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Spe

June 19, 1920

Mr. Sidney Harrison, Sec'y.,
Model Land Company,
St. Augustine, Florida.

SUPERVISOR BROWARD DRAINAGE -
DISTRICT:

Dear Mr. Harrison:

In accordance with your wishes I attended the meeting of the Landowners League at Ft. Lauderdale on the 14th, inst., which was called for the purpose of electing a Supervisor for the District.

There was a good representation of the landowners, both in person and by proxy, and when the meeting was organized I happened to be selected as Chairman and can therefore say that everything was carried out in proper manner.

The only names that were considered were those of R. O. WATSON and TOM M. BRYAN, and, when the votes were audited it was found that Mr. Watson was unanimously elected.

Before the meeting was called I got in touch with Mr. Elliott, who was there representing the Trustees and he advised that he was instructed to cast the State's vote for Mr. Watson. I do not think Mr. Watson was his personal choice, and, with this in mind I consulted Mr. Tatum, whom I knew wished to vote to please Mr. Elliott, with the idea of possibly bringing in a dark horse, or, switching over to Mr. Bryan, but on pinning Mr. Elliott down I do not believe his opinion of the business ability of the two candidates varied very much, but we went a little further and by canvassing some of the other votes present found that with the State's vote there were too many pledged for Mr. Watson for us to bring any other candidate through in case we chose to do so. Therefore, it was decided to make the vote unanimous for Mr. Watson.

In addition to electing a Supervisor we called for various reports from the Secretary of the Board, the gist of which were discussed freely among the property owners and a great many questions were asked the Supervisor and also Mr. Elliott, all of which seemed to be explained satisfactorily. The Landowners League may however care to discuss these reports more fully at a later meeting.

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It was ascertained that the Commissioners appointed some-time ago to assess damages and benefits to the land on account of this reclamation project had about completed their work and would shortly submit their report to the Court to be declared, after proper advertising, as final. In this connection, at the request of the landowners the Commission agreed to remain in session until anyone could go over their figures and suggest any changes that did not seem right and then on next Wednesday there has been arranged a formal meeting between these Commissioners and the Landowners League with the idea that if the landowners approve of the Commission's report they will probably pass resolutions to that effect and thus head off, as far as possible, any future litigations from landowners who otherwise might wish to give the District trouble.

Therefore, by arrangement I met the Commissioners in Ft. Lauderdale on yesterday so that I could go over this matter of benefits and damages assessed more carefully, than could be done in a general meeting, and the Commissioners agreed to cut out, or, eliminate entirely all of the lands in Section 48-42 and 49-42, also Sections 4, 9, of 53-41, amounting approximately acres. They also agreed to assess the benefits of the following Sections at 50% less than the balance of the lands in the District, viz: Section 34 of 47-41 and Sections 4, 10, 14, 28, and 34 of Township 48 South of Range 41 East. Sections 26, 49, 41, and 2, 50, -41 are within the bounds of Unit #1, where the first work will be done and will be assessed uniformly with the balance of the land in this Unit as well also the SW Quarter of 6-52-41.

The lands within the Broward Drainage District, but outside of Unit #1 will have a very low tax, as the only work to be done now on the general District, outside of Unit #1 is the control levee on the north and west side. Therefore, the only drainage tax in this District that will amount to anything will be the two and one-fourth sections within Unit No. 1.

For my purpose, in going before the Commission I had a blue print prepared showing these lands and thinking it may help you in getting the situation more clearly in your mind I am enclosing it herewith with the request that you kindly return it as soon as convenient.

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As you are probably aware, all of the survey work in the District has been completed, the general plan of reclamation approved and accepted by the I. I. Board, and, with the exception of one or two suits pending by the Helm interests, I understand there is nothing in the way after the Commissioners report has been ratified by the Court to proceed with the actual drainage work and show up drainage results shortly, provided, of course, bonds can be sold, or money raised otherwise to do the work.

Mr. Elliott expressed himself to me personally as being well-pleased with the reclamation plan and stated that he saw no reason why Unit No. 1 should not be speedily reclaimed provided the landowners got in behind the project with their approval and not block and hinder the work of the Supervisors by litigation such as has been done by the Helm interests in the past few years.

Mr. Helm did not seem to be represented in our meeting and I can not say what his future policy along this line will be, but personally I am inclined to think he will continue to fight as long as he can do so.

If anything new develops, at our meeting with the Commissioners on next Wednesday, I will of course keep you posted, and in this connection I would ask that if the opportunity presents itself that you have a talk with Mr. Elliott about the District for he is well posted and I believe wants to do the right thing.

Yours very truly,

FJP/B