

Orlando Business Journal - November 12, 2009

/orlando/stories/2009/11/09/daily39.html?s=du&ed=2009-11-12&ana=e_du_pub

ORLANDO BUSINESS JOURNAL

Thursday, November 12, 2009, 9:26am EST

St. Johns board OKs two projects

Orlando Business Journal

The **St. Johns River Water Management District's** governing board approved two projects this week expected to improve water-conservation efforts in Central Florida.

The board on Nov. 10 approved \$1.7 million in cooperative funding to build a proposed regional stormwater facility on a 29.4-acre site in Winter Springs. The Middle St. Johns River Basin Solary Canal Regional Stormwater Treatment Facility, proposed for a site south of Lake Jesup, is expected to treat runoff from 1,639 acres in one of the most developed areas of the southern Lake Jesup Basin, said a news release.

The project is a cooperative effort between the district, the cities of Winter Springs and Oviedo, and Seminole County.

At that same meeting, the board also voted to acquire a 3,321-acre site mostly within the Volusia Conservation Corridor Florida Forever Project boundary for \$20 million. The property, known as the Maytown tract, would be used for conservation and future water capture and storage for alternative water supply.

The purchase would be funded in part by Florida Forever state-funded bond proceeds, District Water Protection and Sustainability Program funds and **Florida Department of Transportation Mitigation** funds.

The decision represents the first step in a new initiative between the district and Volusia County to focus on buying land within the conservation corridor for water storage areas.

The conservation corridor project began in 2001 and targets a total of 79,612 acres for protection. The district and Volusia County have jointly acquired about 45,000 acres within the corridor through full fee and conservation easement acquisitions.