

Small Farmer Grant (2024)

Minutes

Review and Scoring of Small Farmer Grant Applications

1:30 PM Monday July 8, 2024

Alachua County Administration Building, Grace Knight Conference Room,
12 SE 1st Street, Second Floor
Gainesville, FL 32601

1 Adopt Agenda

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 PM. Sean McLendon chaired the meeting. Diedre Houchen made a motion to adopt the agenda. It was seconded by Cindy Sanders and the motion passed unanimously. Sean McLendon noted that the meeting was publicly noticed.

Read Grant Criteria and Scoring Priorities

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Sean McLendon read the grant criteria and scoring priorities into the record.

3 Review Group and Composite Final Scores

All final scores were read as recorded on the combined scoring sheet. Diedre Houchen, Cindy Sanders,

4 Discussion

Sean McLendon commented that there were many excellent applications this year and that some returning applicants had very competitive final scores even though they did not get the first-time submitter points. The grant review team discussed the top-rated applicants and how to distribute the limited funding to the highest-scoring applicants. Cindy Sanders discussed the rationale behind her scores and expressed reservations about supporting applications that use exotic invasive plants. The team also discussed a minimum threshold score of 38.3 points for an application to be recommended for award. In the previous round of funding, the Board of County Commissioners approved funding for applications scoring 30.0 points and higher. Based on total available grant funding (\$128,914) that was budgeted for FY24 and the rollover funds available from FY23, the committee felt comfortable with establishing a new funding threshold of 38.3 points.

Sean McLendon presented a list of the applications, sorted by their highest and lowest combined scores. Using 38.3 points as a threshold would result in 28 applications being funded for \$124,460. The list of recommended applicants is attached to the minutes. Sean McLendon would prepare an agenda item for the second meeting in August to bring the recommendation to the Board.

5 Motion for Recommendation of Applications to the Board

Cindy Sanders made a motion to recommend that the Board of County Commissioners award the grant request of all applications scoring 38.3 points and above.

6 Public Comment: None.
None

7 Adjourn
The meeting adjourned at 1:43 PM.