Memorandum

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

Date: April 7, 2009

To: Honorable Chairman Dennis C. Moss
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

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

From: George M. Burgess
County Manager

Subject: Agricultural Practices Advisory Board:
Replacement of Members

Recommendation
It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners appoint the following persons to fill seats on the Agricultural Practices Advisory Board (APAB):

- Sam Accursio to fill the first seat of the Vegetable Industry as recommended by the Dade County Farm Bureau (DCFB); and
- Diego Rodriguez to fill the Tropical Fruit Growers seat as recommended by the Tropical Fruit Growers of South Florida and
- Arie DeZwart to fill the Aquaculture Industry seat as recommended by the Ornamental Aquaculture Association of South Florida

Scope
The Agricultural Practices Advisory Board has a countywide impact.

Fiscal Impact/Funding Source
There is no fiscal impact to the County.

Track Record/Monitor
This section does not apply.

Background
The APAB consists of thirteen members representing a variety of agricultural industries. Section 2-935, Code of Miami-Dade County, requires that vacancies occurring on the APAB be filled by the Board of County Commissioners (BCC). By Code, each nominating organization must submit for BCC review a minimum of one nominee for their vacant position(s), the nominee's resume, and the minutes of the organization's meeting at which the nominee was selected. The required documentation for each of the following nominees is attached.

- Dade County Farm Bureau Seat
  Mr. Sam Accursio was selected to represent the DCFB for the Vegetable Industry seat. The previous appointee, Mr. Robert Bishop, resigned from the APAB in September, 2008.

  Mr. Sam Accursio is the owner of Sam S. Accursio and Sons Farms, a vegetable farm in Southern Miami-Dade County that produces squash, beans and pickles. Mr. Accursio has served on various community organizations, including the Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association and the Florida Nursery, Growers & Landscape Association. He has also served on the Miami-Dade County Cooperative Extension Service's Vegetable Advisory Committee and on the DCFB Board of Directors. *The DCFB recommended the appointment of Sam*

Accursio at their November 4, 2008 meeting.

- Tropical Fruit Growers
  Diego Rodriguez was selected to represent the Tropical Fruit Growers of South Florida, Inc. The previous appointee, Mr. Peter Schnebly, resigned from the APAB in June, 2008.

  Mr. Rodriguez has been involved in agriculture throughout his life. Currently Mr. Rodriguez owns and operates a 600 acre farm in Miami-Dade County that grows mostly tropical fruit. Mr. Rodriguez is actively involved in the entire process of tropical fruit production from the planting and growing, to the packing and selling of his avocados, mangos, mamey, and papaya. His packing operation is located at the Farmers' Market in Florida City, Florida. *The Tropical Fruit Growers of South Florida, Inc recommended the appointment of Diego Rodriguez at their September 11, 2008 meeting.*

- Aquaculture Industry Seat
  Mr. Arie DeZwart and Mr. Rick Biro were nominated by the Ornamental Aquaculture Association of South Florida as potential appointees to the APAB. Mr. DeZwart was selected as the Associations choice for the seat. The previous appointee, Mr. Paul Radice, resigned from the APAB in September, 2008.

  Mr. Rick Biro owns and operates Florida Exotic Fish Sales in Homestead. Mr. Biro has served on the Board of the Farm Service Agency (FSA) from 1992-1996, and was also a Board member for the statewide Florida Tropical Fish Farm Association from 1994-1999.

  Mr. Arie DeZwart is the owner of Ruinemans Aquarium Inc. in Miami, Florida and has been operating his tropical fish farm since 1985. Mr. DeZwart served as president for the Ornamental Aquaculture Association of South Florida for four years (2003-2007). Mr. DeZwart has worked with the Dade County Farm Bureau's local President's Council and served on the Board of Directors for the Florida Tropical Fish Farms Association, located in Winter Haven, Florida, since 2005. *The Ornamental Aquaculture Association of South Florida recommended the appointment of Arie DeZwart at their August 6, 2008 meeting.*

Assistant County Manager

MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman Dennis C. Moss and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: April 7, 2009

FROM: R. A. Cuevas, Jr. 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 Mayor'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)
4-7-09

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION APPOINTING THREE MEMBERS TO FILL VACANCIES ON THE AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES ADVISORY BOARD

WHEREAS, Sections 2-931 through 2-936 of the Code of Miami-Dade County provide for the creation, composition, terms, purpose, and duties of the Agricultural Practices Advisory Board (APAB); and

WHEREAS, a vacancy of the first of two Vegetable Industry representative seats exists on the APAB; and

WHEREAS, a vacancy of the first of two Tropical Fruit Growers Industry seats exists on the APAB; and

WHEREAS, a vacancy of the Aquaculture Industry seat exists on the APAB; and

WHEREAS, Section 2-935 of the Code of Miami-Dade County directs that vacancies on the APAB are to be filled by the Board of County Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, Section 2-935 of the Code of Miami-Dade County directs that the designated organization must provide at least one nominee; and

WHEREAS, the County Manager, and the respective nominating organizations, recommend that the Board of County Commissioners appoint Mr. Sam Accursio to represent the Vegetable Industry representative No. 1, Mr. Diego Rodriguez as Tropical Fruit Crop Industry representative No. 1, and Mr. Arie DeZwart as the Aquaculture Industry representative,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that Mr. Sam Accursio, Mr. Diego Rodriguez, and Mr. Arie DeZwart are hereby appointed to the Agricultural Practices Advisory Board for a four-year term to end on December 31, 2012.

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:

Dennis C. Moss, Chairman
Jose "Pepe" Diaz, Vice-Chairman

Bruno A. Barreiro	Audrey M. Edmonson
Carlos A. Gimenez	Sally A. Heyman
Barbara J. Jordan	Joe A. Martinez
Dorrin D. Rolle	Natacha Seijas
Katy Sorenson	Rebeca Sosa
Sen. Javier D. Souto	

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 7th day of April, 2009. 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. AGB

Andrew Boese

DADE COUNTY FARM BUREAU
1850 Old Dixie Hwy., Homestead, FL 33033 • Tel. 305-246-5514 • Fax 305-245-9170

Fresh Florida.

November 5, 2008

Mr. Steve Foren
Coordinator
Agricultural Practices and Studies Advisory Committee
VIA FACSIMILE: (305) 375-2560

Dear Mr. Foren:

The board of directors has asked Sam Accursio to replace Robert Bishop as the Dade County Farm Bureau's representative on the Agricultural Practices and Studies Advisory Committee.

Mr. Accursio is the president of Sam S. Accursio Farms and has three decades of experience in the agribusiness sector. He is knowledgeable of agricultural practices and industry trends. He will surely be an asset to the committee.

Please let me know if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,

Katie A. Edwards
Executive Director

Dade County Farm Bureau
Board of Directors Meeting
November 4, 2008

Directors Present: Ivonne Alexander, John Alger, Kern Carpenter, Arturo DeLeon, Angela DelliVeneri, Larry Dunagan, Bob Epling, John Fredrick, Steve Hoveland, David Kaplan, Bobby Lee, Bill Losner, Phil Marraccini, Bob McMillan, Robert Moehling, Alice Pena, Sandy Stein, Vito Strano, Carolann Swanson, Leo Talarico, Erik Teitig and Mark Wilson

Directors Absent: Robbie Bishop, Colleen Boggs, Teena Borek, Mercedes Cantillo, Sal Finocchiaro, Robbie Martens, John Sanchez, Steve Sapp, Bobby Shekels and Neal Spencer

Others Present: Debbie Brady, Lt. Sheree DiBernardo, Katie Edwards, Daniel Fils-Aime, Sr., Jonathan Freid, Charles LaPradd, Theresa Smith and Eva Webb

President Larry Dunagan called the meeting to order at 11:57 a.m.

Presentations: Lt. DiBernardo of Ag Patrol reported that in the month of October they made 33 arrests, 6 of which were felonies. Diesel fuel thefts top the list and they have identified main culprit. There is presently a warrant out for his arrest. Lt. DiBernaro's best advice to avoid thefts is to send watch orders for equipment that is left out in one central area. She also recommends trying to gauge fuel use each day and pump only what you will use that day. Lt. DiBernardo also reported that there have been some avocado thefts and equipment thefts.

Robert Moehling reported that Jack Tower passed away.

Sandy Stein introduced Jonathan Fried from "We Count" who spoke about a Jitney Route (minibus) through the Redland to protect farmworkers on the road. Cmsr. Sorenson is working on having routes approved for agricultural workers that work in the Redland. Once the routes have been approved, Mr. Fried asked for support from Farm Bureau. Fried introduced Daniel Fils-Aime, Sr. who spoke on how he can provide the transportation service. They have a preset route and the fee is $2.50 per person each way. Discussion ensued.

Charles LaPradd reported on the Planning Advisory meeting regarding ancillary agribusiness. The issue comes before the county commission on November 7. LaPradd also reported on his hosting of the Miami-Dade County Manager at TREC last week.

President's Report: Dunagan reported on the success of State Directors' visit, which included farm tours and dinner at R.F. Orchids.

Dunagan announced that Jim Pierce of Pierce & Bowan will attend the December meeting provide an accountant's review for 2006-2008.

Dunagan asked board members if they would like to participate with staff in the Veterans Day Parade on Tuesday, November 11.

Dunagan reported on the Ros-Lehtinen fundraiser that was well attended and that the fundraiser for Property Appraiser candidate Gwen Margolis was well done.

Dunagan reported on the bean-exchange meeting that revealed that there is not much interest.

Secretary's Report: John Fredrick moved to approve the minutes from the September 2, 2008 board meeting. Dave Kaplan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Alice Pena reported that the property tax bill for 2008 is over $28,000 and that she has initiated the appeal process. Pena reported that thanks to efforts of Farm Bureau staff, there is a $14,000 savings with new staff insurance package. Pena moved that the financial report for October 2008 be approved as mailed. _____ seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Carolann Swanson announced the honorees for the Women in Agriculture Luncheon are Angela DelliVeneri and Joann Speers. The luncheon will be February 13, 2009 at Schnebly's winery.

Executive Director's Report: Edwards provided a written report which is enclosed in the board packets.

Edwards reported that we received a $2,000 grant from Florida Farm Bureau for the new Lifeblood publication.

Mark Wilson reported on the Florida Farm Bureau Annual Meeting. Wilson presented the Award for Excellence in 5 areas from Florida Farm Bureau to President Dunagan.

Edwards announced that the annual meeting will honor the Alcides Acosta Family. Commissioner Sorenson will present a proclamation to the Farm Family of the Year.

Edwards reported that the Holiday Toast and Roast honoree has been selected and it is a surprise. The event will take place at Capri Restaurant on December 14, 2008.

Edwards reported that the illegal dumping issue was brought to Commissioner Moss. The resolution has been drafted and will be brought to Commissioner Seijas for her review.

Edwards called for volunteers to form a committee to address no net loss to ag land.

Edwards announced that Florida Farm Bureau chose the Miami-Herald's Neighbors editor as Newsperson of the Year.

Edwards announced that the Homestead/Florida City Chamber of Commerce Agriculturist of the Year celebration will take place during National Agriculture Week.

John Alger moved that row crop farmer Sam Accursio assume the place of Robbie Bishop on the Ag Practices board. Phil Marraccini seconded. Motion carried.

Mark Wilson reported on the Executive Committee Meeting which heard the nominations committee report. Wilson reported a record 142 ballots were received. Bob Epling moved that the election be accepted and ballots be destroyed. John Fredrick seconded. Motion carried.

Wilson announced the Executive Committee's recommendation for slate of officers stay as they currently are: Larry Dunagan – President, Kern Carpenter - President-Elect, John Alger – 1st Vice President, Bobby Shekels – Secretary, Alice Pena – Treasurer.

Dunagan presented outgoing directors certificates of appreciation for their efforts.

Ivonne Alexander moved to accept the recommendation of the Executive Committee for the slate of officers. Bobby Lee seconded. Motion carried.

Wilson provided a brief report on how the election was conducted.

Wilson reported that appointments to the board include: Diego Rodriguez, Racey Timmons Jr. and Lenny Cavelarro. Bob Epling will conduct board training for new members.

Announcements:

The BBQ Committee will present the tractor seat to Mr. Graves at the December 2 board meeting.

Eva Webb reported on the Brain Bowl competition at the Florida Farm Bureau Annual Meeting. The winners of the contest were from Coral Reef FFA. Debbie Brady will attend the presentation of the awards to the students from Coral Reef this week.

Alice Pena announced that the Corps of Engineers will conduct a ground breaking for the S357 canal on November 19.

With no further business to discuss, Dunagan adjourned the meeting at 12:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa Smith
Director of Communications

Sam S. Accursio

P.O. Box 901767
Homestead, FL 33090
Office: (305) 246-3455 Cellular: (305) 431-4895
E-Mail: samaccursio@bellsouth.net

PROFILE:
Grower of Florida's finest pickles and owner of Sam S. Accursio and Sons Farms

EMPLOYMENT:
Sam S. Accursio and Sons Farms, Inc.- Owner and operator of a vegetable farm in southern Miami-Dade County that produces squash, beans and pickles

LEADERSHIP:
Dade County Farm Bureau Board of Directors, Past Director

Miami Dade County Cooperative Extension Service's Vegetable Advisory Committee, Member

Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association, Member

Florida Nursery, Growers & Landscape Association, Member

HOBBIES:
Hunting and fishing

Charles

ORNAMENTAL AQUACULTURE ASSOCIATION
Of South Florida

9 P 3:37
PLANNING & ZONING
METROPOLITAN PLANNING SECT

26 August, 2008

Marc C. LaFerrier, AICP
111 NW 1st Street, Suite 1220
Miami, FL 33128-1902

Dear Mr. LaFerrier & Staff:

The Ornamental Aquaculture Association has met on August 6th, 2008 and nominated the following member from the Ornamental Aquaculture Association to the Agricultural Practices Advisory Board to fill the present vacancies.

Nomination :	Arie DeZwart.	Tel: (305) 279-2349
(Preferred)	11345 SW. 95th Street	Fax: (305) 274-8562
	Miami, FL 33176	

Mr. DeZwart is 61 years old, married, and has two sons, and two grandchildren. He has owned and operated Ruineman's Aquarium since 1985 in Miami. He has been employed by Ruineman's Aquarium (Holland) for 43 years. Arie's ornamental fish business is located on agricultural zoned land in the Kendall area. He has also served as president of our association for four years (2003-2007) and has worked with the Dade County Farm Bureau's local Presidents council in the past. Arie DeZwart may be reached at (305) 279-2349, or by mail at Ruineman's Aquarium, P.O. Box 162044, Miami, FL 33116.

Alternative:	Rick Biro	Tel: (305) 245-2608
	26050 S.W. 202nd Ave.	Fax: (305) 245-4358
	Homestead, FL 33031	

Rick Biro currently owns and operates Florida Exotic Fish Sales located in Homestead. Rick started his farm with his brother in 1974. Rick has served on the Advisory Board for the FSA in the past (1992-1996). He has also been a board member for the state's Florida Tropical Fish Farm Association based in the Tampa area (1994-1999). He is currently 53 and is married and has two children.

Our Ornamental Aquaculture Association feels that Arie DeZwart should be considered as a preferred nomination, and he has indicated willingness to serve on the Agricultural Practices Advisory Board.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Yours truly,

Laif DeMason
Tresurer, OAA

RECEIVED
SEP - 5 2008
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
DIRECTOR'S OFFICE
OF PLANNING & ZONING

11

19255 S.W. 260 Street • Homestead, Florida 33031

Minutes

Ornamental Aquaculture Association of South Florida,
AG Extension Office, Homestead, FL August 6th, 2008.

Meeting called to order @ 6:20 PM by Rick Biro
In Attendance:

Arie DeZwart	Oski Yaziciyan	Laif DeMason
Leo Baumer	Don Pybas (IFAS)	Rick Biro
Chris Miller (IFAS)	Dr. Ruth Floyd (U of F)	Dr. Denise Petty (U of F)

Extension agent Chris Miller discussed the State's approval for funding previously delayed Aquaculture Review Council money & projects. Also he discussed local teachers' workshops for Aquaculture lessons. He also discussed the Extension review program for agents here.

Dr. Floyd and Dr. Petty said that they would try and come down sometime in November to do a workshop on diseases and parasites. They said they would make an attempt to work with Chris Miller at the Extension office to see if he could become proficient in the use of a microscope and maybe some minor bacteria work so he could work on problem fish here instead of sending them off to Tampa for slower analysis. Currently there are travel restrictions for agents from the Tropical Aquaculture Lab due to funding. They reviewed Chris' lab at the Extension Office and said it would need some upgrading.

L. DeMason reported on the US Fish & Wildlife service future rate increases and the letter of response the OAA sent.

R. Biro proposed buying some equipment for emergencies like an extra air blower and water pump to have in case one of the members needed it. He also discussed the equipment we used and at the next meeting if everyone would let us know what you use, we could talk about having a spare. We also discussed buying things like bags to have available but trying to have them stored/distributed was a problem in the past (i.e. Buck's mini co-op).

L. DeMason mentioned that the FTFFA Store only sell potassium in 55 gallon drums and Dr. Petty said she would try and find out why they could not break it up into the usual 5lb units.

R. Biro discussed the deadline for NAP payments for fin fish is Sept. 01st. The rate has gone up to $250.00 but the office can only accept the $100.00 now and we will be billed for the balance. Be sure to go down to the FSA and make your payment.

L. DeMason nominated Arie DeZwart for taking over Paul Radices' position at the Ag. Advisory Board as Paul Radice has resigned from that position. O. Yaziciyan seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous that we would submit Arie DeZwart as the replacement.

A discussion and vote was taken for a new member and also discussed the requirements for membership and what we expected for a full time member. Membership rules need to be revised and approved in the future.

L. DeMason stated some problem issues have arisen that our current set of bylaws do not detail. The need for more comprehensive bylaws were discussed and a Bylaws Investigation Committee was appointed to start this process (A. DeZwart and L. DeMason).

O. Yaziciyan discussed some of the problems with Florida Fish and Game and aquaculture sites. L. DeMason mentioned that our Florida Aquaculture Certificate and new interpretations by the Division cover all our facilities but we will try and get a definitive answer.

Meeting was adjourned by Rick Biro at 8:50 PM.

Reminder: OAA dues are now payable for 2008 still $35.00.

Miami, December 3, 2008

Re: Resume to fill a vacancy on the Agricultural Practices Advisory Board.

My name is Arie de Zwart. I was born on October 18, 1946 in the Netherlands I'm 62 years old, married with 2 sons and four grandchildren.

From 1962 till 1966 I worked in Agriculture for a tomato, cucumber and lettuce grower.

In 1966, at the age of 19 years old, I started my career in Aquaculture working with Ornamental Tropical fish with Ruinemans Aquarium B.V. in the Netherlands and worked my way up to become the General Manager.

In 1985, I started the parent company Ruinemans Aquarium Inc. in Miami, Florida and have been operating this tropical fish business located on agricultural zoned land in Kendall. Since 1992, I own the business and became the co-owner of Ruinemans Aquarium B.V. in the Netherlands. I have served as president for the Ornamental Aquaculture Association of South Florida for four years (2003- 2007). I have worked with the Dade County Farm Bureaus local Presidents Council I serve at the Board of Directors of the Florida Tropical Fish Farms Association located in Winter Haven, Florida since 2005.

My purpose serving at the Agricultural Practices Advisory Board is to represent the Ornamental Aquaculture Association of South Florida.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

Arie de Zwart
President, Ruinemans Aquarium Inc.
11345 S.W. 95 Street,
Miami, Fl. 33176
Tel. 1(305) 279 2349
Fax 305274 8562
ruinemansmiami@earthlink.net

Richard Biro
2020 NE 65th Str
Ft Lauderdale, FL 33308

work phone: 305-245-2608
cell phone: 305-804-9855
email address is

Work Experience:

Owner, Florida Exotic Fish Sales, 26050 SW 202 Ave Miami, FL 33031 at the current location since 1974. I produce Malawi Cichlids, Tanganyikan Cichlids, South and Central American fish and Uruguay fish. The above address is five acres, the fish farm is on 2.5 acres and there is 1.5 acres of Lychees on the site also.

Tropical Fish liaison for the USDA Farm Service Agency after Hurricane Andrew from 1992 until 1996. My participation was to review Aquaculture files, offer explanations on how the aquaculture business operated in South Florida and coordinate with various USDA representatives to visit and inspect aquaculture farms in the area.

Started in the ornamental fish business in 1970 while attending FSU, my business at that time was called Talli-M-Ports and I imported tropical fish from Africa. I was the first to bring in many of the fish in the hobby and opened up several areas to export in Africa after traveling there in l972 and l974.

Board and Association Experience:

I served on the Board of Directors for the Florida Tropical Fish Farmers Association from 1994 to 1998.

I have been the President of the Ornamental Aquaculture Association of South Florida since 2008.

September 18, 2008

Director Marc C. LaFerrier
Department of Planning and Zoning
111 NW 1st Street, Suite 1210
Miami, FL 33128-1902

Dear Director LaFerrier,

The Tropical Fruit Growers of South Florida, Inc., TFGSF, wishes to recommend Mr. Diego Rodriguez as Ag Practices Board representative for the tropical fruit industry.

Diego has been involved in agriculture his entire life from his early days on his family tobacco and cattle farms in Cuba, to present day where he farms pine trees in Central Florida, and 600 acres in tropical fruits in Dade County. Diego is actively involved in the entire process of tropical fruit production from the planting and growing, to the packing and selling of his avocados, mangos, mamey, and papaya. His packing operation is located at the Farmers Market in Florida City, FL.

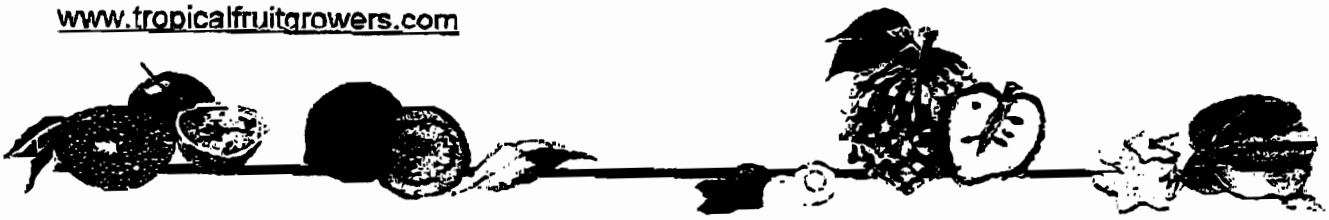
Enclosed are the meeting minutes where TFGSF approved Diego's name for the tropical fruit industry representative position. Unfortunately, we have only one name at this time to offer for the Ag Practices position. We ask that you approve Diego's' nomination as soon as possible, so that Miami-Dade's tropical fruit growers will continue to have representation on the Miami-Dade County's Ag Practices Board.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Louise E. King

Louise E. King
TFGSF president
www.tropicalfruitgrowers.com



TROPICAL FRUIT GROWERS OF SOUTH FLORIDA, INC.
18710 SW 288 St., Homestead, FL 33030 Telephone: (305) 401-1502 Fax: (305) 246-2932
Web site: www.tropicalfruitgrowers.com
Email: tropicalfruitgrowers@earthlink.net

Board of Directors
Meeting Notes

September 11, 2008

Extension Conference room

PRESENT
Directors: Dave Romney, Don Chafin, Harry Miller, Reed Olszack, Louise King
Advisors: Jonathan Crane, Lt. Sherrie DiBernardo, Jay Osborne,
Members & Guests: Dave Porter, Paul Cummings, Paul Bismarck, Louie Carracarte, John Ancona, Si Robinson, Diego Rodriguez
Handouts: September agenda; August notes; August financial statement;

Meeting held at Extension.

AGENDA

Ag Practices representative
See page 3

Secretary's Report
No objections. Notes accepted.

Treasurer's Report
No objections. Statement accepted.

New Business

Ag manager report

Charles was not at the meeting, so Louise presented his comments for him:

"Redland Raised" brand logo is available for growers of products grown in the South Dade. You must be a member of FAPC ($50/year) to use the logo. Contact FAPC once you are a member to get the artwork.

NAP – Charles had learned that the FSA office was to expedite the NAP 2007 claims. No one has been paid yet for their 2007 claims that had been appealed and later won.

Some growers need to fill out more paper work before their payment will be processed. The COC has not met to review the claims for payment approval.

Louise added that Charles told her of a meeting at Alice Pena's house on Saturday where Representative Mario Diaz-Balart was coming to speak with the residents about he 8 ½ square mile area. Alice agreed to have Louise come to the meting and speak with the Representative. She would write a position paper to give to Diaz-Balart describing the issues the tropical fruit growers were having with the FSA office out of Gainesville.

Action: Louise to write position paper and give to Diaz-Balart.

Ag Patrol report

Lt. DiBernardo reported that the Ag Patrol was very busy in august. There were four incidents involving avocados that totaled over $10,000 in product. They arrested a marney thief, and passed out his photo in hopes that the remainder of his accomplices would be apprehended. The Lieutenant reminded everyone to be vigilant in their grove protection practices. She felt that Sundays, night time and at dusk were very vulnerable times for thieves to steal fruit. Be aware! Get Watch Orders into the Ag patrol when harvest approaches.

Diesel thefts continue to be a problem. They are investigating where this stolen diesel is going.

Rebar is also being stolen for the scrap metal, as are tractors.

Grant update

Louise told the group that TFGSF had been awarded the Specialty Crop funding for their grant proposal! They will receive $68, 784. Reed continued with the details of the grant.

The grant consists of two main parts. In-store demos and website update with email newsletter.

The in-store demos will be held in approximately 8 stores in the Orlando, I-4 corridor. Publix? Whole Foods? Winn-Dixie? A section of the produce department of each of these stores will be permanently identified with signs, bunting, etc. for local Florida tropical fruits, and fruit products. Every other month, in-store demos will be held at each of these eight stores, and a grower will be paid to attend the demos and meet with the demo staff to greet the customers. A marketer is working with us to make the connection with the retail stores. Hope to be underway in January with the carambola crop.

We will also be creating an email contact list of who will be receiving a monthly email newsletter informing potential customers of what fruits are coming into season, reminding them of the growers who sell on line, and offering information on the fruits for that month. We will also be updating the website with recipes and

The grant will be funded for one year.

Louise told the group that their input is welcome to help with the grant execution. Growers can sign up to attend the in-store demos and answer questions.

Louise explained that Reed was instrumental in helping to write the grant, and she felt that he ought to be paid for his work, as she was paid for her writing of the grant.

Motion: Harry: Move to pay Reed Olszack $100 for his time in writing the Specialty Crop grant proposal for TFGSF.
2nd: Don Chafin
Vote: unanimous, in favor.
Motion passes.

Action: Louise to write check for $100 to pay Reed for his grant writing.

AG Practices rep
Louise reminded the group that Peter Schnebly was no longer representing tropical fruit on the Ag practices Board, and that we need to submit two names for consideration to replace him. This was brought before the Board at the August meeting, but there was no quorum for the vote. Diego Rodriguez has offered to take this position, and the group was very supportive. No other name was put forth.

Motion: Reed: Move to submit Diego Rodriguez as the representative for the Ag Practices Board to replace Peter Schnebly.
2nd: Harry
Vote: unanimous, in favor.
Motion passes.

Action: Louise to write and submit letter to County informing them of our nomination of Diego Rodriguez as the tropical fruit representative on the Ag practices Board.

Specialty Fruit & Nut Crops BMP manual
Jonathan explained that the Better Management Practices manual draft is now available for review by the growers, after a year or more in the writing. He urged the growers to read the manual, and make comments. He reminded them that it is better to make changes now than after the manual has been adopted. There will be a comment period, and an acceptance process of many months before these BMP's are accepted. Please send comments to Louise by the next TFGSF meeting on October 9, 2008. She will forward them to FDACS.
Louise told the group that the manual is quite long – 86 pages. Jay offered to have a few copies printed and left at Extension for those without computers, (or a large supply of printer ink).

Action: Louise to send out link to BMP manual on line.

Old Business

Pest Update
Jonathan reported on the following:

1. A workshop for Red Bay Ambrosia beetle was recently held. It was discussed that avocados will be infected, but are not sure of the extent. Some varieties are more susceptible than others. They have identified the fungus that inflects the plants. It is a new fungus, one not found in Asia.
2. 2. A new scale has been found on guava, longan, and many natives. It is a new species to science.
3. A new mite to longan has been found. Treat with sulfur.

Meetings & conferences
Jay told the group of his banana workshop at the Fruit & Spice Park on September 18, 2008 1.5 CEU's will be given.

Mail
None to report.

Last Minute Items
None.

Growers Forum
Dave Romney asked about the use of Manzate, and w\when it is legal to use. Reed replied it can only be used during flowering.

Dave Porter brought in some lychee leaves that had been severely chewed on at the edges. Jonathan thought it maight be due to a weevil. He suggestd that Dave go out at night to try to find the insect... That weevil does not cause fruit loss.

Dave Romney suggested that there be a workshop on Thai guava, as it is growing in acreage.

Jay informed the group that there is a Small Farm Survey that growers are asked to take. You can get the survey at Extension, or online.

Meeting adjourned about 8:00 pm.

The next TFGSF board meeting will be held on the second Thursday of the month, **Thursday, October 9, 2008 at 6:00 pm** at Extension.

Tropical Fruit Growers of South Florida, Inc.

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Diego Rodriguez

Resume for Ag Practices Representative
for the Tropical fruit industry.

I was born in Pinar del Rio, Cuba. My grandfather and father were shade tobacco farmers (cigar wrapper leaf) and cattle ranchers until Castro stole our properties. I graduated from Cornell University with a major in Agronomy and a minor in Chemistry. I took part in the ill-fated Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba in 1961.

Grew shade tobacco in Havana, Florida (Gadsden County) for eleven years. I still own a farm there which has been planted entirely to pines. Tobacco farming became completely uneconomical because it is too labor intensive.

Presently, we have approximately 600 acres between avocados, mamey, mango, and papaya. We are a vertically integrated company from planting thru packing and selling.Our packing house is located @ The Farmers' Market in Florida City, and I have resided in South Miami since 1973