

EXHIBIT 27

Message

From: Nadege LeBlanc [REDACTED]
on behalf of Nadege LeBlanc [REDACTED]
Sent: 9/19/2023 9:48:41 PM
To: Saeed Ahmed [REDACTED]
CC: Freddie Figgers [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Sheila Voter Registration SMS

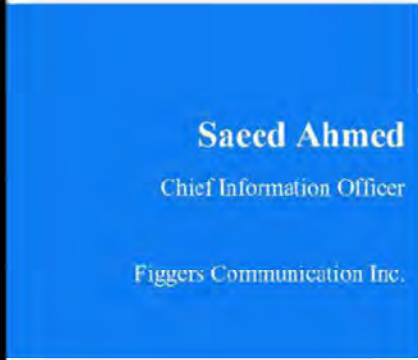
Approved

On Tue, Sep 19, 2023 at 8:37 PM Saeed Ahmed [REDACTED] wrote:

Ms. @LeBlanc, Nadege, ma'am the MMS only allows for 4 files in total that includes the text message. So I took the liberty of creating a GIF file that goes through all images steps one by one.

Please approve and will send it out.

Sincerely,



Saeed Ahmed
Chief Information Officer
Figgers Communication Inc.


1-800 [REDACTED]

1-800 [REDACTED]

saeed [REDACTED]


Figgers.com

[3810 Inverrary Blvd, Suite: 401
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33319](#)




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yt t p




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Winner
Best
Company
2020
Inc.




INTERNET
TELEPHONY




NGN




SOLUTIONS




INTERNET
TELEPHONY




2011
INTERNET
TELEPHONY
SOLUTIONS



2019
INTERNET
TELEPHONY
SOLUTIONS



Unified



2019
INTERNET
TELEPHONY
SOLUTIONS

From: [Nadege LeBlanc](#)

Sent: Tuesday, September 19, 2023 7:52 PM

To: [Saeed Ahmed](#)

Cc: [Freddie Figgers](#)

Subject: Sheila Voter Registration SMS

Hi please text out the images below with this message:

Defending democracy means standing united against the 'war on woke.' Join us on National Voter Registration Day to ensure democracy thrives through our collective voice. Take a few moments today to register, verify your registration, or locate a registration event online or in your area.

Visit NationalVoterRegistrationDay.org now. 🗳️us #NationalVoterRegistrationDay #VoteReady #ReElectSheila #ThePeoplesVoice

EXHIBIT 28

Message

From: Nadege LeBlanc [REDACTED]
on behalf of Nadege LeBlanc [REDACTED]
Sent: 9/19/2023 7:52:13 PM
To: [REDACTED]@figgers.com
CC: Freddie Figgers [REDACTED]
Subject: Sheila Voter Registration SMS

Hi please text out the images below with this message:

Defending democracy means standing united against the 'war on woke.' Join us on National Voter Registration Day to ensure democracy thrives through our collective voice. Take a few moments today to register, verify your registration, or locate a registration event online or in your area.

Visit NationalVoterRegistrationDay.org now. 🇺🇸 #NationalVoterRegistrationDay #VoteReady #ReElectSheila #ThePeoplesVoice



CONGRESSWOMAN
SHEILA
CHERFILUS * McCORMICK

ARE YOU #VOTEREADY?



3. REQUEST YOUR
VOTE BY MAIL BALLOT

NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY
SEPTEMBER 19TH, 2023



CONGRESSWOMAN
SHEILA
CHERFILUS * McCORMICK

ARE YOU #VOTEREADY?



2. CHECK YOUR
REGISTRATION

NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY
SEPTEMBER 19TH, 2023



CONGRESSWOMAN
SHEILA
CHERFILUS * MCCORMICK

ARE YOU #VOTEREADY?



1. REGISTER TO VOTE

NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY
SEPTEMBER 19TH, 2023



CONGRESSWOMAN
SHEILA
CHERFILUS * McCORMICK

ARE YOU #VOTEREADY?



VOTE

4. GET 5 FRIENDS TO
REGISTER TO VOTE

NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY
SEPTEMBER 19TH, 2023

EXHIBIT 29

Message

From: Shauna Pierre [REDACTED]
on behalf of Shauna Pierre [REDACTED]
Sent: 11/7/2022 8:52:18 AM
To: Nadege LeBlanc [REDACTED] reddie-
Subject: 11/7 SMS - Revised Caption

11/7

Tomorrow is Election Day! Help us get out the vote. Here's how:

- 1- Make your Election Day voting plan. Find your assigned polling location: <https://bit.ly/3zRuf3c>
- 2- Return your Vote-By-Mail ballot to the appropriate SOE office. <https://bit.ly/3zRuf3c>

Share this text with 2 friends to remind them to vote. Every vote counts! Stop2optout

--

Make Today Amazing!

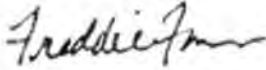
EXHIBIT 30

Message

From: Freddie Figgers [REDACTED]
on behalf of Freddie Figgers [REDACTED]
Sent: 11/4/2022 12:02:10 AM
To: Shauna Pierre [REDACTED] Nadege LeBlanc [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: South FL Dems SMS - 11/3

Importance: High

Got it, thanks!



Freddie Figgers
Chief Executive Officer
Figgers Communication Inc.
Toll Free: 1-[REDACTED]
Fax: 1-[REDACTED]
Freddie [REDACTED]
3810 Inverrary Blvd, Suite: 401
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33319
Figgers.com



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From: Shauna Pierre [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, November 3, 2022 8:14 PM
To: Nadege LeBlanc [REDACTED] Freddie Figgers [REDACTED]
Subject: South FL Dems SMS - 11/3



HELP US KEEP THE DEMOCRATIC MAJORITY!

DONATE TODAY

Re-Elect
CONGRESSWOMAN
SHEILA
CHERFILUS † MCCORMICK

PAID FOR BY SHEILA CHERFILUS MCCORMICK FOR CONGRESS INC



Caption:

Hi, it's Congresswoman Sheila. We're fighting to get out the vote in Florida and we need your support!

Donate today to help us keep the Democratic majority. <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/sheilaforcongress>

We'll defend democracy together!

Stop2End

Two files - 1.5 M (not all have cell phones).

 [_dem file 1.xlsx](#) [_Dem file 2.xlsx](#)

--

Make Today Amazing!

EXHIBIT 31

Message

From: Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick [REDACTED]
on behalf of Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick [REDACTED]
Sent: 8/23/2022 9:19:10 AM
To: Freddie Figgers [REDACTED]
CC: Nadege LeBlanc [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: SMS - 8/23/22

Looping in Nadege so it's on her radar as well. Thanks all!

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick
Sent: Tuesday, August 23, 2022 9:18:12 AM
To: Freddie Figgers [REDACTED]
Subject: SMS - 8/23/22

Hi Freddie,
Can we send this to the entire list this morning?



"Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick, in her time in Congress, has been masterful at bringing people together, here in D.C. and her District, by working on big problems and staying focused on shared values. It is my honor and privilege to support Sheila - a strong lifelong Democrat, colleague and friend - for re-election as the U.S. Representative for Florida's 20th Congressional District."

SPEAKER NANCY PELOSI
on why she endorsed Congresswoman Sheila

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SHEILA
CHERFILUS + MCCORMICK

PAID FOR BY SHEILA CHERFILUS-McCORMICK FOR CONGRESS INC

Hi, This is Nancy Pelosi, Democratic Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives. I need every Democrat to cast their vote today to help strengthen our democracy. I'm proud of the hard work Congresswoman Sheila has been doing for her community. Let's vote to keep her in the fight.

<https://www.sheilafordistrict20.com/endorse>

(Opt out language)

EXHIBIT 32

Message

From: Shauna Pierre [REDACTED]
on behalf of Shauna Pierre [REDACTED]
Sent: 8/20/2022 2:44:10 PM
To: freddie [REDACTED]
CC: Nadege LeBlanc [REDACTED]
Subject: SMS for 8.20.22



vbm-8..19.xlsx

List Tabs:

- Deerfield
- Lauderdale...
- Fort Lauderdale
- Pompano

Image:

CONGRESSWOMAN SHEILA IS THE ONLY TRUSTED VOICE TO FIGHT FOR US IN CONGRESS

I'M WITH CONGRESSWOMAN SHEILA



Perry Thurston
State Senator (Fr)



Ken Thurston
Mayor of Lauderhill

Re-Elect
CONGRESSWOMAN
SHEILA
CHERFILUS * MCCORMICK
STRONG DEMOCRAT



PAID FOR BY SHEILA CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK FOR CONGRESS INC

Message:

Hi, it's Senator Thurston (fmr) & Mayor Thurston. Let's vote and re-elect Congresswoman [Sheila Cherfilus McCormick](#) for Congress. She's fighting hard to lower inflation, protect seniors, and solve the housing crisis. Keep her in the fight. sheilafordistrict20.com (Stop2OptOut)

--
Make Today Amazing!

EXHIBIT 33

Message

From: Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick
on behalf of Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick
Sent: 8/14/2022 11:45:26 PM
To: Freddie Figgers
CC: Nadege LeBlanc
Subject: SMS - 8.15.22



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SHEILA
CHERFILUS + MCCORMICK

PAID FOR BY SHEILA CHERFILUS MCCORMICK FOR CONGRESS INC

Every day in Congress, I'm fighting for a brighter future for our district. We can win this fight together! I humbly ask for your vote on August 23rd. #yourcongresswoman <https://bit.ly/3zRuf3c>

EXHIBIT 34

Message

From: Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick [REDACTED]
on behalf of Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick [REDACTED]
Sent: 8/12/2022 6:08:27 PM
To: Freddie Figgers [REDACTED]
CC: Nadege LeBlanc [REDACTED]
Subject: SMS - 8/12/22 [REDACTED]

Re-Elect Congresswoman Sheila

Congresswoman Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick Secures Over 50 Local & National Endorsements! Full list at <https://bit.ly/3zRuf3c>

Re-Elect
CONGRESSWOMAN
SHEILA

CHERFILUS + McCORMICK

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PROUDLY ENDORSED BY

Full list at sheilafordistrict20.com



NANCY PELOSI
 SPEAKER OF THE U.S.
 HOUSE OF
 REPRESENTATIVES



ROSALYN OSGOOD
 FL STATE SENATOR



PERRY THURSTON
 FL STATE SENATOR (FR)



BOBBY POWELL
 FL STATE SENATOR



JERVONTE EDMONDS
 FL STATE REP



MACK BERNARD
 PALM BEACH COUNTY
 COMMISSIONER



BARBARA SHARIEF
 BROWARD COUNTY
 COMMISSIONER



KEITH JAMES
 WEST PALM BEACH
 MAYOR



KEN THURSTON
 LAUDERHILL
 MAYOR



RONNIE FELDER
 RIVIERA BEACH
 MAYOR



LAWRENCE MARTIN
 LAUDERHILL
 COMMISSIONER



FRED PINTO
 ROYAL PALM BEACH
 MAYOR



ANA ZIADE
 NORTH LAUDERDALE
 MAYOR



STEVE WILSON
 BELLE GLADE
 MAYOR



**KARLENE MAXWELL-
 WILLIAMS**
 COMMISSIONER
 LAUDERDALE LAKES



BEVERLY PERKINS
 POMPANO BEACH
 VICE MAYOR



JOE KYLES
 SOUTH BAY
 MAYOR



CHELSEA REED
 PALM BEACH GARDENS
 MAYOR



JOAQUIN ALMAZAN
 BELLE GLADE
 VICE MAYOR



CLARA MURVIN
 PAHOKEE
 VICE MAYOR



BETTY BARNARD
 SOUTH BAY
 VICE MAYOR



SHIRLEY LANIER
 RIVIERA BEACH
 COUNCILWOMAN



KATRINA ROBINSON
 WEST LAKE
 VICE MAYOR (FR)



ADDIE GREENE
 PBC COMMISSIONER
 (FRMR)



TERESA JOHNSON
 HAVERHILL
 COUNCILWOMAN



CHRISTINA ROMELUS
 BOYNTON BEACH
 VICE MAYOR
 (FRMR)



CHRISTY FOX
 WEST PALM BEACH
 COMMISSIONER



TANYA SISKIND
 WELLINGTON
 COUNCILWOMAN

PAID FOR AND APPROVED BY SHEILA CHERFILUS MCCORMICK FOR CONGRESS INC.

EXHIBIT 35

Message

From: Freddie Figgers [REDACTED]
on behalf of Freddie Figgers [REDACTED]
Sent: 8/7/2022 1:00:27 PM
To: [REDACTED]@sheilaforcongress.com
CC: Nadege LeBlanc [REDACTED]
Subject: Content - 8/8/22

Importance: High

Team,

I'm following up on the content for next week ? Also do we have the survey ready ?



Freddie Figgers
Chief Executive Officer
Figgers Communication Inc.

Toll Free: 1-[REDACTED]

Fax: 1-[REDACTED]

Freddie [REDACTED]

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Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33319

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EXHIBIT 36

Message

From: Freddie Figgers [REDACTED]
on behalf of Freddie Figgers [REDACTED]
Sent: 8/3/2022 4:57:16 PM
To: Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick [REDACTED]
CC: Nadege LeBlanc [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: MMS - 8/3/22

Importance: High

Will do

Freddie Figgers



Freddie Figgers
Chief Executive Officer
Figgers Communication Inc.
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Freddie [REDACTED]
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From: Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 3, 2022 4:32 PM
To: Freddie Figgers [REDACTED]
Cc: Nadege LeBlanc [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: MMS - 8/3/22

Yes, please. Thank you!

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Freddie Figgers [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 3, 2022 4:25:20 PM
To: Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick [REDACTED]
Cc: Nadege LeBlanc [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: MMS - 8/3/22

Hello,

Do we want this to go out today ? I see it's dated for today.



Freddie Figgers
Chief Executive Officer
Figgers Communication Inc.
Toll Free: 1-[REDACTED]
Fax: 1-[REDACTED]
Freddie [REDACTED]
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From: Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 3, 2022 4:22 PM
To: Freddie Figgers [REDACTED]
Cc: Nadege LeBlanc [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: MMS - 8/3/22

Updated Caption:

I sat down with Jackie Nespral to discuss my priorities for the district and why I'm committed to putting people over politics. #yourcongresswoman <https://bit.ly/3vv3fVR>

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick

Sent: Wednesday, August 3, 2022 4:20:48 PM

To: Freddie Figgers [REDACTED]

Cc: Nadege LeBlanc [REDACTED]

Subject: MMS - 8/3/22



Caption:

I sat down with Jackie Nespral to discuss my priorities for the district and why I'm putting people over politics. #yourcongresswoman <https://bit.ly/3vv3fVR>

EXHIBIT 37

Message

From: Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick [REDACTED]
on behalf of Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick [REDACTED]
Sent: 8/1/2022 5:56:12 PM
To: Freddie Figgers [REDACTED]
CC: Nadege LeBlanc [REDACTED]
Subject: SMS - 8.2.22



Caption:

It's a new day for our district & within the 7 months I have served as your Congresswoman, I have placed people over politics and delivered real results:

- ✓ Millions in Funding for Housing, Healthcare & Community Programs
- ✓ Life Saving Legislation for Our Seniors, Families & Small Businesses
- ✓ Economic Opportunities that Break Down Barriers so We All Have a Seat at the Table

The era of political games and smear campaigns is over. Let's charge forward and continue delivering for the district.

<https://bit.ly/3cZM2NR>

EXHIBIT 38

Message

From: Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick [REDACTED]
on behalf of Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick [REDACTED]
Sent: 7/31/2022 1:36:51 PM
To: Freddie Figgers [REDACTED]
CC: Nadege LeBlanc [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: SMS - 7.31.22

Awesome thanks!

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Freddie Figgers [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, July 31, 2022 1:32:28 PM
To: Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick [REDACTED]
Cc: Nadege LeBlanc [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: SMS - 7.31.22

Received, and getting ready to go out in 10min.



Freddie Figgers
Chief Executive Officer
Figgers Communication Inc.

Toll Free: 1-800 [REDACTED]

Fax: 1-800 [REDACTED]

Freddie [REDACTED]

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Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33319

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From: Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, July 31, 2022 1:30 PM

To: Freddie Figgers [REDACTED]
Cc: Nadege LeBlanc [REDACTED]
Subject: SMS - 7.31.22

ENDORSED BY The Palm Beach Post



In her brief time in Congress, she has been a reliable Democratic vote. She has worked with the White House and Democratic congressional leaders to pass legislation to protect the environment from climate change, expand access to healthcare and support women's reproductive rights.

"The Palm Beach Post endorses
Cherfilus-McCormick."

Re-Elect
CONGRESSWOMAN
SHEILA
CHERFILUS † MCCORMICK

PAID FOR BY SHEILA CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK FOR CONGRESS INC

Caption:

I'm proud to have earned the endorsement of The Palm Beach Post. Thank you for acknowledging my work in the community and in Congress.

Read more: <https://bit.ly/3cINPqo>

Message

From: Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick [REDACTED]
on behalf of Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick [REDACTED]
Sent: 7/31/2022 1:36:24 PM
To: Freddie Figgers [REDACTED]
CC: Nadege LeBlanc [REDACTED]
Subject: Engagement Rates & Person to Person Messaging

Hi Freddie,

Thank you! Is there a way for your team to track our engagement to see how the SMS content is performing with the audience? We're tracking conversions via the landing pages but not seeing a consistent pattern of click through. So we'll be changing up the visuals this week.

Also, do you have a person-to-person messaging platform we can add as we ramp up for the final 3 weeks?

Message

From: Freddie Figgers [REDACTED]
on behalf of Freddie Figgers [REDACTED]
Sent: 7/31/2022 1:32:28 PM
To: Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick [REDACTED]
CC: Nadege LeBlanc [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: SMS - 7.31.22

Importance: High

Received, and getting ready to go out in 10min.

Freddie Figgers



Freddie Figgers
Chief Executive Officer
Figgers Communication Inc.
Toll Free: 1-[REDACTED]
Fax: 1-8-[REDACTED]
Freddie [REDACTED]
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From: Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, July 31, 2022 1:30 PM
To: Freddie Figgers [REDACTED]
Cc: Nadege LeBlanc [REDACTED]
Subject: SMS - 7.31.22

ENDORSED BY The Palm Beach Post



In her brief time in Congress, she has been a reliable Democratic vote. She has worked with the White House and Democratic congressional leaders to pass legislation to protect the environment from climate change, expand access to healthcare and support women's reproductive rights.

**"The Palm Beach Post endorses
Cherfilus-McCormick."**

Re-Elect
CONGRESSWOMAN
SHEILA
CHERFILUS * MCCORMICK

PAID FOR BY SHEILA CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK FOR CONGRESS INC

Caption:

I'm proud to have earned the endorsement of The Palm Beach Post. Thank you for acknowledging my work in the community and in Congress.

Read more: <https://bit.ly/3cINPgo>

Message

From: Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick [REDACTED]
on behalf of Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick [REDACTED]
Sent: 7/31/2022 1:29:30 PM
To: Freddie Figgers [REDACTED]
CC: Nadege LeBlanc [REDACTED]
Subject: SMS - 7.31.22

ENDORSED BY The Palm Beach Post



In her brief time in Congress, she has been a reliable Democratic vote. She has worked with the White House and Democratic congressional leaders to pass legislation to protect the environment from climate change, expand access to healthcare and support women's reproductive rights.

"The Palm Beach Post endorses Cherfilus-McCormick."

Re-Elect
CONGRESSWOMAN
SHEILA
CHERFILUS * McCORMICK

PAID FOR BY SHEILA CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK FOR CONGRESS INC

Caption:

I'm proud to have earned the endorsement of The Palm Beach Post. Thank you for acknowledging my work in the community and in Congress.

Read more: <https://bit.ly/3cINPqo>

Message

From: Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick
on behalf of Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick
Sent: 7/27/2022 8:47:05 PM
To: Freddie
CC: Nadege LeBlanc
Subject: SMS - 7.28.22 AM



**PEOPLE
OVER
POLITICS**

"For my opponent to continue this smear campaign feeding lies to the people in a desperate attempt to win an election is a red flag of poor leadership."

Re-Elect
CONGRESSWOMAN
SHEILA
CHERFILUS † McCORMICK

PAID FOR BY SHEILA CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK FOR CONGRESS INC

Caption:

While my opponent plays political games by lying and ignoring real issues... I will continue to prioritize people over politics and deliver real results. www.sheilafordistrict20.com/truth-2

Message

From: Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick [REDACTED]
on behalf of Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick [REDACTED]
Sent: 7/26/2022 3:06:40 PM
To: Freddie Figgers [REDACTED]
CC: Nadege LeBlanc [REDACTED] Saeed Ahmed [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Sun Sentinel SMS

Great thank you!

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Freddie Figgers [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 26, 2022 2:52:50 PM
To: Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick [REDACTED]
Cc: Nadege LeBlanc [REDACTED] Saeed Ahmed [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Sun Sentinel SMS

Hello – Yes we are sending this off now.



Freddie Figgers
Chief Executive Officer
Figgers Communication Inc.
Toll Free: 1-800-[REDACTED]
Fax: 1-800-[REDACTED]
Freddie [REDACTED]
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From: Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 26, 2022 2:08 PM

To: Freddie Figgers [REDACTED]
Cc: Nadege LeBlanc [REDACTED]
Subject: Sun Sentinel SMS

Hi Freddie,
Can we push this out to the entire list today?

ENDORSED BY

SOUTH FLORIDA

SunSentinel



"we recommend Cherfilus-McCormick's re-election to the House... didn't miss a beat acclimating herself to Congress, where she serves on three committees: Education & Labor, Transportation & Infrastructure, and Veterans' Affairs."

"Absent such evidence, Holness is staking his campaign on dirty politics."

"...the Sun Sentinel recommends Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick."

Re-Elect
CONGRESSWOMAN
SHEILA
CHERFILUS + McCORMICK

PAID FOR BY SHEILA CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK FOR CONGRESS INC

Caption:

I'm proud to be endorsed by the Sun Sentinel. I will continue working hard to deliver for the district I love. <https://bit.ly/3PzsDBV>

Message

From: Freddie Figgers [REDACTED]
on behalf of Freddie Figgers [REDACTED]
Sent: 7/26/2022 2:52:50 PM
To: Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick [REDACTED]
CC: Nadege LeBlanc [REDACTED] Saeed Ahmed [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Sun Sentinel SMS

Importance: High

Hello – Yes we are sending this off now.

Freddie Figgers



Freddie Figgers
Chief Executive Officer
Figgers Communication Inc.
Toll Free: 1-800-[REDACTED]
Fax: 1-800-[REDACTED]
Freddie [REDACTED]
3810 Inverrary Blvd, Suite: 401
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33319
Figgers.com



Award
Winning
Service



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From: Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 26, 2022 2:08 PM
To: Freddie Figgers [REDACTED]
Cc: Nadege LeBlanc [REDACTED]
Subject: Sun Sentinel SMS

Hi Freddie,
Can we push this out to the entire list today?

EXHIBIT 39

CONFIDENTIAL

Subject to the Nondisclosure Provisions of H. Res. 895 of the 110th Congress as Amended

Transcript of Interview of Witness 1

Review No. 24-7241

April 10, 2024

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OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL ETHICS (OCE)
OF THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

-----x
IN RE: Case No. 24-7241
-----x

INTERVIEW of WITNESS 1
(Conducted Remotely)
Wednesday, April 10, 2024
2:10 p.m. PST

Job: 532872
Pages: 1 - 59
Transcribed by: Molly Bugher

Transcript of Interview of Witness 1
Conducted on April 10, 2024

1 Interview of Witness 1, conducted remotely,

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13 Pursuant to agreement, before Parker Simpson,

14 Notary Public in and for the State of Washington.

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A P P E A R A N C E S

ON BEHALF OF THE CONGRESSIONAL OFFICE OF ETHICS:

KRISTINA CRUMP, ESQUIRE

INDHIRA BENITEZ, ESQUIRE

OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL ETHICS (OCE)

OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

425 3rd Street, S.W.

Suite 1110

Washington, DC 20024

Phone: (202) 225-9739

ALSO PRESENT:

NACHE BUIE, Remote Technician

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C O N T E N T S

PAGE

Interview of Witness 1

By Ms. Crump

5

E X H I B I T S

NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	PAGE
1	Texts w/ Michael Joseph	16
2	WhatsApp Messages w/ Michael Joseph.....	15
3	Email: List of Submitted Community Funding Projects- FY23....	32
4	Texts w/ Freddie Figgers.....	50

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 MS. CRUMP: Good afternoon. My name is
3 Kristina Crump. I'm investigative counsel with
4 the Office of Congressional Ethics. I'm being
5 joined by my colleague Indhira Benitez as well as
6 Witness 1. The witness has received the False
7 Statements Act and has acknowledged receipt. As a
8 reminder to everyone, the OCE requests that
9 witnesses keep each matter confidential to respect
10 the legal interests of the parties associated with
11 this review.

12 Witness 1, thank you for joining us this
13 afternoon. Let's go ahead and get started.

14 WITNESS 1: I'm sorry Kristina, you're
15 going in and out. Hold on one second. Let me
16 move to another area because you are going in and
17 out. Can you hear me now?

18 MS. CRUMP: Yes, I can hear you.

19 WITNESS 1: Hello?

20 MS. CRUMP: Yes.

21 WITNESS 1: Okay, perfect. I'm sorry.
22 Did you say something?

1 MS. CRUMP: No problem. Witness 1, you
2 worked for Congresswoman Sheila Cherfilus-
3 McCormick's official office, correct?

4 WITNESS 1: Yes, on the official side,
5 yes.

6 MS. CRUMP: Can you tell me a little bit
7 about your responsibilities while you worked for
8 her?

9 WITNESS 1: So while I was in the office
10 I was her Deputy Chief of Staff (inaudible)
11 administration. While in the district office I
12 oversaw the immigration portfolio in addition to
13 working with state leaders both locally and
14 nationally, and some small business here and
15 there. So it was really as you go, building a
16 plane and flying it at the same time in a new
17 member's office.

18 The only thing I didn't touch intimately
19 was the ledge portfolio. But I did a little bit
20 of scheduling. I did administration. I did
21 community outreach, public facing, et cetera.

22 MS. CRUMP: Thank you. Can you tell me

1 a little bit about the office's process for
2 earmarks in 2022? I understand it was a new
3 office. So I'm just interested what the approach
4 was, what the process was that was in place.

5 WITNESS 1: So that's the thing. I was
6 not over the process. Obviously I interacted with
7 our ledge director. I know she interacted a lot
8 with the perspective -- those who were requesting
9 funding by way of course, email, phone, so I
10 really can't say what the process was. I know of
11 course her and the member had intimate
12 conversations, they were conversations the member
13 had with me on groups that were interested. She
14 held meetings of course with groups that were
15 interested throughout the district who would come
16 up to DC.

17 So I wouldn't say there was a process
18 aside from meeting with interested groups, hearing
19 them out, them submitting their paperwork
20 proposals, and then her meeting on an individual
21 basis with our ledge director on who should
22 receive the funding and then of course who should

1 not. But I wouldn't say there was a process as
2 far as in step one, step two, step three.

3 MS. CRUMP: Got it, okay. And for my
4 knowledge, who was the legislative director at the
5 time that you are referring to?

6 WITNESS 1: Staffer.

7 MS. CRUMP: Was anyone else from the
8 office -- can you hear me?

9 WITNESS 1: Yeah, I can hear you.

10 MS. CRUMP: Was there anyone else in
11 office who was involved in that process for
12 earmarks?

13 WITNESS 1: I would assume for sure, the
14 Chief of Staff. Now there were times the member
15 kept them in the know, and out the know. So I
16 honestly don't know his limit to information, but
17 obviously as the chief he was familiar. He was
18 the senior in the office. He was with the
19 Congress, I don't know, 20 plus years. So he knew
20 of the process.

21 But I would say a lot of the
22 conversations, a lot of the advisement, et cetera

1 came by way of the member to the ledge and then he
2 gave whatever input she requested, if any from
3 him, if any. So I really can't speak to his
4 involvement as much.

5 MS. CRUMP: And that Chief of Staff at
6 the time, can you give me their name?

7 WITNESS 1: Witness 6. Yeah,
8 there you go, Witness 6.

9 MS. CRUMP: Great. Was there anyone who
10 is not in the Congresswoman's official office who
11 was involved in the earmark process?

12 WITNESS 1: Yes, by way of the text
13 messages I sent you or the screenshots, et cetera.
14 Once again, I only spoke to Michael Joseph. I
15 know by way of -- you know, of course you hear
16 people talk. I think there was another
17 individual. I forgot his name. I forgot his
18 name. But I can speak to only the one I spoke to.

19 MS. CRUMP: Would his name be --

20 WITNESS 1: Go ahead.

21 MS. CRUMP: Well, we can -- we will
22 circle back --

1 WITNESS 1: Go ahead Kristina.

2 MS. CRUMP: Yes, can you hear me?

3 WITNESS 1: Yeah, I can. But for me,
4 who I spoke to, Michael Joseph. That's the only
5 one I spoke to outside of those who were
6 interested who might have wanted to know what was
7 the process, if it was too late for them to
8 submit, that kind of stuff. But that's more so
9 just general interest, like inquiries.

10 MS. CRUMP: And who is Michael Joseph?

11 WITNESS 1: Currently he is a
12 Commissioner for the City of North Miami Beach.
13 It's still that, yes.

14 MS. CRUMP: And what was his connection
15 to the Congresswoman in 2022?

16 WITNESS 1: Friends, colleagues. They
17 went to law school together. He helped her
18 obviously in other facets of being elected. I
19 don't know the details. I was not on the campaign
20 side. So I don't want to speak outside of goat
21 (phonetic). But I know they're friends. I mean,
22 they're colleagues. They went to law school

1 together which is very public and known
2 throughout.

3 MS. CRUMP: And is that the context in
4 which you knew him?

5 WITNESS 1: Oh I knew him just in the
6 space, the political space, the community space.
7 I knew him before Sheila. Oh yeah, I knew Michael
8 before Sheila. Yeah. So in this space, very
9 involved, very well known. I'm very well-known
10 and very involved. So a lot of the quote/unquote
11 players that are elected and those who serve in
12 the community I've known for years. So it wasn't
13 my first introduction. Let's put it like that.

14 MS. CRUMP: Great. You referenced your
15 text conversation with him. So let's go ahead and
16 pull that up.

17 MS. CRUMP: Nache, if you could please
18 pull up Exhibit 1.

19 TECH: Please stand by.

20 MS. CRUMP: Witness 1, do you see your
21 April 26 --

22 WITNESS 1: Yeah. Let me -- yeah, it's

1 2022.

2 MS. CRUMP: So you see on the screen a
3 text conversation you have with Michael Joseph?

4 WITNESS 1: Yeah.

5 MS. CRUMP: On April 29, 2022, it
6 appears that you sent him a message saying that
7 you were trying to contact him regarding
8 appropriations. Do you see that?

9 WITNESS 1: Yeah, I do.

10 MS. CRUMP: What was Michael Joseph's
11 involvement in the appropriations process?

12 WITNESS 1: Submitting recommendations,
13 submitting organizations to be considered.

14 MS. CRUMP: Why would you -- do you
15 recall why you were attempting to contact him on
16 April 29?

17 THE REPORTER: Counsel, it looks like
18 our witness just dropped off. Oh, she's back.

19 MS. CRUMP: Okay, let's go off the
20 record.

21 MS. CRUMP: Witness 1, are you there?
22 Hi, Witness 1, can you hear me?

1 WITNESS 1: Hey y'all, I'm so sorry. It
2 dropped. Can you hear me now?

3 MS. CRUMP: Yes, we can hear you. No
4 problem.

5 WITNESS 1: What were we talking about:
6 oh, his role in appropriations.

7 MS. CRUMP: Parker, are we on or off the
8 record?

9 MR. SIMPSON: We are on.

10 WITNESS 1: Okay, hold on one second.
11 Let me move from outside.

12 TECH: And I just want to remind
13 everyone just to take a moment just to listen
14 to -- I know it gets a little bit choppy here and
15 there over the Zoom, but just taking a breath and
16 giving everyone time to answer or question. Thank
17 you.

18 MS. CRUMP: Thank you.

19 MS. CRUMP: Witness 1, why were you
20 trying to get in touch with Michael Joseph on
21 April 29th?

22 WITNESS 1: So if I remember -- like I

1 said, I (inaudible) the director -- the ledge
2 director did, but when he was missing -- now when
3 I say him, excuse me. When there was missing
4 information, either -- yes, it would have been by
5 the member because she is only one who can give
6 you authority to reach out to people. I'm going
7 to assume it was by way of the member who told me
8 to get the supporting documents, which you see the
9 connection in the WhatsApp.

10 MS. CAMP: Okay.

11 WITNESS 1: And whatever questions he
12 may have had as far as the amount from the funds
13 or the account, I don't know. Like I said, I
14 wasn't intricately involved, but I was brought in
15 when needed to support or to gather information.

16 MR. SIMPSON: Could you repeat that last
17 bit for me?

18 WITNESS 1: Sure. Again, I'm sorry
19 y'all, the connection -- what part? Oh, so
20 although I wasn't the one who managed the process
21 as far as appropriations and the allocation, I was
22 brought in at moments to support and assist

1 whether it be collecting the information that was
2 missing, talking to him, et cetera, et cetera,
3 which would be by the direction of the member
4 because we couldn't authorize those conversations.

5 MS. CRUMP: So am I understanding it
6 right that the member would have asked you to
7 reach out to Commissioner Joseph to obtain these
8 supporting documents for this project that was
9 seeking funding?

10 WITNESS 1: Yes.

11 MS. CRUMP: Okay.

12 WITNESS: The ledge -- if the ledge
13 director couldn't get it, the member would have
14 asked me to get it, right? Because otherwise he
15 was the one responsible, the ledge director was.
16 So it didn't come the ledge director didn't
17 instruct me, let me say that. So it wasn't by the
18 instruction of the ledge director to go get this
19 information since I was in her (inaudible).

20 MS. CRUMP: If we could, open Exhibit 2.

21 (Exhibit 2 was marked for
22 identification.)

1 TECH: Please stand by.

2 WITNESS 1: Go ahead Kristina. I'm
3 sorry.

4 MS. CRUMP: I'm sorry, Witness 1. I
5 asked the technician to open another exhibit.

6 WITNESS 1: Oh, okay. Okay.

7 MS. CRUMP: Witness 1, do you see on
8 your screen the WhatsApp documents that you were
9 referring to earlier?

10 (Exhibit 1 was marked for
11 identification.)

12 WITNESS 1: Yes. Yeah.

13 MS. CRUMP: And these are the documents
14 that you received from Commissioner Joseph?

15 WITNESS 1: Yeah, all the supporting --
16 whatever was missing for that person or that
17 (inaudible) by way of his recommendation. Yeah.
18 Yeah. And then you can follow up for me.

19 MS. CRUMP: Why did Commissioner Joseph
20 have the supporting documents for this project?

21 WITNESS 1: Because he was speaking on
22 their behalf. I'm going to assume so; that he was

1 advocating or the liaison. Right? That would be
2 my assumption, he was the liaison between the org
3 and the office. So he was providing the
4 supporting material on their behalf.

5 MS. CRUMP: Was this unusual to have a
6 friend of the Congresswoman advocating on behalf
7 of an applicant --

8 WITNESS 1: I don't know how others do
9 it, but I would assume possibly so, because like I
10 said, I don't know the procedure, but I would
11 think that the involvement of this would probably
12 be questionable or probably raise some eyebrows,
13 possibly so.

14 MS. CRUMP: Let's go back to Exhibit 1.
15 Commissioner Joseph -- this is a continuation of
16 your conversation. You tell him the budget should
17 reflect 1 million. I can send you the guidelines
18 for this account, \$500,000 to \$1 million max. So
19 what do you mean here when you say the budget
20 should reflect 1 million?

21 WITNESS 1: Missing supporting
22 information. The budget that we submitted did not

1 reflect, I'm assuming the max amount, which is
2 what they were trying to get for this group.

3 MS. CRUMP: And what are the guidelines
4 that you are referring to that you could send him?

5 WITNESS 1: I'm assuming whatever was
6 shared with me at that time, like whatever you
7 needed to submit like the supporting documents,
8 the letters, which is what you are seeing on
9 WhatsApp.

10 MS. CRUMP: And so you are telling him
11 all of this so he can provide you with the right
12 supporting documentation for this project; is that
13 right?

14 WITNESS 1: Exactly, so that it can meet
15 the max amount, which is that million dollars as
16 you see in parentheses.

17 MS. CRUMP: Okay, got it.

18 MS. CRUMP: If we could, scroll down
19 just a bit.

20 MS. CRUMP: You say to him --

21 MS. CRUMP: Sorry, just up a little bit
22 more.

1 MS. CRUMP: You say to Commissioner
2 Joseph, can you get me one more support letter.
3 What did Commissioner Joseph say to you in
4 response to that question?

5 WITNESS 1: No. No. Pretty much no.
6 When I said, hey, you need one more letter and he
7 said, no, that's it.

8 MS. CRUMP: Were you surprised by that
9 response?

10 WITNESS 1: I guess so because if I'm
11 going to advocate on behalf of an org, I would
12 probably be acting -- at that point there was so
13 much frustration on -- here's what you're
14 seeing -- it wasn't the -- what was the word?
15 Like the questions I would ask, I didn't
16 necessarily get either on time or in its full
17 request. So I guess the simple reason was
18 frustration. Because like I said you notice I
19 didn't work with him from the beginning, but I was
20 called in to assist and liaise between my ledge
21 director and his org or the org, whoever that is.

22 MS. CRUMP: Why were you pulled into

1 liaise with him as opposed to the legislative
2 director?

3 WITNESS 1: I mean on a personal -- now
4 it's not my business, y'all. They didn't click.
5 They didn't see eye to eye. Once again, personal,
6 everybody don't vibe with each other. So it
7 didn't really have anything to do with business.
8 I would think it was just -- our ledge director
9 was very straight to the point. She didn't play
10 that.

11 What I mean by she didn't play that, she
12 followed the book of what she knew the process was
13 and if somebody didn't like it and there was
14 probably conflict, I was always brought in as the
15 neutral person because of my relationship with
16 people, my personality, my demeanor, et cetera, et
17 cetera.

18 MS. CRUMP: And so you say --

19 WITNESS 1: And also I know him, coming
20 from Miami. I was going to say, also I know him
21 coming from Miami; I had the relationship. The
22 ledge director is not from Miami or the South

1 Florida community. So if there is something that
2 is missing or you need someone to step in and
3 quote/unquote make something happen, for the most
4 part you're going to rely on someone who has the
5 relationship in the district.

6 MS. CRUMP: Was the Congresswoman the
7 one who asked you to step in and liaise with him
8 instead of the legislative director?

9 WITNESS 1: I'm going to assume so
10 unless -- because I really don't remember. I
11 can't even lie to you. Unless it was the Chief of
12 Staff. But like I said, he was only pulled in
13 when she wanted him to be pulled in. That's just
14 the reality. He wasn't as involved or knew much.
15 The member did not keep him in the loop on a lot
16 of stuff. She kept him in the dark actually.

17 So I'm going to assume based on my
18 relationship with the member, because I did have a
19 close relationship with her at that time, at the
20 time that I was brought in by her, but I can't say
21 a definitive. I'm just going to assume based on
22 their relationship that it would have come from

1 her and not from him.

2 MS. CRUMP: And do you remember any of
3 the specifics about why the legislative director
4 and Commissioner Joseph, why their working
5 relationship deteriorated with respect to this
6 project? Were there any specific conflicts?

7 Witness 1, can you hear me?

8 WITNESS 1: I'm back. I'm back.

9 MS. CRUMP: Witness 1, can you recall --

10 WITNESS 1: I'm back.

11 MS. CRUMP: Okay. Do you recall whether
12 the legislative director and Commissioner Joseph
13 had specific conflicts that led to this change?
14 What were those conflicts?

15 WITNESS 1: They didn't see eye to eye.
16 I know in my interactions with the ledge director,
17 because like I said, she reported up, right up to
18 me and the chief or I would say sometimes directly
19 to the member. But far as office, like office
20 structure, she would report up to me. I mean, a
21 lot, I'm not going to lie, on a personal -- this
22 is all personal business, not business of the --

1 He was disrespectful. He didn't like
2 her responses many times if she didn't agree with
3 something. Once again, I don't know their
4 intimate conversation, but I know generally
5 speaking if she said something he didn't agree
6 with, he was offended, he was upset.

7 If she required something, as you've
8 seen me asking for supporting information, he
9 didn't, you know, probably follow up with her or
10 maybe they had some words so they would come to
11 me. They would always come to me I would say as
12 the neutral party. But it was just a matter of
13 she followed the books, whatever she knew to be
14 the process.

15 I don't know what's going on Kristina.
16 It keeps going in and out.

17 TECH: Yeah, do you want --

18 WITNESS 1: Did you hear everything that
19 I said earlier?

20 MS. CRUMP: I did hear you. I believe
21 you --

22 TECH: Do you want -- I'm sorry. Do we

1 want to just take a moment just to see if we could
2 find a better source of connection?

3 THE REPORTER: Yeah, I would agree.

4 MS. CRUMP: Let's hop off the record
5 real quick.

6 (Whereupon a recess was taken.)

7 MS. CRUMP: All right. We are back on
8 the record. We had some technical difficulties,
9 but we are back.

10 MS. CRUMP: Witness 1, when we last left
11 off we were talking about specific conflicts
12 between the legislative director and Commissioner
13 Joseph and I had asked what those conflicts were
14 about.

15 WITNESS 1: Yeah, I think it was just a
16 matter of differences of way of doing things. Our
17 LD was very to the book, straight up, no fluff,
18 very direct. And I think for an elective who
19 might be used to people doing what he says or
20 expecting people to do what he says and to not
21 question things, that did not gel well. So I'm
22 just going to say once again, nothing official,

1 but I'm just assuming -- not assuming, I know
2 personalities just did not mesh. They were not in
3 agreeance with a lot of things.

4 MS. CRUMP: So the documents that we
5 looked at earlier that he provided to you via
6 WhatsApp on behalf of one of the entities seeking
7 funding, do you know where he was receiving those
8 documents from?

9 WITNESS 1: Oh yeah, definitely from the
10 person. I don't know who the person is at
11 Hemp4Water or the different group. But from the
12 group, yeah, from the group for sure because he
13 gave them to us on their behalf.

14 MS. CRUMP: Are you familiar --

15 WITNESS 1: If they didn't already
16 submit them. Let me say that.

17 MS. CRUMP: Got it. Are you familiar
18 with a person named Hector Roos?

19 WITNESS 1: No.

20 MS. CRUMP: So then let's circle back to
21 Exhibit 1, the text messages between you and
22 Michael Joseph.

1 WITNESS 1: Yeah, I had that open. I
2 went to go open this. It was a little slow. So I
3 have it open.

4 MS. CRUMP: No problem. And if we can
5 scroll down to where you revisit the issue of the
6 \$1 million budget with him again. After he says
7 no to the support letter -- if we can scroll down
8 on my screen. Yes. You say, regarding the
9 budget, can I get revised for 1 million, thanks.
10 What was his response?

11 WITNESS 1: That's the scope of the
12 work, submit. That's a directive I'm assuming.

13 MS. CRUMP: So he wrote scoop, but we
14 are correct in reading that as scope, right?

15 WITNESS 1: Oh yes, I'm assuming scope.
16 Yeah, I'm assuming it's scope, yes.

17 MS. CRUMP: And by scope he means that's
18 the scope of the project for the \$1 million?

19 WITNESS 1: Yes. And that's it. I
20 couldn't get no revisions.

21 MS. CRUMP: And by submit, that was a
22 direction to you; am I right?

1 WITNESS 1: I'm going to assume so based
2 on the words, yes, submit as an action, yes.

3 MS. CRUMP: And how did you respond to
4 that?

5 WITNESS 1: Okay.

6 MS. CRUMP: Did you follow up with him
7 by phone or anything further about what's being
8 send to --

9 WITNESS 1: No.

10 MS. CRUMP: That was the extent of your
11 communications?

12 WITNESS 1: No, as you see, that was the
13 extent of the conversation until May of 2022.

14 MS. CRUMP: Did you talk to the
15 Congresswoman about this conversation?

16 WITNESS 1: No, I don't think so. I
17 will be honest, I don't know. I don't think so.
18 I could have, but I don't know because we talked
19 about different orgs that were seeking funding.
20 So I don't know if we told her that we didn't have
21 enough information. The LD would be able to
22 unequivocally say yes or no to that, to be fair.

1 I don't remember. But I do know we talked about
2 orgs seeking funding and who should probably get
3 funding.

4 MS. CRUMP: Did you talk to the
5 Congresswoman about this entity Hemp4Water at all?

6 WITNESS 1: No, I don't remember. Not
7 except for as I was directed to get information.
8 That was it.

9 MS. CRUMP: Do you know about any
10 conversations the Congresswoman would have had
11 with other staffers about this project?

12 WITNESS 1: I'm assuming those in the
13 district. I mean, you have her Chief of Staff
14 that's over the district. I know you're going to
15 ask me for her name, so I can just give them to
16 you. What's her name? Nadege -- what's the
17 girl's last name? Leblanc. Same name as
18 Staffer, last name, excuse me. So that's her
19 district Chief of Staff. I don't know who else
20 would have -- I mean, maybe -- I don't know who
21 else would have -- I don't think the office
22 manager. I don't know.

1 The thing is, Sheila had personal
2 relationships with us outside of the office, if
3 that makes sense. Some of us knew her before she
4 ran for office. So conversations I think
5 sometimes blurred if that makes sense, from
6 personal to official, official to personal. But I
7 do know she has a district Chief of Staff. Yeah,
8 and that's Nadege Leblanc.

9 MS. CRUMP: Okay. Uh --

10 WITNESS 1: And she may have -- I'm
11 sorry. She may have talked to the person who did
12 a lot of the local outreach. What's her name?
13 Oh, what was her name? Charisma, something like
14 that.

15 MS. CRUMP: Is that Charisma Adams?

16 WITNESS 1: You got it, yeah. So she
17 was the local outreach person in the community.
18 So she interacted with a lot of the orgs based on
19 her relationships.

20 MS. CRUMP: Do you know if Mike Joseph
21 talked to the Congresswoman about this project?

22 WITNESS 1: Yeah, for sure, because he

1 was involved in it and it could only be by the
2 advisement or the authority, right, for him to be
3 involved. Definitely he wouldn't have come in on
4 his own merits. So I'm assuming -- I'm going to
5 assume, yes, since he was involved in the project.
6 That's my assumption.

7 MS. CRUMP: Were you under the
8 impression that this project met the criteria for
9 approval?

10 WITNESS 1: I don't know. I just knew
11 it was missing stuff. I really don't know, yeah.
12 I don't know. Staffer would obviously be the
13 one to tell you.

14 MS. CRUMP: Did you ever discuss this
15 project with Staffer?

16 WITNESS 1: Not this one, but we
17 discussed the -- what you call it? The whole
18 allocation and appropriations process. But I
19 don't remember specific. I just know her
20 sentiment over all was she just wasn't comfortable
21 with some of the stuff that she was seeing. She
22 just didn't agree with everything which is why

1 they conflict a lot of times.

2 MS. CRUMP: Did she -- so at that time
3 during the process she voiced to you some concerns
4 about how the appropriations process was being
5 handled by the office?

6 WITNESS 1: Yes. I would say general
7 concerns as far as just overall the lack of
8 structure, the lack of, in her opinion, who should
9 get funding and who should not, based on the
10 requirements and the funds in the account. So
11 yeah, general frustration.

12 MS. CRUMP: Did she express concerns
13 about Mike Joseph's involvement in advocating for
14 certain entities to get funding?

15 WITNESS 1: I think we -- like I said,
16 it was questionable. So I think for the most part
17 we all felt it was questionable and his
18 involvement should not have been as involved.

19 MS. CRUMP: Do you know --

20 WITNESS 1: His interactions, excuse me,
21 should not have been as involved.

22 MS. CRUMP: Do you know whether Witness

1 2 met with Michael Joseph or Mark Goodrich to talk
2 about appropriations?

3 WITNESS 1: I don't know if they -- no,
4 I don't know if they met. I know they spoke of
5 course, but I don't know if they met like in
6 person. Is that what you are saying?

7 MS. CRUMP: Yes, that's what I'm asking.

8 WITNESS 1: No. I mean, they spoke
9 because that you see he was the liaison or the
10 spokesperson on behalf -- so yes, they spoke, but
11 I don't know about meeting. I don't remember.

12 MS. CRUMP: Let's look at Exhibit 3.

13 (Exhibit 3 was marked for
14 identification.)

15 WITNESS 1: Let me go back.

16 TECH: Please stand by.

17 WITNESS 1: Exhibit 3. 3.2 or just
18 regular 3?

19 MS. CRUMP: Regular 3.

20 WITNESS 1: Okay, all right. It's
21 thinking. All right. Yeah, I see it.

22 MS. CRUMP: So you see this is an April

1 29, 2022 email from Staffer to the Congresswoman
2 and you are on this email too, right?

3 WITNESS 1: I'm copied, yeah.

4 MS. CRUMP: And it appears that this
5 email identifies projects that the Congresswoman
6 submitted to appropriations for funding?

7 WITNESS 1: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

8 MS. CRUMP: Okay. And you see that
9 Hemp4Water was included in this list, right?

10 WITNESS 1: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

11 MS. CRUMP: Okay. Was this project --
12 to me it seems that the funding request amount is
13 the largest of all of the projects that were
14 submitted. Is that also your impression?

15 WITNESS 1: Yeah, based on this, I am
16 assuming that last zero was just an error. It
17 missing was an error, I'm assuming.

18 MS. CRUMP: If we could scroll down,
19 please.

20 MS. CRUMP: So for item number --

21 WITNESS 1: Because I'm assuming it's 5
22 million.

1 MS. CRUMP: Right, so for 5 million.
2 Then you can see under name of recipient it says
3 the applicant failed to submit supporting
4 documents by the designated deadline?

5 WITNESS 1: Yeah.

6 MS. CRUMP: However, the application was
7 submitted directly to the appropriate subcommittee
8 for consideration on April 29 after the submission
9 of supporting documents. Do you see that too?

10 WITNESS 1: I sure do. I told her she's
11 very, very thorough.

12 MS. CRUMP: So can you sort of explain
13 what this is saying?

14 WITNESS 1: It is saying that the
15 application was submitted after the deadline
16 regardless of. There you go. Or it failed to
17 meet the deadline and it was still submitted by
18 instruction of somebody.

19 MS. CRUMP: Do you have any thoughts on
20 who might have given that instruction?

21 WITNESS 1: I'm going to only assume
22 it's the member who has authority to make those

1 kind of decisions, that it would come from her,
2 the member herself. I would assume so since you
3 can tell that the LD did not make that decision on
4 her own.

5 MS. CRUMP: Right. And you had also
6 asked for a revision of documents to line up with
7 the budget as well. You did not receive any such
8 documents, right?

9 WITNESS 1: No, not -- no, because if I
10 remember correctly he said that was it, right.
11 Yeah, you said that was it when I asked for the
12 revised budget of 1 million, which is interesting
13 because this says 5 million. So I was only asking
14 for 1.

15 MS. CRUMP: Do you know if Mike Joseph
16 was representing other entities that were seeking
17 funding?

18 WITNESS 1: I think he was. Yeah, he
19 was very involved though. But I don't remember
20 the other names because based on text messages,
21 that's the only one. No, if you go through the
22 WhatsApp, aren't those -- those are different

1 groups. Those are different groups. Those are
2 not just hemp -- I don't think those are just
3 Hemp4Water.

4 MS. CRUMP: If we go back to Exhibit
5 2 --

6 WITNESS 1: Yeah. Let me go to 2.
7 Yeah, I think those are different groups.

8 MS. CRUMP: You also produced -- you
9 also produced these documents on their own. And I
10 will represent to you, and feel free to check on
11 your own, but I believe that these pertain to
12 Hemp4Water.

13 WITNESS 1: So if they are just all Hemp
14 then maybe he was the lead on Hemp, but yeah.
15 Okay, this is all Hemp, okay, yeah.

16 MS. CRUMP: But separate and apart from
17 this, it's your impression that he was also
18 involved in other projects, correct?

19 WITNESS 1: I think so. Like I said, he
20 was very involved. Yeah, I think so. I just
21 can't name the groups because I don't have record
22 of them.

1 TECH: I'm sorry. One thing everyone.
2 It's the technician again. I would like to remind
3 everyone just for the sake of Parker, the court
4 reporter, and the record, it would be best to just
5 everyone takes a breath and so there isn't too
6 much crosstalk. So taking a breath --

7 THE WITNESS: Oh, okay.

8 TECH: To make sure that everybody is
9 getting -- like I know this isn't a deposition. I
10 know it's just an interview, but do so Parker can
11 take everyone's words down accurately and there is
12 no crosstalk. Let's just make sure we are kind of
13 giving a breath and making sure everybody can get
14 their entire question or answer in. Thank you.

15 THE WITNESS: And Nache, I think for me
16 on my end it's delayed.

17 TECH: I got you. I understand.

18 THE WITNESS: For like -- yeah, so thank
19 you for mentioning that. I will try to be -- no,
20 no, no, you are good. I will try to be
21 intentional on that because I do hear a delay when
22 I think she's done and she's not done. So thank

1 you for mentioning that. I will try to pause in
2 between.

3 TECH: No worries. And you are doing a
4 great job. It's not just you. It's just the
5 nature of these types of proceedings.

6 WITNESS 1: Oh yeah. Yeah.

7 MS. CRUMP: Witness 1, are you familiar
8 with someone named Mark Goodrich?

9 WITNESS 1: Yeah, he was a campaign
10 manager, or is. I don't know if he still is, but
11 during my time he was the campaign manager.

12 MS. CRUMP: Do you know whether he was
13 involved in the appropriations process?

14 WITNESS 1: I never spoke to him
15 directly. I just heard his name, but I never
16 spoke to him.

17 MS. CRUMP: Did you hear of --

18 WITNESS 1: Yeah, I never had -- oh,
19 sorry.

20 MS. CRUMP: Go ahead and finish your
21 answer.

22 WITNESS 1: Yeah, that's where it is

1 Kristina. We've got to pause. I remember we have
2 to pause. No, I was just saying strangely enough
3 I've never interacted with him during my time with
4 her office even as a deputy chief.

5 MS. CRUMP: Did you ever hear from other
6 staffers that he was involved in the
7 appropriations process?

8 WITNESS 1: Yes, from our LD.

9 MS. CRUMP: What did the LD tell you
10 about his involvement?

11 WITNESS 1: I believe he gave
12 recommendations as well, and advisement on who
13 should get funding if I remember correctly. But
14 like I said, it would be by way of her, not direct
15 conversation with him.

16 MS. CRUMP: But it was your
17 understanding or what you had heard that both the
18 campaign manager and the Congresswoman's law
19 school friend were making suggestions about which
20 projects ought to be submitted for funding?

21 WITNESS 1: Yes.

22 MS. CRUMP: Did the legislative director

1 mention whether it was framed as a suggestion or
2 an instruction to submit those projects for
3 funding?

4 WITNESS 1: Based on the tone and
5 conversations I've had with Commissioner Joseph
6 and Staffer, it was more of a directive by way
7 of being given the authority to do so.

8 MS. CRUMP: Given the authority by whom?

9 WITNESS 1: If I remember correctly.
10 I'm going to assume the member because it wasn't
11 by staff. I'm going to assume the member.

12 MS. CRUMP: All of the documents that
13 Mike Joseph sent you in Exhibit 2 were sent to you
14 via WhatsApp, correct?

15 WITNESS 1: Yes.

16 MS. CRUMP: Was it unusual to be
17 communicating about official business via
18 WhatsApp?

19 WITNESS 1: You know, I never thought
20 about that until now I guess. I guess it's not
21 considered standard practice to communicate
22 through WhatsApp. If this is following all

1 processes and guidelines you would communicate
2 through official email. But I don't know -- you
3 know, that's interesting. I don't know if he
4 communicated the same way with Staffer. But
5 yeah, that's how he sent me the documents, which
6 was strange. And I don't even know how I got it
7 to her or to whomever. I don't remember.

8 MS. CRUMP: Was it just that you would
9 communicate with him via WhatsApp? Or were others
10 in the office communicating via WhatsApp? Was
11 that --

12 WITNESS 1: That's what I'm saying, I
13 don't know. Yeah, I don't know. That's why I
14 said now that I'm thinking about it I don't know
15 if that's how he communicated with Staffer as
16 well. I don't know. But we communicated via
17 text, but for some reason he sent the document,
18 yes, via WhatsApp.

19 MS. CRUMP: Ultimately this Hemp4Water
20 project was not approved for funding. Did anyone
21 in the office ever discuss that?

22 WITNESS 1: Yes, because the list came

1 out and there were names that didn't get the
2 approval from the list, from the recommendations,
3 yeah.

4 MS. CRUMP: Did the Congresswoman ever
5 comment on the fact that the Hemp4Water project
6 was not funded?

7 WITNESS 1: Probably. I don't remember
8 conversations with her, but based on the
9 exhibit -- look here, I'm talking like a lawyer.
10 Based on what I provided you there was -- his last
11 message talking about why did we lie. I'm
12 assuming it supports the appropriations for
13 Hemp4Water. So yes, I'm going to assume that
14 conversations were had. I just don't remember
15 specifically with me and the member. Those
16 conversations would have happened with Staffer.

17 MS. CRUMP: Let's hop to that comment
18 that you just mentioned which is in Exhibit 1.
19 And we can scroll down to the bottom.

20 Witness 1, do you see your message on
21 June 8th where you say Staffer has been -- has
22 also been in meetings all day, but she was able to

1 share that the approved community funding projects
2 are listed here, and then you provide a link?

3 WITNESS 1: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

4 MS. CRUMP: Let's just start with the
5 beginning of what you said. You said it's been
6 busy since y'all got off the phone. What was the
7 phone conversation that led to this text?

8 WITNESS 1: Oh, I really don't know. If
9 it was -- if I remember correctly, it would have
10 been the usual -- he was upset whatever wasn't
11 submitted because as you see in the previous text
12 I told him it was missing documentation. So maybe
13 he was upset that they didn't get the funding. I
14 really don't remember. I don't remember. But
15 obviously he was not a happy camper.

16 MS. CRUMP: And just to back it up, you
17 mentioned that Staffer had been in meetings all
18 day. Why were you referencing her here? Because
19 she was the LD and the earmarks were sort of her
20 domain?

21 WITNESS 1: Yeah, and I'm assuming he
22 was trying to get in touch with her and she was

1 unavailable. That's my assumption based on
2 reading this, yeah. And that's why I said she was
3 able to share with me the link.

4 MS. CRUMP: Got it. And then he says,
5 why did you guys lie.

6 WITNESS 1: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

7 MS. CRUMP: What is he talking about
8 here? What lie is he referencing?

9 WITNESS 1: I guess he -- yeah, I'm
10 going to assume we didn't provide whatever
11 information he wanted us to say. I don't know.
12 I'm going to be honest with you, I really don't
13 remember. But I'm assuming whatever he
14 instructed, if there was an instruction to
15 Staffer or whomever, that it wasn't done to his
16 liking or to his satisfaction and maybe the -- I
17 don't know. I don't know. I don't know. But
18 obviously he didn't like something about the
19 submission or the information provided. That is
20 my assumption.

21 MS. CRUMP: Did you have any further
22 text messages with him about this?

WITNESS 1: No, because I looked and I

1 did not see anything. Hold on. I'm just going to
2 make sure while I'm on with y'all so we can be
3 done with this. No. So I'm looking. Literally
4 the last text messages or text message, that was
5 it. I never replied. That was my last -- my last
6 reply was on June 8, 2022.

7 MS. CRUMP: Did you have a phone call
8 with him to discuss this? It just seems like a
9 pretty inflammatory comment and there was no
10 response.

11 WITNESS 1: Yeah. No, I didn't respond.
12 He called me definitely. I mean after that he was
13 pissed, calling Staffer all kinds of names
14 because you don't -- you know, whatever. I don't
15 remember. I just know he was pissed. And then
16 the member wasn't happy with how Staffer -- and
17 when I use the word handle him, Staffer did not
18 believe in apologizing to someone who was
19 disrespectful or kissing butt, and the member felt
20 that she was disrespectful.

21 And whatever approach, like whatever
22 their interaction is, like I told you, this is all

1 my say, he say, she say for me. So whatever the
2 member did not like in their conversation or her
3 approach in conversing with the elected official,
4 she expressed that to me. And they were at odds
5 and, you know, whatever. So yes, he was upset,
6 but I don't remember the core details of what was
7 said.

8 MS. CRUMP: And just so that I'm clear
9 on it, it sounds like you believe he was upset
10 because of some of the projects that he was
11 affiliated with or representing were not included
12 for funding; is that right?

13 WITNESS 1: There you go. Oh, I
14 remember now. So the lie, this is the lie. This
15 is the lie. So the lie was on the deadline I
16 think of the submission or the account, like the
17 money that was in the account for that particular
18 project, if I remember correctly. And obviously
19 you would get that from Staffer because she knows
20 the specifics. But that's what it -- it was
21 something about we shared -- no, this is what
22 they're saying the account can support. Yes,

1 because there were certain things I believe he
2 wanted the proposal or the scope to support and it
3 just didn't make sense. It didn't fall in line.

4 So I think he was saying that you all
5 don't know what you are saying, you're lying. It
6 can pass through this account. If I remember
7 correctly.

8 MS. CRUMP: So his -- he was upset
9 because of discrepancies between what he wanted
10 and what the member submitted for funding. Is
11 that accurate?

12 WITNESS 1: No, I think he was upset
13 with what Staffer said could be submitted, if I
14 remember correctly. Like I said, if I remember
15 correctly, if I remember from that conversation
16 with Staffer or the elected -- both or one of the
17 two, it was a matter of Staffer said no, this
18 cannot be submitted under this account because it
19 doesn't match whatever the scope is. And he shared
20 that he had done his research, he had spoken with
21 someone in the committee. Whatever, I don't
22 remember all the

1 specifics as far as who spoke to. But the general
2 sentiment is we were lying as to what could be
3 submitted for this particular org and that it did
4 meet all requirements to receive the funding. So
5 in other words Staffer was incompetent, she
6 didn't know she was doing, and she was lying.
7 There you go. If I remember correctly that was
8 it.

9 MS. CRUMP: And then seeing that the
10 Hemp4Water project did not receive funding, is it
11 fair to say he was also upset about that?

12 WITNESS 1: Oh yeah, I would assume so.
13 That was his group that he wanted to -- that he
14 advocated for. Yeah, I would assume so.

15 MS. CRUMP: So other than communicating
16 with you and communicating with Staffer, did he
17 voice his displeasure with other staffers in the
18 office?

19 WITNESS 1: No. It was just me and her
20 that he wasn't fond of.

21 MS. CRUMP: We can take this exhibit
22 down. I'm going to shift gears a little bit. Do

1 you know whether the Congresswoman knew any of the
2 applicants for funding personally?

3 WITNESS 1: I'm assuming she knew a lot
4 of them because they were in the district and she
5 interacted with them, right, up until her
6 election. So I'm going to assume she knew a lot
7 of them personally.

8 MS. CRUMP: Are you --

9 WITNESS 1: I just can't speak to the
10 relationship. Oh, go ahead.

11 MS. CRUMP: Are you familiar with the
12 Figgers submission for the funding of healthcare
13 tablets?

14 WITNESS 1: No. I know they submitted
15 because the name is familiar and they are very
16 well known down here, but I don't know the
17 details. No, that was one of the ones I shared
18 with you that I was not involved in and I had no
19 communication with.

20 MS. CRUMP: Do you know whether Mr.
21 Freddie Figgers is a friend of the Congresswoman?

22 WITNESS1: I don't. I would assume so.

1 The only reason why I would assume so, that his
2 wife was on one of the boards that we served on
3 together with the member. So I would assume so,
4 but I can't speak to the relationship because I
5 don't know them.

6 MS. CRUMP: What was the name of that
7 board?

8 WITNESS 1: I forgot. It was years ago.
9 It was during COVID. Like health, it was a group
10 of black women in high positions that were trying
11 to come together and do things for the community,
12 for brown and black residents. So I don't
13 remember the name, but it somewhere out there if
14 you Google us.

15 MS. CRUMP: Was it Essential Community
16 Health?

17 WITNESS 1: Something like that. It
18 sounds familiar, yeah. I was a part of that.

19 MS. CRUMP: Let's pull up Exhibit 4.

20 (Exhibit 4 was marked for
21 identification.)

22 WITNESS1: Okay, Exhibit 4. Excuse me.

1 Exhibit 4, let's pull it up. Thinking.

2 MS. CRUMP: And I'm specifically going
3 to be talking about this April 8, 2022, 8:28 p.m.
4 text. And I will represent you this is from the
5 Congresswoman to Mr. Figgers. And specifically
6 the last sentence, she indicates that she is not
7 feeling well and she says I hope my staff is
8 taking care of you guys. And the next day he
9 responds, get better, your staff is great. Do
10 you -- first of all, this would've been during
11 appropriations season, correct?

12 WITNESS 1: Kristina, hold on one
13 second. Regular number 4? I'm sorry. I'm on
14 4.2. Let me get out of 4.2. Regular number 4,
15 right?

16 MS. CRUMP: That's right.

17 WITNESS 1: Let me get into that. Hold
18 on one second. I had the wrong one up.

19 MS. CRUMP: No problem.

20 WITNESS 1: Oh, this is the same one.
21 Oh no, I don't see the one about my staff -- oh, I
22 see it. I see it. Yes, I see it in green. Yes I

1 do see it from the member, yes.

2 MS. CRUMP: Do you know how the
3 Congresswoman's staff was taking care of Mr.
4 Figgers?

5 WITNESS 1: No, I don't know, aside from
6 appropriations with StafferS because he was one
7 of the submissions. I don't know.

8 MS. CRUMP: We can skip this document
9 then.

10 WITNESS 1: Okay.

11 MS. CRUMP: Are you familiar with the
12 application for funding submitted by Spearhead
13 Affordable Homes of Florida? Does that ring a
14 bell?

15 WITNESS 1: No. No, not that one.

16 MS. CRUMP: No problem. Are you
17 familiar with the -- an entity called Community
18 Brainstorming Alliance and their application for
19 funding?

20 WITNESS 1: No.

21 MS. CRUMP: Are you familiar with
22 Witness 4, the person who submitted the

1 application for Community Brainstorming?

2 WITNESS 1: I know Witness 4, but I'm
3 not familiar with his -- and so I spoke to Witness
4 4 because Witness 4 is also -- I mean, Witness 4
5 knows the Commissioner and I'm assuming he knows
6 the member. Let me not say that because I don't
7 know if he knows the member. But I've spoken to
8 Witness 4 because he was one of the ones that did
9 an inquiry on the applications process and asking
10 me was it too late, could he submit, et cetera, et
11 cetera.

12 And I believe the Commissioner advised
13 him to -- that he could still submit even though I
14 told him we had reached our max, but I think the
15 Commissioner said no, he can still submit. But I
16 do know Witness 4. I know him as a person, yes,
17 personally.

18 MS. CRUMP: And he's a friend of the
19 Commissioner's?

20 WITNESS 1: I don't know. I don't know.
21 Now that I don't know.

22 MS. CRUMP: Are you familiar with

1 someone named Rick Brown with Spearhead Affordable
2 Homes?

3 WITNESS 1: No.

4 MS. CRUMP: Do you know whether Mike
5 Joseph or Mark Goodrich instructed any staffer to
6 submit a funding request on behalf of Morse Life
7 Health?

8 WITNESS 1: That name is familiar, but I
9 don't know if it came from them, but that name is
10 familiar for sure. I remember that name during
11 appropriations, but I don't know if it came from
12 them.

13 MS. CRUMP: Were you aware Mr. Figgers
14 was doing communications work for the
15 Congresswoman's campaign?

16 WITNESS 1: I'm sorry, say that again.
17 Was I familiar with what? I'm sorry.

18 MS. CRUMP: Were you aware that Mr.
19 Figgers was doing communications work for the
20 Congresswoman's campaign?

21 WITNESS 1: Oh no, I didn't know about
22 that. No, not communications work.

1 MS. CRUMP: Were you aware that he was
2 providing communications for the official office?

3 WITNESS 1: No, didn't know about that.

4 MS. CRUMP: All right. Based on the
5 discussions that we've had and sort of the
6 information you've given, would you describe the
7 selection process for community project funding in
8 2022 in the Congresswoman's office as a fair
9 process?

10 WITNESS 1: No.

11 MS. CRUMP: Was it your impression that
12 friends and associates of the Congresswoman were
13 invited to apply for funding?

14 WITNESS 1: Yeah. Yes, ma'am.

15 MS. CRUMP: And also fair to say that
16 some of those projects were selected for funding
17 by the Congresswoman?

18 WITNESS 1: I don't know her decision-
19 making behind it, but I would say by way of
20 relationships in her network, possibly so.

21 MS. CRUMP: Would it be fair to say that
22 those projects received special attention or

1 assistance from the staff?

2 WITNESS 1: Yeah, I would say so, i.e.
3 Michael Joseph and the guy, the campaign guy.

4 MS. CRUMP: Mark Goodrich?

5 WITNESS 1: That would be to me what --
6 yes. That would be my assumption of special
7 privilege or special attention, having someone
8 like that from the outside.

9 MS. CRUMP: And their friends, like we
10 talked about, Mike Joseph's friends and associates
11 were also invited to apply for funding?

12 WITNESS 1: I don't know if they were
13 his friends. I just know he advocated for them.

14 MS. CRUMP: I see. Thank you for that
15 clarification.

16 WITNESS 1: Yeah.

17 MS. CRUMP: I guess final question. Do
18 you think that Commissioner Joseph would have
19 received the same treatment and attention from the
20 office if he had been a different constituent?

21 WITNESS 1: No, he definitely wouldn't
22 have received that attention because I don't think

1 this process allows outside influence from an
2 elected or a friend. I could be wrong though.
3 It's my first year Congress.

4 MS. CRUMP: Fair enough.

5 MS. CRUMP: Indhira, do you have any
6 other questions?

7 MS. BENITEZ: I do not.

8 MS. CRUMP: Let's go ahead and -- first
9 of all, I would like to thank Witness 1 so much
10 for taking the time to talk with us today. And we
11 will go ahead and go off of the record.

12 (Off the record at 3:22 p.m. PST)

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1 CERTIFICATE OF COURT REPORTER - NOTARY PUBLIC

2 I, Parker Simpson, the officer before
3 whom the foregoing proceedings were taken, do
4 hereby certify that any witness(es) in the
5 foregoing proceedings were fully sworn; that the
6 proceedings were recorded by me and thereafter
7 reduced to typewriting by a qualified
8 transcriptionist; that said digital audio
9 recording of said proceedings are a true and
10 accurate record to the best of my knowledge,
11 skills, and ability; and that I am neither counsel
12 for, related to, nor employed by any of the
13 parties to this case and have no interest,
14 financial or otherwise, in its outcome.

15

16



17

18 PARKER SIMPSON, CER

19 NOTARY PUBLIC FOR THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

20 4/10/2024

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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIBER

I, Molly Bugher, do hereby certify that this transcript was prepared from the digital audio recording of the foregoing proceeding; that said transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings to the best of my knowledge, skills, and ability; and that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to the case and have no interest, financial or otherwise, in its outcome.



Molly Bugher, CDLT-161

April 15, 2024

EXHIBIT 40

From: Staffer
Sent: Monday, April 25, 2022 7:51 PM EDT
To: Congresswoman Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick; Sheila Cherfilus McCormick
CC: Staffer
Subject: URGENT; COMMUNITY FUNDING PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR YOUR REVIEW
Attachments: Community Funding Project 1.docx
Importance: High

Good evening, Congresswoman,

I am sending this again for your review. I hope to finalize the 15 projects by tonight. At the very minimum, I suggest that we finalize at 10 by tonight. Keep in mind that we are dealing with very strict deadlines that have been established by the appropriations subcommittees.

We also need sufficient time after selecting the 15 projects to ensure they meet all the requirements and request additional information from applicants, if needed.

The deadlines are on the 27th, 28th, and 29th, depending on the account.

Regards,

Staffer

Rep. Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick-FL 20
2365 Rayburn House Office
Office: (202) [REDACTED]
Work cell: 202 [REDACTED]

EXHIBIT 41

COMMUNITY FUNDING PROJECTS
MUST BE SUBMITTED BY SATURDAY, THE LATEST

	Name	Name of Organization	Project	Address	Amount	Reason
1	Linda Long	Sojourners with Healing Hearts	PO Box 9134 West Palm Beach, FL 33419	PO Box 9134 West Palm Beach, FL 33419	\$167,500	Sojourners is proposing to expand our current financial support for early detection screenings to cover women of color ages 25 to 40. We currently provide free mammograms through our partnership with Boca Raton Regional Hospital by utilize their Mammogram Van as well as in-office testing through a partnership with the Diagnostic Center of America for about 70 – 100 women per year utilizing our current funding. Due to the financial impact to many corporations and individuals of the past few years, there is not sufficient funding for us to scale this program to meet the growing need of affected women.
2	Freddie Figgers	Figgers Foundation	Health Care Access for everyBODY	3810 Inverrary Blvd. Suite 41, Lauderhill, FL 33319	5 million	12,500 Medical telecommunications equipment.
3	Nadine Gadeon (MIKE)	Haitian Lawyers Association(HLA)	HLA'S Community Outreach	28 West Flagler Street, Suite 1000, Miami, Florida, 33130	2.5 million	To provide pro bono legal services to migrants and immigrants

COMMUNITY FUNDING PROJECTS
MUST BE SUBMITTED BY SATURDAY, THE LATEST

4	Julia Murphy	Compass LGBTQ+ Community Center (Compass)	Compass LGBTQ Youth and Family Services	201 N Dixie Highway Lake Worth Beach, FL 33460	\$523,345.00	<p>program and provide</p> <p>We are pleased to have built multiple relationships with partner groups and businesses. The Palm Beach County Library System is responsible for co-hosting the monthly LGBTQ teen book club with Compass. Night Runners West Palm Beach's (NRWPB) responsibility is to co-host the twice a month walking club with Compass. The Boys and Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County's (BGC) responsibility is to share Compass' services with their club participants and parents. Planned Parenthood of South, East, and North Florida's (PP) responsibility is to provide education to social support group participants on healthy relationships. Palm Beach Human Rights Council's (PBCHRC) responsibility is to share Compass' services with its members and provide support to Compass as an overall agency. United Way of Palm Beach County's (UWPBC) responsibility is to be</p>
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**COMMUNITY FUNDING PROJECTS
MUST BE SUBMITTED BY SATURDAY, THE LATEST**

						<p>our grant funder for our mentoring referrals for youth and mentors seeking LGBTQ services. Families First of Palm Beach County's (FPFBC) responsibility is to share Compass' services with their program participants. Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse's (AVDA) responsibility is to educate Compass program participants on healthy relationships and dating and domestic violence. Vita Nova's responsibility is to share Compass' services with their program participants. Rohi's Readery's responsibility is to co-host the monthly LGBTQ art club with Compass.</p>
5	Debon Campbell	City of Miramar	City of Miramar Southcentral Southeast Focal Point Center - Senior Citizens Program	2300 Civic Center Place, Miramar FL 33025	\$300,000	<p>"Funding will enable the Community Services Department to extend their hours of operation at the Senior Centers and provide additional services for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation services to access healthcare; • Nutrition to include breakfast, lunch and afternoon snack; and

**COMMUNITY FUNDING PROJECTS
MUST BE SUBMITTED BY SATURDAY, THE LATEST**

						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and wellness activities. • Recreation, counseling services and socialization for low-income, frail elders 60 years of age and older population. <p style="text-align: center;">"</p>
6	Jaene Miranda	Boys and Girls Club of West Palm Beach	Youth Development & Career Readiness Center (K-12) in FL-20 District – West Palm Beach	800 Northpoint Pkwy., Ste 204, West Palm Beach, FL 3307	4million	Construction of a new, state-of-the-art West Palm Beach Boys & Girls Club (WPBBGC) to include learning labs and a Career Readiness Center. Located in an economically distressed, high-crime area of West Palm Beach, the center's services will advance low-income, youth (ages 6 to 18) towards academic achievement, on-time grade advancement and high school graduation, and career readiness. Certified teachers and highly trained youth development instructors work closely with the youth to help them improve their academic performance. The requisite educational programs offer career exploration and skills training in Palm Beach County's high growth

COMMUNITY FUNDING PROJECTS
MUST BE SUBMITTED BY SATURDAY, THE LATEST

						industries such as Financial Services & Hedge Funds; Aviation, Aerospace and Engineering; Infotech and Telecommunications; Healthcare; and Culinary/ Hospitality
7	Shane Strum	Broward Health	Broward Health	1600 S Andrews Ave, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316	\$3m	Mobile clinic for mental health, behavioral, breast cancer
8	Marc Hopin	Ferd & Gladys Alpert Jewish Family & Children's Services	Ferd & Gladys Alpert Jewish Family & Children's Services Capital Renovation	5871 Corporate Way Suite 200 West Palm Beach, FL 33407	700k	For the renovation of the facility. It provides counseling and resources for persons with disability
9	Michelle Gonzalez	Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition of Palm Beach County, Inc.	Stronger Together: Doula Support for Black American Women	4601 Lake Worth Road, Greenacres, FL 33463	\$305,313	For Doula-based project to decrease Black Maternal deaths.
10	Jonathan Evans	Rivera Beach Utility Special District	Rivera Beach Utility Special District New Membrane Water Treatment Plant Project	600 W. Blue Heron Blvd, Rivera Beach, FL 33404	2 million	To design a new membrane water treatment for the city of Rivera Beach to replace the existing system which was completed in 1954
11	Germaine Smith Baugh	Urban League of Broward County	The Village at Oakland Park	560 NW 27 TH ave, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33311	735K	To secure the process of land acquisition and site planning for new construction of residential units, including homeownership and rental
12	Debon Campbell II	City of Miramar	Public Safety Mental Health Program	2300 Civic Center Place	100k	To ensure trained crisis mental professionals are

COMMUNITY FUNDING PROJECTS
MUST BE SUBMITTED BY SATURDAY, THE LATEST

						working in collaboration with law enforcement to reduce deadly encounters.
13	Terri Ferguson	Rivera Beach Cares Homeless Coalition for families	Rivera Beach Cares Homeless Coalition for families	6120 Lake Worth Rd, Lake Worth, FL, 33463, USA(Office in Frankel's district but also serve FL-20 Constituents)	268k	Provide shelter for homeless
14	Commissioner Dennis Grant	City of Lauderhill	Tea Time with Senior- an educational and wellness program	5581 West Oakland Park Blvd, Lauderhill, FL 33313	155,000	To provide wellness and education programs /opportunities to Lauderhill seniors and living stipends up to 1k to those in financial need
15	Peter Routsis-Arroyo (MIKE) Pending	Catholic Legal Charities		Miami	2million	Rental Assistance for low-income families
16	Dr. Charlene R. Ford	School District of Palm Beach County - Glades Region - West Technical Education Center	STEMming Up Agriculture Through Gardening: From Ground to Grocery	2625 NW 16th Street, Belle Glade, FL 33413	353,402.33	STEMming Up Agriculture Through Gardening: From Ground to Grocery
17	Emilie Smith	City of Sunrise	Sunrise Village Art Plaza & Library Square Improvements	10770 West Oakland Park Boulevard, Sunrise, FL 33351	\$2,500,000	"A gathering spot within the public realm will help promote social interaction and a sense of community in East Sunrise. The Art Village Plaza will connect the Village Multipurpose Center and the newly renovated City Park.

**COMMUNITY FUNDING PROJECTS
MUST BE SUBMITTED BY SATURDAY, THE LATEST**

					<p>The Art Plaza will showcase public art displayed by the City and provide a location for festivals and farmers markets for residents. The Art Plaza will be open to all residents and visitors and serve as a potential catalyst for further private investment in the community. The Art Plaza will serve as a place for the community to engage with one another and embrace the arts and culture. The Village Art Plaza will allow the City to: Creative opportunities to build community; create a sense of place; hold signature events such as live music events and art festivals; and attract visitors to the area to boost businesses and economic development in the region.</p> <p>At this time, there are no known risks associated with the project and the estimated timeline. The City owns 95% of the buildings in the area and there have been no concerns with environmental uncertainties. The adjacent property</p>
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**COMMUNITY FUNDING PROJECTS
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						owners have approved the project and provided the City with approval to build adjacent to their property. "
18	Kathleen Gunn	City of Tamarac, Florida	1st Time Homebuyers Assistance Program	7525 NW 88th Ave, Tamarac, FL 33321	\$350,000	Affordable housing is becoming increasingly scarce in the Broward County FL region, and Tamarac remains one of the few places with an affordable housing inventory. The demand for our program continues to increase every year. This year nearly 500 aspiring homeowners submitted applications for our program, which is why this funding request is so important, as it would triple the number of applicants that we can fund.
19	Daphnee A. Sainvil	City of Fort Lauderdale	LauderTrail	100 N. Andrews Avenue; Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301	\$2,028,354	The LauderTrail is a comprehensive multi-use trail system that will safely connect the community to parks, transit locations, local businesses, and family-friendly attractions. The LauderTrail system will improve the overall health and well-being, mobility, life expectancy and economic situation by encouraging residents and visitors

**COMMUNITY FUNDING PROJECTS
MUST BE SUBMITTED BY SATURDAY, THE LATEST**

						<p>to mobilize locally, without the need for vehicular transport. It is statistically proven that the more walkable a neighborhood is, the more residents will feel apt to shop locally, and even increase their life expectancy rate. More specifically - in the neighborhood this project will be constructed - the life expectancy rate is 10 years below the average rate of Fort Lauderdale's downtown area. The City further intends to utilize this trail to close the gap by providing infrastructure that will encourage mobility.</p>
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Recommended by Mike

1.

Name of Project: Stop the Algae
Hemp4Water Inc. A Florida Non-Profit and 501(c)3
steve [REDACTED]
\$5,000,000

Congresswoman Murphy's District.

2. Name of Project: Washington Park Broward County
Spearhead affordable homes of florida 501(c)3
Rickbrown.nha [REDACTED]
\$5,000,000

3. Name of Project: Financial Literacy x Creative Mindset
Community Brainstorming Alliance, Inc. 501(c)3

Witness 3

\$1.7 million- **8281 NE 10TH AVE, MIAMI, FL, 33138**

4.

COMMUNITY FUNDING PROJECTS
MUST BE SUBMITTED BY SATURDAY, THE LATEST

Name of Project: Economically Depressed Region of Palm Beach County.
MorseLife, a not-for-profit, 501(c)3 [REDACTED]@Morselife.org
\$500,000- Not in our district. This is Frankel's district

[REDACTED]

EXHIBIT 42

Short Message Report

Conversations: 1	Participants: 5
Total Messages: 22	Date Range: 4/18/2022

Outline of Conversations



Work Cruise chat • 22 messages on 4/18/2022 • Desha L [REDACTED] • Mark G [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Nadege [REDACTED] • System Message
<SystemMessage> • UNSPECIFIED_PARTICIPANT



Work Cruise chat

Redacted

U UNSPECIFIED_PARTICIPANT 4/18/2022, 3:29 PM
Hosts to thank:
Jodi Davidson- (Rubin Turnbull)
Jonathan Slade
Keith Myers (MorseLife)
TC Wolff
Rene Garcia (Miami-Dade Commissioner)

Redacted

EXHIBIT 43



CITY OF OVIEDO FLORIDA
400 ALEXANDRIA BLVD • OVIEDO, FLORIDA 32765
407-██████ • FAX (407) ██████
WWW.CITYOFOVIEDO.NET

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

1 MAY 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

It is important for cities to maintain their own water resources to lessen regional impact, and Hemp4Water is an excellent tool in the needed arsenal of approaches to the variety of problems faced by both natural and man-made water bodies. Its non-mechanical and non-chemical approach makes it a solution that allows communities to reach their water cleaning goals in new and creative ways that better reflect the sustainability goals of the residents we exist to serve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Megan Sladek". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Megan Sladek
Oviedo Mayor

COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR THE HEMP4WATER PROJECT

By D. Duayne Whitehurst

May 21, 2020

Background

My interest in finding uses for industrial hemp has a long and convoluted history.

During the summer of 1956, between my graduation from Peoria Central High School and my freshman year at Bradley University, I had the opportunity to work on a research project at the USDA National Center for Agricultural Utilization Research: Peoria, IL. The group I participated in was New Crops with a goal of identifying new crops that could be cultivated using conventional farm equipment and could be replacements for crops that were being overproduced.

That study included evaluation of kenaf, *Hibiscus cannabinus*, for use as a fiber for paper manufacture. It was found that the kenaf could generate fibers that could be converted into an exceptional quality paper. This was due to a low quantity of five carbon sugars in the cellulose.

By a strange serendipity I am now interested in a relative of kenaf, industrial hemp, as a means to sequester the nutrients in Florida's fresh waters and prevent the formation of red tide in the Gulf of Mexico. The industrial hemp thus produced must have commercial use. Unfortunately, if all of the nutrients were to be sequestered, the yield of biomass could be larger than can be accommodated by the need for fibers as I will describe below.

In another life, I have been involved in research for 43 years devoted to the production of alternative fuels by conversion of coal and biomass and have authored books and scientific papers on this subject. That work has been honored by several awards and invitations to consult for DOE and several industrial companies on the fundamental science of such transformations. The bottom line is that such conversions are only economic if conducted by simple reactions. Recently pyrolysis of biomass followed by hydrogenative upgrading is being studied throughout the world. I suggest that hydroponic industrial hemp may be an important source of biomass for this application.

Comments on the Heard Poster and Other Relevant Publications

The poster by J. Heard et.al.^{1,2} is very interesting and quite thorough. Much of the data presented is relevant to the present Hemp4Water project³. However there are several substantial differences between that study, conducted on land, and the proposed hydroponic cultivation of industrial hemp as a means to sequester nutrients from fresh water sources.

- One significant difference is that the harvesting will be quite different. Harvesting on land leaves the root and some stalk in the ground that is eventually reused in subsequent plantings. Hydroponic procedures will harvest the entire plant. Thus the yields of biomass will be greater than those reported by Heard. The overall consumptions of nutrients will also be greater.

- Another difference between the proposed project and that of Heard, is that the source of the nutrients necessary for plant growth will be undesired materials produced by runoff waters from various natural sources. Cultivation on land requires purchase of fertilizers for optimal crop growth.^{4,5,6}
- A possible problem in hydroponic cultivation is the probable lack of symbiotic fungi, *Mycorrhizae*, necessary for phosphate incorporation into the plant roots.^{7,8}
- Perhaps the greatest difference between hydroponic cultivation of hemp to sequester nutrients and cultivation of hemp to produce the greatest yields of fiber or seed, will be the optimal time for harvest. In Canada, only one crop per year is possible whereas in Florida, it may be possible to produce multiple crops per year (perhaps as many as than five, as I will discuss below).
- Cultivation on land has the advantage that hemp fibers are isolated on the same area as they are grown. The retting process separates the high quality bast fiber from the low quality hurd or shiv. It requires about 5 weeks. This is not a problem when only one crop per year is available. After retting the stalks have to be dried to less than 15% moisture before fiber isolation. This whole process yields only about 3.5% bast fibers. If hemp is grown hydroponically, additional landmass will be required for retting, drying and processing.^{9,10}
- Seed production from hemp requires long maturation times, generally between 70 and 90 days and only yields about 7wt% seed.
- Optimization of nutrient sequestering may produce low quality fiber and little seed but could be an excellent source of biomass for producing biofuels. Several shorter growing cycles could be available to yield much more biomass per acre and extensive drying may not be required. This will be enumerated below.

Interpretation of the Heard Data

In order to understand the details presented in Heard's poster^{1,2}, the raw data had to be extracted from the reported graphs and several assumptions were necessary. It is common for agricultural literature to refer to the phosphorus content as P₂O₅ rather than atomic P which is only 43.64% of P₂O₅. Similarly, potassium concentration is commonly reported as K₂O which is only 80.01% potassium. By contrast, nutrient concentrations reported in water analyses are on an atomic mass basis. Thus when comparing analyses from different sources the reported yields of P and K were converted to atomic masses.

Unfortunately, the raw data used to produce the poster was not available. As an alternative, the numerical data was extracted from the reported graphs by reading the values on the Y-axis and tabulating the individual concentrations. Rather than plot dates, the actual number of days of plant maturation were used. A summary of the tabulated data is shown in Tables 1-3.

Table 1
Observed Biomass Yields

DATE	6/1/18	6/15/2018	6/29/18	7/13/18	7/27/18	8/10/18	8/24/18	9/7/18
DAYS	0	14	28	42	56	70	84	98
Yield	lb/acre	lb/acre	lb/acre	lb/acre	lb/acre	lb/acre	lb/acre	lb/acre
Total Biomass	0	277	831	2769	8308	9877	11631	10892
Seed	0	0	0	0	0	369	646	923
Flower	0	0	0	0	185	369	738	462
Seed + Flower	0	0	0	0	185	738	1385	1385
Stem	0	92	369	1477	6092	7200	8308	7938
Leaf	0	185	462	1292	2031	1846	1662	1200
Fallen Leaf	0	0	0	0	0	92	277	369
Sum Leaf+ Fallen	0	185	462	1292	2031	1938	1938	1569

Table 2
Observed Nitrogen Yields in Pounds per Acre

DATE	6/1/18	6/15/2018	6/29/18	7/13/18	7/27/18	8/10/18	8/24/18	9/7/18
DAYS	0	14	28	42	56	70	84	98
Total N	0	15	34	85	179	178	175	161
Seed N	0	0	0	0	0	9	15	34
Flower N	0	0	0	0	10	15	25	15
Stem N	0	3	9	33	84	79	76	69
Fallen Leaf N	0	0	0	0	0	1	6	10
Leaf N	0	12	25	52	85	73	52	33

Table 3
Observed Phosphorus Yields as P₂O₅ in Pounds per Acre

DATE	6/1/18	6/15/2018	6/29/18	7/13/18	7/27/18	8/10/18	8/24/18	9/7/18
DAYS	0	14	28	42	56	70	84	98
Total P	0	3	7	18	39	41	43	43
Seed P	0	0	0	0	0	5	10	17
Flower P	0	0	0	0	4	4	5	3
Stem P	0	0	2	9	20	19	18	13
Fallen Leaf P	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
Leaf P	0	2	5	9	15	12	9	7

From these data, the % N and P in each plant constituent were calculated at each period of growth as shown in Tables 4 and 5.

Table 4
Observed %N in Each Component

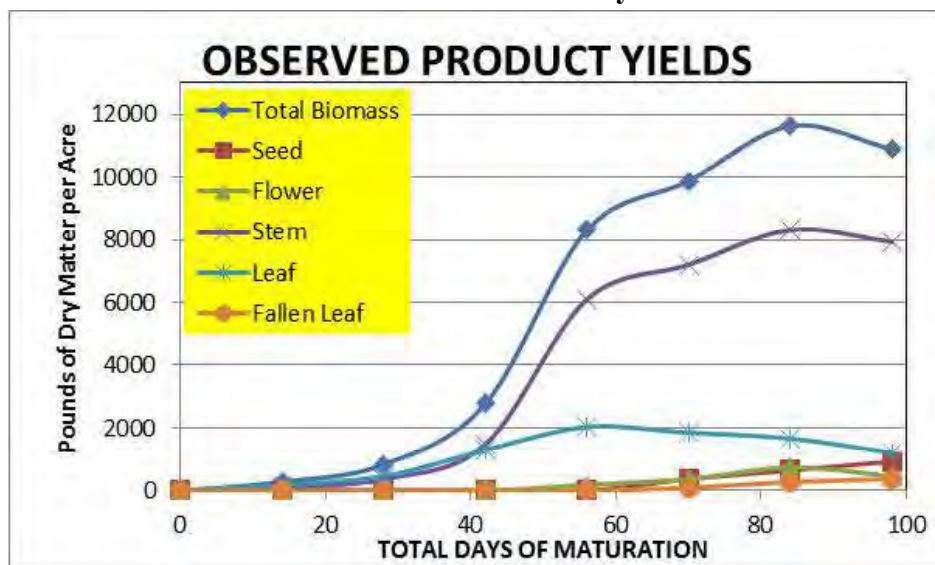
DATE	6/1/18	6/15/2018	6/29/18	7/13/18	7/27/18	8/10/18	8/24/18	9/7/18
DAYS	0	14	28	42	56	70	84	98
TOTAL % N	0	5.39	4.13	3.07	2.16	1.80	1.50	1.48
Seed % N	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.43	2.31	3.72
Flower % N	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.66	4.04	3.44	3.23
Stem % N	0	3.23	2.43	2.22	1.37	1.10	0.92	0.86
Fallen Leaf % N	0	0	0	0	0	0	2.16	2.83
Leaf % N	0	6.47	5.50	4.04	4.19	3.96	3.14	2.74

Table 5
Observed %P in Each Component

DATE	6/1/18	6/15/2018	6/29/18	7/13/18	7/27/18	8/10/18	8/24/18	9/7/18
DAYS	0	14	28	42	56	70	84	98
TOTAL % P	0.00	1.00	0.79	0.65	0.46	0.41	0.37	0.39
Seed % P	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.32	1.50	1.81
Flower % P	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.07	1.03	0.66	0.75
Stem % P	0.00	0.38	0.56	0.59	0.32	0.27	0.22	0.17
Fallen Leaf % P	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.75
Leaf % P	0.00	1.32	0.98	0.73	0.74	0.66	0.54	0.55

In the Heard poster “Dry Matter Accumulation” graph, it appeared that after August 24 (day 84), the total yield of dry matter declined. This is also shown in the revised data from Table 1 (see Figure 1).

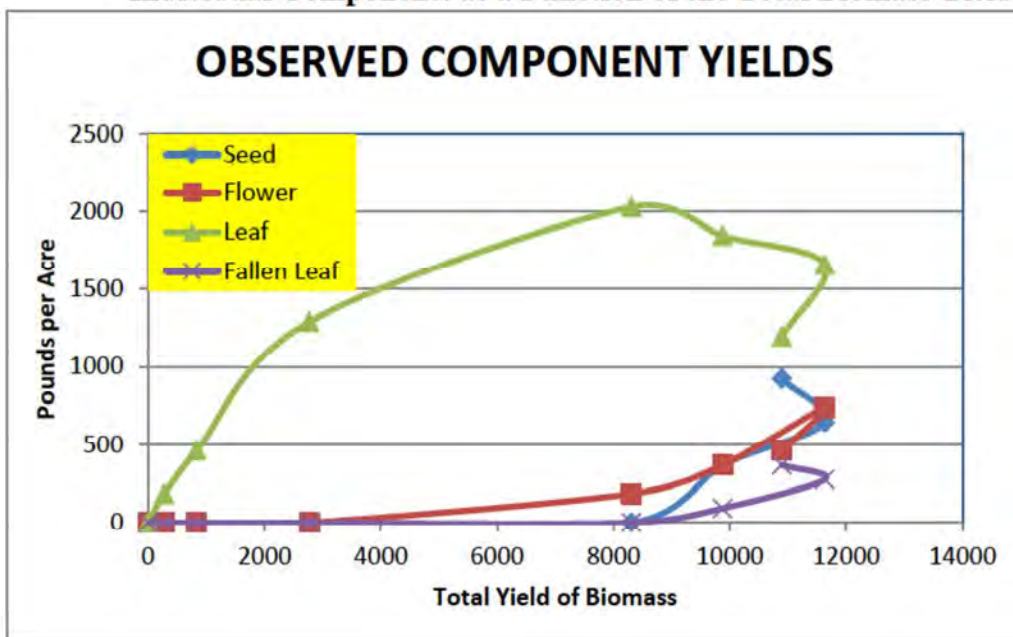
Figure 1
Observed Yields of Dry Matter



It is clear that the yield of leaves declines as the plants mature and there is an indication that some loss of yield of stalk also occurs. The yields are reported on a dry mass basis so one wonders how this happens.

Another way to present the data may help to explain this dilemma. Figure 2 shows some component yields plotted against the total yield that occurred at the various stages of maturation. Plotted in this way the products should exhibit a smooth progression of each individual yield increasing as a function of the summed yields. However the data appear to be erratic.

Figure 2
Individual Components as a Function of the Total Biomass Yield



One possible explanation for the strange appearance of the component yields could be that the overall production of total biomass was actually higher than that observed. As all data were reported on a dry mass basis, loss of moisture could not be the explanation. A more reasonable conclusion could be that fallen leaves suffered significant biodegradation so they were under reported.

If one assumes that fallen leaves are biodegraded, then the observed yields would appear low. Following this assumption, the yields of fallen leaves and total biomass were modified to provide plots that looked more reasonable. Compare Figures 3 and 4. The yield of stem also appeared to be slightly low, so this was adjusted as well. The adjusted values used in subsequent discussions are presented in Table 6.

Figure 3

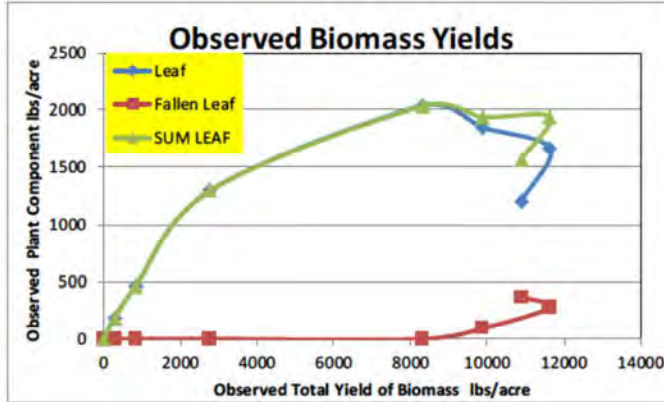


Figure 4

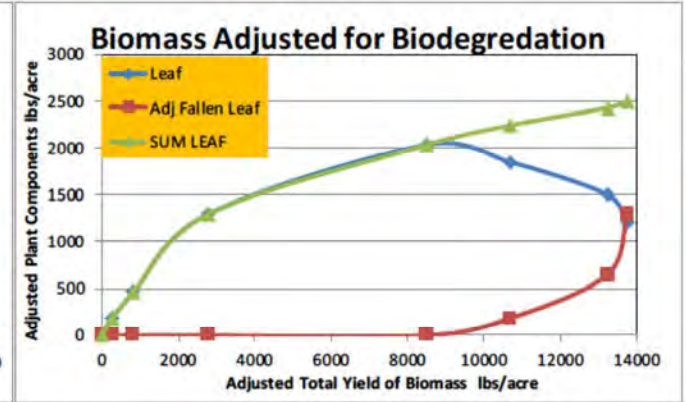


Table 6

Yields of Biomass and Plant Constituents Adjusted for Biodegradation (lbs/Acre)

DATE	6/1/18	6/15/2018	6/29/18	7/13/18	7/27/18	8/10/18	8/24/18	9/7/18
DAYS	0	14	28	42	56	70	84	98
Total Adj l	0	277	831	2769	8492	10708	13224	13769
Seed+ Flo	0	0	0	0	185	738	1385	1385
Seed	0	0	0	0	0	369	646	923
Flower	0	0	0	0	185	369	738	462
Stem	0	92	369	1477	6092	7200	8308	8500
Leaf	0	185	462	1292	2031	1846	1500	1200
Adj Fallen	0	0	0	0	0	185	647	1300
SUM LEAF	0	185	462	1292	2031	2241	2427	2500

Adjusting the biomass and fallen leaf values required recalculation of the potential yields of sequestered nitrogen and phosphorus. In these calculations, the fallen leaf concentrations of N and P were assumed to be the same as those of the normal leaves.

The recalculated yields are presented in Tables 7 and 8.

Table 7
Adjusted Yields of Sequestered Nitrogen in Plant Constituents (Lbs/Acre)

DATE	6/1/18	6/15/2018	6/29/18	7/13/18	7/27/18	8/10/18	8/24/18	9/7/18
DAYS	0	14	28	42	56	70	84	98
TOTAL N Yield	0	15	34	85	183	193	199	204
Calc Total N	0	15	34	85	179	183	184	191
Seed N Yield	0	0	0	0	0	9	15	34
Flower N Yield	0	0	0	0	10	15	25	15
Stem N Yield	0	3	9	33	84	79	76	74
Fallen Leaf N Yield	0	0	0	0	0	7	20	36
Leaf N Yield	0	12	25	52	85	73	47	33
Sum Leaf + Fallen	0	12	25	52	85	80	68	68

Table 8
Adjusted Yields of Sequestered Phosphorus in Plant Constituents (lbs/Acre)

DATE	6/1/18	6/15/2018	6/29/18	7/13/18	7/27/18	8/10/18	8/24/18	9/7/18
DAYS	0	14	28	42	56	70	84	98
TOTAL P ₂ O ₅ Yield	0	2.8	6.6	18.1	39.4	44.0	49.3	54.0
Seed P ₂ O ₅ Yield	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.9	9.7	16.7
Flower P ₂ O ₅ Yield	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.8	3.8	4.9	3.5
Stem P ₂ O ₅ Yield	0	0.3	2.1	8.7	19.8	19.4	18.4	14.1
Fallen Leaf P ₂ O ₅ Yield	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.2	3.5	7.1
Leaf P ₂ O ₅ Yield	0	2.4	4.5	9.4	14.9	12.2	8.2	6.6
Sum Leaf+Fallen P ₂ O ₅	0	2.4	4.5	9.4	14.9	13.4	11.7	13.7

Missing Yields

As mentioned above, some losses of sequestered nutrients occurs as leaves fall from the stalk and biodegradation occurs. This is common practice in cultivation of industrial hemp where harvested stalks, seeds and retted nonfibrous materials are plowed back into the soil. Roots are also not recovered. In hydroponic cultivation, the entire plant may be harvested so biomass yields could be significantly greater than field planted hemp.

It has been reported that hemp plants consist of a constant proportion of above ground/below ground ratio of 5.46 and the N content is 1.31%.¹¹ I could not find the P content of hemp root, but if it is similar to other plant roots, it should be around 0.1%. In future studies, it would be useful to determine the actual values for total root yields, root %N and root %P.

Assuming the literature values are correct, then the root biomass would be 2522 lbs/acre and the total biomass yield in Heard's study would be 16291lbs/acre. The total N and P incorporated could possibly be higher by 33 and 16 lbs/acre respectively.

Sequestration of Nutrients With Increasing Maturation

The goal of the Hemp4Water project is to determine the potential for hydroponic industrial hemp to remove nutrients from Florida's fresh water resources. The following discussion addresses some key features of such a process based on Heard's studies and some relevant literature. Not knowing the absolute yield of root biomass or the % N or %P in the roots, this contribution was not included in these discussions.

By separating the individual yields and N and P contents, it is possible to trace the progress of N and P incorporation into the various components reported by Heard. Figures 5 and 6 illustrate how nitrogen is incorporated into the growing hemp as the plant matures.

Figure 5

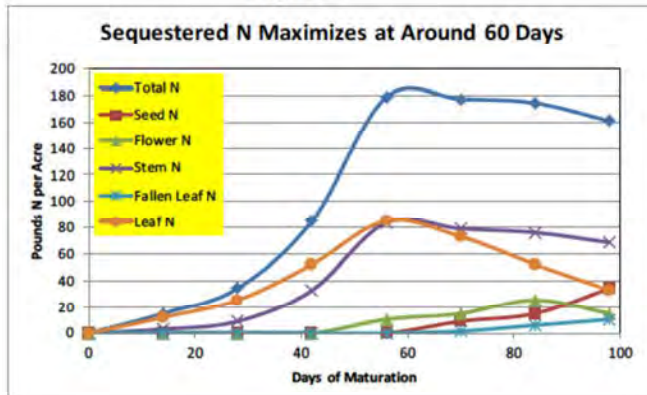
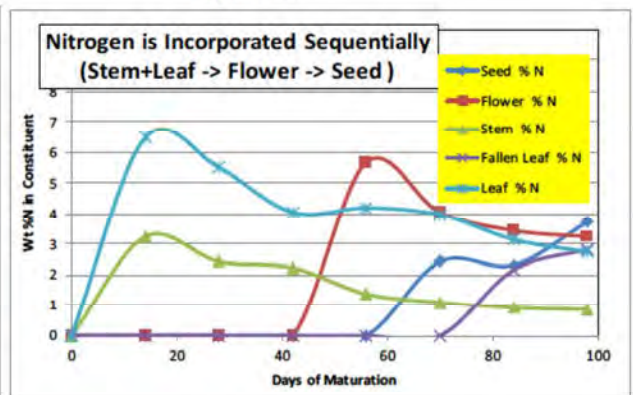


Figure 6



It is interesting to note that the incorporation of N reaches a maximum in about 60 days and there is a systematic progression of N from stalk and seed to flower and then to seed. The values for fallen leaves are only predicted values for the case where the fallen leaves would be harvested prior to biodegradation.

Figures 7 and 8 show similar behaviors for phosphorus as the plants mature and exhibit similar trends. One difference between N and P is that sequestering of phosphorus increases as seeds are produced while sequestered nitrogen is lost.

Figure 7

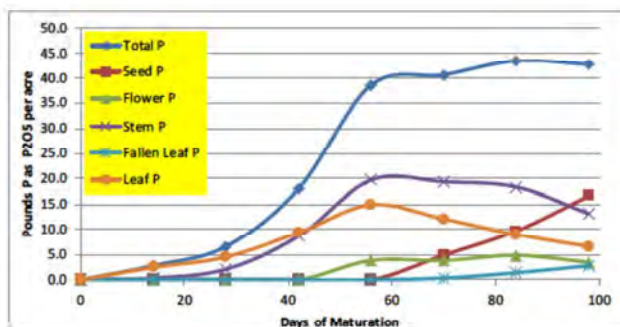
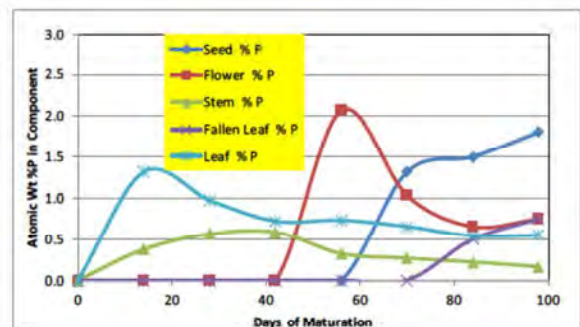


Figure 8



Potential of Industrial Hemp for Sequestering Nutrients in Florida’s Fresh Water Resources

Heard’s poster^{1,2} provides an excellent background for assessing the potential of hydroponic cultivation of industrial hemp for sequestering unwanted nutrients in Florida’s fresh water resources. The mass balance for input and output of biomass, N and P are summarized in Table 9. Note the yields of phosphorus are presented as atomic P. Values in the table include calculations from reported values and estimates for potential yields from hydroponic cultivation. Discussions will concentrate on the reported data.

Table 9
Mass Balance of Nutrients provided in Fertilizers and Yields in Crop Products

NUTRIENT/COMPONENT	INPUT (pounds/acre)	OUTPUT (pounds/acre)	POTENTIAL (pounds/acre)
Total Biomass	0	10892	16291
Seed	35	923	923
Nitrogen	16	180	213
Phosphorus	14	18	31
Potassium	108	103	
Sulfur	10	13	

It is surprising that 35 pounds of planted seeds can produce 10,892 pounds of harvested plant matter including 923 pounds of seed. When one considers the potential for nutrient removal, the nutrient supplied for plant growth is substantial but puzzling. Small increases were observed for P and S but the results demonstrate the appropriate application of fertilizer in this study. However N yield was considerably larger than the amount used in the original fertilizer. The potassium yield went through a maximum where 129 pounds of K were observed after 56 days of maturation before flowering or leaf loss commenced. Note the potassium requirement is much larger than that for phosphorus.

Two possible reasons for these observations can be considered. Heard’s study did not include analysis of the nutrient content of the soil prior to planting or the soil after the study. Thus some nutrient depletion in the soil could account for some of the observed increases of P and S yields. Another possible reason could be symbiotic nitrogen fixation from bacteria in the soil and/or *Mycorrhizae* fungus in combination with bacteria.⁸ Recall that the reported biomass yields did not include root, small amounts of stalk or biodegraded leaves.

If one assumes that hydroponic growth of hemp offers the same yield/time behavior as Heard’s reported field data, then it is possible to estimate the balance between the influx of unwanted fresh water nutrients and sequestered nutrients by the plants.

There are several excellent references for the concentration of nutrients in Florida’s fresh waters and the volumetric flow rates of various locations.¹²⁻¹⁷ Unfortunately the reported data vary widely from report

to report and year to year. Each report presents the data in different units, which makes comparisons difficult. In Table 10, the data were recalculated so they could be compared on the same unit basis. Water flows are presented cubic feet/year, N and P values are presented in pounds per year.

Table 10

Annual Water Flow Rates and Nutrient Loads for Okeechobee Influx at S-77

Reference	Influx Rate 10¹⁰ Cubic Feet/Year	Nitrogen Load 10⁶ Pounds/year	Phosphorus Load 10⁶ Pounds/year
12 Table 6	3.79	2.48	0.105
12 Table 3		2.39	0.099
12 p15 regulatory	8.20		
13 Fig 6			0.503
14 Table p2		7.00	
15 Table ES-1	1.47	1.31	0.129
16 Table 6.3-4	4.25	4.29	0.229

Annual flow rates and nutrient loads at S-79, the exit of the Caloosahatchee River are about 3 times larger.¹²⁻¹⁶ For the present discussion, only the situation at S-77 will be considered using the values reported in reference 12.

Considering first the nutrient contents along Caloosahatchee Waterway, a map of the various locations is presented in Figure 9, taken from reference 12,

Figure 9
The Caloosahatchee River Watershed

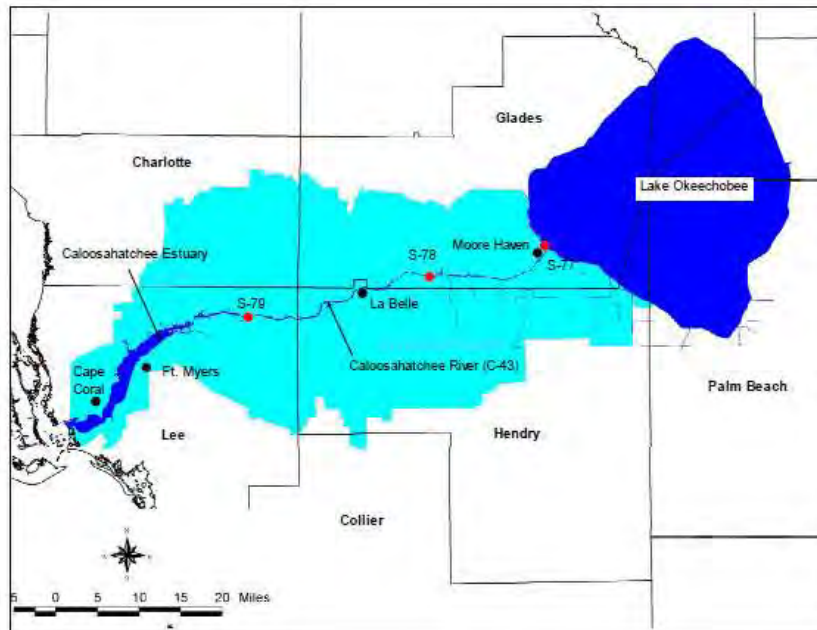


Figure 10, shows the progression of nutrient concentrations from the exit of Lake Okeechobee (S-77) to the entrance of the Caloosahatchee Estuary (S-79). Units presented in this graph are expressed in pounds/year for ease in comparison to the yields shown in Table 9.¹⁴ Cultivation areas may also be expressed as square miles. The conversion factors used in subsequent discussions are the following.

1 acre = 0.0015625 square miles 160 acres = 0.25 square miles

1 hectare = 2.47105 acres = 0.00386102 square miles

1 metric ton = 2200 pounds

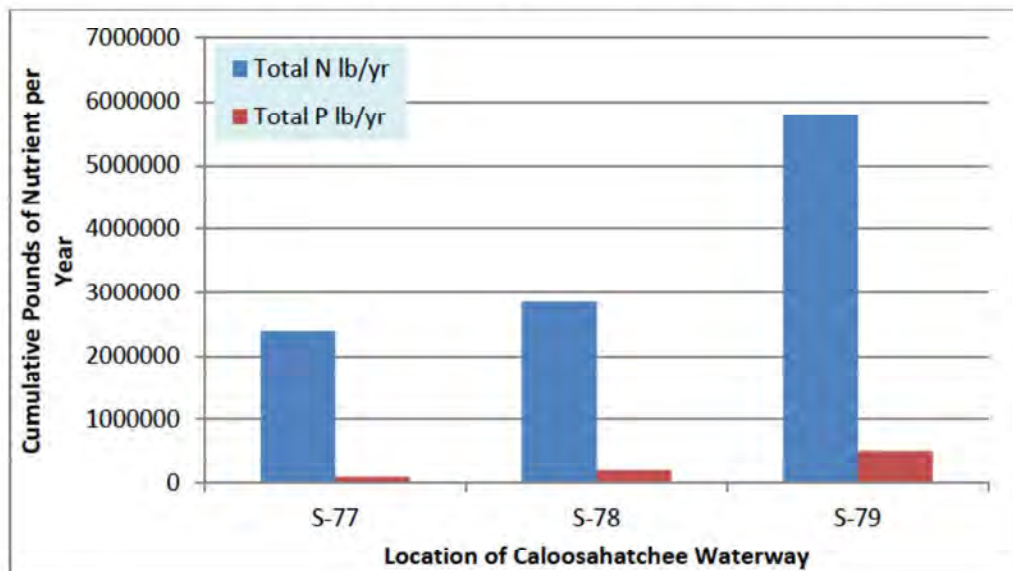
1 acre-foot = 43559.9 cubic feet

1 mg/l = 1 part per million weight = 1000 parts per billion weight

1 cubic foot/sec = 0.00316×10^{10} cubic feet/year

Figure 10

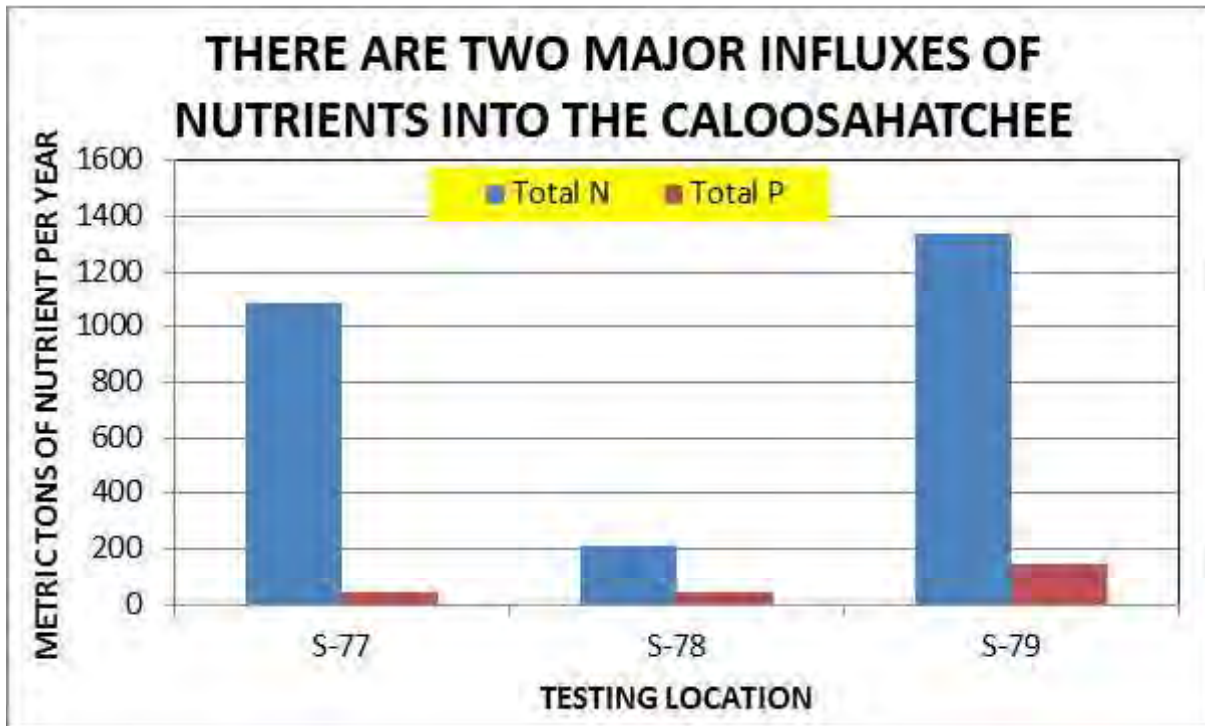
Nutrient Influx into the Caloosahatchee Waterway



When considering a location for nutrient sequestering it should be noted that this profile is not smooth. Figure 11 shows that there are two major nutrient sources into this waterway so removal of nutrients may require two sites.

Figure 11

Individual Nutrient Influxes into the Caloosahatchee Waterway

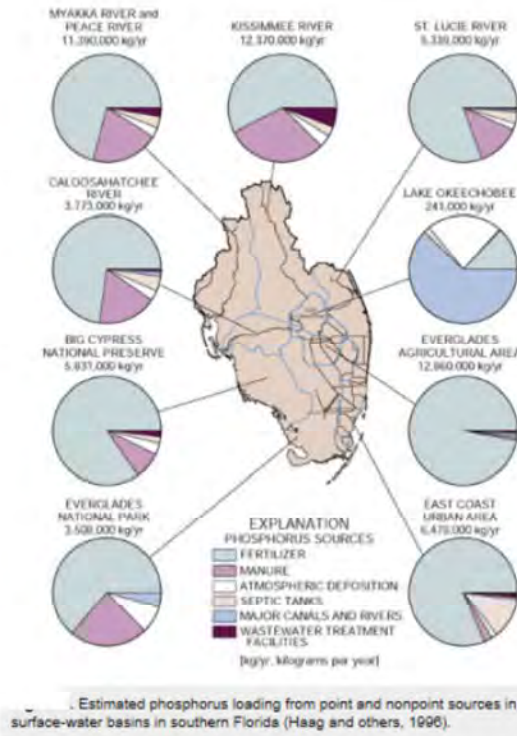


Phosphorus may be the most important nutrient to remove if some microbe fixes atmospheric nitrogen in the waters, thus regenerating the nutrient contamination. The sources of phosphorus that enter the southern Florida watershed are well described in reference 13.

An illustration of these sources is taken from reference 13 and presented in Figure 12.

Figure 12

Nutrient Concentrations in Ground Water are Highly Variable¹³



Considering first the possible sequestration of nutrients at the exit of Lake Okeechobee into the Caloosahatchee Waterway, the quantity of total N and P nutrients that would have to be sequestered is 2.48 and 0.105 million pounds per year respectively. Heard reported a cultivation period of 98 days and required 160 acres in order to remove 25,760 and 6832 pounds of N and P respectively.

If one 98 day cultivation cycle is considered, the amount of N that should be sequestered is 1,152,367 pounds and that of P should be 61,703 pounds. To balance the amount supplied and amount sequestered the cultivation area would have to be 11.2 square miles for 100% of the nitrogen and 2.3 square miles for 100% of the phosphorus.

If the hemp were to be harvested in 60 days, before flowering and leaf loss, the areas required for cultivation could be lowered. The yield of sequestered N would be higher (28657 pounds) and the yield of P would be slightly lower (6167 pounds). So the required cultivation areas to remove 100% of the N and P would be 6.2 and 1.5 square miles respectively.

At first glance these scenarios seem feasible. However, the fresh water flow rates must also be considered. The average discharge rate of Lake Okeechobee at S-77 is 734 cubic feet/second.¹² That results in 3.81 billion cubic feet of water in 60 days and 6.21 billion cubic feet of water in 98 days.

An area of 6.2 square miles filled with water to a depth of one foot would represent a volume of only 0.173 billion cubic feet. So such an area would be sufficient to accommodate the average influx of water from Lake Okeechobee.

The regulatory release of water during rainy seasons at S-77 is 2600 cubic feet/second, so the cultivation areas would have to be 3.5 times larger but still may be feasible. But where would such areas be found? Lake Okeechobee's area is 730 square miles so partitioning off 6.2 square miles may be possible but larger areas could be problematic. Location of a cultivation area within the Caloosahatchee Waterway is not feasible as the large area required would impede boat traffic.

An alternative could be to identify a wetland area that water exiting Lake Okeechobee could be diverted to a reservoir adjacent to the Caloosahatchee Waterway where water cleanup by sequestering nutrients with hydroponic hemp cultivation could be conducted. Lake Hicpochee is a potential candidate. It is presently a wetland swamp on the Caloosahatchee Canal. Figure 13 shows the location and Figure 14 presents a satellite blowup of the wetland area. The yellow oval indicates an area that would be 11 square miles, which is in line with the desired area for hydroponic cultivation.

Presently there is a project in the Hicpochee Wetland (Lake Hicpochee Shallow Storage and Hydrologic Enhancement Project) that is under construction, with a goal of providing additional storage of water from the Caloosahatchee River and to improve the water quality in the downstream canal. This project could be a match with the Hemp4Water project.

Figure 13

Lake Hicpochee is Wetland Swamp on the Caloosahatchee Waterway

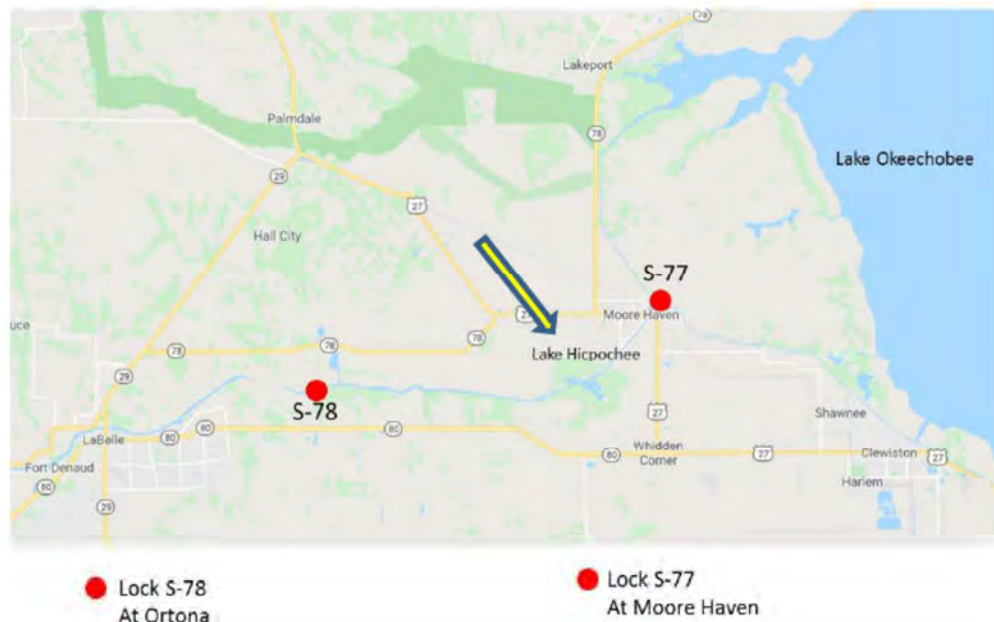
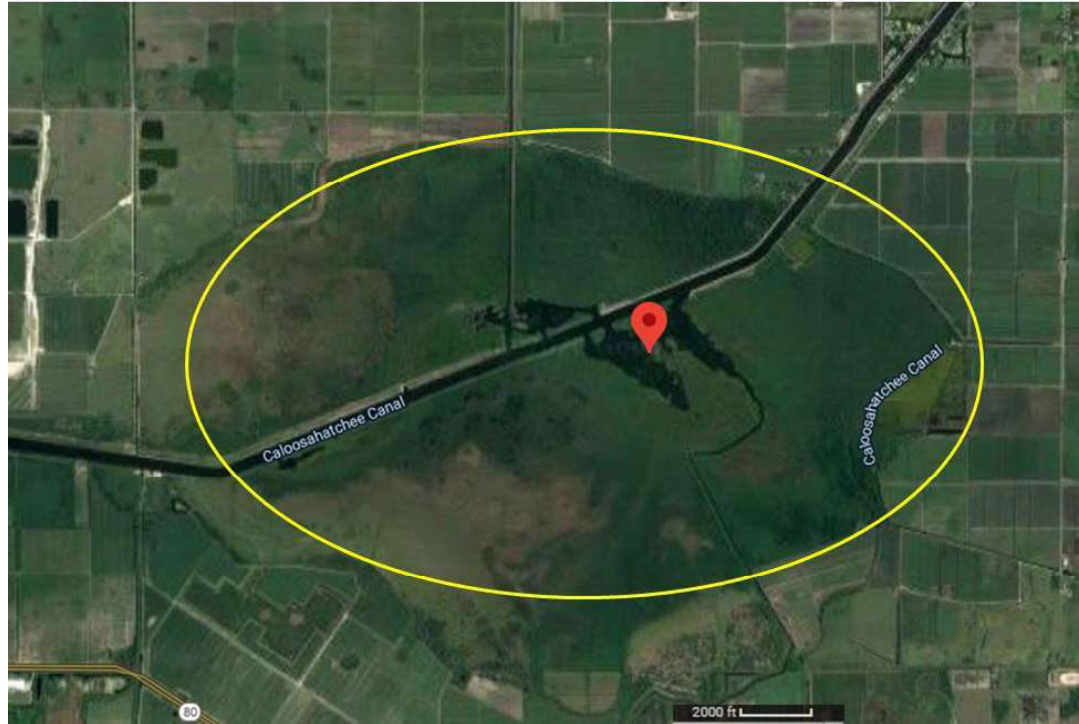


Figure 14
Lake Hicpochee Wetland Area



Utilization of the Biomass Produced by Hydroponic Cultivation of Industrial Hemp

One goal of hydroponic cultivation of industrial hemp is to remove nutrients from Lake Okeechobee and the Caloosahatchee Waterway. This would reduce the growth of toxic freshwater algae and inhibit the formation of red tide in the Gulf of Mexico. Such reductions would be a great benefit to the health of Floridians¹⁷ and to Florida’s tourist industry. The question remains: how would the produced biomass be utilized?

If the nutrients were to be completely removed near S-77 or S-70, there would be a huge volume of biomass that would result. The stoichiometric yields of biomass for complete removal of nutrients in a single growing cycle is shown in Table 11.

Table 11
Yield of Biomass in a Single Growing Cycle

Location	60 days @ 6.2mi ³	98 days @ 11.2mi ³
S-77	3968 metric tons	7168 metric tons
S-79	9600 metric tons	17300 metric tons

However, unlike the Canadian study, Florida has a climate that would allow cultivation of more than one crop per year. This would be desirable in order to remove nutrients throughout the entire year. For example five 60 day cycles could yield about 20,000 Metric tons of biomass per year. If 60 day cycles are to be considered, then the product biomass would not include any seed and only low quality fiber for conventional hemp utilization. Finding a market for such quantities of low value fibers seems unreasonable.

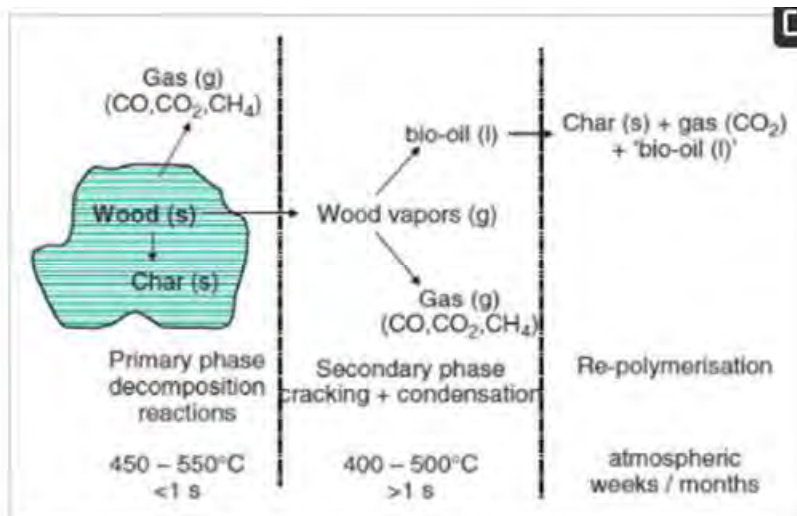
Some studies have been done on biodiesel production from hemp seed, but the yield of seed is low and cultivation times are long. Biodiesel produced in this way has been said¹⁹ to be competitive with other seed crops such as soybean, sunflower, peanut or rapeseed but overall the productivity is quite low. Typically hemp seed contains 30% oil and it has been estimated that the yield of biodiesel from industrial hemp would be about 300 gallons of biodiesel per acre.¹⁹ This may be slightly optimistic. Heard's study observed a seed yield of only about 6.7% and required 98 days of maturation. So in the 6 sq mi scenario above, the yield of oil would only be about 1100 barrels of oil (compared to reference 19 estimate of 1300 barrels). The maturation required 98 days to provide that yield. Figure 1 shows that no seed is produced in the first 60 days of cultivation so fewer cultivation cycles would be possible if 98 days were required for seed production.

Enzymatic hydrolysis of hemp stalk followed by fermentation to produce ethanol and/or methanol has been suggested,¹⁹ but this route is quite involved and would be expensive.

By contrast, there are numerous studies throughout the world on the conversion of biomass to biofuels. The most economic conversion for low value biomass such as hemp is pyrolysis.²⁰⁻²³ Common biomass starting materials include wood, grass, peat, crop stalks, leaves and municipal solid waste. Pyrolysis of industrial hemp has been investigated in the past²³ but has not been considered as a byproduct of nutrient removal.

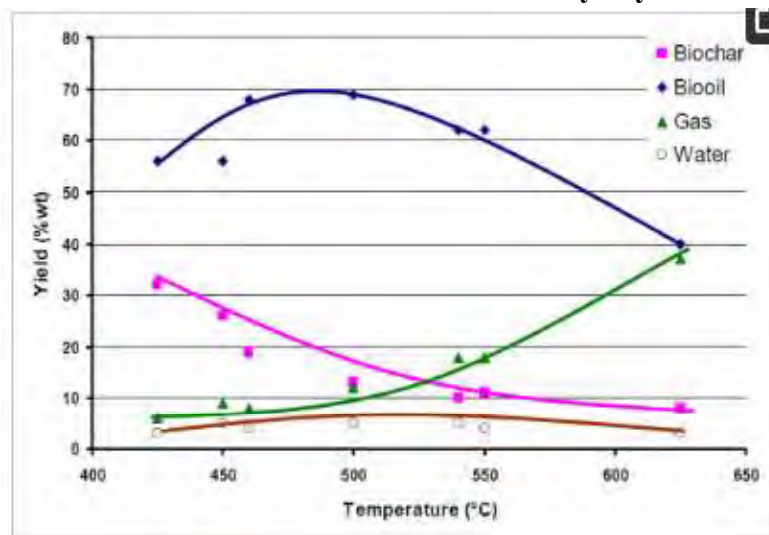
Typically, biomass pyrolysis consists of several sequential and parallel reactions, as shown in Figure 15. This illustration is taken from reference 22.

Figure 15
Typical Reactions that Occur During Pyrolysis of Biomass



Typical product yields reported in reference 22 are reproduced in Figure 16.

Figure 16
Yield Distribution From Biomass Pyrolysis



The actual yields depend greatly on the pyrolysis procedure and oil yields can vary widely as shown below.²²

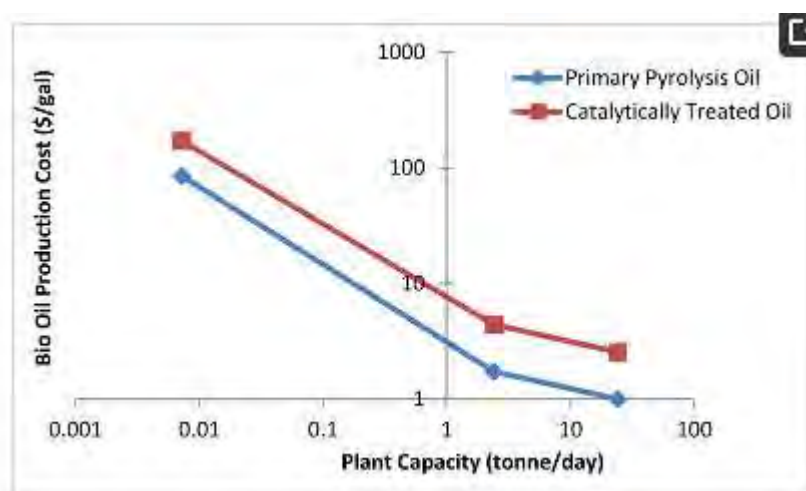
Pyrolysis Process	Solid Residence Time (s)	Heating Rate (K/s)	Particle Size (mm)	Temp. (K)	Product Yield (%)		
					Oil	Char	Gas
Slow	450–550	0.1–1	5–50	550–950	30	35	35
Fast	0.5–10	10–200	<1	850–1250	50	20	30
Flash	<0.5	>1000	<0.2	1050–1300	75	12	13

Further, the typical pyrolysis oils contain 6 to 8% oxygen, about 0.4% nitrogen and high ppm levels of phosphorus.^{22,24} Such compositions are not acceptable in marketable diesel fuels and substantial upgrading by catalytic hydroprocessing is required. The high N and P levels in typical biomass pyrolysis oils present major obstacles in upgrading because of severe catalyst deactivation.²⁴

Some recent research has found that a modified pyrolysis procedure can produce oils which contain significantly lower amounts of nitrogen and less char byproduct.²⁴ A key to this improvement is the presence of catalytic amounts of alkali metal salts in the plant matter. Potassium is an exceptional catalyst and Heard reported that the potassium content of growing hemp maximizes at around 60 days maturation.³ So shorter cultivation cycles could be beneficial in this application.

The scale of combined nutrient sequestration with harvested biomass pyrolysis could provide an economically favorable co-process. Reported studies for converting rice hulls to fuel showed that economics became favorable as the plant capacity increased beyond 10 tons per day as illustrated in Figure 14.²² As discussed above, the biomass yield in 60day cultivation cycles would be in the order of 10 tons per day. At 50% yield each 60 day cycle would produce 15,000 barrels of diesel fuel.

Figure 14
Conversion of Rice Hulls by Pyrolysis and Upgrading Becomes Economic at Large Scale²²



Summary

There appears to be a reasonable potential for combining nutrient sequestration from Florida’s contaminated fresh water resources with pyrolysis/upgrading of the produced biomass to marketable

fuels. Hydroponic cultivation of industrial hemp for this application is a viable candidate for such a combined process.

References

- 1) http://www.umanitoba.ca/faculties/afs/MAC_proceedings/proceedings/2007/Heard_poster.pdf
- 2) <http://www.hemptrade.ca/eguide/production/nutrient-use>
- 3) <http://www.southflorida.edu/news/sfsc-partners-with-hemp4water-to-research-the-removal-of-contaminants-from-floridas-rivers-and-lakes>
- 4) <https://npketc.soils.wisc.edu/2018/05/02/fertility-guidelines-for-hemp-in-wisconsin/>
- 5) <https://access.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.2134/cftm2015.0159>
- 6) https://www.researchgate.net/publication/225616342_Characterisation_of_hemp_Cannabis_sativa_L_r_oofs_under_different_growing_conditions
- 7) <https://mycorrhizae.com/how-it-works/>
- 8) <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/BF00933493>
- 9) <https://extension.psu.edu/industrial-hemp-production>
- 10) <https://hempgazette.com/industrial-hemp/hemp-fiber-production/>
- 11) https://www.researchgate.net/publication/225616342_Characterisation_of_hemp_Cannabis_sativa_L_r_oofs_under_different_growing_conditions
- 12) http://crca.caloosahatchee.org/crca_docs/Caloosahatchee_Nutrient_Draft.pdf
- 13) https://pubs.usgs.gov/circ/circ1207/major_findings.htm
- 14) <https://floridadep.gov/sites/default/files/caloosa-estuary-bmap-final-nov12.pdf>
- 15) <https://www.floridaocean.org/sites/default/files/documents/PDFS/Water%20Quality%20Assessment%20of%20the%20SLRW%20-%20Water%20Year%202017.pdf>
- 16) https://www.sfwmd.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ne_crwpp_main_123108.pdf
- 17) <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2968748/>
- 18) <http://gannettfleming.com/Projects/2018/08/21/07/34/lake-hicpochee-shallow-storage-and-hydrologic-enhancement>
- 19) http://www.fibrealternatives.com/hemp%20is%20the%20ultimate%20cash%20crop_byWmConde.pdf
- 20) <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S209549561830901X>
- 21) https://www.researchgate.net/publication/315921754_Experimental_analysis_about_the_exploitation_of_industrial_hemp_Cannabis_sativa_in_pyrolysis
- 22) <https://www.mdpi.com/1996-1073/5/12/4952/htm>
- 23) <https://www.sciencedirect.com/topics/engineering/catalytic-pyrolysis>
- 24) D.D. Whitehurst, personal experience.

From: Bell, Holly
Sent: Tuesday, April 26, 2022 8:28 AM
To: Steve Edmonds
Subject: Hemp Pilot Program

To whom it may concern,

Hemp for Water under the leadership of Steve Edmonds, has partnered with South Florida State College to conduct a highly successful hemp pilot program. The study is unlike all other pilot programs, with a focus on the environmental benefits of hemp. Not only do they clean water, but look at carbon foot print reduction and soil remediation.

The hard work and results of this invaluable study will benefit many for years to come.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out anytime.

Holly Bell | Director of Cannabis
Office of Commissioner Nikki Fried
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

C: (850) [REDACTED]

[Holly.Bell](mailto:Holly.Bell@fdacs.gov) [REDACTED]

The Capitol
400 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

www.FDACS.gov

Please note that Florida has a broad public records law (Chapter 119, Florida Statutes). Most written communications to or from state employees are public records obtainable by the public upon request. Emails sent to me at this email address may be considered public and will only be withheld from disclosure if deemed confidential pursuant to the laws of the State of Florida



www.hemp4water.org

407- [REDACTED]

Hemp4Water Inc., A Florida Non Profit 501(c)3
1022 Vanessa Drive, Oviedo FL 32765

EIN: 84-3603710

Re: FY2023 Community Project Funding

Project Title: Stop the Algae

Total Amount Requested: \$5,000,000.00

Budget breakdown:

Research headquarters – land and build out \$300,000

Truck 4x4 with winch and tow package x 2 - \$150,000

Shallow draw boat and trailer - \$45,000

ATV and trailer - \$25,000

Professional and Legal fees and expenses \$200,000

Administration and Staff – \$400,000

Tools and Supplies - \$480,000

BioHaven™ Biomats – a square kilometer worth. - \$3,500,000

Total \$5,000,000

District 20 faces a few urban challenges when it comes to water. Most specifically storm water, reclaimed and storage. Hemp4Water would be most utilized in the storm water space or open storage/treatment. Any collector body of water that receives run-off is going to have high levels of nutrients and other materials that will need to be removed before use of introduction to other bodies of water. Hemp4Water can do that without mechanics or chemicals.

See attached 3 community support letters.

Thank you.

Steve Edmonds

steve [REDACTED]



Michael >

Apr 26, 2022 at 6:50 PM

Hey! Just tried calling you back.

Hey call me back when you can

Apr 29, 2022 at 1:24 PM

Afternoon. Tried calling you regarding appropriations. Please call me ASAP!

Apr 29, 2022 at 4:01 PM

Hey! Just called you back

Apr 29, 2022 at 5:49 PM

Check WhatsApp

Got it!

FYI ... the budget should reflect \$1 million. I can send you the guidelines for this account (\$500,000-\$1,000,000 max)

Can you get me one more support letter?



Text Message

1:50



Michael >

No

That's it

Ok ... thanks!

Regarding the budget, can I get a revised for \$1m? Thanks!

That's the scoop of the project

Submit

Ok

May 11, 2022 at 5:21PM

[1202](#)

Johnathan Slade

Jun 2, 2022 at 12:50 PM

Hey there! Can you remind me of your personal email?

[Michaeljosephpa](#)

Thanks

Jun 8, 2022 at 7:46 PM



Text Message





Michael >

May 11, 2022 at 5:21 PM

[120](#)

Johnathan Slade

Jun 2, 2022 at 12:50 PM

Hey there! Can you remind me of your personal email?

[Michaeljosephpa](#)

Thanks

Jun 8, 2022 at 7:46 PM

Hi -- sorry for the delay. It's been crazy back to back since we got off the phone.

Johanna has also been in meetings all day, but she was able to share that the approved community funding projects are listed here.

cherfilus-mccormick.house.gov



Read

Why did you guys lie?

+ Text Message



January 7, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

The South Florida State College District Board of Trustees endorses hemp exploration through the hosting of an applied research pilot project. We clearly see the economic benefits of hemp to our agricultural region. There are numerous opportunities for the advancement of hemp as an industrial crop, and we realize early experimentation with the beneficial uses needs to occur before widespread expansion is embraced.

At the District Board of Trustees meeting on November 20, 2019, the Board gave its unanimous endorsement during the President's Report after a briefing on the potential involvement of faculty and students in various applied research phases. College officials have assured the Board that they will operate in full compliance with the requirements and operations during the phases of the research project.

South Florida State College is excited about exploring the opportunities that the hemp industry could bring to the rural agricultural counties in the college's service district. Further, the economic and environmental benefits of agricultural hemp could translate into massive environmental benefits through water quality experiments along Florida's ridge and through the biomass opportunities that future growers of hemp could realize. The benefits to the State of Florida are huge, with the addition of a new \$35 Billion agricultural crop.

Any questions or concerns could be addressed to me through the Office of the President at South Florida State College. The entire District Board of Trustees is pleased to provide an endorsement to the early phases of industrial hemp research.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tamela C. Cullens".

Tamela Cullens, Chair
SFSC District Board of Trustees



Apr 29, 2022

Forwarded



COMMENTS-AND-SUGGESTIONS-FOR-THE...

695 KB • docx

5:49 PM

Forwarded



FY23 Community Project Funding - Hemp4Water.docx

105 KB • docx

5:49 PM

Forwarded



January 7, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

The South Florida State College District Board of Trustees endorse hemp exploration through the funding of an applied research pilot project. We clearly see the economic benefits of hemp to our agricultural region. There are numerous opportunities for the advancement of hemp as an industrial crop, and we make every opportunity with the horticultural class needs to occur before additional equipment is introduced.

At the District Board of Trustees meeting on November 20, 2019, the Board gave its endorsement to the research project.



Letter of support from SFSC Board of Trustees.pdf

53 KB • pdf

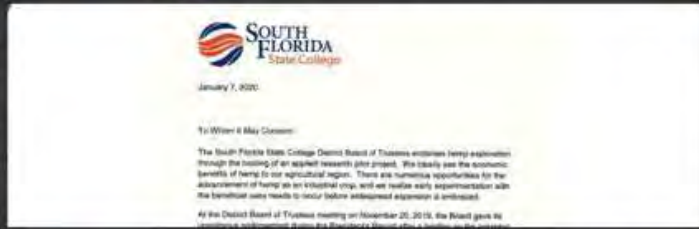
5:49 PM

Forwarded

From: Bell, Holly
Sent: Tuesday, April 26, 2022 8:28 AM
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Subject: Hemp Pilot Program

To: edmonds@msc.edu



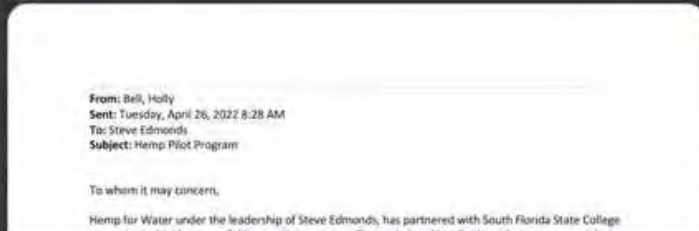


Letter of support from SFSC Board of Trustees.pdf

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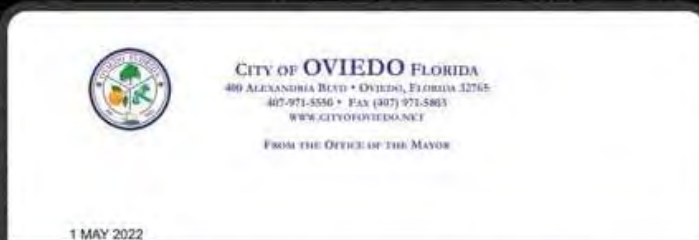


From Holly Bell.pdf

570 KB · pdf

5:49 PM

May 3, 2022



2022-05-01 Hemp4Water Support Letter.pdf

1 page · 85 KB · pdf

1:12 PM



EXHIBIT 44

Document on File

EXHIBIT 45

New Message

Cancel

To: Freddie Figgers

Text Message
Feb 4, 2022 at 9:04 PM

Good evening,

I am calling from the office of Rep. Cherfilus McCormick. Could you please give me a call at your earliest convenience?

Regards,

Staffer

Apr 27, 2022 at 1:27 PM

This is **Staffer** I am with the Office of Congresswoman Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick. Could you please provide us with EIN #?



Text Message

