and talk with the engineers we were able to do this with very few change orders.