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August 30, 2017

Dr. Ann Shortelle, Executive Director  
St. John's River Water Management District  
4049 Reid Street  
Palatka, FL 32177


Dear Dr. Shortelle;

Thank you for your inquiry about one of our faculty, Dr. Dan Canfield, and his recent comments to the Harris Chain of Lakes Restoration Council. I understand that Dr. Canfield suggested that our partner agencies have not acted responsibly in management of this Chain of Lakes, and here I want to comment on his role at UF and on the Council.

Having watched his presentation, I was surprised to see that he introduced himself as "Dr. Dan Canfield, University of Florida". This surprised me because I replaced Dan as Director of the LAKEWATCH program approximately five years ago, and at that time he was also removed from the Technical Advisory Committee of the Harris Chain of Lakes Restoration Council. He was replaced first by Dr. Mike Allen, and then 2 years ago by Mark Hoyer. Mr. Hoyer is our representative to the Council, and any official input from UF/IFAS should come from Mr. Hoyer. If Dr. Canfield wants to share his thoughts as a private citizen on his personal time, he is free to do so. However, he clearly does not represent the views and opinions of UF/IFAS faculty, staff and students. Further, I found his comments to be starkly inconsistent with the collaborative nature of resource management agencies that I have observed, particularly the state and federal agencies working closely with our scientists to improve natural resources.

Please understand that we look forward to future collaborations, and I will work to ensure that Dr. Canfield realizes he does not represent our institution at this Council and other public settings.

Sincerely,



Jack M. Payne  
Senior Vice President

Cc: Nick Wiley, FWC  
Noah Valenstein, Florida DEP  
Lake County Water Authority  
Harris Chain of Lakes Restoration Council  
Senator Dennis Baxley