



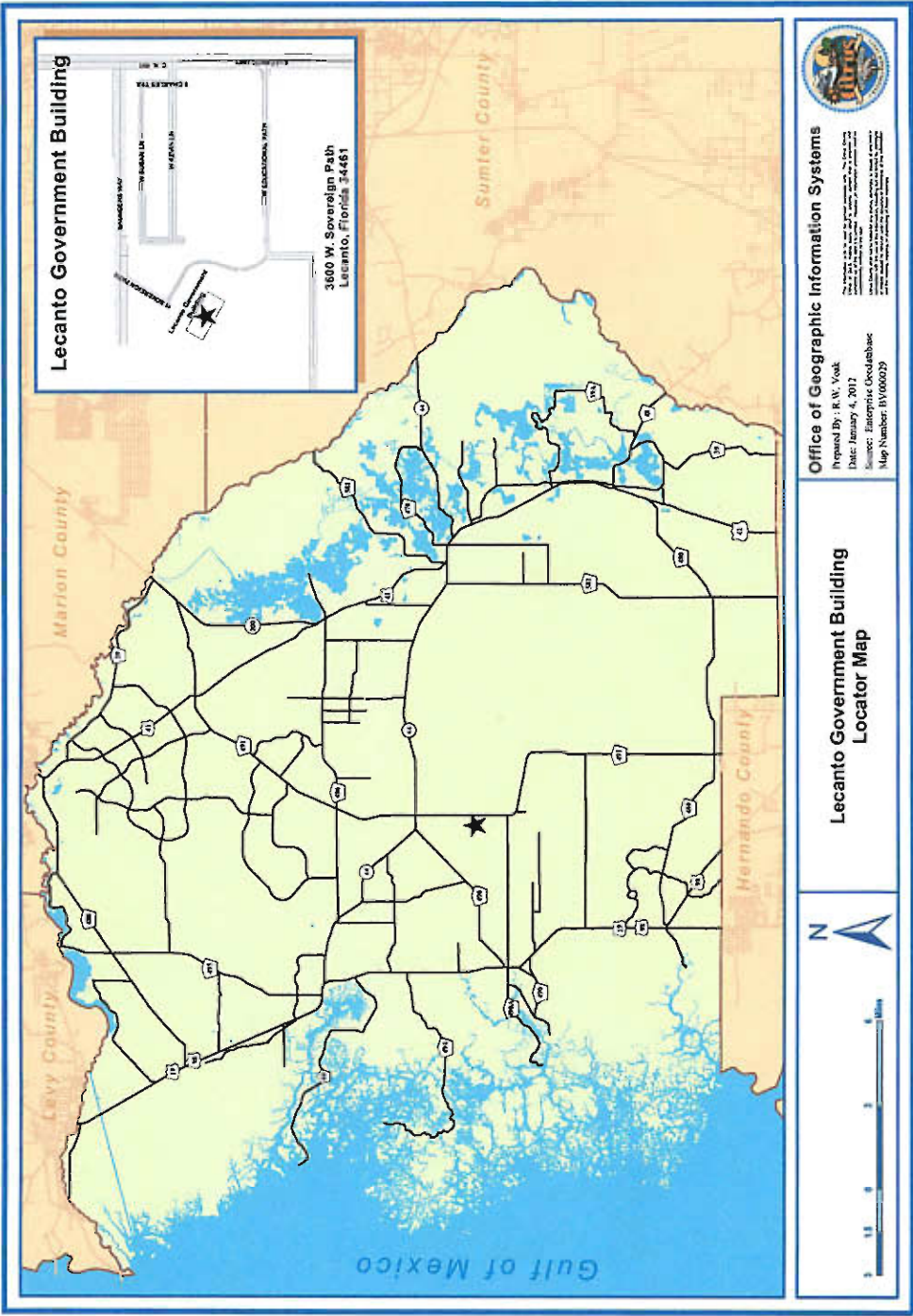
**WITHLACOOCHEE
REGIONAL
WATER
SUPPLY
AUTHORITY**

Board Meeting Package

May 15, 2013
4:30 p.m.

Meeting Location:

Lecanto Government Building
Room 166
3600 W. Sovereign Path
Lecanto, Florida 34461



Driving Directions to 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Lecanto Government Building

From Brooksville:

- Go North on N. Main St. toward S. Broad St./E. Jefferson St.
- Take the 1st Left onto S. Broad St./W. Jefferson St.
- Turn Right onto US 98/Ponce De Leon Blvd.
- Turn Right onto CR 491 toward Lecanto (about 13.5 miles)
- Turn Left on W. Educational Path (traffic signal)
- Turn right at the Park onto W. Sovereign Path; continue to the right to the Lecanto Government Building

From Ocala

- Go southwest on SR 200 into Citrus County
- Turn Right onto CR 491 (stay on 491 through Beverly Hills, crossing Hwy. 486 and SR 44)
- Turn Right on Saunders Way
- Turn Left onto W. Sovereign Path; follow to Lecanto Government Building

From Bushnell

- In Bushnell, Go West on FL-48W
- Turn Right onto US 41; continue to follow US 41 N
- Continue straight onto FL 44 W/W Main St.; continue straight on SR 44
- Turn Left onto CR 491
- Turn Right onto Saunders Way
- Turn Left onto W. Sovereign Path; follow to Lecanto Government Building

From Wildwood

- Go West on SR 44W; continue on SR 44 through Inverness
- Turn Left onto CR 491
- Turn Right onto Saunders Way
- Turn Left onto W. Sovereign Path; follow to Lecanto Government Building.



**MEMORANDUM**

To: Water Supply Authority Board of Directors and Interested Parties

From: Richard S. Owen, Executive Director

Date: May 2, 2013

Subject: Monthly Meeting of the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority

The next meeting of the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority will be on **Wednesday, May 15, 2013, 4:30 p.m., at the Lecanto Government Center Building, Room 166, 3600 Sovereign Path, Lecanto, FL 34461.**

Enclosed for your review are the following items:

- Agenda
- Minutes of the April 17, 2013 meeting
- Board Package*

*Copies of the Board Package are available through the Internet. Log on to www.wrwsa.org. On the Authority's Home Page go to the left side of the page and click on "Meetings." On the slide out menu is a button for the current Board Package. Click on the Board Package to download and print the Board Package.

Please note that if a party decides to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at the above cited meeting, that party will need a record of the proceedings, and for such purpose, that party may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes that testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

Enclosures

**WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
AGENDA**

**3600 W. SOVEREIGN PATH, ROOM 166
LECANTO, FLORIDA 34461
May 15, 2013 @ 4:30 p.m.**

At the discretion of the Board, items may be taken out of order to accommodate the needs of the Board and the public.

- | | | |
|-------------|------------|---|
| Item | #1 | Call to Order |
| Item | #2 | Roll Call |
| Item | #3 | Introductions and Announcements |
| Item | #4 | Approval of Minutes of April 17, 2013 |
| Item | #5 | Regional Water Supply Plan Update . . . Gregg Jones, Cardno Entrix |
| Item | #6 | Water Use at the Duke Energy Nuclear Power Plant During Decommissioning . . . Duke Energy Representative |
| Item | #7 | Local Government Grant Program – Further Board Direction on Program Guidelines . . . Richard S. Owen, Executive Director |
| Item | #8 | Status Report on the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River MFLs Petition . . . Richard S. Owen, Executive Director |
| Item | #9 | Executive Director’s Report . . . Richard S. Owen, Executive Director <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Bills to be Paid [to be provided in a handout at the meeting]b. FY 2013-14 Proposed Per Capita Assessmentc. Correspondenced. News Articlese. Other |
| Item | #10 | 2013 Legislative Update. . . Diane Salz, Governmental Affairs Liaison |
| Item | #11 | Attorney’s Report . . . Larry Haag, WRWSA Attorney |
| Item | #12 | Other Business |
| Item | #13 | Public Comment |
| Item | #14 | Next Meeting Time and Location . . . June 19, 2013, 4:30 p.m., Lecanto Government Building, Room 166, 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Lecanto, Florida 34461 |
| Item | #15 | Adjournment |

Please note that if a party decides to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at the above cited meeting, that party will need a record of the proceedings, and for such purpose, that party may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes that testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

**Item 4.
Minutes**

**WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
April 17, 2013**

TIME: 4:30 p.m.
PLACE: Lecanto Government Building
3600 W. Sovereign Path, Room 166
Lecanto, Florida 34461

The numbers preceding the items listed below correspond with the published agenda.

1. Call to Order

Chairman Dennis Damato called the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (WRWSA) meeting to order at 4:35 p.m. and asked for a roll call.

2. Roll Call

Mr. Richard Owen, Executive Director, called the roll and a quorum was declared present.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Scott Adams, Citrus County Commissioner
Ken Brown, Crystal River City Councilor
Dennis Damato, Chairman, Citrus County Commissioner
Gary Ernst, Belleview City Councilor
Joseph Johnston, Brooksville City Councilor
Stan McClain, Marion County Commissioner
Dale Swain, Bushnell City Councilor

MEMBERS ABSENT

Jim Adkins, Hernando County Commissioner
Rebecca Bays, Citrus County Commissioner
Al Butler, Sumter County Commissioner
Kathy Bryant, Marion County Commissioner
Wayne Dukes, Hernando County Commissioner
Don Hahnfeldt, Sumter County Commissioner
Nick Nicholson, Hernando County Commissioner
David Russell, Hernando County Commissioner
Carl Zalak, Marion County Commissioner

3. Introductions and Announcements

Members of the audience introduced themselves. There were no announcements.

STAFF PRESENT

Richard Owen, WRWSA Executive Director
Larry Haag, WRWSA Attorney
Nancy Smith, WRWSA Administrative Assistant

OTHERS PRESENT

Gregg Jones, Cardno Entrix
Jack Overdorff, ECO-Land Design
Debra Burden, Citrus County Water Resources
John Ferguson, SWFWMD
Chris Zajac, SWFWMD

Al Grubman, TOO FAR
Kim Dinkins, Marion County Water Resources
Alys Brockway, Hernando County Water Conservation
Mike Czerwinski, Environmental Consultant
Catherine Walker, SJRWMD
Kraig McLane, SJRWMD
Ron Basso, SWFWMD
Paul Duchesneau, Citrus County Water Resources

4. Approval of Minutes of February 20, 2013 Meeting

A copy of the minutes was provided in the Board packet for review.

Following consideration, a motion was made by Mr. Swain to approve the minutes for the February 20, 2013 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ernst and carried unanimously.

5. Northern District Model Expansion . . . Ron Basso, SWFWMD

Ron Basso, Senior Hydrogeologist, presented an update on the work in progress for the Northern District Model, Phase I. Phase I is the development of a single regional groundwater flow model that will encompass all of Marion County and will be used by both SWFWMD and SJRWMD in water resource assessments. The resulting ground water flow model should provide incremental improvements to an existing groundwater model and extend it for use throughout Marion County, regardless of the water management district boundaries. The first step in this process, model calibration, is scheduled for completion in June. This step will be followed by running up to twelve scenarios, using the model to alter pumping data within the model. The final report is scheduled for completion in September 2013. While at this time it is anticipated the updated and expanded model will not be available for use in the Regional Water Supply Plan Update, it is critical to have a long-term commitment for its use by both water management districts.

This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required.

6. Regional Water Supply Plan Update . . . Gregg Jones, Cardno Entrix

Mr. Owen stated that the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) is established and that its first meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 24, 2013. He introduced Gregg Jones, Project Manager for the Water Supply Plan Update, who provided the Board with the progress made on the project. The population and water demand projections for all utilities have been completed and the chapter describing the methodology and results is drafted. This chapter will be reviewed with the TAC on April 24th. Work is underway to evaluate the availability of groundwater; a sub-consultant has begun to re-evaluate and update surface water availability; and updates to the water conservation and reclaimed water strategies are underway. Mr. Jones will attend the Board meetings each month to discuss progress on the Plan Update.

This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required.

7. Water Conservation Month Proclamation . . . Richard S. Owen, Executive Director

Mr. Owen presented a resolution to proclaim April 2013 as "Water Conservation Month." The declaration of April as "water conservation month" has been used by state, regional and local agencies since 1998 to encourage water conservation. He stated that Hernando County, Marion County, and Sumter County have adopted Water Conservation Month resolutions and Citrus County is scheduled to adopt next week.

Following consideration, a motion as made by Mr. McClain to approve and execute Resolution No. 2013-01 declaring April 2013 as "Water Conservation Month." The motion was seconded by Mr. Swain and carried by a vote of 6 to 1.

Mr. Brown indicated he voted against the motion to reflect the fact that the Crystal River City Council had voted against adopting a similar resolution requested by the Southwest Florida Water Management District due to their concerns regarding a water use permit issued by the District for a bottled water operation in the City.

8. N491 Irrigation Audit Contractor . . . Nancy H. Smith, Administrative Assistant

Ms. Smith summarized the results of an advertisement for an irrigation evaluation contractor for Phase II of the residential irrigation evaluation program. After receiving requests for information from five firms, Jack Overdorff, principal of Eco Land Design LLC, was the sole respondent. Mr. Overdorff has provided excellent service in Phase I of the program. Staff requested three revisions to the agreement as presented in the Board's packet. The changes included the addition of language to Section 4, Paragraph E, to continue the appropriation of funding subject to SWFWMD funding; correction of section references in Section 11, second paragraph; and, the addition of paragraph E to Section 27. This addition adds Exhibit E, "Part I -General Conditions" from the Request for Quotes to the Agreement.

Following consideration, a motion was made by Mr. Brown to approve the Agreement, as revised, between the WRWSA and Eco Land Design, LLC and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the agreement. The motion was seconded by Mr. Johnston and carried unanimously.

9. Local Government Grant Funding for Fiscal Year 2013/14 Cycle . . . Richard S. Owen, Executive Director

Mr. Owen reviewed the Local Government Grant program for the upcoming fiscal year. He requested that the Board establish \$130,000 as the total amount of funding available and requested that the funding be limited to water conservation projects. This amount is consistent with prior funding and is in line with budget expenditures for the coming year.

Following consideration, a motion was made by Mr. McClain to allocate \$130,000 for local government grant funding and to limit grant awards to water conservation projects. The motion was seconded by Mr. Adams and carried unanimously.

10. Executive Director's Report ... Richard S. Owen, Executive Director

a. Bills to be Paid

The March 2013 bills were included in the Board's packet and the April 2013 bills were provided in the handout. Mr. Owen requested the Board approve payment of the March 2013 bills totaling \$30,752.89 and for April 2013 bills totaling \$28,518.88.

Following consideration, a motion was made by Mr. Swain to approve payment of the March 2013 bills of \$30,752.89 and the April bills of \$28,518.88. The motion was seconded by Mr. McClain and carried unanimously.

b. 1st Quarter Financial Report

Mr. Owen presented the 1st quarter financial report prepared by Purvis Gray & Company.

c. **Authorization to obtain WRWSA Credit Card**

Mr. Owen explained that the WRWSA needs a credit card to purchase items available online or to otherwise pay for items that cannot be obtained with a direct purchase. He requested that the Board authorize obtaining a credit card with SunTrust Bank, where the WRWSA has an account. There is no annual fee and the card should be limited to \$300 or as close to that specified maximum as possible.

Following consideration, a motion was made by Mr. Ernst to authorize obtaining a WRWSA credit card limited to \$300.00 or the minimum allowed by the SunTrust Bank, whichever is less. The motion was seconded by Mr. McClain and carried unanimously.

d. **Statement of Agency Organization and Operation**

Mr. Owen presented an Agency Statement of Organization and Operations and requested that the Board approve the Agency Statement. Mr. Haag will be giving a status report on the repeal of the rules later in the meeting. Mr. Owen stated that the rules are not ready to be repealed, as there may be a few things in the rules that we do not want to lose.

Following consideration, a motion was made by Mr. Ernst to approve the Agency Statement of Organization and Operations as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Johnston and carried unanimously.

e. **Correspondence**

This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required.

f. **News Articles**

News articles were presented in the Board's package and additional articles in a handout. This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required.

g. **Other**

Mr. Owen presented updates to the Board on the following issues:

- **WRWSA Status Report to the SWFWMD Governing Board.** Mr. Owen presented a status report to the District Governing Board on the activities of the WRWSA on March 26, 2013. Mr. Owen thanked Board members Dale Swain, Stan McClain and Joe Johnston who were able to attend the SWFWMD Governing Board meeting with him.
- **SWFWMD Cooperative Funding Initiative (CFI) Sub-Committee meeting.** Mr. Owen informed the Board that the WRWSA's Phase III, Irrigation Evaluation Program was not moved forward in the CFI process by the SWFWMD Governing Board's sub-committee. He introduced Chris Zajac to discuss what type of project will meet the SWFWMD criteria for funding. Mr. Zajac believes that the sub-committee direction is to think "big." He stated that the WRWSA is very important to SWFWMD and that staff will assist the WRWSA to develop a new application for the 2014-2015 application cycle. The Board discussed the continued need for water conservation programs as a cost-effective method for extending the use of groundwater. Water conservation is the only way to reduce overall water use to meet the District's 150 gallons per capita per day regulatory requirement.
- **Adena Springs Ranch Update.** Mr. Owen stated that the applicant has amended their request to 5.3 million gallons per day (mgpd) on approximately 24,000 acres. There

is an additional request for information and the SJRWMD is awaiting response. The permit request is for forage only. The meat packing plant has been removed from the application and its projected water use is below 100,000 gallons per day using 4-inch wells. This level of water use is permitted by rule. The meat packing plant is moving forward separate from the water use permit application. One concern regarding the project is the potential for nutrient contamination within the receiving water bodies of Silver Springs. These issues will be handled outside the water use permit in an Environmental Resources Permit (ERP) for which the applicant is expected to apply.

- **MFLs for Chassahowitzka & Homosassa Rivers.** A petition has been filed with the Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection (Department) regarding the MFLs adopted by SWFWMD for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems. The petition is under Section 373.114, *Florida Statutes*, for which there is no process established. The petition argues that the MFLs as adopted are not protective enough of the rivers and riverine systems. This petition requires that the Department Secretary review SWFWMD's rules for consistency with Rule 62-40, *Florida Administrative Code*, which is the water resources implementation rule. The Department is trying to develop a process for handling this petition. Mr. Owen has requested that the SWFWMD include him with any additional information received from the Department regarding the process and time frame. The WRWSA may want to engage in the petition process at a later date.

This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required.

11. Legislative Update ... Diane Salz, Governmental Affairs Liaison

Mr. Owen presented the legislative update for Ms. Salz who is attending legislative meetings in Tallahassee. Of the items included in Ms. Salz's updates are two actions that will have a direct impact on the WRWSA if enacted. One is proposed legislation regarding public participation at public meetings. The second are funds for water projects. Some member governments that could potentially receive money through this legislation include the City of Bushnell for a water line and master plan project, Crystal River for a Kings' Bay project, and a Marion County wastewater treatment project.

This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required.

12. Attorney's Report ... Larry Haag, WRWSA Attorney

a. Liability Insurance Update

Since the last Board meeting, Mr. Haag has attempted to obtain information from insurance vendors for officers and directors liability insurance. Brown & Brown was the only responding firm with a quote of \$2,035.12 annually. Mr. Haag requested direction from the Board as to how to proceed. Discussion followed as to the need for insurance, whether Board members were covered individually, and whether the policy would cover the executive director. The Board requested that additional insurance companies be contacted for quotes and to provide clarification on coverage for the executive director. Mr. Owen stated that the quotes would be gathered and assessed for possible inclusion of necessary funds in the 2013-2014 fiscal year budget beginning October 1, 2013.

b. N491 Irrigation Audit Agreements with The Villages

Mr. Haag brought to the Board the cooperative funding agreement between the North Sumter County Utilities Dependent District and the WRWSA for the irrigation evaluation program. The

total amount of the agreement is \$16,016.66 and the District's total obligation is \$8,008.33. Mr. Haag recommended that the Board authorize the Chairman to sign.

Following consideration, a motion was made by Mr. Swain to approve the agreement with the North Sumter County Utilities Dependent District and authorize the Chairman to sign the agreement. The motion was seconded by Mr. Adams and carried unanimously.

The second cooperative funding agreement is between the WRWSA and the Village Center Community Development District. The total amount of the agreement is \$8,008.33 and the District's total obligation is \$4,004.17.

Following consideration, a motion was made by Mr. Swain to approve the agreement with the Village Center Community Development District and authorize the Chairman to sign the agreement. The motion was seconded by Mr. Adams and carried unanimously.

Other: Statement of Agency Organization and Operation

Mr. Haag stated that he had one further item for the Board's consideration. Historically, an Interlocal Agreement created the WRWSA in 1977, with Citrus, Hernando, Levy, Marion and Sumter counties as the participating parties. In 1984, Levy County decided to leave the WRWSA and the interlocal agreement was amended. About that same time, a rule change was made to delete Levy County. There have been no further changes to the Interlocal Agreement. While the original rule is basically a copy of the Interlocal Agreement as adopted and amended, there have been a few changes to the rule over time. The last change was adopted in 2008.

Mr. Haag cautioned that more investigation and discussion should take place prior to repealing the WRWSA's governing rule, 49C-1, F.A.C. He suggested that the rule, after its repeal, be attached to the Organizational Statement as one way to ensure a smooth transition. Repeal of the rule will make it much easier to accommodate changes to the WRWSA, but should be undertaken carefully to maintain consistency.

Mr. Damato requested that the Board allow him to meet with Richard Owen and Larry Haag to discuss the potential return of Levy County to the WRWSA. Mr. Haag advised that re-entry of Levy County would require amendment of the Interlocal Agreement. The Board concurred with Mr. Damato's request.

13. Other Business

Stan McClain addressed the Board regarding the Adena Springs water use permit. The applicant separated the meat packing plant from the water use permit application to clarify the issue of how the water is to be used. Mr. Stronach, the applicant, is concerned about protecting the environment and the nutrient loading issue, and wanted to clarify that the major portion of the water request is for forage, not for the processing plant.

Dale Swain asked about the continued water use needs at the Crystal River power plant as it is decommissioned. He understands that water will continue to be needed, but wants clarification as to the amount. Mr. Brown stated that Crystal River is providing reclaimed water to the coal-fired portion of power plant operations. Mr. Damato requested that Chris Zajac find out more about the water consumption and report back to the WRWSA.

14. Public Comment

Alys Brockway, Hernando County Water Conservation Coordinator, reminded the Board of the Hernando County "Your Water, Your World" workshop is set for May 10, 2013 and invited everyone to attend.

Michael Czerwinski, MCE, commented on the data available regarding the intermediate and lower aquifers and evidence of leaks between the different levels in the Tampa Bay region based on work he has performed in the area. He also commented that residents of a subdivision adjacent to the Rainbow River are installing irrigation wells; the effects of these wells may be visible in the water quality and quantity over time.

15. Next Meeting Time and Location

Next meeting is scheduled for May 15, 2013, 4:30 p.m., at the Lecanto Government Building, Room 166, 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Lecanto, Florida 34461.

16. Adjournment

Chairman Damato announced there was no further business or discussion to come before the WRWSA and adjourned the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Dennis Damato, Chairman

Richard S. Owen, Executive Director

Item 5.
Regional Water Supply
Plan Update

**Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority
Water Supply Plan Update
Progress Report #2 (April 2013)**

Cardno ENTRIX

3905 Crescent Park Drive
Riverview, FL 33578
USA

Phone 813 664 4500
Toll-free 800 368 7511
Fax 813 664 0440
www.cardno.com

www.cardnoentrix.com

- 1) **Task 1. Water Demand Estimates**
 - a. Presented demand projections to TAC committee. Received numerous comments and are working with the water management districts to address them.
- 2) **Task 2. Availability of Ground- and Surface Water**
 - a. Have remained in contact with the modeling staff of the water management districts to determine what models will be used to assess impacts to water resources from proposed groundwater projects. The Districts believe that the update of the Northern District model could be completed by July. If this proves to be the case, accuracy of the modeling results will be improved by using one refined model rather than the two less sophisticated models used for the last version of the water supply plan.
 - b. Authorized the sub consultant that will determine water availability for water supply from the Withlacoochee and Ocklawaha rivers to proceed. Completion is expected by third week in May.
- 3) **Task 3. Water Conservation and Reclaimed Water Strategies**
 - a. Working with the WRWSA utilities to obtain data necessary to evaluate their water conservation potential using Florida's EZ Guide Water Conservation Model.
 - b. Working with the water management districts to estimate the quantity of reclaimed water that will be available to offset demand through 2035 from each utility in the WRWSA's four counties.
- 4) **Task 4. Water Supply Project Options**
 - a. Authorized the sub consultant that will update the seawater desalination project option at the Crystal River site to proceed.
- 5) **Task 8. Facilitation of Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meetings**
 - a. Held first meeting on April 24th on water demand projections.

Item 6.
Water Use at the
Duke Energy Nuclear Power Plant

**Item 6. Water Use at the Duke Energy Nuclear Power Plant During Decommissioning . . .
Duke Energy Representative**

At the April Board meeting the topic of water use at the Duke Energy Crystal River power plant was raised by the Board. The issue of how water use will change over time as the nuclear facility is decommissioned was discussed. At the direction of the Board, information on permitted and actual water use has been solicited from the Southwest Florida Water Management District as well as Duke Energy. Staff has requested a representative of the power company come to the Board meeting to provide a brief presentation on the issue of future water use at the facility.

Staff Recommendation: This is an information item only and no action is required.

**Item 7.
Local Government
Grant Program**

Item 7. Local Government Grant Program – Further Board Direction on Program Guidelines

... Richard S. Owen, Executive Director

Upon reviewing the materials that have been provided in the past to potential grant applicants, staff has identified several issues on which Board direction is sought. These issues include the following:

1. Eligibility (a) – some previous grant program materials have indicated all public supply utilities in the WRWSA region are eligible for grants, while other historical materials have indicated only WRWSA member governments are eligible. It is also unclear whether private, investor-owned utilities are eligible. Staff recommends all public supply utilities within the region and member governments be eligible.
2. Eligibility (b) – past grant program guidelines indicate that applicants must have completed any previously funded grant projects to be eligible for the coming year program. Staff would recommend this be changed such that past or ongoing grant projects must be on schedule, unless extenuating circumstances warrant a special exception. Such exceptions would be entirely at the discretion of the Authority Board.
3. Ranking criteria – past grant program guidelines indicate applicants who have not received previous grants would be ranked higher than applicants who have received previous grants. Staff recommends past grants be only one consideration for ranking applications, including past performance in implementing grant projects.
4. Contract provisions – in previous years grant recipients have been required to expend their matching funds prior to requesting any funds from the Authority. As part of the application requirements, applicants were required to include a resolution from their governing body stating it had included its share of the projects funds in its budget and was committing to spending its funds prior to requesting Authority funds. It is recommended the Authority's grant program be structured similar to the SWFWMD cooperative funding program whereby invoices may be submitted monthly or every other month for 50% of the costs incurred, consistent with the approved grant contract and scope of services. This would not require invoices be submitted prior to project completion, but would allow for such invoicing based upon the grant recipient's needs.

Staff Recommendation: Staff is seeking direction from the Board on the various issues described above.

Item 8.
Chassahowitzka and Homosassa
Rivers Petition Status

Item 8. Status Report on the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River MFLs Petition . . . Richard S. Owen, Executive Director

As mentioned at the April Board meeting, a petition has been submitted to the Department of Environmental Protection regarding the minimum flows established by the Southwest Florida Water Management District for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa rivers. The petition has been filed pursuant to the provisions of Section 373.114, *Florida Statutes*, for which there is no process or time frame established. Authority staff has contacted both the District and the Department to be kept abreast of the Department's review and consideration of this petition. Staff will provide the Board with the latest information on the petition.

Staff Recommendation: Any staff recommendation, if necessary or appropriate, will be presented at the meeting.

**Item 9.b.
FY 2013-2014
Proposed Per Capita
Assessments**

Item 9.b. Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Proposed Per Capita Assessments . . . Richard S. Owen, Executive Director

Included as an exhibit to this item is a spreadsheet showing the recommended per capita assessment for fiscal year 2013-2014. Staff recommends the per capita assessment in the coming year remain the same as in the current year at \$0.19 per capita. This will generate \$141,940 in revenue, representing a minor increase of 0.63% over the 2012-2013 revenue. It is anticipated this amount, when combined with the other Authority revenue sources, will be adequate to fund the essential programs of the Authority. Establishing the per capita rate at this month's Board meeting will allow staff to send the proposed assessments to each member government and to move forward with preparing the Authority 2013-2014 budget.

Staff Recommendation: Establish the 2013-2014 per capita assessment at \$0.19, the same as the current fiscal year.

**PROPOSED 2013-14 ASSESSMENT
WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY
May 1, 2013**

County	4/1/12 Population Est.	Assessment @ .19/Capita	Annual Amount	Quarterly Amount
Citrus	140,761	\$0.19	\$26,745	\$6,686.15
Hernando	173,104	\$0.19	\$32,890	\$8,222.44
Sumter	100,198	\$0.19	\$19,038	\$4,759.41
Marion	332,989	\$0.19	\$63,268	\$15,816.98
Totals	747,052	\$0.19	\$141,940	\$35,484.97

County	12-13 FY Revenue	13-14 FY Revenue	% Change
Citrus	\$26,782	\$26,745	-0.14%
Hernando	\$32,885	\$32,890	0.02%
Sumter	\$18,357	\$19,038	3.71%
Marion	\$63,032	\$63,268	0.37%
Totals	\$141,056	\$141,941	0.63%

Item. 9.c.
Correspondence

From: Chris Zajac <Chris.Zajac@swfwmd.state.fl.us>
Date: April 30, 2013, 3:33:30 PM EDT
Subject: PRESS RELEASE: SWFWMD Governing Board Emphasizes Importance of Springs Protection

April 30, 2013

Governing Board Emphasizes Importance of Springs Protection

Following the Florida Legislature's lead, the Southwest Florida Water Management District (District) Governing Board proclaimed April 2013 Springs Protection Awareness Month at their monthly board meeting. The Board emphasized that the state's springs are essential to the environment, economy, citizens and visitors of the state.

The District invested more than \$2.2 million in springs protection and restoration in FY11-12, and has an approved budget of \$3.9 million for FY12-13, and plans to begin construction on three major springs projects in the next six months including the City of Crystal River to Progress Energy Reclaimed Water Project, Chassahowitzka Spring Sediment Removal and Three Sisters Springs Wetland Treatment Project.

There are more than 150 documented springs throughout the 16-county District, with five first magnitude spring groups that collectively discharge more than one billion gallons of water per day.

The District, in partnership with the various stakeholders, is committed to implementing projects to conserve and restore the ecological balance of our spring systems, supporting the regional economies and quality of life.

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The mission of the Southwest Florida Water Management District is to manage water and related natural resources to ensure their continued availability while maximizing environmental, economic and recreational benefits.

Chris Zajac
Government Affairs Program Manager
Northern Planning Region
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, Florida 34604

**MEMORANDUM**

April 29, 2013

To: All Local Governments and Utility Directors in the Withlacoochee Region
From: Richard S. Owen, Executive Director, WRWSA
Re: **WRWSA Funding for Water Conservation Projects**

The Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority will open applications for its local government grant program as of May 1, 2013. This program is sponsored by the Authority to fund local water conservation projects, typically on a 50/50 matching basis. At its April 17, 2013 meeting, the Authority Board voted to continue funding its grant program in fiscal year 2013-14 at an amount of \$130,000. The Board also voted to restrict applications to water conservation projects.

Applications and instructions are available on the Authority web page at www.wrwsa.org. Applications must be received by the Authority no later than June 28, 2013. Applications will be considered by the Board during its July and August Board meetings as necessary. Awards will be made no later than the September Board meeting.

If you have any questions about the information above, please contact me at (352) 293-5955. You may also call Nancy Smith at the Lecanto Office (352) 527-5795. If you desire to contact me by FAX, my FAX number is (352) 527-5797 and my e-mail address is "richardowen@wrwsa.org".

Distribution

Lisa Algiere, Dunnellon
Bradley Arnold, Sumter County
Alys Brockway, Hernando County Water
Conservation
Debra Burden, Citrus County Water
Conservation
Ken Cheek, Citrus County
Katie Cottrell, Inverness
Kim Dinkins, Marion County Water
Resources
Susan Goebel-Canning, P.E., Hernando
County
Jeff Halcomb, City of Ocala

Bruce Hickie, Bushnell
Andy Houston, Crystal River
Donna McMurdy, Belleview
Flip Mellinger, Marion County
Bruce Phillips, Wildwood
Richard Radack, Brooksville
City of Center Hill
City of Coleman
Town of McIntosh
Town of Reddick
City of Webster

cc: WRWSA Board Members

Item. 9.d.
News Articles

11/11/2011

From: "Florida Department of Environmental Protection"
<FloridaDEP@public.govdelivery.com>
Date: May 1, 2013, 10:26:16 AM EDT
To: disalz@yahoo.com
Subject: STATEMENT FROM DEP SECRETARY HERSCHEL T. VINYARD JR. REGARDING
PASSAGE OF NUMERIC NUTRIENT CRITERIA LEGISLATION
Reply-To: FloridaDEP@public.govdelivery.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 1, 2013
CONTACT: DEP Press Office, 850.245.2112, DEPNews@dep.state.fl.us

STATEMENT FROM DEP SECRETARY HERSCHEL T. VINYARD JR. REGARDING PASSAGE OF
NUMERIC NUTRIENT CRITERIA LEGISLATION

TALLAHASSEE - Today, after bi-partisan support in the House and the Senate, the numeric nutrient criteria bill (SB 1808) will now be presented to Governor Rick Scott for his signature. The legislation, combined with new state rules, form the foundation of a state-federal agreement that enables a focused, state-led solution to protecting Florida's waters. The legislation is key to ending litigation and allowing the state to implement better protection of our waterways.

These actions will result in having numeric nutrient standards for 99 percent of Florida's lakes, streams, springs, estuaries and coastal waters. Such standards have already been reviewed by the fantastic scientists at DEP and by EPA.

I applaud the leadership of Sen. Charlie Dean and Rep. Jake Raburn and the support of the Florida Legislature on this important issue. Florida has to address the problem of excess nutrients if we are to restore and protect the health of the rivers, lakes, springs and estuaries of this great state.

These measurable nutrient criteria will result in cleaner, safer water for all Floridians.

Background:

In March, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency reached an agreement to continue the protection of Florida's waterways from excessive levels of nitrogen and phosphorus. High levels of these pollutants cause algal blooms and are among the largest contributors to water quality problems in Florida. This agreement marks a significant step forward in protecting and restoring water quality

across the state.

The agreement builds on momentum from November 2012, when EPA approved the state's numeric nutrient criteria to cover all lakes, rivers, streams and springs, as well as estuaries from Clearwater Harbor to Biscayne Bay. The legislation and some Department rulemaking in 2013 set the stage to finish the job of setting numeric nutrient criteria for Florida's waterways.

The plan calls for this legislation as well as adopting additional state rules that in combination will eliminate the need for continued dual rulemaking and secure the foundation for a single, state-led solution for the state of Florida. Currently, state and federal rules are in place for some Florida waterbodies.

The legislation requires the Department to complete its nutrient criteria rulemaking for remaining coastal and estuarine waters by Dec. 1, 2014, and establishes interim nutrient standards until then. The legislation further clarifies and puts into law requirements for nutrient conditions in all managed conveyances and canals, and makes it clear that all state criteria will go into effect when EPA has ceased nutrient rulemaking in Florida and removes the federal criteria.

In addition, the Department has adopted a clear implementation plan for the criteria so application of the new rules can occur immediately. The agreement with EPA, once implemented and completed, will be coupled with EPA's prior approval in November of the Department's adopted water quality standards. The result will be Florida having numeric nutrient standards for lakes, streams springs, estuaries and coastal waters, the vast majority of waterways in the state.

About the Florida Department of Environmental Protection

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection is the state's principal environmental agency, created to protect, conserve and manage Florida's environment and natural resources. The Department enforces federal and state environmental laws, protects Florida's air and water quality, cleans up pollution, regulates solid waste management, promotes pollution prevention and acquires environmentally-sensitive lands for preservation. The agency also maintains a statewide system of parks, trails and aquatic preserves. To view the Department's website log on to www.dep.state.fl.us.

<http://content.govdelivery.com/bulletins/gd/FLDEP-792ebe>

Diane Salz <salz.govconsultant@gmail.com>
Ocala.com Editorial on Springs
April 29, 2013 8:33 AM

Editorial: Two different conversations

Published: Sunday, April 28, 2013 at 6:30 a.m.

There are two distinct conversations going on about Florida's freshwater springs.

One conversation is being held in communities — places like Ocala and Apopka and Lake City — and is focused on the urgent need to stop the degradation of our springs that are equal parts environmental and economic assets. There is an urgency to that conversation.

The other conversation is taking place in Tallahassee, sort of, where lawmakers are indifferent to the escalating number of officially “impaired” springs and their value to the communities surrounding them. There is no urgency to this conversation. To the contrary, lawmakers are finding reasons to postpone it.

That was made crystal clear this week when the chairman of the House Agricultural and Natural Resources Subcommittee, Rep. Matt Caldwell, told the Tampa Bay Times the Legislature would not pass any bills this year focused on spring restoration or protection. Instead, Caldwell said he “thought it was best” to await the completion of a series of minimum-and-flow studies, aimed at determining at what level springs and rivers would experience “significant harm.” The thing is, those studies have been mandated since 1972 and remain unfinished, while most of Florida's 700 springs are already deemed harmed, many significantly.

The community conversations, like the one we are having in Ocala about Silver Springs, are about saving remarkably beautiful and beloved natural treasures for generations to come. They are about recognizing that these uniquely wonderful windows to the aquifer can be economic engines, providing jobs and new eco-friendly development at a time when every place in Florida needs it. They are about addressing the polluted water and receding spring flows that signal our aquifer also is polluted and receding.

We wonder where our own representatives in Tallahassee, Reps. Dennis Baxley and Charlie Stone, are in the conversation there. We understand they can't take a high-profile role in every issue, because not every issue is relevant to Ocala/Marion County. But the springs are not only relevant to our community, we are ground zero in the conversation. We are home to the world's most famous springs, Silver Springs. Because of that, our community has the potential to turn restoration and repair of the granddaddy of all springs into an eco-tourism boom. We can be a model for all springs communities. That Silver Springs is located in the heart of 350,000 people, along a major interstate, with plenty of tourist accommodations and amenities, makes it a golden opportunity.

Yet, our representatives are missing in action, and their colleagues in Tallahassee inexplicably demur and delay.

If they are unsure how to go about saving Florida's springs, we can refer them to dozens of state-sponsored studies that are gathering dust. If they are unsure who can implement the springs restoration and protection recommendations in those studies, we suggest they ask our local governments and those in other springs communities around Florida. They are full of ideas and political will, but short on support and money.

Jim Stevenson, who is known as Florida's Mr. Springs, recently lamented the Legislature's disinterest in our springs, saying, "We don't protect what we don't value." Obviously, Florida's communities value their springs, and you can hear it in the urgency of their ongoing conversations. If only we could get our representatives in Tallahassee to value them, too.

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Tampa Bay Times

Despite petition, Legislature to do nothing to help springs this year

Craig Pittman, Times Staff Writer

Monday, April 22, 2013 6:29pm

Although thousands of Florida voters signed a petition demanding action, the Legislature will not pass any bills aimed at restoring and protecting the state's iconic springs this year, according to the chairman of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Subcommittee.

The reason, according to Rep. Matt Caldwell, R-Lehigh Acres, is that state regulators are already setting what are called "minimum flows and levels" for the major springs, an effort he said should take another year and a half and help legislators figure out what further assistance might be needed.



"I thought it was best to let them move forward with that," Caldwell said, explaining Department of Environmental Protection officials "came and told me ... they'd like to be able to finish that."

But setting minimum flows and levels, or MFLs for short, does little to help springs, according to Jim Stevenson, who headed the Florida Springs Task Force under former Gov. Jeb Bush.

One reason why: The MFL standard is based on avoiding what the law calls "significant harm," as opposed to avoiding any harm at all.

"The MFLs will not protect spring flow," Stevenson said. "If the Legislature really wanted to help the springs, they would take that word 'significant' out."

Florida's springs are suffering. Many are thick with toxic algae blooms fed by increasing nitrate pollution. Compounding the problem is a decline in their flow that in some cases resulted in them sputtering out completely. And geologists have found a disturbing increase in saltiness in a few freshwater springs, which could signal future problems with the state's drinking supply.

The springs initiative begun under Bush led to the state's purchase and preservation of thousands of acres that could have been developed or otherwise contributed to the pollution of the aquifer. But the Bush group's recommendations for new laws were ignored by the Legislature — except for one involving septic tank inspections, which was passed and then repealed before it took effect.

Something similar happened with the MFL law. The Legislature decreed more than 30 years ago that state regulators should set minimum flows and levels for major waterways across Florida. The idea was to figure out how much more those rivers, springs and lakes can be drained for water supply purposes before causing "significant" environmental problems.

But the five water management districts and the DEP have been slow to carry out that law. So far, MFLs have been set for 22 of the state's 1,000 springs, with another 26 scheduled to be finished this year, according to DEP press secretary Patrick Gillespie. Another 23 are slated for 2014.

Wakulla Springs, the largest in the state, has never had an MFL set by the Northwest Florida Water Management District. The district had been scheduled to set one in 2012 but failed, and earlier this year the agency requested permission to put off setting the limits for another 11 years.

When the Southwest Florida Water Management District, or Swiftmud, proposed levels for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa rivers in 2011, it made residents along those rivers skeptical about the whole minimum-flow program. Ron Miller, vice president of the Homosassa River Alliance, labeled it "a statewide project to create a map of water sources available for development" that will "lead to the destruction of our already impacted springs, rivers and lakes."

And Marty Kelly, who was in charge of the river flow project for Swiftmud, conceded that the law on setting minimum flows doesn't provide for any guard against gradual damage from increased pumping: "You're either significantly harmed or you're not."

Don't expect the Legislature to take the word "significant" out, said Caldwell, a real estate appraiser.

Setting a minimum flow that prevented any harm would mean "you'd have to remove any development adjacent to the springs," Caldwell said. "We have to take the straws out of the ground. That might require putting on a statewide development moratorium to protect the springs — but I think that's politically infeasible."

Still, Caldwell said, "If we don't do something, we're going to keep drawing it down until there's nothing left of it altogether."

Bills were filed in the House and Senate this year calling for the water districts to draw up plans for saving the springs and issue orders to make those plans happen. Neither bill ever got out of committee.

White Springs Mayor Helen Miller, who has spearheaded efforts by a coalition of North Florida government officials to get the state to better protect springs, said she was disappointed in the failure to act, especially since 15,000 people signed petitions calling for greater state protection for the springs.

"The will of the people should count for something," Miller said. The failure to act shows that "on the state level we have a dearth of leadership on water issues."

Craig Pittman can be reached at craig@tampabay.com

Despite petition, Legislature to do nothing to help springs this year 04/22/13

Subject: FWD: St. Johns River Water Management District Water News
Date: Thursday, April 18, 2013 4:36:37 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: richardowen@owenconsultingservices.co
To: Nancy Smith

----- Original Message -----

Subject: St. Johns River Water Management District Water News
From: Water News <waternews@sjrwmd.com>
Date: 4/18/13 4:16 pm
To: richardowen@owenconsultingservices.co

Email not displaying correctly? [Click to view online.](#)

St. Johns River Water Management District Water News

April 18, 2013

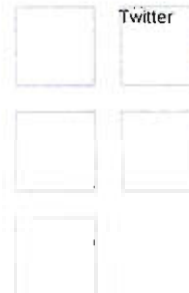
Update on Adena Springs Ranch permit application

Adena Springs Ranch on April 18 responded to the St. Johns River Water Management District's Request for Additional Information (RAI) relating to the ranch's **consumptive use permit request** for 5.3 million gallons a day (mgd) of water for agricultural and livestock uses in Marion County.

The District has until May 18 to determine whether the application is complete. If the application is not complete, the District will issue another RAI and the applicant will have 120 days to respond or to ask for an extension of the time frame. If the application is considered complete, District staff will determine if the requested allocation of water meets District permitting criteria.

In its initial application in December 2011, the applicant requested 13.267 mgd. On Dec. 14, 2012, the applicant amended its application to reduce the allocation to the 5.3 mgd currently requested.

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About us

The St. Johns River Water Management District is a regional agency of the state of Florida whose mission is to protect and ensure the

Arsenic in water must be addressed

By The Staff

Wednesday, April 17, 2013 at 10:24 pm (Updated: April 18, 8:21 am)

THE ISSUE: Many wells in northwest Citrus have high arsenic levels.

OUR OPINION: An issue that needs final resolution.

For almost a decade, a problem with high arsenic levels in multiple wells in northwest Citrus County has been known, and for several years now the state has provided special filters to remove arsenic from about 200 wells.

In a recent commission meeting, county water resources director Ken Cheek explained the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is footing the cost of a study to determine the cost of the filtration program compared with providing county water to the area.

The source of the arsenic contamination is unknown. Theories range from the presence of former cattle dip tanks where arsenic was used to control ticks and fleas to industrial contamination to naturally occurring deposits of the heavy metal.

The problem was identified about 2005 when a woman living in the area was found to have high levels of arsenic in her hair, indicating a long-time consumption of the metal. This led to investigation of more than 700 wells in the area and arsenic filters being provided for about 200 of them.

The current study will determine whether it makes sense to continue this program or for the county to provide water to the area. The county can then determine if it is willing to commit to expansion of county water into this more sparsely-populated part of the county.

If the county is interested, it can pursue a combination of grant funding and assessments to fund the expansion, but it is likely to be another year before the study is complete and the county has information for making this decision.

We understand and appreciate that with water and sewer being enterprise funds paid for by users rather than tax dollars there would be some hesitance about expanding into areas where population density may not justify the cost.

At the same time, the presence of arsenic in some county wells is a public health issue that needs to be addressed, and the best long-term solution is for county water to be expanded into this area. We encourage the commission to seek funding for expansion of the water system and to make plans to bring county water to the affected area.

Diane Salz <disalz@yahoo.com>

Fwd: U.S. EPA APPROVES STATE'S RESTORATION TARGET FOR SILVER SPRINGS

April 17, 2013 8:24 AM

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Florida Department of Environmental Protection" <FloridaDEP@public.govdelivery.com>
Date: April 17, 2013 8:11:22 AM EDT
To: disalz@yahoo.com
Subject: U.S. EPA APPROVES STATE'S RESTORATION TARGET FOR SILVER SPRINGS
Reply-To: FloridaDEP@public.govdelivery.com



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 17, 2013

CONTACT: DEP Press Office, 850.245.2112, DEPNews@dep.state.fl.us

U.S. EPA APPROVES STATE'S RESTORATION TARGET FOR SILVER SPRINGS

~Restoration efforts continue in and around iconic spring~

TALLAHASSEE – The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's restoration target for Silver Springs, called a total maximum daily load, has been approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The Department adopted the [total maximum daily load](#) for nitrate, in this case a maximum acceptable concentration, at 0.35 milligrams per liter in November. This is the same water quality target the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has set for springs — based on the Department's data — and that has been upheld in both state and federal courts. Meeting the target nitrate concentration will be a major step toward bringing the Silver Springs system back into balance. The Department received [this letter](#) notifying of the approval.

"This action solidifies and supports the scientific foundation of the restoration plan currently under development by the Department," said Drew Bartlett, Director of the Department's Division of Environmental Assessment and Restoration. "This paves the way for the actions that will ultimately restore this iconic spring."

The Department's Division of Environmental Assessment and Restoration recently held the first meeting to develop this restoration plan, or basin management action plan, for Silver Springs. Understanding the problem based on hard data and science and addressing it through concrete actions developed with local stakeholders will help

restore the springshed and protect it into the future.

But the Department is not waiting to finish planning before investing in projects to improve water quality. For example, the Department is contributing \$300,000, along with Marion County (\$300,000) and the St. Johns River Water Management District (\$100,000) to eliminate the discharge from the Silver Springs Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant, located within 1.5 miles of the main boil of Silver Springs. Wastewater will be redirected to the Silver Springs Shores Wastewater Treatment Plant, which provides higher level treatment and is 10 miles from the head spring.

In a subsequent phase of the project, a series of small "package" wastewater treatment plants will also be connected to the Silver Springs Shores facility, which will provide better treatment and reduce pollution. Implementation of these actions collectively will eliminate some two tons of nitrogen currently discharged into the Silver Springs system every year.

In January, the Department announced that the Silver Springs Attraction will become a state park Oct. 1, 2013, following a vote by the Governor and Cabinet. Department staff members are conducting an environmental site assessment on the property and work is expected to start next week on the transition from a for-profit amusement park into a state park. Parks staff members, through public input, have developed a [Interim Facilities and Operations Plan](#) and continue work on a long-term management plan.

The Division of Environment Assessment and Restoration and Division of Recreation and Parks continue to work together to identify additional and future environmental cleanup projects that aim to restore Silver Springs, while converting it to one of Florida's award-winning state parks, greenways and trails.

About the Florida Department of Environmental Protection

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<http://content.govdelivery.com/bulletins/gd/FLDEP-767e91>



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Column: Keeping Florida's water flowing

Florida's future depends on access to a reliable supply of fresh water. While we're surrounded by seas and receive abundant rainfall, in some regions during certain times of the year, we are using water faster than Mother Nature can provide it. As our population continues to grow — this year we will surpass New York as the third most populated state in the nation — pressure on our fragile water supplies will increase.

Florida's environment, economy and quality of life all depend on water. If we want to continue to attract businesses and draw tourists while protecting our environment, we must ensure we have the water supply to meet our needs, not just today, but for our future.

Fortunately, there are solutions. We've already taken several steps to protect our available water supply and reduce our water use, where possible, through thoughtful conservation measures. As a result of efforts led by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to help agricultural producers implement best practices and use new technologies, Florida agriculture is using less water now than at any time in the past while, at the same time, increasing productivity and efficiency.

The latest irrigation technologies dramatically reduce water use and, when combined with new computerized tools, make it possible for producers to control their irrigation systems over the Internet or with a smartphone. The agriculture department also deploys mobile irrigation labs to advise farmers on how to improve their irrigation system efficiency and irrigation scheduling. Across the state, more than 9 million acres of farm, ranch and nursery lands are taking advantage of the programs the department offers to protect and conserve water resources.

Florida's farmers should be applauded for their efforts. Because of their hard work and investment, they've been able to save nearly 11 billion gallons of water each year. Local communities and public water supply utilities have also implemented successful conservation programs and water reuse projects that are making a difference.

But conservation and reuse alone will not be enough.

The next step must be to explore sources of water that won't deplete. We must find ways to grow our water supply from sources that are resistant to drought and shortage. Simply put, our water supply options must become more diverse.

Droughtproof water supplies, like seawater desalination, should be more aggressively pursued and included in water planning as future sources of Florida's water supply. The collection and storage of water for groundwater recharge and as an alternative source of water should continue to be encouraged with incentives to attract private landowner participation.

I am urging policymakers, water utilities, local officials, agricultural producers, business leaders and all Floridians to be proactive and innovative as they consider new water sources and technologies.

A sustainable vision for Florida's future will require a more comprehensive, long-term water policy and a mechanism to fund it. It will champion the combination of water conservation and innovative alternative water sources. It will ensure all Floridians that water will not become the crisis that today's leaders failed to prevent.

Adam H. Putnam is Florida's commissioner of agriculture. He wrote this exclusively for the Tampa Bay Times.



Across Florida, more than 9 million acres of farm, ranch and nursery lands are taking advantage of programs the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services offers to protect and conserve water resources. Because of farmers' hard work and investment, they've been able to save nearly 11 billion gallons of water a year. Associated Press (2007)

Item 10.
Legislative Update

Item 10. Legislative Update . . . Diane Salz, Governmental Affairs Liaison

This item will be presented at the meeting.