Memorandum

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

Date: March 6, 2007

Agenda Item No. 8(N)(1)(A)

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

From: George M. Burgess
County Manager

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

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This item was amended at the Governmental Operations and Environment Committee meeting of February 13, 2007 in order to bifurcate the recommended candidate for the South Dade Soil & Water Conservation District.

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):

- 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.

Scope
The Agricultural Practices Study Advisory Board has a countywide impact.

Fiscal Impact
There is no fiscal impact to the County.

Track Record
This section pertaining to County vendors does not apply.

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.

- 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. 8(N)(1)(A)

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. 8(N)(1)(A)
03-06-07

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF FOUR 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 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. Danny Helms to represent the vegetable industry, Mr. Jorge Abreu for the nursery industry representative, Mr. Robert Thompson for the farm labor representative and Mr. Peter 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. Danny 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 6th 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.
Joni Armstrong-Coffey

FNGLA

FLORIDA NURSERY, GROWERS and LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION

October 13, 2006

Dept. of Planning & Zoning
Stephen P. Clark Center
111 N.W. 1st Street, Ste. 1210
Miami, Fl 33128-1902

RECEIVED
OCT 2 3 2006
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
DEPT. OF PLANNING & ZONING
METROPOLITAN PLANNING SECTION
BY_____

Dear Mr. Britton,

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 August8, 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 to the Board of County Commissioners for confirmation.

Sincerely,

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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DADE CHAPTER FNGLA
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 20th 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
Erik asked each director to introduce themselves. He then asked Don Pybas, Director of IFAS to introduce Henry Mayer and Ray Rafie. Don further stated that they would be filling in for Joe Garfalo until he returns from medical leave.

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 3rd 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 appoint Jorge Abreu and Barney Rutzke to represent the Dade Chapter of the FNGLA on the Ag Practices Board., 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.

10100 SW 177 Ave
Miami, Fl 33196

786-271-4370
westkendallnursery@att.net

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.

10100 SW 177 Ave
Miami, Fl 33196

786-271-4370
westkendallnursery@att.net

Jorge Abreu

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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

COFFO

COALITION OF FLORIDA FARMWORKER ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

November 27, 2006

Britton Wilson
Metro Planning Department
Miami Dade County Planning and Zoning
111 NW 1st 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

MIAMI-DADE
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN & FAMILIES

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, 6. Thompson

intfM/

By:

Board Secretary, Robert Thompson

[corporate seal)

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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.

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 Polictical 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

SAM ACCURSIO

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

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 3 0 2006
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
DEPT. OF PLANNING & ZONING
METROPOLITAN PLANNING SECTION
BY_____

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 Website: www.tropicalfruitgrowers.com

RECEIVED
NOV 28 2006
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
DEPT. OF PLANNING & ZONING
METROPOLITAN PLANNING SECTION
BY_____

November 16, 2006

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

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 Website: 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 1st 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 faming 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
2nd: 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.

Peter B. Schnebly

19220 SW 280th 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.

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

PNEWMATIQUE 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.

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

FORREST B. GORDON
21695 SW 320th St.
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.