



WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY

Board Meeting Package

July 26, 2023
3:30 p.m.

Meeting Location:

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

Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority

Board of Directors

Effective May 2023

Office	Board Members
Chair	The Honorable Jeff Kinnard
Vice Chair	The Honorable Eliza-BETH Narverud
Treasurer	The Honorable Craig Estep

Jurisdiction	Board Members
Citrus County	The Honorable Rebecca Bays
	The Honorable Jeff Kinnard
Hernando County	The Honorable Jerry Campbell
	The Honorable Eliza-BETH Narverud
Marion County	The Honorable Kathy Bryant
	The Honorable Michelle Stone
	The Honorable Carl Zalak
Sumter County	The Honorable Craig Estep
	The Honorable Don Wiley
City of Belleview	The Honorable Robert “Bo” Smith
City of Brooksville	The Honorable David Bailey
City of Bushnell	The Honorable Dale Swain
City of Crystal River	The Honorable Ken Brown

Meeting Dates

The schedule of meetings for the 2022-2023 fiscal year are as follows:

November 16, 2022	May 17, 2023
January 18, 2023	July 26, 2023
March 15, 2023 canceled	September 20, 2023



July 17, 2023

MEMORANDUM

To: Water Supply Authority Board of Directors and Interested Parties

From: Suzannah J. Folsom, Executive Director

Subject: Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority Board of Directors Meeting

The Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority will hold a regular business meeting on **Wednesday, July 26, 2023 3:30 p.m., at the Lecanto Government Center Building, Room 166, 3600 Sovereign Path, Lecanto, FL 34461.**

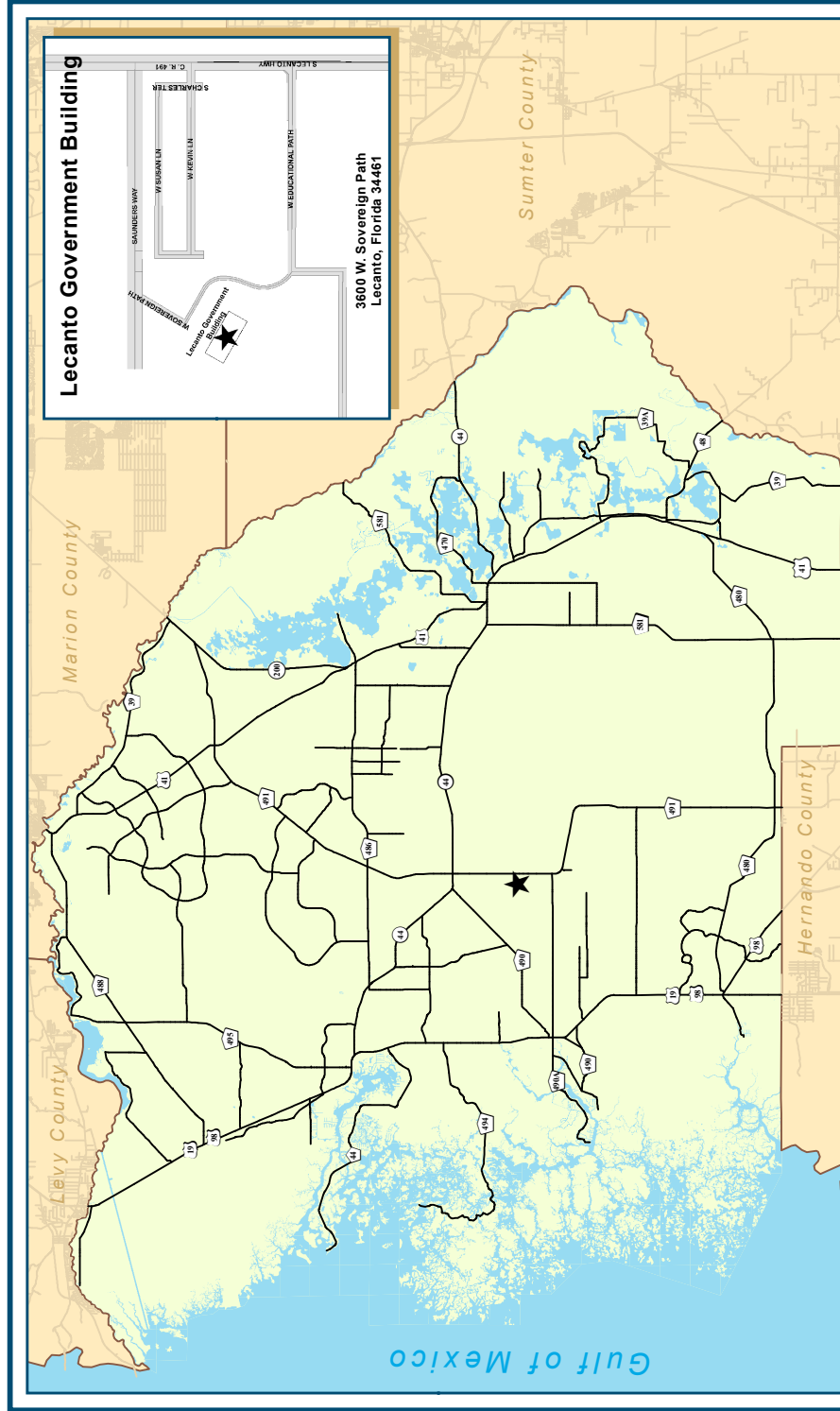
Enclosed for your review are the following items:

- Agenda
- Minutes of May 17, 2023
- 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

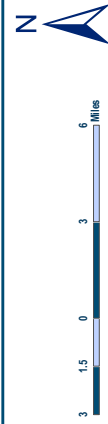
- * Copies of the Board Package are available through the Internet. Log on to www.wrwsa.org.
- On the Authority's Home Page go to the left side of the page and click on "Meetings."
 - On the slide out menu is a button for the current Board Package.
 - Click on the Board Package to download and/or print.



Office of Geographic Information Systems

Prepared By : R.W. Voth
Date: January 4, 2012
Source: Enterprise Geodatabase
Map Number: BV000029

Lecanto Government Building Locator Map



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

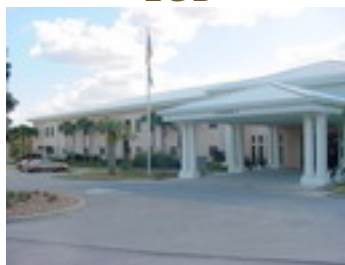
From Bushnell

- 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.

LGB



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

A G E N D A

**July 26, 2023 -- 3:30 p.m.
LECANTO GOVERNMENT BUILDING -- ROOM 166
3600 W. Sovereign Path, Lecanto, Florida 34461**

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

	<u>PAGE</u>
1. Call to Order . . . Jeff Kinnard, Chair	
2. Roll Call . . . Suzy Folsom, WRWSA Executive Director	
3. Introductions and Announcements . . . Suzy Folsom, WRWSA	
4. Pledge of Allegiance . . . Led by the Board	
5. Public Comment	
6. Consent Agenda . . . Jeff Kinnard, Chair	
a. Approval of Minutes [May 17, 2023]	9
b. Bills to be Paid [June bills included; July bills provided at the meeting]	15
c. Resolution 2023-03, Amendment of the Adopted Budget for Fiscal Year 2022-23 [Purvis Gray & Company increase for Annual Financial Audit]	17
d. First Quarter Financial Report [accept report by Purvis Gray & Company]	21
e. Second Quarter Financial Report [accept report by Purvis Gray & Company]	29
f. 2023-2024 Regulatory Plan [approve plan as provided by staff for publication]	37
7. Resolution 2023-04, Adoption of Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2023-24 . . . Suzy Folsom, WRWSA	39
8. Water Supply and Conservation Grants Program – Approval of Awards . . . Suzy Folsom, WRWSA	47
9. Legislative Report . . . Suzy Folsom, WRWSA	67
10. Attorney’s Report . . . Rob Batsel, WRWSA Attorney	71
11. Executive Director’s Report . . . Suzy Folsom, WRWSA	
a. Charles A. Black Water Use Permit Renewal	75
b. Water Use Permit Demand Summary	77
c. Water Management Information System Water Use Permit Notifications	79
d. Irrigation Audit Program (Phase 7) – Status Report	81
e. Regional Water Supply Plan Update – Status Report	83
f. Correspondence	85
g. News Articles	103
12. Other Business	
13. Next Meeting . . . September 20, 2023; 3:30 p.m.; Lecanto Government Building, Room 166	
14. 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 6.a.

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes

DRAFT

WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Minutes of the Meeting May 17, 2023

TIME: 3:30 p.m.
PLACE: Lecanto Government Building
ADDRESS: 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Room 280, Lecanto, Florida 34461

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

1. Call to Order

Chair Kinnard called the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (WRWSA) Board of Directors meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. and requested a roll call.

2. Roll Call

Ms. Suzannah Folsom, WRWSA Executive Director, called the roll and a quorum was declared present since three of the four counties were represented.

BOARD MEMBER PRESENT

Jeff Kinnard, *Chair*, Citrus Co Commissioner
Beth Narverud, *Vice Chair*, Hernando County Commissioner
Craig Estep, *Treasurer*, Sumter County Commissioner
Rebecca Bays, Citrus County Commissioner
Jerry Campbell, Hernando County Commissioner
Robert “Bo” Smith, Belleview City Commissioner
Dale Swain, Bushnell City Councilor
Don Wiley, Sumter County Commissioner

BOARD MEMBER(S) ABSENT

David Bailey, Brooksville City Councilor
Ken Brown, Crystal River City Councilor
Kathy Bryant, Marion County Commissioner
Michelle Stone, Marion County Commissioner
Carl Zalak, Marion County Commissioner

BOARD ALTERNATE(S) PRESENT – None

3. Introductions and Announcements

- Ms. Folsom noted the minutes have a scrivener’s error, April Bills to be Paid were provided, and Annual Financial Audit Items 7A and 7B were provided at their seats. She noted that Consent Items 6c and 6d are for ratification since the Chair Elect signed the resolutions for approval during the April timeframe.

WRWSA STAFF PRESENT

Suzannah J. Folsom, PE, PMP, Executive Dir
LuAnne Stout, Administrative Asst.

WRWSA STAFF ABSENT

Robert W. Batsel, Jr., General Counsel

OTHERS PRESENT

Alys Brockway, Hernando County Water Cons Mgr
Debra Burden, Citrus Co Water Conservation Mgr
Frank Gargano, SWFWMD Govt Affairs Reg Mgr
Trevor Knight, Marion Co Water Resources Liaison
Kathryn Eno, Purvis Gray & Company
Helen Painter, Purvis Gray & Company

4. Pledge of Allegiance – Chair Kinnard led those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. Public Comment – There being no members of the audience requesting to address the Board, Chair Bryant closed public comment.

6. Consent Agenda

- Approval of Minutes** – The January 18, 2023, draft minutes were provided in the Board’s meeting materials and recommended for approval as presented.
- Bills to be Paid** – Staff recommended ratification of February (\$19,871.42), March (\$11,292.29); and April (\$15,280.17); and approval for May (\$34,211.14).

- c. **Water Conservation Month Resolution** – Staff recommended ratification for approval by Chair-Elect Kinnard.
- d. **Springs Protection Awareness Month Resolution** – Staff recommended ratification for approval by Chair-Elect Kinnard.
- e. **Staff Travel to the Florida Chamber of Commerce Environmental Permitting Summer School, July 18 21, 2023** – Staff recommended approval for Ms.Folsom, WRWSA Executive Director, to attend this year’s Environmental Permitting Summer School at a cost of \$625.00.

Ms. Narverud moved, seconded by Mr. Estep, to approve the Consent Agenda Items 6.a., 6.b., 6.c., 6.d. and 6.e., as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Fiscal Year 2021-22 Financial Audit

Ms. Suzannah Folsom, WRWSA Executive Director, introduced this item. Ms. Helen Painter, Partner, and Ms. Katie Eno, both with Purvis, Gray & Company, LLP, presented this item.

Purvis Gray and Company has prepared the annual audit of the Authority’s financial statements for the Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2022. Included as an exhibit in the Board’s meeting materials is the Authority’s financial position provided to Purvis Gray & Company. The following exhibits which are included as separate documents: A. May 5, 2023 letter from Purvis Gray and Company; and B. Financial Statements and Independent Auditors’ Report for Fiscal Year 2021-22.

Staff recommendation Board approval of the Financial Statements and Independent Auditors’ Report for Fiscal Year 2021-22, dated May 5, 2023, as presented at the meeting and submittal of this report to the Auditor General and to the Florida Department of Financial Services..

Mr. Swain moved, seconded by Ms. Bays, to nominate Mr. Kinnard as Chair, Ms. Narverud as Vice Chair and Mr. Estep as Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Establishment of Proposed Fiscal Year 2023-24 Budget Components

Ms.Suzannah Folsom, Executive Director, presented this item.

a. Grant Funding Amount and Guidelines

Since 2005, the Authority has funded an annual grants program that provides matching funds for water conservation and water supply development projects. Member governments and other utilities in the region have applied for and received cooperative grants for projects of mutual benefit. The 2023-24 grants cycle will begin with an announcement to be sent to utility directors and water conservation coordinators in the region regarding the Authority’s Local Government Grant Program. A copy of the proposed announcement was included as an exhibit in the Board’s meeting materials.

For the current fiscal year 2023-24 budget, the Board increased the grant funding budget amount by \$10,000 to \$180,000, and clarified on the forms and website that the grant funds could be available for Water Supply and Conservation Projects. In order to provide for this continuing program in the upcoming 2023-24 fiscal year and to allow staff to prepare the 2023-24 budget, staff requests the amount of \$180,000 for the Grant Program.

Ms. Narverud moved, seconded by Ms. Bays, for the Board to set the total allocation of funds in fiscal year 2023-24 budget for the Local Government Grant Program at \$180,000 for water supply and conservation projects. Motion carried unanimously.

b. FY 2023-24 Per Capita Rate

Each year the Authority Board must approve a per capita rate for each of the member counties. The current rate of \$0.19 per capita has been in effect for fourteen years, since the 2009-10 fiscal year. The per capita rate is applied to the latest county population estimates prepared by the Bureau of Economic and Business Research, which prepare the State’s official population estimates.

In the coming fiscal year, a per capita rate of \$0.19 will generate a total revenue of \$169,218, an increase of \$4,312 or approximately 2.6% from the current fiscal year. The assessments are billed quarterly to each County at a rate of 25% of the amount listed above.

County	BEBR Population (April 1, 2022)	FY 2023-2024 Assessment
Citrus	158,009	\$30,022
Hernando	199,207	\$37,849
Marion	391,983	\$74,477
Sumter	141,420	\$26,870
Total	890,619	\$169,218

Mr. Estep moved, seconded by Mr. Wiley, to approve no change in the per capita rate of \$0.19 for preparation of the Fiscal Year 2023-24 Budget. Motion carried unanimously.

c. Draft Budget

The Board's meeting materials included as Exhibit A to this item is the draft Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-24 budget for the Board's review. The budget has been prepared in a conservative manner to keep costs in check and enhance efficiencies for the member governments. Included as Exhibit B is a description of the Authority's FY2023-24 work program that is supported by the proposed budget.

Ms. Folsom briefly provided reviewed changes to the draft budget such as the SJRWMD irrigation audit and updating the Microsoft system.

This item was provided for review and will be presented, incorporating any comments received provided the Ms. Folsom by Board members, at the July 26, 2023 meeting for approval.

9. Legislative Report

Ms. Suzannah Folsom, Executive Director, presented this item. The 2023 Legislative Regular Session began March 7, 2023 and ended May 5, 2023. Staff gathered information on relevant bills that are related to conservation and water supply from SWFWMD, 1000 Friends of Florida, and the Florida Engineering Society's Conservation and Environmental Quality Committee, and the House and Senate websites. The exhibit summarizes the status of the bills as of the publishing of this agenda packet. This information will be updated in a presentation at the board meeting, along with additional information on SB 1632 / HB 1379 Environmental Protection (septic tanks).

This item was for information only and no action was required.

10. Attorney's Report

No report was provided as Mr. Batsel was unable to attend today's meeting. Ms. Folsom noted that Mr. Batsel is seeking activity regarding PFAs.

11. Executive Director's Report – Ms. Folsom presented the following items.

- The Regional Water Supply Plan Update began in February with demand projections being an important element along with the coastal springs model.
- Citrus County will compete against other utilities from all over North America in the "Best of the Best" competition in June 2023 at the AWWA Annual Conference and Exposition conference in Toronto.
- The SJRWMD will be participating in the irrigation audit program which includes Belleview.

- a. **Charles A. Black Water Use Permit Renewal** – The Wellfield WUP number 7121.006 continues with a single issue regarding two stressed lakes. Pumpage for the permit has been increased. In reply to Chair Kinnard's inquiry, Ms. Folsom said two wells pumped to west side and can be shifted to wellfield two.
 - b. **Water Use Permit Demand Summary** - A summary was in the Board's meeting materials. .
 - c. **Water Management Information System Water Use Permit Notifications** – A list of notifications was included in the Board's meeting materials.
 - d. **Correspondence** – Several items were included in meeting materials.
 - e. **News Articles** – Several articles were included in meeting materials for the Board's information.
 - f. **Hernando's Clear Vision for Healthy Springs** – April 14, 2023 at the Sandhill Scout Reservation – Ms. Folsom noted that 87 people attended and were provided goody bags. Attendees particularly enjoyed the information about cave diver mapping and video. Mr. Campbell said he enjoyed the KARST presentations for a great day.
 - g. **Sumter Water Matters Event** – Ms. Folsom said the Authority hosted a tent for the event which was well attended by the public to learn about water conservation and supply in The Villages.
12. **Other Business** – None.
13. **Next Meeting Time and Location**
- Next Regular Board Meeting and FY2023-24 Budget Approval – July 26, 2023, at 3:30 p.m. at the Lecanto Government Building, Room 166.
14. **Adjournment** – Chair Kinnard adjourned the meeting at 4:25 p.m.

Jeff Kinnard, Chair

Suzannah J. Folsom, Executive Director

Item 6.b.

Consent Agenda

Bills to be Paid

**June bills in the meeting materials;
July bills to be provided at meeting.**

Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority
3600 W. Sovereign Path, Suite 228, Lecanto, Florida 34461

Bills For Payment
6/21/2023

<u>Administrative Invoices</u>	<u>Invoice Number(s)</u>	<u>Invoice Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Suzannah J. Folsom, PE, Executive Director	1243	5/31/2023	\$7,537.97
Rob Batsel, General Counsel	5709	5/31/2023	\$305.50
C. LuAnne Stout, Admin Asst (Admin Services)	5-May-23	6/1/2023	\$3,315.00
Craig Estep (Board Travel)		5/17/2023	\$27.59
Beth Narverud (Board Travel)		5/17/2023	\$19.58
Robert "Bo" Smith (Board Travel)		5/17/2023	\$36.49
Dale Swain (Board Travel)		5/17/2023	\$27.59
Don Wiley (Board Travel)		5/17/2023	\$27.59
Karen Allen (Web Maintenance)	160 (last)	6/12/2023	\$150.00
Purvis Gray & Company (Annual Audit)	56419	5/11/2023	\$11,623.00
Purvis Gray & Company (1st and 2nd Quarters FY2023)	57198	6/14/2023	\$1,000.00
Truist Bank Business Card Statement	6.2.2023	6/2/2023	\$352.20
Total Administrative Invoices			\$24,422.51

<u>Water Supply Studies and Facilities</u>	<u>Contract/ Budget</u>	<u>Balance Remaining</u>	<u>Current</u>
2023 General Services Contract	\$20,000.00		
Work Order 2023-01 INTERA Incorporated	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	
Work Order 2023-02 Hazen and Sawyer	\$10,000.00	\$1,850.00	\$8,150.00 (1)
FY22-23 Water Conservation Grants Program	\$140,000.00		
Citrus County	\$35,075.00	\$35,075.00	
Hernando County	\$49,750.00	\$49,750.00	
Marion County	\$14,081.25	\$14,081.25	
Sumter County	\$23,000.00	\$23,000.00	
Regional Water Supply Plan Update (Q324)	\$350,000.00	\$306,002.00	\$28,404.80 (2)
Phase 7 Irrigation Program (Q306)	\$102,000.00	\$87,041.00	\$4,694.50 (3)
FY22-23 Total Project Invoices	\$612,000.00	\$526,799.25	\$41,249.30

Total Bills to be Paid

State Board of Administration	Transfer from SBA2 to SBA1	\$24,422.51
Deposit to Truist (Citrus Co Assmnt \$7,391.75 + \$250 Q138 final)	Subtract from SBA1 Transfer	\$7,641.75
State Board of Administration	Transfer from SBA1 to Truist Bank	\$58,030.06

Notes:

(1) Hazen and Sawyer General Prof Eng - Irrigation Eval Proposals	\$8,150.00	Invoice 0000001 - Project 41173-001
(2) Hazen and Sawyer - WRWSA Regional Water Supply Plan Update	\$28,404.80	Invoice 0000002 - Project 41173-000
(3) Phase 7 (Q306) - Irrigation Audits		
Jack Overdorff, ECO Land Design	\$4,234.50	Invoice 554
C. LuAnne Stout, Admin Services	\$450.00	Invoice 5-May-Q306-2023
	<u>\$4,684.50</u>	

Item 6.c.

Consent Agenda

Budget Amendment

Purvis Gray & Company LLC budget increase.

Item 6.c.

Resolution 2023-03, Amendment of the Adopted Budget for Fiscal Year 2022-23

Mr. Suzy Folsom, Executive Director, will present this item.

On June 20, 2023 the WRWSA Board of Directors approved the FY 2022-23 Budget. This included \$11,623 for annual audit services. Subsequently, Purvis Gray sent an updated Letter of Engagement requesting an increased annual audit fee of \$13,500 plus \$1,500 for evaluation of new GASB requirements. The last Letter of Engagement for annual audit services was received from Purvis Gray in 2010, for \$8,500, and while adjustments have been made over time to account for inflation, recent elevated inflation, staffing changes, and new requirements has put a cost burden beyond recent 3% increases on Purvis Gray.

The requested increase is greater than the Budget contingency of \$1,600, therefore amendment to increase the approved FY 2022-23 is required.

Resolution 2023-03 amends the FY 2022-23 approved budget with \$3,377 of additional funds for Purvis Gray for completion of the annual audit and evaluation of the new GASB requirements for leases.

Staff Recommendation:

Approve Resolution 2023-03 adopting the FY 2023-24 budget amendment for and additional \$3,377 in administrative funds to cover the increased annual audit fee and additional services to evaluate the new GASB lease requirements.

WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY					
Amended Fiscal Year 2022-23 Budget					
Approved July 20, 2022. Amended July 26, 2023					
		Fiscal Year 2022-23	Fiscal Year 2021-22	\$ Change	% Change
Expenditures: General Administration					
Executive Director	3% increase	\$89,280	\$86,700	\$2,580	3.0%
Administrative Assistant	3% increase	\$39,780	\$38,625	\$1,155	3.0%
Legal Services	Based on annual contract:				
Monthly Meetings @ \$235/hr	6 meetings/year, 3 hrs/meeting = 18 hrs	\$4,230	\$4,230	\$0	0.0%
Other Services @ \$235/hr.	6 hrs/month = 72 hrs	\$16,920	\$16,920	\$0	0.0%
Advertising	Based on FY 2020-21 actual	\$800	\$800	\$0	0.0%
Audit	Letter of Engagement	\$15,000	\$11,284	\$3,716	32.9%
Bookkeeping Services	\$500/quarter per Engagement Letter	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0	0.0%
Liability Insurance	FY 20-21 actual plus 5%	\$3,150	\$3,000	\$150	5.0%
Office Supplies	Based on FY 2020-21 actual	\$1,250	\$1,000	\$250	25.0%
Postage	Based on FY 2020-21 actual	\$800	\$800	\$0	0.0%
Printing and Reproduction	Based on FY 2020-21 actual	\$1,600	\$1,600	\$0	0.0%
Publications/Software	Based on FY 2020-21 actual	\$150	\$150	\$0	0.0%
Rent (Lecanto Gov't Bldg)	Based on Lease Agreement	\$2,048	\$2,048	\$0	0.0%
Registrations/Dues	Based on FY 2020-21 actual	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$0	0.0%
State Fees/Assessments	Based on FY 2020-21 actual	\$175	\$175	\$0	0.0%
Telephone	Based on FY 2020-21 actual	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$0	0.0%
Travel (Board Members & Staff)	Based on FY 2020-21 actual	\$3,000	\$5,000	-\$2,000	-40.0%
Web Page / Computer Maintenance	Based on FY 2020-21 actual	\$2,800	\$2,500	\$300	12.0%
Contingencies	@ 5% of non-contract admin costs	\$1,600	\$1,502	\$98	6.5%
Subtotal - General Administration Expenditures		\$187,283	\$181,034	\$6,249	3.5%
Fund Balance for Admin. Reserves FYE 22/23	FYE21/22 Admin Funds Bal + FY22/23 Admin Rev's - FY22/23 Admin Exp's	\$748,526	\$692,676	\$55,850	8.1%
Expenditures: Water Resource Development Projects					
General Services Contracts	As Needed Eng. & Tech. Firms	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$0	0.0%
Local Government Grant Program	Approved 3/16/22	\$140,000	\$140,000	\$0	0.0%
RWSP Update	100% of Project Budget	\$375,000	\$0	\$375,000	N/A
Phase 7 Irrigation Audit Program	100% of Project Budget	\$102,000	\$0	\$102,000	N/A
Phase 6 Irrigation Audit Program	0% of Project Budget	\$0	\$60,600	-\$60,600	N/A
Subtotal - Water Resource Development Projects		\$667,000	\$250,600	\$416,400	166.2%
Fund Balance for Water Resource Development Reserves FYE 22/23	FYE21/22 WRD Funds Bal + FY22/23 WRD Rev's - FY22/23 WRD Exp's	\$754,594	\$1,018,833	-\$264,239	-25.9%
Total Administration and WRD Expenses					
		\$854,283	\$431,634	\$422,649	97.9%
Total Administration and WRD Fund Balances at FY	See Attachment 2 for detail	\$1,487,120	\$1,756,959	-\$269,839	-15.4%
Combined FYE 22/23 Expenditures and Fund Balances		\$2,341,403	\$2,188,593	\$152,810	7.0%

WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY

RESOLUTION 2023-03

**AMENDMENT OF THE ADOPTED BUDGET
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022-23**

WHEREAS, pursuant to the requirements of Section 189.016(4), Florida Statutes, the Board of Directors of the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority held a public meeting on July 20, 2022, on the final budget and assessment rate for general administrative, operating and project expenses for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2022 and ending September 30, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to amend the adopted FY 2022-23 budgeted funds for annual audit of \$11,623 to include additional funds for the annual audit services with Purvis Gray; and

WHEREAS, Purvis Gray has sent an updated Letter of Engagement requesting \$13,500 for the annual audit, and \$1,500 for review of new GASB requirements; and

WHEREAS, the last Letter of Engagement was sent by Purvis Gray in 2010; and

WHEREAS, funds for these services will come from the Authority's Administrative Reserves account.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF THE WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY:

Section 1. The Board of the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority hereby amends its Fiscal Year 2022-23 adopted budget, to include additional funds in the amount of \$3,377 for Purvis Gray, with said amended budget shown on the attached Exhibit attached hereto and made a part hereof as Exhibit A.

Section 2. This Resolution and a copy of the amended budget as adopted shall be posted on the official website of the Authority after the adoption and will remain on the website for at least 2 years.

Section 3. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

ADOPTED in regular session this twenty-sixth day of July 2023.

WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY

BY: Jeffrey Kinnard, Chair

Attest:

Suzannah J. Folsom, Executive Director

Item 6.d.

Consent Agenda

First Quarter Financial Report

2022

Withlacoochee Regional Water
Supply Authority

Compilation Report

December 31, 2022

PURVIS GRAY
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

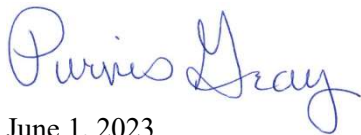
To The Governing Board
Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority
Ocala, Florida

Management is responsible for the accompanying financial statements of the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (the Authority), an Independent Special District, as of and for the three (3) months ended December 31, 2022, which collectively comprise the Authority's basic financial statements, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We have performed a compilation engagement in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services promulgated by the Accounting and Review Services Committee of the AICPA. We did not audit or review the financial statements nor was I (were we) required to perform any procedures to verify the accuracy or completeness of the information provided by management. We do not express an opinion, a conclusion, nor provide any assurance on these financial statements.

Management has elected to omit substantially all the disclosures and the statement of cash flows as required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. If the omitted disclosures and the statement of cash flows were included in the financial statements, they might influence the user's conclusions about the Authority's financial position, results of operations, and cash flows. Accordingly, the financial statements are not designed for those who are not informed about such matters.

Supplementary Information

The budgetary comparison information is not a required part of the basic financial statements but is supplementary information. The supplementary information has been compiled from information that is the representation of management. This information was subject to our compilation engagement, however, we have not audited or reviewed the supplementary information, and do not express an opinion, a conclusion, nor provide any assurance on such information.



June 1, 2023
Ocala, Florida

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

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Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority
STATEMENT OF NET POSITION

As of December 31, 2022

ASSETS

Cash in Bank - SunTrust	\$ 33,887.95
Cash in Bank - SBA1	806,671.62
Cash in Bank - SBA2	1,239,165.16
Accounts Receivable	8,873.65
Accounts Receivable - SWFWMD	11,977.94
Accounts Receivable - County	24,940.71
Prepaid Expense	<u>4,030.30</u>
Total Current Assets	2,129,547.33
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENTS	
Equipment	3,728.84
Accum Deprec - Equipment	(3,633.87)
Citrus Co. Wellfield	3,105,814.56
Citrus Co. Wellfield 90	1,613,006.01
Citrus Co. Wellfield 88	176,410.64
Accum Deprec - Wellfield	<u>(4,564,805.17)</u>
Total Property and Equipment	<u>330,521.01</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 2,460,068.34</u>

LIABILITIES AND NET POSITION

CURRENT LIABILITIES	
Acct Payable - General	<u>14,957.89</u>
Total Current Liabilities	14,957.89
NET POSITION	
Investment in Capital Assets	330,521.01
Unrestricted	<u>2,114,589.44</u>
Total Net Position	<u>2,445,110.45</u>

Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND
CHANGES IN NET POSITION
For the Period Ended December 31, 2022

	<u>3 months ended</u> <u>December 31,</u> <u>2022</u>	<u>%</u>
Revenue		
Citrus Co. Assessments	\$ 7,391.75	5.28 %
Hernando Co. Assessments	9,335.75	6.67 %
Sumter Co. Assessments	6,393.25	4.57 %
Marion Co. Assessment	18,106.00	12.94 %
Interest Income - SBA Accounts	19,881.86	14.21 %
CAB Wifld Project Revenues	73,659.80	52.64 %
CAB Wifld Operating Revenues	4,749.75	3.39 %
Ph7 Irg Audit Prgm SWFWMD Match	0.00	0.00 %
Ph6 Irg Audit Prgm Coop Match	<u>413.70</u>	<u>0.30 %</u>
Total Revenue	139,931.86	100.00 %
Operating Expenses		
Administrative Assistant	9,945.00	7.11 %
Advertising	489.62	0.35 %
Audit	-	0.00 %
Bank Charges	36.00	0.03 %
Bookkeeping Services	750.00	0.54 %
Depreciation Expense	12,238.00	8.75 %
Executive Director	22,320.00	15.95 %
General Services Contracts	3,500.00	2.50 %
Legal - Monthly Meeting	164.50	0.12 %
Legal - Other Services	517.00	0.37 %
Liability Insurance	774.64	0.55 %
Office Supplies	145.08	0.10 %
Postage	318.21	0.23 %
Printing & Reproduction	474.56	0.34 %
FY21 Local Govt Water Cons Proj	812.11	0.58 %
Rent (Lecanto Gov't Bldg)	511.92	0.37 %
State Fees/Assessments	175.00	0.13 %
Telephone	292.15	0.21 %
Travel (Board Members & Staff)	396.50	0.28 %
Web Page/Computer Maintenance	<u>1,302.87</u>	<u>0.93 %</u>
Total Operating Expenses	<u>55,163.16</u>	<u>39.42 %</u>
Change in Net Position	<u>\$ 84,768.70</u>	<u>60.58 %</u>

ACCOMPANYING SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority

BUDGET TO ACTUAL

For the Period Ended December 31, 2022

	<u>3 months ended</u> <u>December 31,</u> <u>2022 Actual</u>	<u>3 months ended</u> <u>December 31,</u> <u>2022 Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u> <u>Over/(Under)</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>Annual</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Revenue					
Citrus Co. Assessments	\$ 7,391.75	\$ 7,391.75	\$ -	\$ 29,567.00	\$ (22,175.25)
Hernando Co. Assessments	9,335.75	9,335.75	-	37,343.00	(28,007.25)
Sumter Co. Assessments	6,393.25	6,393.25	-	25,573.00	(19,179.75)
Marion Co. Assessment	18,106.00	18,106.00	-	72,424.00	(54,318.00)
Interest Income - SBA Accounts	19,881.86	-	19,881.86	-	19,881.86
CAB Wifld Project Revenues	73,659.80	55,250.25	18,409.55	221,001.00	(147,341.20)
CAB Wifld Operating Revenues	4,749.75	4,749.75	-	18,999.00	(14,249.25)
RWSP Update Matching Funds	-	46,875.00	(46,875.00)	187,500.00	(187,500.00)
Ph6 Irg Audit Prgm Coop Match	413.70	-	413.70	-	413.70
Ph7 Irg Audit Prgm SWFWMD Match	-	12,750.00	(12,750.00)	51,000.00	(51,000.00)
Ph7 Irg Audit Prgm Coop Match	-	6,375.00	(6,375.00)	25,500.00	(25,500.00)
Total Revenue	139,931.86	167,226.75	(27,294.89)	668,907.00	(528,975.14)
Operating Expenses					
Administrative Assistant	\$ 9,945.00	\$ 9,945.00	\$ -	\$ 39,780.00	\$ (29,835.00)
Advertising	489.62	200.00	289.62	800.00	(310.38)
Audit	-	2,905.75	(2,905.75)	11,623.00	(11,623.00)
Bank Charges	36.00	-	36.00	-	36.00
Bookkeeping Services	750.00	500.00	250.00	2,000.00	(1,250.00)
Contingencies	0.00	400.00	(400.00)	1,600.00	(1,600.00)
Depreciation Expense	12,238.00	-	12,238.00	-	12,238.00
Executive Director	22,320.00	22,320.00	-	89,280.00	(66,960.00)
Local Govt Water Cons Pr	812.11	35,000.00	(34,187.89)	140,000.00	(139,187.89)
General Services Contracts	3,500.00	12,500.00	(9,000.00)	50,000.00	(46,500.00)
Legal - Monthly Meeting	164.50	1,057.50	(893.00)	4,230.00	(4,065.50)
Legal - Other Services	517.00	4,230.00	(3,713.00)	16,920.00	(16,403.00)
Liability Insurance	774.64	787.50	(12.86)	3,150.00	(2,375.36)
Office Supplies	145.08	312.50	(167.42)	1,250.00	(1,104.92)
Ph7 Irg Audit Program	0.00	25,500.00	(25,500.00)	102,000.00	(102,000.00)
Postage	318.21	200.00	118.21	800.00	(481.79)
Printing & Reproduction	474.56	400.00	74.56	1,600.00	(1,125.44)
Publications/Software	-	37.50	(37.50)	150.00	(150.00)
Registration/Dues	-	375.00	(375.00)	1,500.00	(1,500.00)
Rent (Lecanto Gov't Bldg)	511.92	512.00	(0.08)	2,048.00	(1,536.08)
RWSP Update	0.00	93,750.00	(93,750.00)	375,000.00	(375,000.00)
State Fees/Assessments	175.00	43.75	131.25	175.00	-
Telephone	292.15	300.00	(7.85)	1,200.00	(907.85)
Travel (Board Members & Staff)	396.50	750.00	(353.50)	3,000.00	(2,603.50)
Web Page/Computer Maintenance	1,302.87	700.00	602.87	2,800.00	(1,497.13)
Total Operating Expenses	55,163.16	212,726.50	(157,563.34)	850,906.00	(795,742.84)
Change in Net Position	84,768.70	(45,499.75)	130,268.45	(181,999.00)	266,767.70

Item 6.e.

Consent Agenda

Second Quarter Financial Report

2023

Withlacoochee Regional Water
Supply Authority

Compilation Report

March 31, 2023

PURVIS GRAY
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

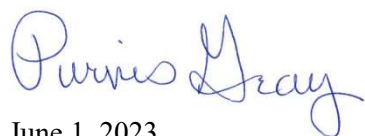
To The Governing Board
Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority
Ocala, Florida

Management is responsible for the accompanying financial statements of the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (the Authority), an Independent Special District, as of and for the three (3) months and six (6) months ended March 31, 2023, which collectively comprise the Authority's basic financial statements, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We have performed a compilation engagement in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services promulgated by the Accounting and Review Services Committee of the AICPA. We did not audit or review the financial statements nor was I (were we) required to perform any procedures to verify the accuracy or completeness of the information provided by management. We do not express an opinion, a conclusion, nor provide any assurance on these financial statements.

Management has elected to omit substantially all the disclosures and the statement of cash flows as required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. If the omitted disclosures and the statement of cash flows were included in the financial statements, they might influence the user's conclusions about the Authority's financial position, results of operations, and cash flows. Accordingly, the financial statements are not designed for those who are not informed about such matters.

Supplementary Information

The budgetary comparison information is not a required part of the basic financial statements but is supplementary information. The supplementary information has been compiled from information that is the representation of management. This information was subject to our compilation engagement, however, we have not audited or reviewed the supplementary information, and do not express an opinion, a conclusion, nor provide any assurance on such information.



June 1, 2023
Ocala, Florida

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

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*Members of American and Florida Institutes of Certified Public Accountants
An Independent Member of the BDO Alliance USA.*

Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority
STATEMENT OF NET POSITION

As of March 31, 2023

ASSETS

Cash in Bank - SunTrust	\$ 26,496.20
Cash in Bank - SBA1	862,394.66
Cash in Bank - SBA2	1,288,539.15
Accounts Receivable	3,639.03
Accounts Receivable - SWFWMD	14,295.19
Accounts Receivable - County	27,942.51
Prepaid Expense	<u>2,743.74</u>

Total Current Assets	2,226,050.48
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PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENTS

Equipment	3,728.84
Accum Deprec - Equipment	(3,633.87)
Citrus Co. Wellfield	3,105,814.56
Citrus Co. Wellfield 90	1,613,006.01
Citrus Co. Wellfield 88	176,410.64
Accum Deprec - Wellfield	<u>(4,577,043.17)</u>

Total Property and Equipment	<u>318,283.01</u>
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TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 2,544,333.49</u>
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LIABILITIES AND NET POSITION

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Acct Payable - General	<u>\$ 12,681.92</u>
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Total Current Liabilities	12,681.92
----------------------------------	------------------

NET POSITION

Investment in Capital Assets	318,283.01
Unrestricted	<u>2,213,368.56</u>
Total Net Position	<u>2,531,651.57</u>

Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES,
AND CHANGES IN NET POSITION
For the Period Ended March 31, 2023

	<u>3 months ended</u>		<u>6 months ended</u>	
	<u>March 31, 2023</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>March 31, 2023</u>	<u>%</u>
Revenue				
Citrus Co. Assessments	\$ 7,391.75	5.20 %	\$ 14,783.50	5.24 %
Hernando Co. Assessments	9,335.75	6.57 %	18,671.50	6.62 %
Sumter Co. Assessments	6,393.25	4.50 %	12,786.50	4.53 %
Marion Co. Assessment	18,106.00	12.74 %	36,212.00	12.84 %
Interest Income - SBA Accounts	24,275.25	17.08 %	44,157.11	15.65 %
CAB Wifid Project Revenues	68,418.68	48.13 %	142,078.48	50.37 %
CAB Wifid Operating Revenues	4,749.75	3.34 %	9,499.50	3.37 %
Ph6 Irg Audit Coop Match	0.00	0.00 %	413.70	0.15 %
Ph7 Irg Audit Prgm SWFWMD Match	2,317.25	1.63 %	2,317.25	0.82 %
Ph7 Irg Audit Prgm Coop Match	<u>1,158.63</u>	<u>0.82 %</u>	<u>1,158.63</u>	<u>0.41 %</u>
Total Revenue	142,146.31	100.00 %	282,078.17	100.00 %
Operating Expenses				
Administrative Assistant	9,945.00	7.00 %	19,890.00	7.05 %
Advertising	22.82	0.02 %	512.44	0.18 %
Audit	0.00	0.00 %	0.00	0.00 %
Bank Charges	0.00	0.00 %	36.00	0.01 %
Bookkeeping Services	0.00	0.00 %	750.00	0.27 %
Depreciation Expense	12,238.00	8.61 %	24,476.00	8.68 %
Executive Director	22,320.00	15.70 %	44,640.00	15.83 %
Local Govt Grant Prg	300.00	0.21 %	1,112.11	0.39 %
General Services Contracts	0.00	0.00 %	3,500.00	1.24 %
Legal - Monthly Meeting	1,459.50	1.03 %	1,624.00	0.58 %
Legal - Other Services	728.50	0.51 %	1,245.50	0.44 %
Liability Insurance	774.64	0.54 %	1,549.28	0.55 %
Office Supplies	257.51	0.18 %	402.59	0.14 %
Ph7 Irg Audit Program	4,634.50	3.26 %	4,634.50	1.64 %
Postage	151.70	0.11 %	469.91	0.17 %
Printing & Reproduction	567.23	0.40 %	1,041.79	0.37 %
Publications/Software	0.00	0.00 %	0.00	0.00 %
Registration/Dues	525.00	0.37 %	525.00	0.19 %
Rent (Lecanto Gov't Bldg)	511.92	0.36 %	1,023.84	0.36 %
State Fees/Assessments		0.00 %	175.00	0.06 %
Telephone	291.26	0.20 %	583.41	0.21 %
Travel (Board Members & Staff)	261.45	0.18 %	657.95	0.23 %
Web Page/Computer Maintenance	<u>616.16</u>	<u>0.43 %</u>	<u>1,919.03</u>	<u>0.68 %</u>
Total Operating Expenses	55,605.19	39.12 %	110,768.35	39.27 %
Change in Net Position	\$ 86,541.12	60.88 %	\$ 171,309.82	60.73 %

ACCOMPANYING SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority

BUDGET TO ACTUAL

For the Period Ended March 31, 2023

	<u>6 months ended</u> <u>March 31, 2023</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>6 months ended</u> <u>March 31, 2023</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u> <u>Over/(Under)</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>Annual</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Revenue					
Citrus Co. Assessments	\$ 14,783.50	\$ 14,783.50	\$ -	\$ 29,567.00	\$ (14,783.50)
Hernando Co. Assessments	18,671.50	18,671.50	-	37,343.00	(18,671.50)
Sumter Co. Assessments	12,786.50	12,786.50	-	25,573.00	(12,786.50)
Marion Co. Assessment	36,212.00	36,212.00	-	72,424.00	(36,212.00)
Interest Income - SBA Accounts	44,157.11	-	44,157.11	-	44,157.11
CAB Wifld Project Revenues	142,078.48	110,500.50	31,577.98	221,001.00	(78,922.52)
CAB Wifld Operating Revenues	9,499.50	9,499.50	-	18,999.00	(9,499.50)
RWSP Update Matching Funds	0.00	93,750.00	(93,750.00)	187,500.00	(187,500.00)
Ph6 Irg Audit Prgm Coop Match	413.70			-	
Ph7 Irg Audit Prgm SWFWMD Match	2,317.25	25,500.00	(23,182.75)	51,000.00	(48,682.75)
Ph7 Irg Audit Prgm Coop Match	1,158.63	12,750.00	(11,591.37)	25,500.00	(24,341.37)
Total Revenue	282,078.17	334,453.50	(52,789.03)	668,907.00	(387,242.53)
Operating Expenses					
Administrative Assistant	\$ 19,890.00	\$ 19,890.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 39,780.00	\$ (19,890.00)
Advertising	512.44	400.00	112.44	800.00	(287.56)
Audit	-	5,811.50	(5,811.50)	11,623.00	(11,623.00)
Bank Charges	36.00	-	36.00	-	36.00
Bookkeeping Services	750.00	1,000.00	(250.00)	2,000.00	(1,250.00)
Contingencies	-	800.00	(800.00)	1,600.00	(1,600.00)
Depreciation Expense	24,476.00	-	24,476.00	-	24,476.00
Executive Director	44,640.00	44,640.00	-	89,280.00	(44,640.00)
Local Govt Water Cons Prg	1,112.11	70,000.00	(68,887.89)	140,000.00	(138,887.89)
General Services Contracts	3,500.00	25,000.00	(21,500.00)	50,000.00	(46,500.00)
Legal - Monthly Meeting	1,624.00	2,115.00	(491.00)	4,230.00	(2,606.00)
Legal - Other Services	1,245.50	8,460.00	(7,214.50)	16,920.00	(15,674.50)
Liability Insurance	1,549.28	1,575.00	(25.72)	3,150.00	(1,600.72)
Office Supplies	402.59	625.00	(222.41)	1,250.00	(847.41)
Phase 7 Irg Audit Program	4,634.50	51,000.00	(46,365.50)	102,000.00	(97,365.50)
Postage	469.91	400.00	69.91	800.00	(330.09)
Printing & Reproduction	1,041.79	800.00	241.79	1,600.00	(558.21)
Publications/Software	-	75.00	(75.00)	150.00	(150.00)
Registration/Dues	525.00	750.00	(225.00)	1,500.00	(975.00)
Rent (Lecanto Gov't Bldg)	1,023.84	1,024.00	(0.16)	2,048.00	(1,024.16)
RWSP Update	0.00	187,500.00	(187,500.00)	375,000.00	(375,000.00)
State Fees/Assessments	175.00	87.50	87.50	175.00	-
Telephone	583.41	600.00	(16.59)	1,200.00	(616.59)
Travel (Board Members & Staff)	657.95	1,500.00	(842.05)	3,000.00	(2,342.05)
Web Page/Computer Maintenance	1,919.03	1,400.00	0.00	2,800.00	(880.97)
Total Operating Expenses	110,768.35	425,453.00	(315,203.68)	850,906.00	(740,137.65)
Change in Net Position	171,309.82	(90,999.50)	262,414.65	(181,999.00)	352,895.12

Item 6.f.

Consent Agenda

2023-2024 Regulatory Plan

**2023-2024 Regulatory Plan of the
Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (WRWSA)**

A. RULEMAKING TO IMPLEMENT NEW LAWS

List laws enacted or amended during the previous 12 months which create or modify the duties or authority of the WRWSA:

None

B. OTHER RULEMAKING

List each law not otherwise listed under A., which the WRWSA expects to implement by rulemaking before July 1, 2023, except emergency rulemaking:

None

C. UPDATE OF PRIOR YEAR'S REGULATORY PLAN OF SUPPLEMENT

No update or supplement of any prior year's regulatory plan is needed.

D. CERTIFICATIONS

Certification of Chairman of WRWSA Board of Directors:

As Chair of the Board of Directors, I certify that I have reviewed the WRWSA's 2023-2024 Regulatory Plan, that the WRWSA repealed all of its rules effective June 29, 2014, that no rulemaking has been conducted by the WRWSA subsequent to that repeal and further, as of July 20, 2023, that the WRWSA has no plans for rulemaking in the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

Jeffrey Kinnard
Chair

Date: July 26, 2023

Certification of the WRWSA General Counsel

As General Counsel to the WRWSA, I certify that I have reviewed the WRWSA's 2023-2024 Regulatory Plan, that the WRWSA repealed all of its rules effective June 29, 2014, that no rulemaking has been conducted by the WRWSA subsequent to that repeal and further, as of July 26, 2023, that the WRWSA has no plans for rulemaking in the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

Robert W. Batsel, Jr.
General Counsel

Date: July 26, 2023

Resolution 2023-04, Adoption of Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2023-24

Mr. Suzy Folsom, Executive Director, will present this item.

Included as Exhibit A to this item is the proposed FY 2023-24 budget. A draft budget was included in the May 2023 agenda packet and presented at the May 17, 2023 board meeting.

The following modifications have been made from the draft budget:

- Revised Audit services amount to increase it to match the most recent letter of engagement from Purvis Gray
- Revised Website Services amount to increase if for a new developer, due to our Website developer resigning

This budget has been prepared in a conservative manner to keep costs in check and enhance efficiencies for member governments. Included as Exhibit B is a description of the Authority's FY 2023-24 work program that is supported by the proposed budget.

See Exhibits included in the Board's meeting materials:

- A. Proposed FY 2023-24 Budget
- B. WRWSA FY 2023-24 Work Program
- C. Resolution 2023-04, Adoption of Final Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget

Staff Recommendation:

Approve Resolution 2023-04 adopting the FY 2023-24 budget including budgeted expenditures in the amount of \$799,238, budgeted reserves in the amount of \$1,120,307, and a combined total amount of \$1,924,869, as presented in Exhibit A, for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2023 and ending September 30, 2024.

WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY

Fiscal Year 2023-24 Budget

Final July 12, 2023

	4/1/2022 Population Estimate	Comments	Fiscal Year 2023-24	Fiscal Year 2022-23	\$ Change	% Change
Revenues: Administrative						
Assessments:		Official BEBR Population Estimates				
Citrus	158,009	2,394 person increase	\$30,022	\$29,567	\$455	1.5%
Hernando	199,207	2,667 person increase	\$37,850	\$37,343	\$507	1.4%
Marion	391,983	10,807 person increase	\$74,477	\$72,424	\$2,053	2.8%
Sumter	141,420	6,827 person increase	\$26,870	\$25,573	\$1,297	5.1%
Total Population/Assessments @ 19¢/Capita	890,619		\$169,219	\$164,907	\$4,312	2.6%
Administrative Revenue from Citrus Contract		Based on Citrus County contract and Board direction	\$26,519	\$18,999	\$7,520	39.6%
Subtotal			\$195,738	\$183,906	\$11,832	6.4%
Carryover Administration Reserve Funds (FYE 22/23 Estimate) (SBA1)		See Attachment 2	\$804,562	\$748,526	\$56,036	7.5%
Total Administrative Revenue Available			\$1,000,300	\$932,432	\$67,868	7.3%
Revenues: Water Resource Development (WRD) Projects						
2024 RWSP Update Matching Funds		50% of 75% of Remaining Project Budget	\$131,250	187,500	-\$56,250	-30.0%
SJRWMD Irrigation Audit Program SJRWMD Matching Funds		25% of Total Project Budget	\$15,000	\$0	\$15,000	100.0%
SJRWMD Irrigation Audit Program Cooperator Matching Funds		37.5% of Total Project Budget	\$22,500	\$0	\$22,500	100.0%
Phase 6 Irrigation Audit Program SWFWMD Matching Funds		0% of Total Project Budget	\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A
Phase 6 Irrigation Audit Program Cooperator Matching Funds		0% of Total Project Budget	\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A
Phase 7 Irrigation Audit Program SWFWMD Matching Funds		50% of Remaining Project Budget	\$25,500	\$51,000	-\$25,500	-50.0%
Phase 7 Irrigation Audit Program Cooperator Matching Funds		25% of Remaining Project Budget	\$12,750	\$25,500	-\$12,750	-50.0%
Annual Citrus WRD Payments (SBA2)		Based on CAB wellfield monthly average revenues of \$23,000 minus funds allocated to administrative revenue above	\$249,481	\$221,001	\$28,480	12.9%
Subtotal			\$456,481	\$485,001	-\$28,520	-5.9%
Carryover WRD Reserve Funds (FYE 22/23 Estimate) (SBA2)		See Attachment 2	\$1,267,326	\$1,127,470	\$139,856	12.4%
Total Water Resource Development Revenue Available			\$1,723,807	\$1,612,471	\$111,336	6.9%
Total Revenues Available			\$2,724,107	\$2,544,903	\$179,204	7.0%

WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY					
Fiscal Year 2023-24 Budget					
Final July 12, 2023					
		Fiscal Year 2023-24	Fiscal Year 2022-23	\$ Change	% Change
Expenditures: General Administration					
Executive Director	3% increase	\$91,956	\$89,280	\$2,676	3.0%
Administrative Assistant	3% increase	\$40,980	\$39,780	\$1,200	3.0%
Legal Services	Based on annual contract:				
Monthly Meetings @ \$235/hr	6 meetings/year, 3 hrs/meeting = 18 hrs	\$4,230	\$4,230	\$0	0.0%
Other Services @ \$235/hr.	6 hrs/month = 72 hrs	\$16,920	\$16,920	\$0	0.0%
Advertising	Based on FY 2021-22 actual	\$700	\$800	-\$100	-12.5%
Audit	Engagement Letter Email 05/31/23	\$14,500	\$11,623	\$2,877	24.8%
Bookkeeping Services	3x \$750/quarter per Engagement Letter email	\$2,250	\$2,000	\$250	12.5%
Liability Insurance	FY 21-22 actual plus 5%	\$4,879	\$3,150	\$1,729	54.9%
Office Supplies	Based on FY 2021-22 actual	\$1,250	\$1,250	\$0	0.0%
Postage	Based on FY 2021-22 actual	\$800	\$800	\$0	0.0%
Printing and Reproduction	Based on FY 2021-22 actual	\$1,600	\$1,600	\$0	0.0%
Publications/Software	Based on FY 2021-22 actual	\$150	\$150	\$0	0.0%
Rent (Lecanto Gov't Bldg)	Based on Lease Agreement	\$2,048	\$2,048	\$0	0.0%
Registrations/Dues	Based on FY 2021-22 actual	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$0	0.0%
State Fees/Assessments	Based on FY 2021-22 actual	\$175	\$175	\$0	0.0%
Telephone	Based on FY 2021-22 actual	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$0	0.0%
Travel (Board Members & Staff)	Based on FY 2021-22 actual	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$0	0.0%
Web Page / Computer Maintenance	Based on FY 2021-22 actual	\$6,000	\$2,800	\$3,200	114.3%
Contingencies	@ 5% of non-contract admin costs	\$1,600	\$1,600	\$0	0.0%
Subtotal - General Administration Expenditures		\$195,738	\$183,906	\$11,832	6.4%
Fund Balance for Admin. Reserves FYE 23/24	FYE22/23 Admin Funds Bal + FY23/24 Admin Rev's - FY23/24 Admin Exp's	\$804,562	\$748,526	\$56,036	7.5%
Expenditures: Water Resource Development Projects					
General Services Contracts	As Needed Eng. & Tech. Firms	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$0	0.0%
Local Government Grant Program	To be approved 5/17/23	\$180,000	\$140,000	\$40,000	28.6%
2024 RWSP Update	75% of Project Budget	\$262,500	\$375,000	-\$112,500	-30.0%
SJRWMD Pilot Irrigation Audit Program	100% of project Budget	\$60,000	\$0	\$60,000	100.0%
SWFWMD Phase 7 Irrigation Audit Program	50% of Project Budget	\$51,000	\$102,000	-\$51,000	-50.0%
SWFWMD Phase 6 Irrigation Audit Program	0% of Project Budget	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%
Subtotal - Water Resource Development Projects		\$603,500	\$667,000	-\$63,500	-9.5%
Fund Balance for Water Resource Development Reserves FYE 23/24	FYE22/23 WRD Funds Bal + FY23/24 WRD Rev's - FY23/24 WRD Exp's	\$1,120,307	\$757,971	\$362,336	47.8%
Total Administration and WRD Expenses					
		\$799,238	\$850,906	-\$51,668	-6.1%
Total Administration and WRD Fund Balances at FYE 23/24		\$1,924,869	\$1,490,497	\$434,372	29.1%
Combined FYE 23/24 Expenditures and Fund Balances		\$2,724,107	\$2,341,403	\$382,704	16.3%

ATTACHMENT 1

CALCULATION OF REVENUE FOR 2023-24 AND CALCULATION OF AMOUNT OF FUNDS NEEDED FROM RESERVES

Final July 12, 2023

Revenue	4/1/2022 Population	
LOCAL ASSESSMENTS @ 19¢ PER CAPITA		
Citrus	158,009	\$30,022
Hernando	199,207	\$37,850
Marion	391,983	\$74,477
Sumter	141,420	\$26,870
Subtotal	890,619	\$169,219
CHARLES A. BLACK WATER SUPPLY FACILITY		
\$23,000 per month * 12 months		\$276,000
Subtotal		\$276,000
MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS FOR STUDIES		
SWFWMD Match for RWSP Update		\$131,250
SWFWMD Match for Phase 7 Irrigation Audit Program		\$25,500
Local Cooperator Match for Phase 7 Irrigation Audit Program		\$12,750
SWFWMD Match for Phase 6 Irrigation Audit Program		\$0
Local Cooperator Match for Phase 6 Irrigation Audit Program		\$0
SJRWMD Match for Irrigation Pilot Evaluation Program		\$15,000
Local Cooperator Match for Irrigation Pilot Evaluation		\$22,500
Subtotal		\$207,000
TOTAL REVENUE FOR FY 2023-24		\$652,219
Less: 2023-24 Administration Expense		-\$195,738
Less: 2023-24 WRD Cost		-\$603,500
Funds to WRWSA Reserves (+to, -from)		-\$147,019

ATTACHMENT 2

ANALYSIS OF BEGINNING FUND BALANCES FY 2023 - 2024 Final July 12, 2023

ESTIMATE OF WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT FUND BALANCE AT END OF FY 2022-23

04/21/23 WRDF Balance (SBA2)	\$1,346,559
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FY 2022-23 Remaining WRD Fund Revenues

6 Citrus Co. Payments @ \$20,000/month minus administrative component below	\$110,501
2024 RWSP SWFWMD Revenue	\$43,750
Phase 6 Irrigation Audit Local Cooperator Revenue	\$0
Phase 6 Irrigation Audit SWFWMD Revenue	\$7,172
Phase 7 Irrigation Audit Local Cooperator Revenue	\$13,250
Phase 7 Irrigation Audit SWFWMD Revenue	\$26,500

Revenues Subtotal	\$201,173
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Less: FY 2022-23 Remaining Contract Expenditures:

2022-23 Citrus Water Conservation Program	\$35,075
2022-23 Hernando Water Conservation Program	\$49,750
2022-23 Marion Water Conservation Program	\$14,081
2022-23 Sumter County Water Conservation Program	\$23,000
2022-23 General Services Contracts	\$20,000
2024 RWSP	\$87,500
Phase 7 Irrigation Audit Program	\$51,000

Expenditures Subtotal	\$280,406
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Total WRD Funds at end of FY 2022-23	\$1,267,326
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ESTIMATE OF ADMINISTRATIVE FUND BALANCE AT END OF FY 2022-23

04/21/23 Admin Bal (SBA1)	\$804,562
Admin Revenue from CAB WSF	\$9,499
Admin Revenue from Per Capita Contributions	\$82,454
Less remaining FY Admin costs for 6 months	-\$91,953

Total Administrative Funds at end of FY 2022-23	\$804,562
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ESTIMATE OF TOTAL FUND BALANCE AT END OF FY 2022-23

Total WRD Funds at end of FY 2022-23	\$1,267,326
Total Administrative Funds at end of FY 2022-23	\$804,562

Total Fund Balance at end of FY 2022-23	\$2,071,888
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PROJECTED FUND BALANCES AT END OF FY 2023-24

Total Fund Balances beginning of FY 2023-24:	\$2,071,888
Add: 2023-24 Revenues	\$652,219
Deduct 2023-24 Expenses:	-\$799,238

Projected Fund Balances at end of FY 2023-24:	\$1,924,869
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Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority

Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Work Program

1. 2024 Regional Water Supply Plan Update

Work will continue on the 2024 Regional Water Supply Plan update. This will include population and demand projections, evaluation of water supply sources, conservation and reuse alternatives, and an evaluation of alternative water supply options. This work is co-funded by SWFWMD, and will be incorporated into their 2025 Northern Region Regional Water Supply Plan, and SJRWMD 2026 Central Springs/East Coast Regional Water Supply Plan update.

2. Joint Funding of Water Conservation Projects with Member Local Governments

The Authority will continue its grant program to assist local governments in improving water supply and conservation within the region in order to extend the use of groundwater as long as possible. Fresh groundwater is the least expensive source available to meet growing demands, however there is a limit to this source due to environmental impacts and impacts on other existing legal users caused by withdrawals. As the limit to fresh groundwater resources is reached, alternative, more expensive water sources will need to be developed. At the present time, water conservation programs are the most appropriate way for the Authority to help local governments extend the use of lower cost groundwater supplies. The 2023-24 proposed budget includes \$180,000 toward local government water supply and conservation projects. Proposals will be considered from local governments and public supply utilities in the Authority's jurisdiction. The grant program guidelines and application package may be found on the Authority's web page at www.wrwsa.org. The water conservation activities co-funded by this grant program help participating utilities meet and surpass the maximum 150 gallons per person per day that is required by the SWFWMD and to meet the SJRWMD conservation requirements.

3. Regional Residential Irrigation Audit Program to Promote Water Conservation within the Region

This ongoing program provides an opportunity for residential water utility customers to obtain site-specific evaluations for optimizing the use of water through landscaping techniques and efficient irrigation systems, and to implement recommendations provided by a professionally certified contractor. Contractors used for the site-specific evaluations are professionals certified by the Florida Irrigation Society (FIS) or another recognized certifying agency in the targeted region. The initiative includes program information, water conservation education, reporting and analysis by a consultant. This continuing project targets existing inefficient landscape and irrigation water use and results in significant water savings and can lead to water quality protection through reduced leaching of fertilizers and lawn chemicals. More than 1300 audits have been conducted as part of Phases 1 to 5. In Phase 4, we began offering enhanced audits that have a more intense implementation of improvements, and have an improved benefit to reduce water usage. An average reduction in total water use of 28% has been achieved for the locations that have been audited. Phase 6 is ongoing, and Phase 7 started in January 2023. This program is co-funded by the SWFWMD. Participating utilities incur only 25% of their respective portion of the project, leveraging local dollars with regional funds. This water conservation initiative helps participating utilities meet and surpass the maximum 150 gallons per person per day that is required by the SWFWMD.

In Fiscal Year 2023-24 we will begin a new program cofounded by SJRWMD that will include Marion County and the City of Belleview as cooperating utilities. This pilot program will include 60 enhanced evaluations.

4. Continued Cooperation with Citrus County in Operation and Management of the Authority's Charles A. Black Water Supply Facilities

The Authority and Citrus County completed negotiations at the end of FY 2015-16 of the new Water Supply Contract governing the operation and maintenance of the CABWSF. The new Contract allows for the continued operation of the facilities by Citrus County in a cost-effective manner ensuring a long-term water supply for the County and its customers while also providing for long-term financial stability for the Authority.

WRWSA is coordinating with Citrus County as a co-applicant for the Water Use Permit No. 7121 renewal. Citrus County has increased its annual contribution to the Renewal and Replacement Fund from \$180,000 to \$270,000 to account for inflation, and additional planned activities, and to maintain a balance the required balance of between \$2,000,000 and \$3,000,000.

5. Participation in Maintenance and Enhancement of the Central Springs Groundwater Model

The Authority will continue to participate in discussions with SJRWMD and SWFWMD on the implementation of the Central Springs Groundwater model. The intent is for both water management districts to utilize this common model for determining the availability of groundwater in the region, particularly in Marion County which is split by the districts' boundaries. The SJRWMD and SWFWMD continue to improve upon the model and seek the engagement of various stakeholders. The model has significant implications for groundwater availability in the region and the Authority's continued participation and coordination with member governments is essential to ensure water supply implications are considered as the model is updated. This model will be used for the 2024 Regional Water Supply Plan update.

6. Springs Protection and Restoration

The Authority continues to work with the SWFWMD on its springs coast initiative. The Authority staff continue to actively participate in the Springs Coast Management Committee as the public supply Representative, and monitor activities of the District and the Steering Committee for implications on water supply in the region. WRWSA is also providing a representative on the Technical Advisory Committee via one of our As-Needed Consultants.

7. Program Development and Technical Assistance

- a) Support efforts to further define the hydrogeology of the region. Continue cooperation with the water management districts on the collection of hydrologic data to further refine the Districts' planning and regulatory models. Coordinate on efforts to better define the lower Floridan aquifer and the extent of fresh and brackish groundwater within the aquifer.
- b) Promote the WRWSA Regional Framework through coordination with WRWSA member governments to facilitate regional and sub-regional cooperation on water supply development and reclaimed water projects. Work with the WMDs in defining strategic priorities for the region and how these priorities may influence the ranking criteria for the Districts' Cooperative Funding Initiatives, including potential District funding for regional and sub-regional traditional and non- traditional water supply development that is consistent with the WRWSA Regional Framework.
- c) Participate in the SWFWMD and SJRWMD minimum flows and levels (MFLs) programs representing the interests of member governments. Provide technical assistance to WRWSA member governments in determining the potential impact to both the environment and potential water supply development based on proposed MFLs.
- d) Coordinate with FDEP, SJRWMD, SWFWMD and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services on policy and rule development. Provide assistance to WRWSA member governments on FDEP and District rule development that may include Water Use Permitting, Environmental Resource Permitting, water conservation and future water supply development, including the statewide consistency initiatives. Monitor water management programs and rule development in other parts of the state, including the Central Florida Water Initiative, for implications to the WRWSA and its member governments.
- e) Monitor and coordinate with the water supply planning and development activities in adjacent communities and regions, including but not limited to Tampa Bay Water, the Central Florida Water Initiative, the Polk Water Cooperative, and Lake and Levy counties for possible implications on water resource availability within the WRWSA region. Provide input to such activities when appropriate.
- f) Monitor applications for significant water use permits and permit modifications within the region for potential impacts on WRWSA and member government existing and planned water supply facilities and engage in the permitting process where appropriate.

WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY

RESOLUTION 2023-04

**ADOPTION OF FINAL BUDGET
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-24**

WHEREAS, pursuant to the requirements of Section 189.016(4), Florida Statutes, the Board of Directors of the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority held a public meeting on July 26, 2023, on the final budget and assessment rate for general administrative, operating and project expenses for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2023 and ending September 30, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Board has complied with all requirements of said section and desires to adopt its final budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF THE WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY:

Section 1. The Board of the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority hereby adopts its final budget, for general administrative, operating and project expenses for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2023 and ending September 30, 2024, as shown on the attached Exhibit, attached hereto and made a part hereof as Exhibit A.

Section 2. This Resolution and a copy of the final budget as adopted shall be forwarded to the Board of County Commissioners of each member County.

Section 3. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

ADOPTED in regular session this twenty-sixth day of July 2023.

**WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER
SUPPLY AUTHORITY**

BY: Jeffrey Kinnard, Chair

Attest:

Suzannah J. Folsom, Executive Director

Water Supply and Conservation Grants Program – Approval of Awards

Ms. Suzy Folsom, Executive Director, will present this item.

At the Authority's May 17, 2023 meeting, the Board set the total allocation of funds in Fiscal Year 2023-24 for the Local Government Grant Program at \$180,000. The Authority has received four grant applications, one each from Citrus, Hernando, Marion and Sumter counties. A summary of the applications is presented below while copies of the applications are included as exhibits to this item.

The applications received reflect continuations of member government proven effective water conservation programs. Staff analysis of the applications indicates all of the proposed water conservation programs meet the Authority's grant program requirements.

Representatives of each of the applicants have been invited to attend the meeting and answer any Board questions regarding their respective water conservation grant applications.

Staff recommends the Board approve the FY 2023-24 grant amounts as noted below.

See Exhibits:

- Citrus County Water Supply and Conservation Grant Application (page 48)
- Hernando County Water Supply and Conservation Grant Application (page 51)
- Marion County Water Supply and Conservation Grant Application (page 58)
- Sumter County Water Supply and Conservation Grant Application (page 63)

Staff Recommendation:

Board approval of the grants in the amounts shown below and authorization for the Chair to sign the Grant Agreements.

**FY 2023-24 WRWSA Grant Applications
and Staff Recommendations**

Applicant	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
Citrus County	\$40,170.00	\$40,170.00
Hernando County	\$46,250.00	\$46,250.00
Marion County	\$9,337.50	\$9,337.50
Sumter County	\$80,000.00	\$80,000.00
Total	\$175,757.50	\$175,757.50

WATER SUPPLY AND CONSERVATION GRANT APPLICATION FORM:**Name of applicant:**

Citrus County, Florida

Provide a short description of the proposed water conservation project in the text box below:

The Citrus County water conservation program will offer its annual rebate incentive program to Citrus County Utilities customers. Rebates include WaterSense® (WS) labeled toilets through the District CFI initiative, WS labeled irrigation controllers, and rain sensors. Additionally, the county intends to carry out Phase 7 of its program to install WS labeled irrigation controllers at high-water use residential sites. The county will supply free indoor retrofit items to customers, such as WS labeled showerheads and faucet aerators. Grant funding will also allow water conservation bill inserts, educational workshops, promotional items and other programs geared toward increasing water-saving behaviors throughout the community.

List previous grants received from WRWSA in the previous 3 fiscal years and date completed:

\$35,075 scheduled to be completed by September 30, 2023
\$44,250 completed by September 30, 2022
\$45,650 completed by September 30, 2021

Attachments to application:

1. A resolution of support that includes a commitment that the grant recipient will budget and expend its matching funds as required by the grant program.
2. A summary of the project tasks (scope of services) with estimated costs by task, if applicable.
3. A time schedule for the project and expected completion date that will be inserted in the local government contract.

Return Application to:

Suzannah J. Folsom, Executive Director
WRWSA, 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Suite 228, Lecanto, Florida 34461

Deadline: June 30, 2023, 5:00 p.m. EST

RESOLUTION NO. 2023 - 048

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CITRUS COUNTY, FLORIDA, A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF THE WATER SUPPLY AND CONSERVATION GRANT APPLICATION TO THE WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY AND, COMMITTING FUNDS TO MATCH GRANT FUNDING FOR A WATER CONSERVATION EDUCATION AND INCENTIVE PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, the Citrus County Board of County Commissioners recognizes and supports the County's efforts to educate its customers and the general public on the importance of water conservation; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the County's Consumptive Use Permits Nos. 7121, 9791 and 2842, the County must continue to develop, improve upon, and expand water conservation programs to reduce demands on water resources within its service areas and increase efficiency of use; and

WHEREAS, the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (Authority) provides funding assistance to local governments for projects and programs with an emphasis on water conservation; and

WHEREAS, the County's water conservation program meets the grant funding eligibility requirements of the Authority; and

WHEREAS, the County will budget and expend its matching funds as required by the grant program;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Citrus County, Florida:

Citrus County Board of County Commissioners supports the application to the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority for the FY 2023-24 Water Supply and Conservation Grant and agrees to budget funds as identified in Scope of Services.

ATTEST:

Tyana White

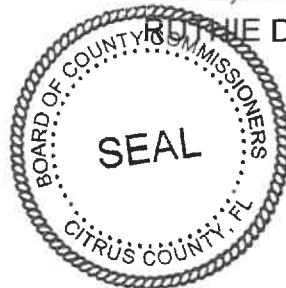
for

ANGELA VICK, CLERK

CITRUS COUNTY, FLORIDA, A POLITICAL
SUBDIVISION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA

BY: Ruthie Davis Schlabach

RUTHIE DAVIS SCHLABACH, CHAIRMAN



APPROVED AS TO FORM FOR
THE RELIANCE OF CITRUS
COUNTY ONLY:

Denise A. Dymond Lyn

DENISE A. DYMOND LYN

COUNTY ATTORNEY

APPROVED

JUN 20 2023

BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS



CERTIFIED TO BE A TRUE COPY
ANGELA VICK

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

BY Tyana White D.C.

THIS 21 DAY OF June 2023

Exhibit 'A'

FY23-24 Scope of Service

Project: Monetary Incentives

Objective: Reduce water consumption by providing monetary incentive for installation of water-efficient fixtures / systems.

Tasks: Provide three rebate opportunities to Citrus County Utilities customers: Irrigation controllers, toilets and rain sensors. The rebates are publicized via three applications sent to the utility's customers as a bill insert. Customers wishing to participate in the account credit program, install the applicable water-saving fixture (toilets require a pre-verification inspection), and return the application with an itemized receipt. A credit is then applied to the customers bill. The Cooperative Funding Initiative project aims to install 120 WaterSense labeled Irrigation controller at high-water use residential sites.

	Estimated QTY	COST PER	County	WRWSA	SWFWMD	Total Cost
WaterSense® labeled Irrigation controller account credit	50	\$100.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	n/a	\$5,000.00
WaterSense® labeled toilet account credit	35	\$100.00	\$1,750.00	\$1,750.00	n/a	\$3,500.00
SWFWMD CFI - WaterSense® labeled Irrigation controller Installation	62	\$600.00	\$9,300.00	\$9,300.00	\$18,600.00	\$37,200.00
SWFWMD CFI - WaterSense® labeled Irrigation controller Installation; Mailing & Printing	2	\$1,250.00	\$625.00	\$625.00	\$1,250.00	\$2,500.00
Rain sensor replacement account credit	30	\$50.00	\$750.00	\$750.00	n/a	\$1,500.00
Subtotal:			\$14,925.00	\$14,925.00	\$19,850.00	\$49,700.00

Project: Free Faucet Aerator & Low-flow Showerhead Distribution

Objective: Reduce water consumption by providing free WaterSense labeled aerators and showerheads to customers.

Tasks: Distribute faucet aerators and showerheads to customers. Customers are able to pick up fixtures directly from the conservation office. The fixtures are also available at homeowner association offices and are distributed at events geared toward CCU customers.

	County	WRWSA	SWFWMD	Total Cost
WaterSense® labeled faucet aerators & showerheads	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	n/a	\$3,000.00
Subtotal:	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	n/a	\$3,000.00

Project: Water Conservation Education

Objective: Reduce water consumption by providing water conservation education to community youth and adults.

Task: Create and print eight newsletter bill Inserts promoting water-saving behaviors.

Task: Create and print rebate applications to insert into bills.

Task: Print and distribute water conservation related educational materials.

Task: Coordinate student poster contest, toilet leak detection challenge and other youth education initiatives.

Task: Purchase and distribute promotional items such as 5-minute shower timers, pens, pencils and rain gauges.

Task: Promote water conservation awareness through community workshops, newspaper advertisement and other media outlets.

	Estimated QTY	COST PER	County	WRWSA	SWFWMD	Total Cost
Utility bill Inserts	9	\$2,210.00	\$9,945.00	\$9,945.00	n/a	\$19,890.00
Utility bill Inserts	2	\$1,550.00	\$1,550.00	\$1,550.00	n/a	\$3,100.00
Educational printing			\$2,750.00	\$2,750.00		\$5,500.00
Youth conservation education			\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	n/a	\$4,000.00
Promotional water conservation items			\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	n/a	\$5,000.00
Water conservation workshops			\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	n/a	\$10,000.00
Subtotal:			\$23,745.00	\$23,745.00	\$0.00	\$47,490.00

Programming will begin October 1, 2023. Citrus County will expend all grant funding by September 30, 2024.

TOTAL:	County	WRWSA	SWFWMD	Total Cost
	\$40,170.00	\$40,170.00	\$19,850.00	\$100,190.00

WATER SUPPLY AND CONSERVATION GRANT APPLICATION FORM:**Name of applicant:**

Hernando County Utilities Department

Provide a short description of the proposed water conservation project in the text box below:

Hernando County Utilities Department (HCUD) promotes and produces dynamic, innovative, effective water conservation, water resource protection programs. These have led Hernando County to lower the per capita water use requirements below the 150 gallons per person per day regulation of Southwest Florida Water Management District.

Projects:

In-School education programs,
Conservation messaging campaign and promotions
Water conservation incentive programs for HCUD customers

List previous grants received from WRWSA in the previous 3 fiscal years and date completed:

FY 2020 Closed September 30, 2020

FY 2021 Closed September 30, 2021

FY 2022 Closed September 30, 2022

Attachments to application:

1. A resolution of support that includes a commitment that the grant recipient will budget and expend its matching funds as required by the grant program.
2. A summary of the project tasks (scope of services) with estimated costs by task, if applicable.
3. A time schedule for the project and expected completion date that will be inserted in the local government contract.

Return Application to:

Suzannah J. Folsom, Executive Director
WRWSA, 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Suite 228, Lecanto, Florida 34461

Deadline: June 30, 2023, 5:00 p.m. EST

**WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY
LOCAL GOVERNMENT WATER SUPPLY AND CONSERVATION FUNDING ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM**

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED PROJECT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024

**HERNANDO COUNTY UTILITIES DEPARTMENT
WATER CONSERVATION AND WATER RESOURCE PROTECTION PROGRAM**

Overview

The Hernando County Utilities Department (HCUD) is one of the first local governments in the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) to establish an inverted or conservation water rate structure. Hernando County continues to endorse Ordinance 2010-15 which is a one day per week watering schedule. Average water use in the residential sector (single-family homes) ranges between 8000-10,000 gallons a month. Hernando County Utilities Department supplies safe potable water and wastewater services to over 80% of Hernando County. HCUD's customer accounts include residential, commercial, and industrial and total over 67,000 accounts and growing. Hernando County was also one of the first local governments to implement a rain sensor rebate program for customers. We have continued these incentive-based water conservation programs including, low flow toilets, rain sensor rebates, HE washing machine rebates, irrigation evaluation and audit programs, Florida Friendly certified landscapes, participation in Florida Friendly Landscaping programs and participate regionally in an irrigation evaluation and audit program with WRWSA member government partners. These programs, along with many others, show the deep commitment this utility has to the protection and conservation of Hernando County's water supply. Facebook Live and Zoom educational presentations. These are shown on the Hernando County Government's YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvW76oulWUK2sZpCFk5BB3A>

Information is collected from Hernando County residents and other water conservation program participants on types of programs that they believe are the most vital and important. We use this information to produce materials, presentations, workshops, and seminars. Much of our educational programming to virtual platforms. Our plan is to bring in-person educational presentations and workshops back to the public arena in 2024. We have monthly rain barrel workshops in person and virtual. And our Florida Friendly Landscaping program has weekly virtual presentations on a variety of important topics.

Through the WRWSA Local Government Water Supply and Conservation Funding Assistance Program we support these educational efforts.

The assistance of the WRWSA Local Government Water Supply and Conservation Funding Assistance Program, all residents of Hernando County may benefit by the water conservation and water resources protection programs.

PURPOSE & PROPOSED INITIATIVES

Major elements of the program consist of:

- In-school education program (Springs Coast Environmental Education Center, Gulf Coast Academy of Science and Technology)

- Conservation Messaging Campaign
- Customer and Residents Incentive Programs
- Community educational presentations, workshops, and events.

In order to serve all of the citizens of Hernando County, those served by the county's utility system as well as those who use private wells or customers of the City of Brooksville, the county is applying to the WRWSA for funding assistance in the continued development and expansion of its water conservation and quality protection program.

Springs Coast Environmental Education Center (SCEEC)

The SWFWMD purchased Weeki Wachee Springs and the attraction property to be part of the Weeki Wachee Preserve. SWFWMD committed approximately \$750,000 to construct an environmental education center on the property, under the condition that the Hernando County School District supply teachers, curriculum, and equipment. The Hernando County Water and Sewer District (HCW&SD) Board and the Hernando County Board of County Commissioners have pledged to support this endeavor and have authorized a contribution to the Education Center. The doors of the unique learning center opened in April 2005. Initially it served only fourth grade students of Hernando County. SCEEC has expanded its reach to nearly all grade levels and regularly hosts thousands of Hernando County students. As with other Hernando County Schools, The Hernando County Utilities Department has specifically provided support for the development of a water resource/quality protection and water conservation module of the curriculum. By providing support to the center, the Utilities Department is allocating its resources to those skilled in working with students - teachers. In addition, creation of the curriculum module ensures that a consistent and continuing message will be embedded in the educational process. In FY 2008 we added the Gulf Coast Academy of Science and Technology to our student educational efforts. GCA is committed to providing an exceptional education through weekly field experiences integrated with a hands-on advanced middle school curriculum. (Budget item: Springs Coast Environmental Education Center, Gulf Coast Academy)

Water Conservation media messaging campaign:

This campaign includes radio and streamed television advertising. We provide all educational presentations to Hernando County's YouTube channel. This online presence has been very popular. Additionally, we provided water conservation messages other social media such as Facebook. The innovative and instructional media messages broaden public awareness and heightened the acceptance of water conservation was a way of life. Both the Hernando County Utilities Department and Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority are listed in the media spots. (Budget items: commercial airtime, radio, and print media)

Water Conservation and Resource Protection Promotion and Workshops

This quote, "It is because of people that groundwater must be protected, but it is only through the efforts of people that it can be accomplished" describes the importance of bringing education to the public. This is accomplished through promotions, events such a rain barrels workshops, information stations and direct conservation/groundwater protection communication through customer bills. Both the Spring Workshop and the Florida Friendly Workshop are highlights of the effort to bring water conservation and water resource

protection education to the public. (Budget Item: Rain barrels, informational guides, workshops, signs)

Water Conservation (HCUD customers only) Incentive Programs:

Hernando County Utilities Department encourages our customers to conserve our valuable water supply through water bill rebates (and other incentives). Incentive programs: HE Washing Machine Rebate (\$100), Rain Sensor Rebate Program (\$75.00), Low-Flow Toilet Replacement Program (\$125.00) and promotion of Florida Friendly Landscaping workshop, where customer attendees receive a “tuition” reimbursement on their water bill. Incentives also help further the promotion of Hernando County’s Florida Friendly Landscaping (FFL) program. Customer rebates include a \$30 rebate for participating in the FFL rain barrel workshops and another \$25 rebate is available for certifying their landscape as a Florida Friendly Landscape. Outdoor water conservation projects/programs/incentives may include professional leak detection project, sprinkler checkup program, high efficiency irrigation nozzles, water sense timer replacements and/or potential pilot project for sustainability through inclusion of soil amendments incentive.

CONCLUSION

The above elements of the Hernando County Utilities Department’s Water Conservation/Water Resource Program are diverse and purposefully set up that way. An effective water conservation program for a public supply utility must reach all its customers and must strive to change behavior and attitudes towards conservation and protection of water resources in order to affect reliable, long-term results. This must be accomplished through a multi-functional approach including education, outreach, and financial incentives.

IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

All the above projects and initiatives will be ongoing throughout Fiscal Year 2024. Funds from the current (FY2023) WRWSA assistance program will be encumbered by September 30, 2023. This meets the requirement to submit funding request for 2024 fiscal year. The water conservation initiatives for FY 2024 will begin October 1, 2023, and conclude with all grant assistance funds being encumbered by September 30, 2024.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023- 129

A RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA, SITTING AS THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE HERNANDO COUNTY WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT, SUPPORTING THE HERNANDO COUNTY UTILITIES DEPARTMENT'S "LOCAL GOVERNMENT WATER SUPPLY AND CONSERVATION FUNDING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM" APPLICATION TO THE WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COUNTYWIDE WATER CONSERVATION AND QUALITY PROTECTION PROGRAM; AUTHORIZING THE CHAIRMAN TO EXECUTE THE APPLICATION AND ANY RELATED DOCUMENTS THAT MAY BE REQUIRED; AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF THE UTILITIES DEPARTMENT TO DESIGNATE APPROPRIATE STAFF TO PERFORM THE TECHNICAL, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED HERewith; PROVIDING THAT THIS RESOLUTION SUPERSEDE PRIOR ACTIONS IN CONFLICT HERewith; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

WHEREAS, the Hernando County Water and Sewer District (the "District") was created by ordinance and established in all of the unincorporated area of the county; and

WHEREAS, the Hernando County Board of Commissioners (the "Board") is the Governing Board of the District; and,

WHEREAS, the Hernando County Utilities Department (the "HCUD") is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the water and wastewater facilities and infrastructure of the county; and,

WHEREAS, the Board recognized that in order to protect the water resources of unincorporated Hernando County and to properly plan for the future needs of its citizens, the establishment of a Water Conservation and Water Resource Protection Program for the County and the District is essential; and,

WHEREAS, the Southwest Florida Water Management District (the "SWFWMD") has identified water conservation as an essential planning and protection element of its water resource management program; and,

WHEREAS, the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (the "Authority") was established, of which Hernando County is a member, to provide an entity to help ensure that an adequate and safe supply of water is available for the citizens of the region and the county; and,

WHEREAS, the Authority has established the "Local Government Water Supply and Conservation Funding Assistance Program" to which a member may apply for cooperative funding for water supply projects or projects relating to the development of water supply; and,

WHEREAS, the Authority has determined that the establishment and development of water conservation programs support and further the intention of the water supply development of the region; and,

WHEREAS, the HCUD has submitted an application to the Authority's funding assistance program to seek financial assistance in the development of a countywide water conservation program (the "Project") in order to provide

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA:

SECTION 1. The above recitals are incorporated herein by reference and made a part hereof.

SECTION 2. The Board of County Commissioners ("Board") hereby gives its official support for the Hernando County Utilities Department to submit an application to the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority for cooperative funding in the development of the County's water conservation program.

SECTION 3. The Board, in order to meet the terms of the financial assistance program, agrees to budget and expend on the Project an amount equal to or greater than the required fifty percent (50%) matching funds as required by the program.

SECTION 4. The Board understands and agrees that it shall expend its required matching funds prior to the Authority expending its fifty percent (50%) match for the Project.

SECTION 5. The Board hereby authorizes its Chairman to execute the referenced Application and the Board further authorizes its Chairman to execute such additional documents including, compliance assurances and related documentation required by the Authority in connection with the foregoing.

SECTION 6. The Board further authorizes HCUD, Director Gordon Onderdonk, to designate appropriate staff to perform the technical, financial and administrative activities associated herewith.

SECTION 7. In the event of any conflict between this Resolution and any prior resolution or actions of the Board, this Resolution shall supersede and control.

SECTION 8. If any section or part of this Resolution proves to be invalid, unlawful, or unconstitutional, it shall not be held to invalidate or impair the validity, force or effect of any other section or part of this Resolution.

SECTION 9. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

ADOPTED IN REGULAR SESSION THIS 27 DAY OF JUNE 2023 IN BROOKSVILLE, FLORIDA.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA**

fa Attest: Heidi Kuppe, D.C.
Douglas A. Chorvat, JR.
Clerk of Court &
Comptroller

(SEAL)

Approved for Form and
Legal Sufficiency

By: [Signature]

By: [Signature]
John Allocco
Chairman



FY 2023-24

WATER SUPPLY AND CONSERVATION GRANT APPLICATION FORM:

Name of applicant:

Marion County Board of County Commissioners

Provide a short description of the proposed water conservation project in the text box below:

Marion County Water Resources and Marion County Utilities work cooperatively to plan, implement, and manage a comprehensive, goal-based water conservation program, for the Marion County Board of County Commissioners. The program is conducted through public outreach, indirect public education, and direct water conservation incentives. The County requests funding for water use efficiency initiatives including low flow toilet rebates, low flow water conservation kits, and educational outreach programs and materials.

List previous grants received from WRWSA in the previous 3 fiscal years and date completed:

2022 = \$14,081.25 to be completed by September 30, 2023.
2021 = \$16,042.15 completed September 30, 2022.
2020 = \$5,828.25 completed September 30, 2021 (expenditures were less than previously requested due to the COVID 19 pandemic).

Attachments to application:

1. A resolution of support that includes a commitment that the grant recipient will budget and expend its matching funds as required by the grant program.
2. A summary of the project tasks (scope of services) with estimated costs by task, if applicable.
3. A time schedule for the project and expected completion date that will be inserted in the local government contract.

Return Application to:

Suzannah J. Folsom, Executive Director
WRWSA, 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Suite 228, Lecanto, Florida 34461

Deadline: June 30, 2023, 5:00 p.m. EST



Marion County WRWSA FY 2023/2024 Grant Application Attachments

Program Description

Marion County Water Resources and Marion County Utilities work cooperatively to plan, implement, and manage a comprehensive, goal-based water conservation program for the Marion County Board of County Commissioners. The program is conducted through public outreach, indirect public education, and direct water conservation incentives. The County requests funding for water use efficiency initiatives including efficient irrigation rebates, low-flow toilet rebates, low-flow retrofit kits and educational outreach materials.

The following is a breakdown of the costs of the various projects that Marion County requests grant funding for during fiscal year 2023/24:

Program	Total Cost	County Cost Share	WRWSA Cost Share
Educational Outreach	\$2,500	\$1,250	\$1,250
Utility Bill Inserts on Water Use Efficiency	\$3,200	\$1,600	\$1,600
Educational Print Media	\$3,200	\$1,600	\$1,600
Low-Flow Toilet Rebates (Non-MCU Customers East of I-75)	\$2,000	\$1000	\$1000
Low-Flow Toilet Rebates (Non-MCU Customers West of I-75)	\$2,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Water Conservation Kits	\$2,500	\$1,250	\$1,250
Water Conservation Billboards	\$3,275	\$1,637.50	\$1,637.50
Total Project Costs	\$18,675	\$9,337.50	\$9,337.50

These projects represent only a portion of the County's on-going Water Use Efficiency Program. A cost- share of \$9,337.50 will help to offset the costs of performing incentive-based water conservation programs as well as conducting public outreach. The remainder of the program costs will be funded by the Marion County Board of County Commissioners and other cooperative partners.

Educational Outreach: The purpose of this program is to encourage residents to make changes to their daily water use habits to increase efficiency. The program focuses on education and water use efficiency. The target audience is county wide. The program will give students a hands-on experience in the summer months, as a follow up from other education initiatives, and incorporate how the implementation of simple water efficient practices have an impact on water resources. It also highlights the ability to collectively save up to 3,000 gallons of water a month per household by implementing these practices. Students will be shown how to replace non-efficient faucet aerators, showerheads, and nozzles with efficient ones, check for leaky toilets, learn how to use rain gauges effectively, and apply water efficient practices in and around the home.

Marion County will offer summer presentations that students can take advantage of individually or in combination with other partnering organizations. Programs will consist of presentations, handouts, hands on application of water conservation items, and promo items for participants.

Utility Bill Inserts on Water Use Efficiency: Billing inserts are distributed on a bimonthly basis by Marion County Utilities. These inserts are used to educate citizens on water use efficiency and to promote the County's incentive-based programs. Message topics in FY 2023/24 will include: informing citizens of the change back to the once a week watering schedule, how to conduct a routine check on an irrigation system, how to identify common household leaks, and other topics related to water use. These inserts are a big driver for participation in the County's water use efficiency initiatives.

Educational Print Media: Along with billing inserts for Utility customers, tip cards and brochures on water use efficiency, incentive programs, and resource protection are made available at Marion County libraries and the MCU lobby for customers free of charge.

Low-Flow Toilet Rebates: The toilet rebate program offers unincorporated Marion County residents up to \$100 (or \$180 if two toilets are replaced) to replace a conventional high-volume toilet (3.5 gallons per flush or greater) with a dual flush or high-efficiency toilet (1.28 gallons per flush or less). This is an ongoing program that has been in place since October, 2011. This grant would provide for approximately 100 toilet rebates in unincorporated Marion County for residents that are not Marion County Utilities customers. It is estimated that the replacement of these toilets will save an estimated 25.1million gallons total over their 20-year lifespan at a cost of approximated \$1.01per thousand gallons saved. The County is expected to have a grant with the Southwest Florida Water Management District to cooperatively fund rebates as well for Marion County Utilities customers. This will be the third phase of this program.

Water Conservation Kits: Low flow retrofit kits are distributed for free at the Marion County Utilities office to customers, as well as at various events throughout the year. These kits contain low-flow fixtures and devices to reduce both indoor and outdoor water use. Each kit fully installed has the potential to save 25,000 gallons of water a year. They will be distributed to both non-utilities and utilities customers.

Water Conservation Billboards: A billboard campaign is utilized each year to promote smart water conservation practices. These billboards promote the use of rain sensors, discourage overwatering of lawns, and inform citizens of the shift to once a week watering. Past billboard campaigns have achieved over 1million impressions annually at a cost of less than \$0.01 per impression.

Grant Timeline

Education Outreach

Conduct education outreach campaigns 10/1/2023-9/30/2024

Give presentations at summer camps across the county 6/1/2024-9/1/2024

Educational Materials

Develop, print, and distribute materials 10/1/2023- 9/30/2024

Low-Flow Toilet Rebates

Enroll participants 10/1/2023-9/1/2024

Perform inspections and issue rebates 10/1/2023-9/30/2024

Water Conservation Kits

Order conservation kits 10/1/2023- 8/1/2024

Distribute and track conservation kits 12/1/2023- 9/30/2024

Utility Bill Inserts on Water Use Efficiency

Develop, print, and distribute materials 10/1/2023- 9/30/2024

Water Conservation Billboards

Develop and run billboard campaigns 11/1/2023-9/30/2024



FY 2023-24

WATER SUPPLY AND CONSERVATION GRANT APPLICATION FORM:

Name of applicant:

Sumter County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC), Public Works Department

Provide a short description of the proposed water conservation project in the text box below:

Please see attached Project Description, Estimated Cost, Schedule, and Previously Awarded WRWSA Grants.

List previous grants received from WRWSA in the previous 3 fiscal years and date completed:

Please see attached Project Description, Estimated Cost, Schedule, and Previously Awarded WRWSA Grants.

Attachments to application:

1. A resolution of support that includes a commitment that the grant recipient will budget and expend its matching funds as required by the grant program.
2. A summary of the project tasks (scope of services) with estimated costs by task, if applicable.
3. A time schedule for the project and expected completion date that will be inserted in the local government contract.

Return Application to:

Suzannah J. Folsom, Executive Director
WRWSA, 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Suite 228, Lecanto, Florida 34461

Deadline: June 30, 2023, 5:00 p.m. EST

WATER SUPPLY AND CONSERVATION GRANT APPLICATION FORM
FY 23-24 Scope of Work

Project: Monetary Incentives	Components	Estimated Quantity Pod/Seg.	Cost Per Pod/Seg.	County	WRWSA	SWFWMD	Total Cost
The objective is to reduce water consumption by installing water efficient I-Con controls in Sumter County Detention Center Charlie-Building - Phase II. (C-Pod, D-Pod, T-Pod, Seg-1 and Seg-2.)	I-CON controls for C - building; Alpha and Bravo pods, Envisage computer and 24 volt toilets and showers	5	\$32,000.00	\$80,000.00	\$80,000.00	\$0	\$160,000.00

Tasks

Reduce water consumption by installing I-CON water controls in the existing Charlie Building Phase II - (C-Pod, D-Pod, T-Pod, Seg-1 and Seg-2.)

Schedule

Procurement timeframe includes six weeks for solicitation.

Two to three weeks for approval and for the Board of County Commissioners' (BOCC) regular meeting agenda.

Construction timeframe includes lead time six to ten weeks and construction of six to eight weeks.

Previous Grants Received from WRWSA

- 2021/22 Grant Year - \$22,000.00 WRWSA \$22,000.00 Sumter County
- 2022/23 Grant Year - \$23,000.00 WRWSA \$23,000.00 Sumter County

Submitted By:

Sumter County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC)
Public Works Department
7375 Powell Road
Wildwood, FL 34785
352-689-4400

Deborah L. Snyder, P.E., PTOE
Public Works Director/County Engineer
Mobile 352-303-8236

RESOLUTION NO. 2023 - 24

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SUMTER COUNTY, FLORIDA, A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA. FUNDING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM APPLICATION TO THE WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY AND, COMMITTING FUNDS TO MATCH GRANT FUNDING FOR A WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, the Sumter County Board of County Commissioners recognizes and support the County's efforts in water conservation; and

WHEREAS, the Sumter County Public Works Department, Facilities and Parks Division is responsible for the operation and maintenance of facilities of the County; and,

WHEREAS, the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (Authority) provides funding assistance to local governments for projects and programs with an emphasis on water conservation; and

WHEREAS, the County's water conservation project meets the grant funding eligibility requirements of the Authority; and

WHEREAS, the County will budget and expend its matching funds as required by the grant program;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Sumter County, Florida:

Sumter County Board of County Commissioners supports the application to the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority for the FY 2023-2024 Local Government Water Supply Funding Assistance program and agrees to budget funds as identified in Exhibit "A".

SUMTER COUNTY, FLORIDA, A
POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OF THE
STATE OF FLORIDA



ATTEST:

Debra Elliott D.C.
DEPUTY CLERK

BY: Craig A. Estep
CHAIRMAN – Craig A. Estep

Exhibit A

This Grant application replaces the remainder of the Metcraft water control systems in the Charlie Building of the Sumter County Jail with an I-CON system. Three pods and two Seg Units will be I-CON controls. I-CON's plumbing system puts the control of the plumbing fixtures in the hands of those operating the facility and out of the hands of the inmates. The system replaces existing, "static" plumbing components with "controllable" components. By activating lavatories, showers, and toilets with electronic devices rather than "standard" devices, the plumbing fixtures can be easily controlled. This new system will conserve water at the Charlie Building. Installation of the System is estimated as \$160,000.00, with the Grant paying \$80,000.00 and Sumter County's match being \$80,000.00. This will complete all of the cells in the Charlie Building.

Item 9

Legislative Report

Legislative Report

Mrs. Suzannah Folsom, Executive Director, will present this item.

The 2023 Legislative Regular Session began in March 7, 2023 and ended in May 5, 2023. Staff has gathered information on relevant bills that are related to conservation and water supply from SWFWMD, 1000 Friends of Florida, and the Florida Engineering Society's Conservation and Environmental Quality Committee, and the House and Senate websites. The attached exhibit is a more detailed summary of the bills WRWSA tracked that passed in the session. All 9 bills have not been signed by the Governor.

See Exhibit

Staff Recommendation:

This item is for information only and no action is required.

Bill Title	Significance	Bill	Sponsors	Status
Land Use Development Regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redefines definitions for urban sprawl and agricultural enclaves • Prohibits the denial of a development order for not meeting LOS standards • Removes local government discretion to reject a decision under FLUEDRA 	HB 439	Rep McClain	Approved by the Governor 5/8/23
		SB 1604	Sen Ingoglia	
Local Comprehensive Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allows prevailing party in challenges to comprehensive plan amendments to recover reasonable attorney's fees 	HB 359	Rep Duggan	Approved by the Governor 5/24/23
		SB 540	Sen DiCeglie	
Local Ordinances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires local governments to submit business impact estimates before enacting ordinances • Allows courts to award attorney's fees and damages in civil actions filed against local governments related to ordinances 	HB 1515	Rep Brackett	Approved by the Governor 6/29/23
		SB 170	Sen Trumbull Sen Perry	
Public Construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires a 180 day limit to resolve disputes between vendors and local government • Revises conditions that require a public entity to pay for certain disputes or claims • Revises provisions relating to payments for purchases of construction services by local government 	HB 383	Rep Griffiths	Approved by the Governor 5/25/23
		SB 346	Sen DiCeglie	
Public Financing of Potential At-Risk Structure and Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expands SLIP to all areas at risk of sea level rise 	HB 111	Rep Hunschofsky	Approved by the Governor 6/13/23
		SB 1170	Sen Calatayud	
Biosolids	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expands FDEP wastewater grant program for class A and AA biosolids projects • Restricts land application of Class B biosolids within the watersheds of nutrient impaired waterbodies 	HB 1405	Rep Tuck Rep Basabe Rep Mooney	Approved by the Governor 6/26/23
		SB 880	Sen Brodeur	
Water and Wastewater Facility Operators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires FDEP to issue water and wastewater operator licenses by reciprocity to applicants holding a federal or out-of-state license • Allows FDEP to issue temporary operator licenses with waived application fees during a declared state of emergency 	HB 23	Rep Bell Rep Barnaby	Approved by the Governor 6/9/23
		SB 162	Sen Collins	

Bill Title	Significance	Bill	Sponsors	Status
Environmental Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires sewage disposal facilities to provide advanced wastewater treatment before discharging into certain impaired waters by 1/1/2033 Requires sewage disposal facilities to provide advanced wastewater treatment before discharging into waters designated as impaired after 7/1/2023 Prohibits new onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems (OSTDS) within a BMAP where sewer is available Requires new OSTDS to achieve 50% nutrient reduction for sites less than 1 acre where sewer is not available Expands OSTDS remediation plans within BMAPs including an Outstanding Florida Spring Requires local governments to provide sanitary sewer services for developments of more than 50 lots that have more than one OSTDS per acre within 10 years Strengthens BMAPs Expands wastewater grant program Establishes the Indian River Lagoon Protection Program Raises value thresholds for the acquisition of state lands 	HB 1379	Rep Steele Rep Overdorf Rep Bankson Rep Bartleman Rep Basebe Rep Buchanan Rep Cassel Rep Chaney Rep Garcia Rep Gossett-Seidman Rep Gottlieb Rep Lopez, J. Rep Lopez, V. Rep Massullo Rep Mooney Rep Porras Rep Woodson Rep Yarkosky	Approved by the Governor 5/30/2023.
		SB 1632	Sen Brodeur Sen Avila	
Utility System Rate Base Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishes alternative procedure by which PSC may establish rate base value for certain acquired utility systems. requires that approved rate base value be reflected in acquiring utility's next general rate case for ratemaking purposes. establishes procedure for appraisal of acquired utility system. provides contents required for petition to PSC for approval of rate base value of acquired utility system. provides duties of PSC regarding petitions. authorizes PSC to set rates for & classify certain acquired utility systems. requires PSC to take certain factors into consideration for certain rate base value petitions. requires PSC to adopt rules. 	HB 125	Rep McClain	Approved by the Governor 6/26/2023.
		SB 194	Sen Hooper	

Item 10

Attorney's Report

To be provided at meeting

Item 11

Executive Director's Report

Item 11.a.

Executive Director's Report

**Charles A. Black
Water Use Permit
Renewal**

Item 11.a.

Charles A Black Wellfield Water Use Permit Renewal

Ms. Suzannah Folsom, Executive Director will present this item.

The Charles A. Black Wellfield Water Use Permit number 7121.006 expired on March 13, 2022. Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority is a co-applicant with Citrus County. The wellfield consists of seven public supply drinking water wells. The current permit has an average supply of 4,597,000 gallons per day (GPD) and a peak flow of 6,574,000 GPD.

Citrus County hired Jones Edmunds and Associates to assist in preparing the permit renewal application. WRWSA staff reviewed the permit application and provided comments prior to submittal. The following actions have been taken in the renewal process:

January 31, 2022	Application submitted
March 1, 2022	SWFWMD Request for Additional Information
May 27, 2022	Additional information sent
August 11, 2022	Time Extension Request Approval
August 17, 2022	Clarification of Received Information sent by SWFWMD
November 15, 2022	Response sent to SWFWMD
December 15, 2022	Clarification Letter sent by SWFWMD
April 14, 2023	Time Extension Request Approval
April 18, 2023	Meeting with SWFWMD staff
May 22, 2023	Draft Permit Issued

The requested term is 20 years, with an average permitted supply of 7,181,900 GPD and a peak supply of 9,121,013 GPD. This increase in capacity is based on population projections. The population served is expected to increase 39,630 by 2042. This includes the existing service area, service area expansion, and new proposed developments.

Staff Recommendation:

This item is for information and no action is required.

Item 11.b.

Executive Director's Report

Water Use Permit Demand Summary

Summary of Major Water Use Permits in WRWSA Service Area

Updated 7/6/2023

Water Use Permit #	Applicant/Permittee Name	Permit Expiration Date	Permitted Average GPD	Actual 12-Month Rolling Average GPD*	Actual 5-Year Rolling Average GPD**	Actual Use / Permit Capacity	WRWSA RWSP Projection for 2022 GPD	RWSP Accuracy for 2020 +/-%
Citrus County								
207.007	City of Crystal River	3/27/2032	919,000	1,223,647	824,800	133.1%	744,000	-39.2%
419.013	City of Inverness	5/18/1931	1,535,000	1,184,178	1,100,768	77.1%	1,136,000	-4.1%
1118.008	Floral City Water Association, Inc.	2/28/2038	395,000	404,658	353,129	102.4%	304,000	-24.9%
2842.011	Citrus County	8/25/2035	4,780,000	3,006,797	2,635,892	62.9%	2,616,000	-13.0%
4153.015	Rolling Oaks Utilities, Inc.	8/20/2038	1,573,000	1,676,192	1,575,078	106.6%	1,510,000	-9.9%
4406.009	Homosassa Special Water District	8/25/1932	951,000	817,452	823,797	86.0%	764,000	-6.5%
7121.007	Citrus County - Charles A Black*	3/13/2022	7,181,900	5,627,829	4,904,974	78.4%	3,762,000	-33.2%
9791.011	Citrus County - Sugarmill Woods	11/17/2025	2,435,300	2,491,265	2,178,238	102.3%	2,346,000	-5.8%
11839.008	GCP Walden Wds. One & Two, LLC, c/o Sun Communities, Inc.	4/23/2039	187,900	160,493	165,334	85.4%	140,000	-12.8%
Hernando County								
5789.014	Hernando Co. BOCC, Wiscon Maintenance Compound/Attn: Landis Legg	8/26/2035	23,299,000	20,880,474	18,892,346	89.6%	19,214,000	-8.0%
7627.005	City of Brooksville	2/25/2024	2,448,000	1,364,813	1,364,182	55.8%	1,136,000	-16.8%
Marion County - SWFWMD								
1156.013	Bay Laurel Community Development District	2/23/2041	7,560,900	4,340,797	3,668,479	57.4%	2,698,000	-37.8%
5643.008	Utilities, Inc. of Florida - Golden Hills	2/23/2036	188,400	124,612	136,581	66.1%	160,000	28.4%
6151.014	Marion County Utilities Consolidated WUP	1/22/2043	9,323,500	7,878,219	5,916,736	84.5%	5,278,000	-33.0%
8020.008	Association of Marion Landing Owners, Inc.	9/9/2040	179,400	129,799	132,142	72.4%	160,000	23.3%
8339.008	Florida Governmental Utility Authority-Dunellon	3/21/2035	1,117,100	1,137,522	1,232,414	101.8%	938,000	-17.5%
Marion County - SJRWMD								
2993-12	CSWR-Florida Utility Operating Company - South Marion Regional Water System	5/27/2042	231,000	244,174	179,838	105.7%	234,000	-4.2%
2995-7	Tradewinds Utilities Inc	2/27/2035	227,000	97,107	93,947	42.8%	100,000	3.0%
3016-4	Ocala East Villas Inc	8/27/2031	107,000	86,051	91,382	80.4%	100,000	16.2%
3021-5	Rolling Greens Communities	9/13/2025	610,000	473,912	424,585	77.7%	350,000	-26.1%
3043-7	Florida Governmental Utility Authority - Ocala Oaks	1/6/2040	194,000	162,504	136,961	83.8%	178,000	9.5%
3137-6	City of Belleview - update permit to -6	10/11/2036	1,022,000	1,136,060	1,002,788	111.2%	876,000	-22.9%
4578-8	Marion County Utilities Consolidated CUP	9/10/2023	7,090,000	6,516,956	6,026,574	91.9%	6,728,000	3.2%
50324-9	City of Ocala	8/7/2027	17,540,000	12,908,359	11,996,390	73.6%	11,524,000	-10.7%
Sumter County								
1368.008	Lake Panasoffkee Water Assoc Inc	8/22/2024	410,000	355,551	290,362	86.7%	326,000	-8.3%
6519.01	City of Bushnell	3/29/2031	1,366,800	481,449	460,418	35.2%	670,000	39.2%
7185.007	City of Webster	5/23/1943	386,200	94,725	89,597	24.5%	180,000	90.0%
8135.015	City of Wildwood	3/31/2035	4,344,800	2,293,178	2,135,935	52.8%	4,594,000	100.3%
8193.006	City of Center Hill	11/18/2042	150,000	70,238	68,229	46.8%	174,000	147.7%
13005.012	Village Center Community Development District	1/23/2038	19,345,900	14,249,688	12,549,334	73.7%	24,564,000	72.4%
20721.003	South Sumter Utility Company	2/2/2038	2,600,000	1,419,351	not enough data	54.6%	n/a	n/a
<i>12-month Rolling Average for most recent available data</i>								
<i>5-year Rolling Average for most recent available data</i>								
<i>*Renewal submitted; Permitted GPD represents WUP request; no new expiration date confirmed; revision number updated to reflect submittal</i>								

Item 11.c.

Executive Director's Report

WMIS WUP Notifications

Summary of Recent Water Use Permit Activity in WRWSA Service Area

Updated July 6, 2023

Water Use Permit #	Applicant/Permittee Name	Activity Type	Date	Avg GPD	Peak GPD	Use Type	Status
Citrus County							
7121.007	Charles A Black Water Supply	Renewal	1/31/2022	7,181,900	9,121,013	Public Supply	In Review
1267.005	River Bend Century Ranch	Renewal	5/8/2023	3,100	13,100	Agricultural	Issued 5/24/2023
13279.004	World Woods Golf Club*	Modification	5/10/2023	734,800	1,645,000	Landscape/ Recreation	Issued 6/27/2023
Hernando County							
5789.015	Hernando County Water System	Modification	8/10/2022	24,360,000	31,911,600	Public Supply	In Review
12427.002	Joseph M and Valerie DiVenti	Renewal	1/18/2023	2,800	12,900	Agricultural	Issued 5/4/2023
6966.006	Spring Lake Blueberry Farm	Modification	5/16/2023	29,900	80,200	Agricultural	Issued 6/1/2023
4430.004	Ernie Wever Park	Modification	5/22/2023	49,400	143,700	Landscape/ Recreation	In Review
12450.002	Brooksville Mini Storage	Renewal	5/25/2023	1,000	3,200	Landscape/ Recreation	Issued 6/9/2023
12387.003	The Greens at the Heather	New	6/6/2023	5,500	16,000	Landscape/ Recreation	Issued 6/23/2023
351.008	Hernando County Airport	Modification	6/26/2023	11,200	25,600	Landscape/ Recreation	In Review
Marion County - SWFWMD							
13123.005	Florida Grande Motor Coach Resort	Modification	8/22/2022	138,100	232,900	Public Supply	Issued 5/10/2023
7178.007	Oak Run Development	Renewal	10/27/2022	264,900	1,277,600	Landscape/ Recreation	Issued 5/19/2023
21117.000	Rainbow River Ranch	New	3/22/2023	92,200	366,900	Agricultural	Issued 6/19/2023
9497.003	Marion Oaks Country Club	Renewal	3/23/2023	133,600	307,600	Landscape/ Recreation	In Review
11602.004	McGinley Farm	Modification	5/9/2023	2,652,700	7,517,000	Agricultural	In Review
11579.004	Cool Springs Ranch	Transfer	5/25/2023	98,500	521,000	Agricultural	Issued 6/13/2023
Sumter County							
21031.000	Blue Goose Utility Company, LLC	New	4/4/2022	6,000,000	8,600,000	Public Supply	In Review
21039.000	Blue Goose Water Conservation Authority	New	5/9/2022	5,372,500	35,578,396	Landscape/ Recreation	In Review
7185.007	City of Webster	Renewal	8/25/2022	386,200	494,400	Public Supply	Issued 5/23/2023
20949.002	Gibson Place Water Conservation Authority	Modification	1/18/2023	4,103,700	21,538,283	Landscape/ Recreation	In Review
21114.000	Marnie's Farm	New	3/10/2023	5,500	46,400	Agricultural	Issued 5/26/2023
21127.000	Home Depot Wildwood	New	5/18/2023	2,600	8,300	Industrial/ Commercial	In Review
20687.009	Wildwood Utility Dependent District and Fenney Water Conservation Authority	Transfer	6/6/2023	2,632,700	16,578,400	Landscape/ Recreation	In Review
<i>*WUP is located in both Citrus and Hernando Counties</i>							

Item 11.e.

Executive Director's Report

Irrigation Audit Program (Phase 7) – Status Report

Residential Irrigation Evaluation Programs Update

Suzy Folsom, Executive Director, will present this item.

Residential irrigation evaluations are great tools to promote water conservation, and help municipalities meet their per capita water usage goals. This is a progress update on the three residential irrigation evaluation programs that WRWSA is currently ongoing.

Phase 6 Residential Irrigation Evaluation Program – SWFWMD

All of the evaluations have all been completed for this program phase. We will complete the final report once we have water usage data for a 12-month period after the last evaluation. This report will be completed by December 2023. A summary of the evaluations planned and completed is listed below

Participating Utility	Total Evaluations To-date	Target # of Evaluations	Percent Complete
Citrus	57	53	108%
Hernando	60	44	136%
Marion	70	71	99%
Villages VCCDD-LSSA	20	16	125%
Villages NSCUDD-VWCA	25	32	78%
Total	232	216	107%

Phase 7 Residential Irrigation Evaluation Program – SWFWMD

This program began in December 2022. Twenty-three percent of the planned evaluation have been completed to date. This program will be complete in December 2025.

Participating Utility	Total Evaluations To-date	Target # of Evaluations	Percent Complete
Citrus	14	29	48%
Hernando	31	44	70%
Marion	0	71	0%
Villages VCCDD-LSSA	0	16	0%
Villages NSCUDD-VWCA	0	32	0%
Total	45	192	23%

Residential Irrigation Evaluation Program Pilot – SJRWMD

WRWSA has received approval for the program from the SJRWMD and is preparing to start in October 2023. WRWSA will be working with Marion County and the City of Belleview to identify the highest residential users to be a part of this program.

Participating Utility	Total Evaluations To-date	Target # of Evaluations	Percent Complete
City of Belleview	0	20	0%
Marion County	0	40	0%
Total	0	60	0%

Item 11.e.

Executive Director's Report

Regional Water Supply Plan Update – Status Report

Item 11.e.

2024 Regional Water Supply Plan Update

Suzy Folsom, Executive Director, will present this item.

Every 5 years WRWSA completes a Regional Water Supply Plan Update for our four County service area. On January 18, 2023, the WRWSA Board approved the consulting agreement with Hazen and Sawyer to complete the 2024 Regional Water Supply Plan Update. The project cost is \$350,000, and will be completed by December 2

024. This project receives 50% co-funding from the SWFWMD.

A kickoff meeting for the project was held on March 2, 2023. The consultant has been working on population and demand projections, and conservation reuse evaluations. Hazen and Sawyer will present on the Population and Demand projections at the September Board of Directors Meeting.

Task Summary

Task	Description	Schedule	% Complete
1	Project Management and Stakeholder Engagement	February 2023 - September 2024	25%
2	Data Collection and Processing	February 2023 – January 2024	75%
3	Population and Demand Estimates	February 2023 – July 2023	20%
4	Water Conservation and Reuse Evaluation	February 2023 – August 2023	10%
5	Water Sources Evaluation	February 2023 – September 2023	0%
6	Water Supply Project Options	October 2023 – January 2024	0%
7	Organization, Funding, and Governance Requirements	February 2024 – April 2024	0%
8	Recommendations	February 2024 – September 2024	0%

Project Billing Summary

Hazen and Sawyer Contract Amount	Billed To Date	Remaining	SWFWMD Reimbursement Received
\$350,000.00	\$ 43,997.00	\$306,003.00	\$ 0.00

Item 11.f.

Executive Director's Report

Correspondence

WRWSA Audit services - Invoice 56419

Suzannah Folsom <sfolsom@wrwsa.org>

Tue 5/30/2023 11:27 AM

To: keno@purvisgray.com <keno@purvisgray.com>; Helen Painter <HelenP@purvisgray.com>; Istout wrwsa.org <Istout@wrwsa.org>

Katie and Helen,

As a follow up to our call this morning, the amount we had budgeted for the 2022-2023 fiscal year was \$11,623 for the annual Audit plus \$500/quarter for the quarterly bookkeeping assistance, for a total of \$13,623.00

Your invoice 56419 dated May 11 was for \$13,500.00 plus \$1,500.00 for addition GASB review.

We understand that there was additional effort to evaluate the new GASB 87 requirements. We can send payment for the budgeted amount of \$13,623.00 now, but will need approval of a budget amendment from the Board to pay for the remaining \$1,377.00 amount. Our next meeting is Wednesday, July 26, 2023, and if/when approved we will send you the remaining payment then.

If this email correspondence and the partial payment are acceptable, you will not need to revise your invoice.

Suzannah Folsom

Executive Director



3600 W. Sovereign Path, Suite 228, Lecanto, FL 34461

sfolsom@wrwsa.org | O: (352) 527-5796 M: (813) 395-4004

March 7, 2023

Governing Board
Withlacoochee River Water Supply Authority
c/o Suzannah Folsom, Executive Director
Lecanto Government Complex
3600 W. Sovereign Path, Suite 228
Lecanto, Florida 34461

We are pleased to confirm our understanding of the services we are to provide Withlacoochee River Water Supply Authority (the Authority) for the year ending September 30, 2022.

Audit Scope and Objectives

We will audit the financial statements of the governmental activities and the disclosures, which collectively comprise the basic financial statements of the Authority as of and for the year ending September 30, 2022.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP) provide for certain required supplementary information (RSI), such as management's discussion and analysis (MD&A), to supplement the Authority's basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. As part of our engagement, we will apply certain limited procedures to the Authority's RSI in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). These limited procedures will consist of inquiries of management regarding the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We will not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient appropriate evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance. The following RSI is required by GAAP and will be subjected to certain limited procedures, but will not be audited:

■ Management's Discussion and Analysis

The objectives of our audit are to obtain reasonable assurance as to whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion about whether the financial statements are fairly presented, in all material respects, in conformity with GAAP; and report on the fairness of the supplementary information referred to in the third paragraph when considered in relation to the financial statements as a whole. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and, therefore, is not a guarantee that

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an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements, including omissions, can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment of a reasonable user made based on the financial statements. The objectives also include reporting on:

- Internal control over financial reporting and compliance with provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and award agreements, non-compliance with which could have a material effect on the financial statements in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

We will conduct our audit in accordance with GAAS and the standards for financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and will include tests of your accounting records of the Authority and other procedures we consider necessary to enable us to express such opinions. As part of an audit in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.

We will evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management. We will also evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and determine whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation. We will plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether from: (1) errors, (2) fraudulent financial reporting, (3) misappropriation of assets, or (4) violations of laws or governmental regulations that are attributable to the Authority or to acts by management or employees acting on behalf of the Authority. Because the determination of waste and abuse is subjective, *Government Auditing Standards* do not expect auditors to perform specific procedures to detect waste or abuse in financial audits nor do they expect auditors to provide reasonable assurance of detecting waste or abuse.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, combined with the inherent limitations of internal control, and because we will not perform a detailed examination of all transactions, there is an unavoidable risk that some material misstatements may not be detected by us, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*. In addition, an audit is not designed to detect immaterial misstatements or violations of laws or governmental regulations that do not have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, we will inform the appropriate level of management of any material errors, fraudulent financial reporting, or misappropriation of assets that comes to our attention. We will also inform the appropriate level of management of any violations of laws or governmental regulations that come to our attention, unless clearly inconsequential. Our responsibility as auditors is limited to the period covered by our audit and does not extend to any later periods for which we are not engaged as auditors.

We will also conclude, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

Our procedures will include tests of documentary evidence supporting the transactions recorded in the accounts, tests of the physical existence of inventories, and direct confirmation of receivables and certain assets and liabilities by correspondence with selected customers, creditors, and financial institutions. We will also request written representations from your attorneys as part of the engagement.

We have identified the following significant risk(s) of material misstatement as part of our audit planning:

- Risk Associated with Improper Revenue Recognition
- Management Override of Controls

Our audit of financial statements does not relieve you of your responsibilities.

Audit Procedures—Internal Control

We will obtain an understanding of the Authority and its environment, including internal control relevant to the audit, sufficient to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to error or fraud, and to design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks and obtain evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinions. Tests of controls may be performed to test the effectiveness of certain controls that we consider relevant to preventing and detecting errors and fraud that are material to the financial statements and to preventing and detecting misstatements resulting from illegal acts and other non-compliance matters that have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. Our tests, if performed, will be less in scope than would be necessary to render an opinion on internal control and, accordingly, no opinion will be expressed in our report on internal control issued pursuant to *Government Auditing Standards*. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentation, or the override of internal control. An audit is not designed to provide assurance on internal control or to identify significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. Accordingly, we will express no such opinion. However, during the audit, we will communicate to management and those charged with governance internal control-related matters that are required to be communicated under American Institute of Certified Public Accountants professional standards and *Government Auditing Standards*.

Audit Procedures—Compliance

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, we will perform tests of the Authority's compliance with the provisions of applicable laws, regulations, contracts, agreements, and grants. However, the objective of our audit will not be to provide an opinion on overall compliance and we will not express such an opinion in our report on compliance issued pursuant to *Government Auditing Standards*.

Other Services

We will prepare the financial statements and related notes of the Authority in conformity with GAAP based on information provided by you. These non-audit services do not constitute an audit under *Government Auditing Standards* and such services will not be conducted in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*. We will perform the services in accordance with applicable professional standards. The other services are limited to the financial statement services previously defined. We, in our sole professional judgment, reserve the right to refuse to perform any procedure or take any action that could be construed as assuming management responsibilities.

You agree to assume all management responsibilities relating to the financial statements and related notes and any other non-audit services we provide. You will be required to acknowledge in the management representation letter our assistance with preparation of the financial statements and related notes and that you have reviewed and approved the financial statements and related notes prior to their issuance and have accepted responsibility for them. Further, you agree to oversee the non-audit services by designating an individual, preferably from senior management, with suitable skill, knowledge, or experience; evaluate the adequacy and results of those services; and accept responsibility for them.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Our audit will be conducted on the basis that you acknowledge and understand your responsibility for designing, implementing, establishing, and maintaining effective internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and for evaluating and monitoring ongoing activities to help ensure that appropriate goals and objectives are met; following laws and regulations; and ensuring that management and financial information is reliable and properly reported. Management is also responsible for implementing systems designed to achieve compliance with applicable laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements. You are also responsible for the selection and application of accounting principles, for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements and all accompanying information in conformity with GAAP, and for compliance with applicable laws and regulations and the provisions of contracts and grant agreements.

Management is responsible for making drafts of the financial statements, all financial records, and related information available to us and for the accuracy and completeness of that information (including information from outside of the general and subsidiary ledgers). You are also responsible for providing us with: (1) access to all information of which you are aware that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, such as records, documentation, identification of all related parties and all related-party relationships and transactions, and other matters; (2) additional information that we may request for the purpose of the audit; and (3) unrestricted access to persons within the Authority from whom we determine it necessary to obtain audit evidence. At the conclusion of our audit, we will require certain written representations from you about your responsibilities for the financial statements; compliance with laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements; and other responsibilities required by GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*.

Your responsibilities include adjusting the financial statements to correct material misstatements and for confirming to us in the written representation letter that the effects of any uncorrected misstatements aggregated by us during the current engagement and pertaining to the latest period presented are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements of each opinion unit taken as a whole.

You are responsible for the design and implementation of programs and controls to prevent and detect fraud, and for informing us about all known or suspected fraud affecting the Authority involving: (1) management, (2) employees who have significant roles in internal control, and (3) others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements. Your responsibilities include informing us of your knowledge of any allegations of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the Authority received in

communications from employees, former employees, grantors, regulators, or others. In addition, you are responsible for identifying and ensuring that the Authority complies with applicable laws, regulations, contracts, agreements, and grants and for taking timely and appropriate steps to remedy fraud and non-compliance with provisions of laws, regulations, or contracts or grant agreements that we report.

You are responsible for the preparation of the supplementary information, which we have been engaged to report on, in conformity with GAAP. You agree to include our report on the supplementary information in any document that contains, and indicates that we have reported on, the supplementary information. You also agree to include the audited financial statements with any presentation of the supplementary information that includes our report thereon. Your responsibilities include acknowledging to us in the written representation letter that: (1) you are responsible for the presentation of the supplementary information in accordance with GAAP; (2) you believe the supplementary information, including its form and content, is fairly presented in accordance with GAAP; (3) the methods of measurement or presentation have not changed from those used in the prior period (or, if they have changed, the reasons for such changes); and (4) you have disclosed to us any significant assumptions or interpretations underlying the measurement or presentation of the supplementary information.

Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining a process for tracking the status of audit findings and recommendations. Management is also responsible for identifying and providing report copies of previous financial audits, attestation engagements, performance audits, or other studies related to the objectives discussed in the Audit Scope and Objectives section of this letter. This responsibility includes relaying to us corrective actions taken to address significant findings and recommendations resulting from those audits, attestation engagements, performance audits, or other studies. You are also responsible for providing management's views on our current findings, conclusions, and recommendations, as well as your planned corrective actions, for the report, and for the timing and format for providing that information.

Examination Reports

An examination report will be issued by us regarding compliance with the following:

- Independent Accountant's Report on Compliance with Ch. 218.415, Florida Statutes, for the Authority

The objectives of our examination are to: (1) obtain reasonable assurance about whether the report (as applicable) is free from material misstatement based on the applicable criteria; and (2) to express an opinion as to whether the subject matter is presented and/or the Authority complied, in all material respects, in accordance with the specified requirements.

Our examination will be conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Accordingly, it will include examining, on a test basis, your records and other procedures to obtain evidence necessary to enable us to express our opinion. We will issue a written report upon completion of our examination. We cannot provide assurance that an unmodified opinion will be expressed. Circumstances may arise in which it is necessary for us to modify our opinion. If our opinion is other than unmodified, we will discuss the reasons with you in advance. If, for any reason, we are unable to complete the examination or are unable to form or have not formed an opinion, we may decline to express an opinion or may withdraw from this engagement.

Governing Board
Withlacoochee River Water Supply Authority
c/o Suzannah Folsom, Executive Director
Lecanto, Florida

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March 7, 2023

Because of the inherent limitations of an examination engagement, together with the inherent limitations of internal control, an unavoidable risk exists that some material misstatements may not be detected, even though the examination is properly planned and performed in accordance with the attestation standards. Our examination does not provide a legal determination on the Authority's compliance with the specified requirements.

The examination reports are solely to comply with the specified requirements and is not suitable for any other purpose.

We will plan and perform the examination to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the subject matter is free from material misstatement and/or the Authority complied, based on the specified requirements. Our engagement will not include a detailed inspection of every transaction and cannot be relied on to disclose all material errors, or known and suspected fraud or non-compliance with laws or regulations, or internal control deficiencies, that may exist. However, we will inform you of any known and suspected fraud and non-compliance with laws or regulations, internal control deficiencies identified during the engagement, and uncorrected misstatements that come to our attention, unless clearly trivial.

We understand that you will provide us with the information required for our examination and that you are responsible for the accuracy and completeness of that information. We may advise you about appropriate criteria, but the responsibility for the subject matter remains with you.

You are responsible for the presentation of the subject matter being examined in accordance with and for compliance with the specified requirements; and for selecting the criteria and determining that such criteria are appropriate for your purposes. You are responsible for, and agree to provide us with, a written assertion about whether the subject matter is presented in accordance with and/or you are in compliance with the specified requirements. Failure to provide such an assertion will result in our withdrawal from the engagement. You are also responsible for providing us with: (1) access to all information of which you are aware that is relevant to the measurement, evaluation, or disclosure of the subject matter; (2) additional information that we may request for the purpose of the examination; and (3) unrestricted access to persons within the Authority from whom we determine it necessary to obtain evidence. At the conclusion of the examination engagement, you agree to provide us with certain written representations in the form of a representation letter.

Engagement Administration, Fees, and Other

We understand that your employees will prepare all cash, accounts receivable, or other confirmations we request and will locate any documents selected by us for testing.

We will provide copies of our reports to the Authority; however, management is responsible for distribution of the reports and the financial statements. Unless restricted by law or regulation, or containing privileged and confidential information, copies of our reports are to be made available for public inspection.

The audit documentation for this engagement is the property of Purvis, Gray and Company, LLP and constitutes confidential information. However, subject to applicable laws and regulations, audit documentation and appropriate individuals will be made available upon request and in a timely manner

Governing Board
Withlacoochee River Water Supply Authority
c/o Suzannah Folsom, Executive Director
Lecanto, Florida

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March 7, 2023

to a cognizant agency, oversight agency for audit, pass-through entity, or its designee, a federal agency providing direct or indirect funding, or the U.S. Government Accountability Office for the purposes of a quality review of the audit, to resolve audit findings, or to carry out oversight responsibilities. We will notify you of any such request. If requested, access to such audit documentation will be provided under the supervision of Purvis, Gray and Company, LLP personnel. Furthermore, upon request, we may provide copies of selected audit documentation to the aforementioned parties. These parties may intend or decide to distribute the copies or information contained therein to others, including other governmental agencies.

The audit documentation for this engagement will be retained for a minimum of five years after the report release date or for any additional period requested by the cognizant or oversight agency or its designee. If we are aware that a federal awarding agency or auditee is contesting an audit finding, we will contact the party(ies) contesting the audit finding for guidance prior to destroying the audit documentation.

Helen Y. Painter, CPA is the engagement partner and is responsible for supervising the engagement and signing the reports or authorizing another individual to sign them. We expect to begin our final audit fieldwork in approximately November 2022 and to issue our reports no later than April 15, 2023.

Our fee for services will be at our standard hourly rates plus out-of-pocket costs (such as report reproduction, word processing, postage, travel, copies, telephone, etc.,) except that we agree that our fee, including expenses, will be \$13,500 for the audit and \$1,500 for the assistance with implementation of GASB 87, *Leases*. Our standard hourly rates vary according to the degree of responsibility involved and the experience level of the personnel assigned to your audit. Our invoices for these fees will be rendered each month as work progresses and are payable on presentation. The above fee is based on anticipated cooperation from your personnel and the assumption that unexpected circumstances will not be encountered during the audit. If significant additional time is necessary, we will discuss it with you and arrive at a new fee estimate.

Reporting

We will issue a written report upon completion of our audit of the Authority's financial statements. Our report will be addressed to the Governing Board of the Authority. Circumstances may arise in which our report may differ from its expected form and content based on the results of our audit. Depending on the nature of these circumstances, it may be necessary for us to modify our opinions, add a separate section, or add an emphasis-of-matter or other-matter paragraph to our auditor's report, or if necessary, withdraw from this engagement. If our opinions are other than unmodified, we will discuss the reasons with you in advance. If, for any reason, we are unable to complete the audit or are unable to form or have not formed opinions, we may decline to express opinions or issue reports, or we may withdraw from this engagement.

We will also provide a report (that does not include an opinion) on internal control related to the financial statements and compliance with the provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements, non-compliance with which could have a material effect on the financial statements as required by *Government Auditing Standards*. The report on internal control and on compliance and other matters will state: (1) that the purpose of the report is solely to describe the scope of testing of internal control and compliance, and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal control on compliance, and (2) that the report is an integral part of an audit performed

Governing Board
Withlacoochee River Water Supply Authority
c/o Suzannah Folsom, Executive Director
Lecanto, Florida

-8-

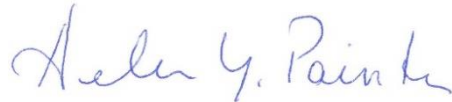
March 7, 2023

in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. The report will also state that the report is not suitable for any other purpose. If during our audit we become aware that the Authority is subject to an audit requirement that is not encompassed in the terms of this engagement, we will communicate to management and those charged with governance that an audit in accordance with GAAS and the standards for financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* may not satisfy the relevant legal, regulatory, or contractual requirements.

We appreciate the opportunity to be of service to the Authority and believe this letter accurately summarizes the significant terms of our engagement. If you have any questions, please let us know.

Respectfully Submitted,

PURVIS, GRAY AND COMPANY, LLP



Helen Y. Painter, CPA
Partner

HYP/sdm



June 26, 2023

Helen Y. Painter
Purvis Gray
PO Box 141270
Gainesville, FL 32614-1270

Subject: Invoice No. 56419

Dear Ms. Painter:

We received Invoice No. 56419 on May 23, 2023 for \$15,000.00 for our annual audit and additional assistance with review of contracts per the new GASB Leases requirements. Subsequently we received an engagement letter on May 31, 2023 that was dated March 7, 2023 outlining an updated scope for the annual audit and requesting an increased fee of \$13,500.00 plus \$1,500.00 for the GASB Leases requirements evaluation.

Our annual budget only included \$11,623.00 for annual audit expenditures. This letter accompanies partial payment of that amount. We will request approval for an increase in our annual audit budget item for the balance of \$3,377.00 at our July 26, 2023 Board of Directors Meeting.

Please do not hesitate to call me at 813-395-4004 or email at sfolsom@wrwsa.org if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Suzannah Folsom, PE, PMP
Executive Director

cc: file

Enclosure



May 31, 2023

Mr. Steve Howard
Citrus County Administrator
110 North Apopka Avenue
Inverness, Florida 344501

Subject: WRWSA Budget for FY 2023-24

Dear Mr. Howard:

The Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority draft budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-24 was presented at its May 17, 2023 meeting. Enclosed is a copy of the budget and the Authority's FY 2023-24 Work Program. The budget is based upon, in part, maintaining the current \$0.19 per capita contribution from each County, resulting in Citrus County contributing \$30,022 in per capita revenues. The other counties will contribute a total of \$139,197 in per capita contributions and Citrus County will contribute an additional minimum amount of \$224,000 for the purchase of water from the Authority's Charles A. Black wellfield.

The Authority's Work Program for the fiscal year calls for continued development and implementation of its regional work program to ensure our member governments' long-range water supply needs are met in a cost-effective and sustainable manner. We have maintained our local government grants program and our residential irrigation audit program to assist our member governments in water conservation. We continue to monitor and engage with the water management districts, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and other state agencies, and the State Legislature to stay abreast of water management activities that may affect this region and to advocate for the interests of our member governments and public supply water needs within our region.

I hope this information is sufficient for your budgetary needs. If you need further information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Suzannah J. Folsom, PE, PMP
Executive Director

Enclosures

cc: WRWSA Board Members
Colleen Scott, Management and Budget Director
Ken Cheek, Water Resources Director
Gary Loggins, Operations Division Director
Debra Burden, Water Conservation Manager



May 31, 2023

Mr. Jeff Rogers
Hernando County Administrator
20 N. Main Street, Rm 263
Brooksville, Florida 34601

Subject: WRWSA Budget for FY 2023-24

Dear Mr. Rogers:

The Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority draft budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-24 was presented at its May 17, 2023 meeting. Enclosed is a copy of the budget and the Authority's FY 2023-24 Work Program. The budget is based upon, in part, maintaining the current \$0.19 per capita contribution from each County, resulting in Hernando County contributing \$37,850 in per capita revenues. The other counties will contribute a total of \$131,369 in per capita contributions and Citrus County will contribute an additional minimum amount of \$224,000 for the purchase of water from the Authority's Charles A. Black wellfield.

The Authority's Work Program for the fiscal year calls for continued development and implementation of its regional work program to ensure our member governments' long-range water supply needs are met in a cost-effective and sustainable manner. We have maintained our local government grants program and our residential irrigation audit program to assist our member governments in water conservation. We continue to monitor and engage with the water management districts, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and other state agencies, and the State Legislature to stay abreast of water management activities that may affect this region and to advocate for the interests of our member governments and public supply water needs within our region.

I hope this information is sufficient for your budgetary needs. If you need further information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Suzannah J. Folsom, PE, PMP
Executive Director

Enclosures

cc: WRWSA Board Members
Tobey Phillips, Deputy County Administrator
Toni Brady, Office of Management and Budget Director
Gordon Onderdonk, PE, Utilities Director
Grace Sheppard, Finance Manager, HCUD
Alys Brockway, Water Resource Manager



May 31, 2023

Mr. Mounir Bouyounes
Marion County Administrator
601 SE 25th Avenue
Ocala, Florida 34471

Subject: WRWSA Budget for FY 2023-24

Dear Mr. Bouyounes:

The Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority draft budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-24 was presented at its May 17, 2023 meeting. Enclosed is a copy of the budget and the Authority's FY 2023-24 Work Program. The budget is based upon, in part, maintaining the current \$0.19 per capita contribution from each County, resulting in Marion County contributing \$74,477 in per capita revenues. The other counties will contribute a total of \$94,742 in per capita contributions and Citrus County will contribute an additional minimum amount of \$224,000 for the purchase of water from the Authority's Charles A. Black wellfield.

The Authority's Work Program for the fiscal year calls for continued development and implementation of its regional work program to ensure our member governments' long-range water supply needs are met in a cost-effective and sustainable manner. We have maintained our local government grants program and our residential irrigation audit program to assist our member governments in water conservation. We continue to monitor and engage with the water management districts, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and other state agencies, and the State Legislature to stay abreast of water management activities that may affect this region and to advocate for the interests of our member governments and public supply water needs within our region.

I hope this information is sufficient for your budgetary needs. If you need further information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Suzannah J. Folsom, PE, PMP
Executive Director

Enclosures

cc: WRWSA Board Members
Angel Roussel, Assistant County Administrator
Michael McCain, Executive Director, Internal Services
Jody Kirkman, Environmental Services
Elton Holland, Office of the County Engineer
Kim Dinkins, Senior Planner
Trevor Knight, Water Resources Liaison



May 31, 2023

Mr. Bradley Arnold
Sumter County Administrator
& County Budget Officer
7375 Powell Road
Wildwood, Florida 34785

Subject: WRWSA Budget for FY 2023-24

Dear Mr. Arnold:

The Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority draft budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-24 was presented at its May 17, 2023 meeting. Enclosed is a copy of the budget and the Authority's FY 2023-24 Work Program. The budget is based upon, in part, maintaining the current \$0.19 per capita contribution from each County, resulting in Sumter County contributing \$26,870 in per capita revenues. The other counties will contribute a total of \$142,349 in per capita contributions and Citrus County will contribute an additional minimum amount of \$224,000 for the purchase of water from the Authority's Charles A. Black wellfield.

The Authority's Work Program for the fiscal year calls for continued development and implementation of its regional work program to ensure our member governments' long-range water supply needs are met in a cost-effective and sustainable manner. We have maintained our local government grants program and our residential irrigation audit program to assist our member governments in water conservation. We continue to monitor and engage with the water management districts, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and other state agencies, and the State Legislature to stay abreast of water management activities that may affect this region and to advocate for the interests of our member governments and public supply water needs within our region.

I hope this information is sufficient for your budgetary needs. If you need further information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Suzannah J. Folsom, PE, PMP
Executive Director

Enclosures

cc: WRWSA Board Members
Gloria Hayward, Clerk of Courts

Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Work Program

1. 2024 Regional Water Supply Plan Update

Work will continue on the 2024 Regional Water Supply Plan update. This will include population and demand projections, evaluation of water supply sources, conservation and reuse alternatives, and an evaluation of alternative water supply options. This work is co-funded by SWFWMD, and will be incorporated into their 2025 Northern Region Regional Water Supply Plan, and SJRWMD 2026 Central Springs/East Coast Regional Water Supply Plan update.

2. Joint Funding of Water Conservation Projects with Member Local Governments

The Authority will continue its grant program to assist local governments in improving water supply and conservation within the region in order to extend the use of groundwater as long as possible. Fresh groundwater is the least expensive source available to meet growing demands, however there is a limit to this source due to environmental impacts and impacts on other existing legal users caused by withdrawals. As the limit to fresh groundwater resources is reached, alternative, more expensive water sources will need to be developed. At the present time, water conservation programs are the most appropriate way for the Authority to help local governments extend the use of lower cost groundwater supplies. The 2023-24 proposed budget includes \$180,000 toward local government water supply and conservation projects. Proposals will be considered from local governments and public supply utilities in the Authority's jurisdiction. The grant program guidelines and application package may be found on the Authority's web page at www.wrwsa.org. The water conservation activities co-funded by this grant program help participating utilities meet and surpass the maximum 150 gallons per person per day that is required by the SWFWMD and to meet the SJRWMD conservation requirements.

3. Regional Residential Irrigation Audit Program to Promote Water Conservation within the Region

This ongoing program provides an opportunity for residential water utility customers to obtain site-specific evaluations for optimizing the use of water through landscaping techniques and efficient irrigation systems, and to implement recommendations provided by a professionally certified contractor. Contractors used for the site-specific evaluations are professionals certified by the Florida Irrigation Society (FIS) or another recognized certifying agency in the targeted region. The initiative includes program information, water conservation education, reporting and analysis by a consultant. This continuing project targets existing inefficient landscape and irrigation water use and results in significant water savings and can lead to water quality protection through reduced leaching of fertilizers and lawn chemicals. More than 1300 audits have been conducted as part of Phases 1 to 5. In Phase 4, we began offering enhanced audits that have a more intense implementation of improvements, and have an improved benefit to reduce water usage. An average reduction in total water use of 28% has been achieved for the locations that have been audited. Phase 6 is ongoing, and Phase 7 started in January 2023. This program is co-funded by the SWFWMD. Participating utilities incur only 25% of their respective portion of the project, leveraging local dollars with regional funds. This water conservation initiative helps participating utilities meet and surpass the maximum 150 gallons per person per day that is required by the SWFWMD.

In Fiscal Year 2023-24 we will begin a new program cofounded by SJRWMD that will include Marion County and the City of Belleview as cooperating utilities. This pilot program will include 60 enhanced evaluations.

4. Continued Cooperation with Citrus County in Operation and Management of the Authority's Charles A. Black Water Supply Facilities

The Authority and Citrus County completed negotiations at the end of FY 2015-16 of the new Water Supply Contract governing the operation and maintenance of the CABWSF. The new Contract allows for the continued operation of the facilities by Citrus County in a cost-effective manner ensuring a long-term water supply for the County and its customers while also providing for long-term financial stability for the Authority.

WRWSA is coordinating with Citrus County as a co-applicant for the Water Use Permit No. 7121 renewal. Citrus County has increased its annual contribution to the Renewal and Replacement Fund from \$180,000 to

\$270,000 to account for inflation, and additional planned activities, and to maintain a balance the required balance of between \$2,000,000 and \$3,000,000.

5. Participation in Maintenance and Enhancement of the Central Springs Groundwater Model

The Authority will continue to participate in discussions with SJRWMD and SWFWMD on the implementation of the Central Springs Groundwater model. The intent is for both water management districts to utilize this common model for determining the availability of groundwater in the region, particularly in Marion County which is split by the districts' boundaries. The SJRWMD and SWFWMD continue to improve upon the model and seek the engagement of various stakeholders. The model has significant implications for groundwater availability in the region and the Authority's continued participation and coordination with member governments is essential to ensure water supply implications are considered as the model is updated. This model will be used for the 2024 Regional Water Supply Plan update.

6. Springs Protection and Restoration

The Authority continues to work with the SWFWMD on its springs coast initiative. The Authority staff continue to actively participate in the Springs Coast Management Committee as the public supply Representative, and monitor activities of the District and the Steering Committee for implications on water supply in the region. WRWSA is also providing a representative on the Technical Advisory Committee via one of our As-Needed Consultants.

7. Program Development and Technical Assistance

- a) Support efforts to further define the hydrogeology of the region. Continue cooperation with the water management districts on the collection of hydrologic data to further refine the Districts' planning and regulatory models. Coordinate on efforts to better define the lower Floridan aquifer and the extent of fresh and brackish groundwater within the aquifer.
- b) Promote the WRWSA Regional Framework through coordination with WRWSA member governments to facilitate regional and sub-regional cooperation on water supply development and reclaimed water projects. Work with the WMDs in defining strategic priorities for the region and how these priorities may influence the ranking criteria for the Districts' Cooperative Funding Initiatives, including potential District funding for regional and sub-regional traditional and non- traditional water supply development that is consistent with the WRWSA Regional Framework.
- c) Participate in the SWFWMD and SJRWMD minimum flows and levels (MFLs) programs representing the interests of member governments. Provide technical assistance to WRWSA member governments in determining the potential impact to both the environment and potential water supply development based on proposed MFLs.
- d) Coordinate with FDEP, SJRWMD, SWFWMD and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services on policy and rule development. Provide assistance to WRWSA member governments on FDEP and District rule development that may include Water Use Permitting, Environmental Resource Permitting, water conservation and future water supply development, including the statewide consistency initiatives. Monitor water management programs and rule development in other parts of the state, including the Central Florida Water Initiative, for implications to the WRWSA and its member governments.
- e) Monitor and coordinate with the water supply planning and development activities in adjacent communities and regions, including but not limited to Tampa Bay Water, the Central Florida Water Initiative, the Polk Water Cooperative, and Lake and Levy counties for possible implications on water resource availability within the WRWSA region. Provide input to such activities when appropriate.
- f) Monitor applications for significant water use permits and permit modifications within the region for potential impacts on WRWSA and member government existing and planned water supply facilities and engage in the permitting process where appropriate.



GREGORY C. HARRELL

CLERK OF COURT AND COMPTROLLER - MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA
FINANCE DEPARTMENT

CLERK OF COURT
RECORDER OF OFFICIAL RECORDS
CLERK AND ACCOUNTANT OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
CUSTODIAN OF COUNTY FUNDS AND COUNTY AUDITOR

POST OFFICE BOX 1030
OCALA, FLORIDA 34478-1030
TELEPHONE (352) 671-5520
WWW.MARIONCOUNTYCLERK.ORG

June 13, 2023

Mr. Richard Owen
WRWSA
3600 West Sovereign Path
Suite 228
Lecanto, FL 34461

RE: Submission of Audit Report for Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2022

Dear Mr. Owen:

Enclosed is a copy of the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report of Marion County, Florida for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022. This document contains the report of our independent auditors, Purvis Gray & Company, CPA's, on federal awards and state financial assistance received by Marion County during the reporting period.

The Single Audit portion of the report, located on pages 227-237, of the Compliance Section, was prepared by our auditors in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance); and Chapter 10.550, *Rules of the Auditor General*. As required, it includes the Independent Auditors' Reports on Compliance and Internal Control, the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards and State Financial Assistance, and a Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs.

I trust this information will fulfill your requirements. Should you have any questions or require any additional information concerning the report, please contact me at the address listed above or by telephone at (352) 671-5520.

Sincerely,

Gregory C. Harrell
Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller
Marion County, Florida

Tina Novinger
Controller
Enclosures




Item 11.g.

Executive Director's Report

News Articles

ORIGINAL RESEARCH

Insights from residents under year-round irrigation restrictions to improve water conservation impacts

Laura A. Warner¹  | Bernardo Cardenas¹  | Michael D. Dukes¹  |
 Nicholas Taylor¹ | Deirdre Irwin² | James Harmon³ |
 Masoud Yazdanpanah^{1,4} | John M. Diaz¹

¹University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, USA

²St. Johns River Water Management District, Palatka, Florida, USA

³South Florida Water Management District, West Palm Beach, Florida, USA

⁴University of Khuzestan, Mollasani, Iran

Correspondence

Laura A. Warner, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, USA.

Email: lsanagorski@ufl.edu

Funding information

USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Grant/Award Number: Hatch Project 1018367

Deputy Editor: Manuel P. Teodoro

Associate Editor: Patrick L. Gurian

Abstract

Year-round irrigation water restrictions can be effective water demand management tools if people adhere to them. Awareness and understanding of these regulations have important implications for compliance and long-term water supply goals. This study quantified irrigation restriction awareness-knowledge and how-to knowledge using survey data from residents with automated irrigation systems. Only half of those subject to irrigation restrictions were aware of these regulations; these irrigation restriction aware individuals reported varying perceived allowable watering frequency, implying that misunderstandings exist. Education, living in a homeowners association, hiring specific professionals, and information-seeking preferences distinguished irrigation restriction *aware* from *unaware* individuals. Binary logistic regression revealed that when considered together, race, education, income, hiring a professional for fertilizer application, and living in a homeowner association significantly influence awareness-knowledge. There are important opportunities to improve conservation outcomes by increasing both awareness and accuracy among target audience members.

KEYWORDS

awareness, irrigation restrictions, knowledge, public perceptions, residential irrigation, water conservation

1 | INTRODUCTION

Water scarcity challenges (i.e., meeting growing water demands with limited resources) are among the top priorities at a national and global scale. In the US, landscape irrigation is estimated to account for 9 billion gallons of water per day, or approximately one-third of all residential water use (US EPA, 2017), making this water use category an important consideration for conservation initiatives. The case presented here is drawn from the state of Florida, which will face significant challenges in

meeting its water needs with traditional water sources if changes are not made by multiple sectors. Florida's public supply water withdrawals are exceeded by only three other states (Dieter et al., 2018) and currently total over 2500 Mgal/D (FDEP, 2021). With, more than 50% of the state's potable water being directed towards outdoor uses such as lawn and landscape irrigation (DeOreo et al., 2016), a projected population of 33 million by 2070 (Carr & Zwick, 2016), and a standard practice of permanent in-ground irrigation systems in planned residential developments, strategies to reduce residential landscape

water use are considered a top priority among stakeholders, including conservation professionals, water management district personnel, utilities, policymakers, and researchers. The present research has implications for irrigation water use policy, education, and communications not only in Florida, where data were collected, but also in the many other locations that rely on residents' participation in outdoor conservation efforts, or where there will be water scarcity challenges in the future.

There are numerous demand-reduction strategies available to decrease residential landscape irrigation water use, and they are particularly relevant where water availability is limited and/or when prolonged droughts occur. Some of these strategies include price-based approaches, public education campaigns, rationing, subsidies for the adoption of more water-efficient technologies, irrigation efficiency evaluations, efficient irrigation design requirements for new homes, replacement of established irrigated turfgrass (with mulch or other plants that require less irrigation), water budgets, and voluntary or mandated irrigation restrictions. Irrigation restrictions are considered among the most common and cost-effective tools used to encourage water conservation, to promote efficient landscape irrigation, and to delay costly water facility capacity expansions (Boyer et al., 2018; Rajbhanary et al., 2010; Whitcomb, 2006). Intensifying water scarcity has led to a greater use of irrigation restrictions in various regions to achieve conservation goals (Barnes et al., 2021). This approach to conservation is used in the state of Florida, as well as many locations throughout the country (Asci & Borisova, 2014), including but not limited to California, Arizona, Nevada, and Texas (AWE, 2020). It is worth noting that many United States locations use only drought-triggered irrigation restrictions (AWE, 2020) which contrasts with most of Florida being under year-round irrigation restrictions. Therefore, water- and conservation-focused decision-makers and other stakeholders may look to Florida's successes and challenges as they navigate increasingly urgent water conservation needs in their regions.

Florida is divided into five water management districts (Figure 1) based upon hydrologic boundaries which are responsible for managing water quality and quantity, natural resources, and flood protection at the statewide level (FDEP, 2022). At the time of this study, all but the Northwest Florida Water Management District (NFWFMD) had irrigation restrictions established. Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD), St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD), South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), and Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) have had irrigation restrictions in place for many years (SFWMD, n.d.; SJRWMD, 2022; SRWMD, n.d.; SWFWMD, 2018).

Article Impact Statement

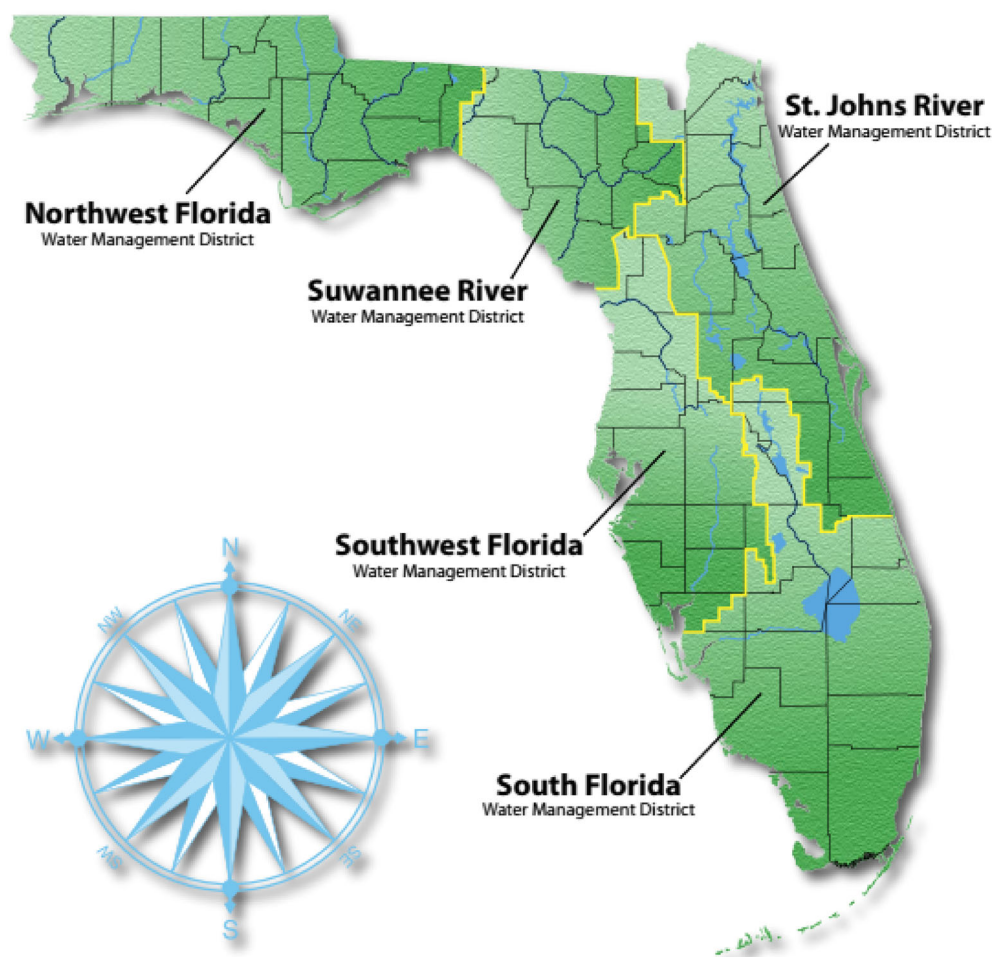
There is an opportunity to improve conservation outcomes if agencies have data on citizens' knowledge so irrigation restriction initiatives can address existing lack of awareness and understanding.

These various restrictions limit weekly irrigation to between 1 day per week and 3 days per week (1 day/week and 3 day/week, respectively) with specific allowable days assigned by street address. In some areas, the number of assigned days changes between Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) and Daylight Savings Time (DST). Moreover, the allowed frequency could be reduced when drought conditions occur (Tampa Bay Water, 2017).

Some of these restrictions also constrain irrigation to specific hours of the day. For example, in most of Florida irrigation can occur only before certain morning hours and after certain afternoon hours, to maximize the efficiency of the water applied (e.g., by reducing evaporation due to daytime heat combined with wind, etc.). In some areas, irrigation has been also limited to the application of no more than $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch or a run time of no more than 1 h per irrigation zone. In some places restrictions are not rigorously enforced, resulting in largely voluntary participation. In other places restrictions are more strictly enforced, allowing exceptions for newly planted landscapes, hand-watering, or the application of fertilizers and pesticides.

Research on the effectiveness of irrigation restrictions is generally limited to short periods of time or to utility-wide averages. Diverse outcomes (e.g., both increases in water use, Ozan & Alsharif, 2013 and decreases in water use, Mini et al., 2015) are found in peer-reviewed articles, which is likely related to implementation and evaluation methods not being standardized. Further complexities are introduced by normalizing the weather and rainfall, especially for studies that are geographically widespread or of long duration (AWE, 2020). Moreover, some of the research targets irrigation restrictions which have been implemented simultaneously with other conservation strategies, so various statistical procedures have been employed to isolate the irrigation restrictions outcomes. For example, in Austin, TX, a once-per-5 days irrigation restriction reduced overall demand by 3%–5% during the 1984–1985 drought years (Shaw & Maidment, 1987). During the drought year of 1977, the City of Fort Collins, CO, restricted irrigation to 2 day/week for 6 weeks. The effectiveness of the restriction was unclear during that period because abnormally wet weather appeared to reduce

FIGURE 1 Florida's five water management districts used by permission of the St. Johns River Water Management District (2022), About the District <https://www.sjrwmd.com/about/maps/>.



evapotranspiration rates. Anderson et al.'s (1980) calculations during a period of normal evapotranspiration rates revealed such restrictions were expected to reduce water usage by 19.7%. In the City of Los Angeles, CA, Mini et al. (2015) found that voluntary restrictions were not effective in reducing water use, whereas the combined effect of five no-watering days plus increased water prices resulted in a 23% decrease in city average single-family water use, during the summer of 2010. Similarly, Kenney et al. (2004) estimated that voluntary restrictions had limited benefits, across eight water providers during a prolonged drought in Colorado, but found that mandatory restrictions were effective in reducing water use. The water providers that allowed irrigation on 3, 2, or 1 day/week, expected a per capita use reduction of 22%, 33%, or 56%, respectively; when accounting for climatic variation across the studied areas, but verification measurements were not taken.

For Florida conditions, the research on the effectiveness of irrigation restrictions is also limited and presents mixed findings. For example, Boyer et al. (2018) reported an irrigation reduction of 13% due to tighter irrigation restrictions (from 2 to 1 day/week) despite an increase in

actual water needs during the time of a Southwest Florida study. Whitcomb (2005) calculated the effect of transitioning from 2 days/week to 1 day/week restrictions within six utilities in the Southwest Florida Water Management District, from 1998 through 2003. The total monthly estimated reductions (indoor and outdoor combined, and weather-normalized) ranged between 9% and 20%. The greater reductions were associated with the highest property values which hints at greater effectiveness among larger properties and/or higher water users due to greater discretionary outdoor water use. For the St. Johns River Water Management District, Whitcomb (2006) evaluated eight utilities from 1998 through 2003 with an irrigation reduction of 2 days/week occurring from 2001 through 2003. Two utilities, Ocoee Utilities, and Seminole County Utilities, which had relatively high levels of outdoor water use, achieved 12–13% and 17–19% water use reduction, respectively (indoor and outdoor combined, and weather-adjusted). The analysis of the other six utilities “generated mixed and perhaps misleading results, if water use changes were exclusively ascribed to irrigation restrictions” (Whitcomb, 2006, p. iii). Conversely, Ozan and Alsharif (2013) reported water usage

increases when 2 days/week restrictions (June 2004 to May 2006) were changed to more stringent 1 day/week restrictions (June 2006 to May 2008) in one zip code in Southwest Florida. The authors offered an explanation that residents irrigated more during that time to meet water needs and adhere to homeowners association (HOA) rules amid drought conditions.

According to the studies referenced here, irrigation restrictions could be a powerful tool to promote outdoor water conservation when correctly implemented, promoted, and enforced. Policies such as irrigation restrictions are undoubtedly important in achieving water savings. However, it is critically important to recognize that the establishment of policies does not automatically translate to water conservation (Hornberger et al., 2015; Warner & Diaz, 2022) because “confusion and lack of awareness exist among homeowners which may reduce the effectiveness” (Sisser et al., 2016, p. 23) of irrigation restrictions. People need to follow these regulations for them to be effective, and changing public behaviors relies on understanding those behaviors (i.e., the human dimensions) in depth (Wallen & Daut, 2018). While much research on the technical side aspects of irrigation restrictions is available (Dukes, 2020), little has been conducted regarding people’s perceptions of irrigation restrictions (Barnes et al., 2021), and a greater focus on the social elements is needed to fully understand the potential of this conservation approach.

Social dimensions, and specifically people’s adoption or rejection of a practice (e.g., adhering to irrigation restrictions) may be understood through the Innovation-Decision Process (Figure 2), an information-seeking and processing activity outlined within the Diffusion of Innovations Theory (Rogers, 2003). During this process, according to Rogers (2003), a person “is motivated to reduce uncertainty about the advantages and disadvantages of an innovation” (p. 172), which may include a technology (e.g., weather-based irrigation controller) or a

practice (e.g., following irrigation restrictions). The knowledge stage is the first in this process, and at this time a person is exposed to an idea and learns how it works (Rogers, 2003). This exposure may be passive (e.g., a resident sees an advertisement) or they may play an active role (e.g., a resident contacts their local Extension office to learn how to save water). The knowledge stage is initiated by awareness of the existence of an innovation (awareness-knowledge). Individuals must have awareness-knowledge to develop the necessary motivation to gain how-to knowledge (how to use it) associated with the practice or technology (Rogers, 2003). Thus, greater knowledge about an innovation is linked to greater adoption (Kaplan, 1999; Lamm et al., 2019). Applied to the diffusion of irrigation restrictions, residents must be aware these policies exist in order to process the information (e.g., learn the details of their applicable restrictions) needed to follow them. Here we operationalize how-to knowledge as an understanding of the details of these policies (i.e., allowed days per week) but how-to knowledge may also extend to knowing how to operate one’s irrigation controller settings among other things. Beyond awareness-knowledge and how-to knowledge, individuals may sometimes develop principles-knowledge (the theory and mechanisms of why an innovation works) during the knowledge stage, which is not critical to adoption but may help people to judge the efficacy of an innovation (Rogers, 2003). It is only after the knowledge stage that individuals advance to the persuasion stage where they develop negative or positive perceptions related to the innovation which will guide adoption or rejection in the subsequent decision stage.

Although perhaps not as well-known as traffic laws, one would expect people living in an area with irrigation restrictions to be aware of them, understand how they apply, and to follow them, similar to other laws and regulations. However, at this point in time, there is minimal social science research regarding residents’ perceptions or

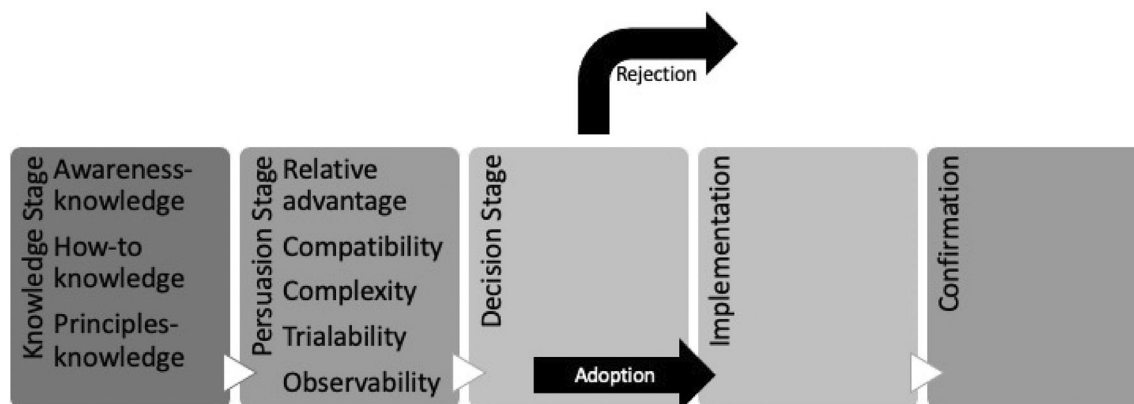


FIGURE 2 The Innovation-Decision process adapted from Rogers (2003).

knowledge about irrigation restrictions, and there appears to be no such research specific to Florida or other regions with year-round irrigation restrictions. Conservation professionals need to have this type of data as they seek to design awareness campaigns. One study based in Australia (Cooper, 2017) found positive attitudes, social support, and perceived ability related to people's intentions to comply with irrigation restrictions, with perceived ability having the strongest relationship with intent. In other contexts, researchers have reported associations between information-seeking and general water conservation intentions (Trumbo & Keefe, 2005) as well as between awareness and acceptance of particular policy initiatives, such as rainwater harvesting (Ramsey et al., 2017). Inadequate compliance (i.e., violations of irrigation restrictions) (Henson, 2017; Ozan & Alsharif, 2013; Sullivan, 2022), reveals a breakdown in the Innovation-Decision process (Rogers, 2003), or a lack of adoption (i.e., failure to adhere to irrigation restrictions) but it is imperative to explain this phenomenon by exploring whether people have inadequate awareness-knowledge or how-to knowledge, or if people are actively rejecting this practice due to negative perceptions. Thus, albeit seemingly basic at the surface level, an exploration of awareness-knowledge and how-to knowledge is a critical first step in untangling the human dimensions of irrigation restriction compliance. Given that most states reserve the right to restrict non-essential water use during emergency or drought situations (AWE, 2020; Hernandez, 2022), the information presented here suggests wider implications beyond Florida in terms of education, communications, and policy-making as permanent in-ground irrigation systems become more pervasive in the United States.

The research reported here was designed to examine Florida residents' awareness and understanding of irrigation restrictions so effective education and communication strategies can be developed. The specific objectives were to (1) characterize respondents' awareness-knowledge, accuracy, and information-seeking preferences pertaining to irrigation restrictions; (2) examine factors that relate to being irrigation restriction unaware; and (3) develop a model predicting awareness of irrigation restrictions.

2 | MATERIALS AND METHODS

2.1 | Sampling and respondents

Study objectives were achieved using survey research conducted from November 2021 to January 2022. Because residential irrigation decision-makers comprise an important target audience for water conservation efforts, the target respondents were residents from across the state of Florida

18 years and older who used automated in-ground irrigation systems.

Random sampling of this audience is not possible because there is no statewide sampling frame of irrigation users and therefore purposive sampling was deemed appropriate (Ansolabehere & Rivers, 2013; Baker et al., 2013; Lamm & Lamm, 2019; Wiśniowski et al., 2020). Quota sampling, a technique used to create a sample representative of a specific population, was employed to mitigate some of the limitations (e.g., selection bias) associated with purposive sampling (Lamm & Lamm, 2019). Specifically, the sample was drawn in proportion to Florida's race, ethnicity, sex, and age according to recent U.S. Census data (U.S. Census Bureau, 2020).

A specialized survey sampling company initiated recruitment by contacting potential participants first through electronic mail. Individuals could opt into the study by following a link that led them to further details about the survey as well as the informed consent information. The University's Institutional Review Board reviewed and approved the informed consent information and research protocol (#2021-02394) before the study began.

2.2 | Instrumentation

The portions of the researcher-developed survey that applied to the present inquiry included a series of socio-demographic and contextual questions (gender, race and ethnicity, education, household income, homeownership, membership in HOA, hiring a professional for landscape-related services, zip code, county, etc.). One choice was permitted for all sociodemographic and contextual questions except for race and ethnicity, to which respondents could select all applicable options. A series of screening questions were used to identify individuals who belonged to the target audience in terms of age, state residence, and use of in-ground irrigation.

Awareness-knowledge was assessed with the question, *Does your community (i.e., county, city, etc.) currently impose water restrictions that influence how you water your lawn?*, to which respondents could select *yes*, *no*, or *unsure*. Respondents who selected *yes* to this question were presented with a follow-up question, *You indicated your community (i.e., county, city, etc.) currently imposes water restrictions that influence how you water your lawn. How many days per week are you permitted to water your lawn?*, to which they could select one number from 1 to 7. Information-seeking preferences pertaining to irrigation restrictions were assessed by asking, *Who would you go to for information about local water restrictions that influence how you water your lawn?* For this question, respondents were prompted to *please check all that apply* and the selections included: *My water management district*, *Environmental*

organizations, Friends or family members, Homeowners' association or neighborhood advisory committee, Local city officials, Local UF/IFAS Extension office, Neighbors or other community members, My city/county staff, and My water utility. An expert panel review process was employed to ensure the validity of the instrument prior to its use (Vaske, 2008).

2.3 | Data preparation and analysis

All analyses were conducted with SPSS (version 27.0; IBM Corp., Armonk, NY). Prior to analyzing the data, respondents were assigned to a water management district using their county of residence, with an exception for respondents who resided in counties which fell into multiple water management districts that were assigned to water management district groups with their zip codes.

Objective one was addressed using descriptive statistics. Prior to analyzing data for objective two, respondents were classified as being either irrigation restriction *aware* or *unaware*. Individuals were considered irrigation restriction *unaware* if they met the following criteria: had lawns/landscapes they made decisions about or cared for, had automated irrigation systems, reported residing in Suwannee, St. Johns, Southwest, or South Florida water management districts, and they indicated *no* or *unsure* when asked if their community imposed irrigation restrictions. Individuals were considered irrigation restriction *aware* if they met the following criteria: had lawns/landscapes they made decisions about or cared for, had automated irrigation systems, reported residing in Suwannee, St. Johns, Southwest, or South Florida water management districts, and they indicated *yes* when asked if their community imposed irrigation restrictions. Comparisons such as these are drawn from the field of marketing where they are used to understand consumer behaviors (Juster, 1966; Renner & Schwarzer, 2005; Suh, 1972). Chi-square analyses are used to assess whether two variables are independent of one another (Vaske, 2008) and were used to achieve Objective Two and test for statistically significant relationships between demographic and information-seeking preference variables and membership in the irrigation restriction *aware* and *unaware* groups. Independent *t*-test analyses are used to compare the means of continuous variables between two samples (Vaske, 2008), and were used to test for statistically significant differences in age and years lived in the state between the irrigation restriction *aware* and *unaware* groups.

Objective three was addressed with a binary logistic regression model to predict the probability of an individual falling into one of two categories (Field, 2018), the irrigation restriction *aware* and *unaware* groups. The predictor

variables were age, years living in Florida, gender, race and ethnicity, education, 2020 household income, homeownership, hiring professional services, HOA membership, water management district, and information-seeking preferences. Prior to conducting the regression analysis, categorical variables were collapsed into dummy variables for ease of interpretation and improved model stability (Field, 2018).

3 | RESULTS

3.1 | Respondent characteristics

Out of 850 Floridians who provided complete responses to the larger survey instrument, 70% ($n = 595$) had a lawn or landscape they made decisions about or personally cared for. Of those individuals, 55% ($n = 330$) used automatic irrigation and comprise the target for this study (see Appendix: Table A1). The average respondent was 47.6 years old ($SD = 19.2$) and had lived in Florida for 23.6 years ($SD = 16.5$). Respondents self-reported the percentage of their yards comprised of turfgrass, with values ranging from 0 to 100% turfgrass coverage, and 66% as the average ($SD = 21.9$). The reported irrigation water source for more than half of respondents (55.2%; $n = 182$) was city (municipal) / county, followed by irrigation well (17.9%; $n = 59$), reclaimed water (publicly supplied / purple pipe) (17.9%, $n = 59$), waterbody (e.g., lake, canal, stream, pond) (3.6%, $n = 12$), and other/I do not know (5.4%, $n = 18$).

The most common education categories were high school/GED (20.9%, $n = 69$), some college (18.8%, $n = 62$), and a 4-year college degree (28.8%, $n = 95$). The most common 2020 household income categories were \$25,000–\$49,999 (23.6%, $n = 78$), \$50,000–\$74,999 (24.5%, $n = 81$), and \$75,000–\$99,999 (16.7%, $n = 55$).

The largest proportion of respondents (60.9%, $n = 201$) indicated they lived in an HOA. The majority of those who did live in an HOA indicated their HOA had policies or requirements related to their landscape and could impose penalties upon residents pertaining to the look of their landscape. Notably, residing in an HOA corresponds to other demographic trends, such as higher household income and education levels.

3.2 | Objective one: characterize respondents' awareness-knowledge, accuracy, and information-seeking preferences pertaining to irrigation restrictions

Half of the 312 respondents possessed awareness-knowledge, indicating their community currently imposed

TABLE 1 Days per week permitted to water as reported by the irrigation restriction aware.

Days per week permitted to water	Irrigation restriction aware (<i>n</i> = 156; 50.0%)	
	%	<i>n</i>
1	15.4	24
2	34.0	53
3	26.3	41
4	10.9	17
5	9.6	15
6	.6	1
7	3.2	5

irrigation restrictions (Appendix: Table A1). Around 34% of those irrigation users who indicated they did have irrigation restrictions said they were permitted to water 2 days/week, and 26% indicated they could water 3 days/week (Table 1). At the time of the study, SRWMD and SJRWMD had 1 day/week restrictions, and SFWMD and SWFWMD had 2 days/week restrictions, although some locations (e.g., individual counties) may have had 1 days/week or 3 days/week restrictions. When asked where they would go to access information about local irrigation restrictions that influence how they water their lawn, more respondents selected their water management district than any other entity, followed by their water utility, and next by their HOA or neighborhood advisory committee.

3.3 | Objective two: examine factors that relate to being irrigation restriction unaware

Respondents from locations without irrigation restrictions (i.e., NFWMD) were excluded from this part of the analysis. Between irrigation restriction *unaware* and *aware* groups, there were no significant differences in gender, race, or ethnicity (Table 2). There were also mostly no differences between hiring irrigation professionals for services although irrigation restriction *aware* individuals were more likely to hire a professional for fertilizer application and pest management services. Irrigation restriction *unaware* individuals were slightly more likely to live in SWFWMD. Independent t-tests revealed there was no difference in age between the irrigation restriction *aware* ($M = 48.26$ years old, $SD = 18.95$) and *unaware* ($M = 47.12$ years old, $SD = 19.92$), $t(310) = -.516$, $p = .607$. There was also no difference in years lived in Florida between the irrigation restriction *aware* ($M = 23.67$ years,

$SD = 16.93$) and *unaware* ($M = 22.49$ years, $SD = 15.58$), $t(310) = -.640$, $p = .522$.

Chi-square tests indicated there were some differences in education between the two groups, but the differences were not overly meaningful. The irrigation restriction *aware* are less likely to report a 2-year college degree and this difference is associated with a moderate effect size. There were no substantial relationships between household income or homeownership and being irrigation restriction *aware* or *unaware*. Those who are irrigation restriction *aware* are more likely to reside in an HOA and there is a moderate effect size associated with this difference.

There were few differences in preferred information sources between the irrigation restriction *aware* and *unaware* (Table 3). The irrigation restriction *unaware* group was more likely to consult their water utility for information. The relationship for local Extension Office was approaching significance ($p = .051$), with the irrigation restriction *aware* more likely to go to this source, possibly revealing this entity as one source of the group's information. Both of these differences have a weak effect size.

3.4 | Objective three: develop a model predicting awareness of irrigation restrictions

Binary logistic regression analysis was used to predict the probability of an individual being irrigation restriction *aware*. A test of the complete binary logistic regression model fit the data significantly better ($\chi^2(45, N = 312) = 87.335$, $p < .001$) than a model with intercept only. According to the classification table, the model correctly classified 69.9% of the irrigation restriction *aware* and 70.5% of the *unaware*, for an overall success rate of 70.2%.

Table 4 shows the logistic regression coefficients, Wald test, and odds ratios (Exp(B)) for the predictors. Values of Exp(B) < 1 correspond to decreasing odds of individuals being irrigation restriction *aware* while Exp(B) values greater than 1 correspond to increasing odds of individuals being irrigation restriction *aware*.

Identifying as Asian or Pacific Islander and holding a 2-year college degree were associated with decreasing odds of being irrigation restriction *aware* at the $p = .05$ significance level while identifying as white was approaching significance ($p = .052$) and also associated with decreasing odds of being irrigation restriction *aware*. Reporting annual household income of \$125,000–\$149,999, hiring a professional for fertilizer application, and belonging to an HOA were associated with increasing odds of being irrigation restriction *aware*. The greatest influence on being irrigation restriction *aware* was a reported annual household income

TABLE 2 Educational and income comparisons between the irrigation restriction unaware and aware.

Demographic variable	Irrigation restriction unaware (<i>n</i> = 156; 50.0%) % (<i>n</i>)	Irrigation restriction aware (<i>n</i> = 156; 50.0%) % (<i>n</i>)	<i>p</i>	χ^2	Cramer's <i>V</i>
Gender					
Male	55.1 (86)	54.5 (85)	.712	0.680	–
Female	43.6 (68)	42.9 (67)			
Non-binary	1.3 (2)	2.6 (4)			
Hispanic/Latino/a/					
Yes	31.4 (49)	33.3 (52)	.717	0.132	–
No	68.6 (107)	66.7 (104)			
Race					
American Indian or Alaska native	3.2 (5)	1.9 (3)	.474	0.513	–
Black or African American	14.7 (23)	17.3 (27)	.537	0.381	–
Asian or Pacific Islander	7.1 (11)	4.5 (7)	.331	0.943	–
White	77.6 (121)	69.9 (109)	.123	2.382	–
Other	3.2 (5)	7.1 (11)	.124	2.372	–
Education					
Less than high school	1.3 (2)	0 (0)	.004	21.021	.260
High school/GED	16.7 (26)	25.0 (39)			
Some college	23.7 (37)	15.4 (24)			
2-year college degree*	18.6 (29) ^a	6.4 (10) ^b			
4-year college degree	25.6 (40)	30.8 (48)			
Master's degree	10.3 (16)	16.7 (26)			
Doctoral degree	1.3 (2)	3.2 (5)			
Professional degree (JD, MD)	2.6 (4)	2.6 (4)			
Family income (2020)					
Less than \$24,999	10.3 (16)	7.7 (12)	.127	15.128	–
\$25,000–\$49,999	25.0 (39)	21.8 (34)			
\$50,000–\$74,999	26.3 (41)	23.1 (36)			
\$75,000–\$99,999	18.6 (29)	14.7 (23)			
\$100,000–\$124,999	9.6 (15)	9.0 (14)			
\$125,000–\$149,999	1.9 (3) ^a	9.0 (14) ^b			
\$150,000–\$174,999	1.9 (3) ^a	6.4 (10) ^b			
\$175,000–\$199,999	2.6 (4)	2.6 (4)			
\$200,000–\$224,999	1.3 (2)	0.6 (1)			
\$225,000–\$249,999	0.6 (1)	2.6 (4)			
\$250,000 or more	1.9 (3)	2.6 (4)			
Homeownership					
Own	78.8 (123)	75.6 (118)	.400	1.835	–
Rent	19.2 (30)	23.7 (37)			
Other	1.9 (3)	0.6 (1)			
Hiring professionals					
Irrigation services	34.0 (53)	29.5 (46)	.395	0.725	–
Lawn maintenance	60.9 (95)	54.5 (85)	.252	1.313	–

TABLE 2 (Continued)

Demographic variable	Irrigation restriction unaware (<i>n</i> = 156; 50.0%) % (<i>n</i>)	Irrigation restriction aware (<i>n</i> = 156; 50.0%) % (<i>n</i>)	<i>p</i>	χ^2	Cramer's <i>V</i>
Tree pruning	35.9 (56)	35.3 (55)	.906	0.014	–
Fertilizer application*	36.5 (57) ^a	48.7 (76) ^b	.030	4.731	.123
Pest management*	40.4 (63) ^a	53.2 (83) ^b	.023	5.149	.128
Landscape design and installation	29.5 (46)	28.2 (44)	.803	0.062	–
Weed management	36.5 (57)	39.1 (61)	.641	0.218	–
None	18.6 (29)	17.9 (28)	.884	0.021	–
HOA membership**					
Yes	51.9 (81) ^a	70.5 (110) ^b	<.001	11.354	.191
No	48.1 (75) ^a	29.5 (46) ^b			
Water Management District					
SRWMD	0.0 (0)	1.3 (2)	.079	6.794	–
SJRWMD	28.8 (45)	35.9 (56)			
SWFWMD	36.5 (57) ^a	25.0 (39) ^b			
SFWMD	34.6 (54)	37.8 (59)			

*Significant at $p < .05$. **Significant at $p < .001$.

^aPost hoc z-tests conducted to compare column properties when significant relationship was identified. Differing superscripts indicate significant differences between columns.

^bCramer's V effect size interpretations: 0.10, negligible; 0.10 to 0.19, weak; 0.20 to 0.39, moderate; 0.40 to 0.59, relatively strong; 0.60 to 0.79, strong; 0.80 to 1.00, very strong (Rea & Parker, 1992).

of \$125,000–\$149,999; the odds of individuals in this category being *aware* are 9.891 times higher than households who are not in this category. HOA membership has the second greatest influence, with the odds households in HOAs being 3.142 times more likely to be irrigation restriction *aware*. Households that hire a professional for fertilizer application are 2.455 times more likely to be irrigation restriction *aware*.

4 | DISCUSSION

Most water conservation research has focused on conservation technologies (Dukes, 2020), and the absence of behavior- and audience-specific social science research hinders the potential of conservation initiatives (Warner, 2019; Yazdanpanah et al., 2016). To support successful conservation outcomes, this study captured residents' awareness-knowledge and how-to knowledge toward irrigation restrictions. Half of the respondents in locations where irrigation restrictions exist are aware there are restrictions that apply to them, while about four in 10 believe there are no restrictions, and about one in 10 is unsure. This finding implies information about irrigation restrictions is not fully reaching the people to whom they apply, meaning among half of these

individuals, lack of awareness-knowledge (knowing these restrictions exist) may be the barrier to following them. From a small qualitative study in Minneapolis-St. Paul ($n = 18$), Sisser et al. (2016) reported slightly higher awareness of irrigation policies among 67% of their study participants.

Without awareness-knowledge (i.e., knowing irrigation restrictions exist), individuals may lack the motivation to obtain how-to knowledge (i.e., accurately understanding irrigation restrictions) (Rogers, 2003). Many irrigation restriction *aware* individuals are misinformed about the number of days per week they can irrigate (lacking how-to knowledge), and these inaccuracies were more prevalent in water management districts where there had recently been a seasonal change to 1 day/week. This finding relates to different rules throughout the state set by various entities (water management districts, counties, etc.). Sisser et al. (2016) similarly reported confusion in understanding irrigation restrictions and greater inaccuracies in larger urban areas with multiple policy-setting bodies. There is a major challenge in keeping the public informed when there are changes in restrictions during the year (e.g., SJRWMD and SRWMD allow 2 days/week during DST and 1 day/week during EST) and targeting the right audience at the right time. Further complexities

TABLE 3 Perceptions regarding irrigation restrictions compared between the irrigation restriction unaware and aware.

	Irrigation restriction unaware (<i>n</i> = 156; 50.0%)	Irrigation restriction aware (<i>n</i> = 156; 50.0%)			
Who would you go to for information about local irrigation restrictions that influence how you water your lawn?	% (<i>n</i>)	% (<i>n</i>)	<i>p</i>	χ^2	Cramer's <i>V</i>
My water management district	45.5 (71)	53.2 (83)	.174	1.846	–
Environmental organizations	11.5 (18)	17.3 (27)	.147	2.103	–
Friends or family members	17.9 (28)	21.8 (34)	.395	.725	–
Homeowners' association or neighborhood advisory committee	32.1 (50)	30.8 (48)	.807	.060	–
Local city officials	25.0 (39)	32.1 (50)	.168	1.902	–
Local UF/IFAS Extension office**	4.5 (7)	10.3 (16)	.051	3.802	–
Neighbors or other community members	11.5 (18)	17.3 (27)	.147	2.103	–
My city/county staff	19.9 (31)	23.7 (37)	.411	.677	–
My water utility*	37.8 (59) ^a	26.9 (42) ^b	.040	4.231	.116

*Significant at $p < .05$. **Significant at $p < .01$.

^aPost hoc z-tests conducted to compare column properties when significant relationship was identified. Differing superscripts indicate significant differences between columns. Percentages can add up to >100% because respondents could select multiple responses.

^bCramer's *V* effect size interpretations: 0.10, negligible; 0.10 to 0.19, weak; 0.20 to 0.39, moderate; 0.40 to 0.59, relatively strong; 0.60 to 0.79, strong; 0.80 to 1.00, very strong (Rea & Parker, 1992).

are introduced by several locally-specific variations of these restrictions (e.g., 3 days/week).

Achieving the potential impact of irrigation restrictions relies on people choosing to adopt (i.e., adhere to) these regulations, but they cannot reach the persuasion stage in the Innovation-Decision process and choose to adopt/comply if they have inadequate awareness or how-to knowledge about irrigation restrictions (Mango et al., 2017; Rogers, 2003). Knowledge is an important antecedent to interest in adoption (e.g., Kaplan, 1999; Lamm et al., 2019; Ramsey et al., 2017) and only those with adequate knowledge (approximately half of these individuals) will be able to engage on a deeper psychological level to decide whether they will or will not follow irrigation restrictions. Similarly, Cooper (2017) confirmed that the greater a person's belief in their abilities to effectively comply with water restrictions, the more likely they are to comply.

Univariate analyses suggested a relationship exists between living in an HOA, hiring a professional for fertilizer application and pest management services, and consulting with Extension with being irrigation restriction aware. Unaware individuals were more likely to live in SWFWMD, hold a 2-year degree, and consult with their water utility for information. A multivariate analysis demonstrated the odds of being irrigation restriction aware are increased by an annual household income of \$125,000–

\$149,999, HOA membership, and hiring a professional for fertilizer application. These odds are decreased among those identifying as Asian or Pacific Islander or white and those holding a 2-year college degree.

While only one income bracket demonstrated increased awareness, it raises the question of what separates those individuals from others. Previous studies regarding the relationship between income and acceptance of water conservation have had conflicting results. For example, a study in India (Ramsey et al., 2017) showed that high-income groups had greater intentions to install an in-home conservation device while Cooper (2017) stated that in Australia water restrictions result in high-income earners being more able to secure irrigation technologies that help them comply. Conversely, another study in Australia (Turner et al., 2005) showed the opposite, with low-income groups being more accepting due to the associated financial benefits. Since our results revealed no delineation between low, mid, or high-income respondents, more inquiry is needed to better understand the dynamics at play. With living in an HOA being the next most powerful predictor, through either formal or informal mechanisms, such as newsletters or social diffusion, these communities somehow support higher levels of irrigation restriction awareness. Although HOAs have the potential to either help or hinder water conservation among their residents (Sisser et al., 2016),

TABLE 4 Binary logistic regression results of demographics and information-seeking preferences predicting citizens' being irrigation restriction aware (1) versus unaware (0).

Variable	B	SE	Wald	Df	Sig.	Exp(B)	95% C.I. for Exp(B)	
							Lower	Upper
Age	.005	.010	.299	1	.585	1.005	.986	1.025
Gender (Male)	-.146	.304	.230	1	.631	.864	.477	1.568
Hispanic/Latino/a/	.278	.381	.533	1	.465	1.321	.626	2.789
American Indian or Alaska native	-.961	1.447	.441	1	.506	.382	.022	6.516
Black or African American	-1.844	1.204	2.348	1	.125	.158	.015	1.673
Asian or Pacific Islander*	-2.640	1.246	4.487	1	.034	.071	.006	.821
White**	-2.398	1.236	3.763	1	.052	.091	.008	1.025
Other	-1.379	1.388	.987	1	.320	.252	.017	3.825
2-year college degree*	-1.298	.494	6.886	1	.009	.273	.104	.720
4-year college degree	.251	.374	.453	1	.501	1.286	.618	2.674
Master's degree	.571	.498	1.317	1	.251	1.770	.668	4.693
Doctoral degree	.626	1.016	.380	1	.538	1.870	.255	13.692
Professional degree (JD, MD)	-1.331	1.021	1.701	1	.192	.264	.036	1.952
2020 household income \$25,000–\$49,999	.382	.554	.475	1	.491	1.465	.494	4.342
2020 household income \$50,000–\$74,999	.499	.549	.827	1	.363	1.647	.562	4.831
2020 household income \$75,000–\$99,999	.086	.585	.022	1	.883	1.090	.346	3.431
2020 household income \$100,000–\$124,999	.083	.658	.016	1	.900	1.086	.299	3.941
2020 household income \$125,000–\$149,999*	2.292	.920	6.210	1	.013	9.891	1.631	59.974
2020 household income \$150,000–\$174,999	1.505	.915	2.705	1	.100	4.506	.749	27.102
2020 household income \$175,000–\$199,999	.506	.989	.262	1	.609	1.659	.239	11.523
2020 household income \$200,000–\$224,999	-.528	1.538	.118	1	.731	.590	.029	12.010
2020 household income \$225,000–\$249,999	.937	1.420	.435	1	.510	2.551	.158	41.277
2020 household income \$250,000 or more	.801	1.009	.630	1	.427	2.227	.308	16.084
Homeownership (yes)	-.655	.379	2.991	1	.084	.520	.247	1.091
Years lived in Florida	.009	.009	1.016	1	.314	1.009	.991	1.028
Hiring professional-Irrigation services	-.623	.373	2.792	1	.095	.536	.258	1.114
Hiring professional-Lawn maintenance	-.658	.367	3.214	1	.073	.518	.252	1.063
Hiring professional-Tree pruning	-.038	.341	.012	1	.912	.963	.494	1.878
Hiring professional-Fertilizer application*	.898	.389	5.325	1	.021	2.455	1.145	5.263
Hiring professional-Pest management	.573	.338	2.874	1	.090	1.774	.914	3.442
Hiring professional-Landscape design and installation	-.361	.371	.950	1	.330	.697	.337	1.441
Hiring professional-Weed management	-.457	.353	1.668	1	.196	.633	.317	1.266
Hiring professional-None	.367	.518	.503	1	.478	1.443	.523	3.981
HOA_membership (yes)**	1.145	.335	11.644	1	<.001	3.142	1.628	6.063
SJRWMD_dummy	.269	.351	.586	1	.444	1.308	.657	2.605
SWFWMD_dummy	-.159	.359	.197	1	.657	.853	.422	1.722
Information source: My water management district	.227	.297	.582	1	.445	1.255	.701	2.246
Information source: Environmental organizations	.366	.432	.715	1	.398	1.441	.618	3.364
Information source: Friends or family members	-.144	.368	.154	1	.695	.866	.420	1.782
Information source: My homeowners association or neighborhood council	-.375	.331	1.285	1	.257	.687	.359	1.314

(Continues)

TABLE 4 (Continued)

Variable	B	SE	Wald	Df	Sig.	Exp(B)	95% C.I. for Exp(B)	
							Lower	Upper
Information source: My local city officials	-.127	.318	.160	1	.689	.880	.472	1.642
Information source: My local UF/IFAS Extension office	1.071	.658	2.647	1	.104	2.919	.803	10.612
Information source: Neighbors or other community members	.279	.420	.440	1	.507	1.321	.580	3.008
Information source: My city/county staff	.512	.372	1.897	1	.168	1.669	.805	3.460
Information source: My water utility	-.460	.309	2.215	1	.137	.631	.344	1.157

*Significant at $p < .05$. **Significant at $p < .01$.

there may be lessons to learn from strategies HOAs use to inform their residents about landscape-related requirements, which may be applicable to communicating about irrigation restrictions. Ozan and Alsharif's (2013) excellent discussion of cultural yard perspectives includes the extensive use of landscape-related policies within Florida homeowner associations, asserting "homeowners must have the knowledge necessary to meet their community associations' policies and healthy lawn requirements. Non-compliance due to a lack of knowledge is not considered an excuse" (p. 379). Hiring a professional for fertilizer application among aware individuals also signals a relationship between the way an individual cares for their yard and their awareness of irrigation restrictions. It could be that fertilizer application professionals, who must be licensed in the state of Florida, are transmitting information about irrigation restrictions. That people identifying as Asian or Pacific Islander or white are more likely to be unaware suggests that there may be possible cultural dimension to awareness. While several studies have focused on understanding what influences residential irrigation behavior, they have frequently left race and ethnicity out of analysis and simply used it to ensure representation in the sample (e.g., Barnes et al., 2021; Warner & Diaz, 2022). This means that more inquiries are warranted to understand how the cultural dimensions related to race and possibly ethnicity affect irrigation behaviors and awareness of relevant irrigation policies.

Water suppliers and other management entities across the U.S. and beyond may need to anticipate various levels of voluntary or mandatory restrictions (AWE, 2020). These findings may be useful in such regions as it is likely other places will also face challenges associated with a large proportion of individuals lacking the required awareness and how-to knowledge (accuracy). Broader implications of this research highlighting the situation in Florida point to the need for further research in other places to see if the trend is comparable. Thus, we recommend target audience research to assess awareness-knowledge and how-to

knowledge in regions where water restrictions are used or being considered. The variability among target audiences revealed by this study underscores the importance of conducting further targeted needs assessments to deeply assess residents' perceptions of and experiences with water availability and how these relate to compliance with irrigation water restrictions, and understand how to best reach and educate specific audiences within and beyond Florida. The regulations investigated within this study are implemented in a state that may, to many, not appear to be water scarce given abundant water bodies and frequent rainfall, especially during the warmer, rainy months. Hence, there may be an opportunity to identify ways to reduce the dissonance between messages to the public on the need to reduce water consumption and residents' experience with perceived ample water resources.

Importantly, policies should be aligned with residents' educational and communication needs and perceptions (Barnes et al., 2021). Thus, policy and educational implications include a need for provisions to target approximately half of the residents lacking awareness knowledge to increase awareness and accuracy. There appears to be a gap in educational water conservation programming in that irrigation restrictions are not often included, and thus we recommend education on irrigation restriction be incorporated into irrigation and conservation education. Resources need to be directed to developing highly visible campaigns to increase understanding of irrigation restriction specifics when restriction specifications change or when they are locally different from the larger geographical area. This recommendation may be especially applicable to regions where there are no year-round irrigation restrictions but where restrictions may need to be imposed on an emergency basis.

A multi-pronged approach consisting of enforcement; effective, strategic messaging; and changes to social norms may be required to achieve the desired water savings (AWE, 2020; West et al., 2021). Despite the efficacy of enforcement (Asci & Borisova, 2014; West et al., 2021), and

likely relationship to awareness of these regulations, efforts are often inadequate and impeded by a lack of resources (Sisser et al., 2016). Educational materials and messages should be coordinated among all information sources, especially those preferred by respondents (water management districts, water utilities, HOA or neighborhood advisory committee). Local Land Grant University Extension Offices also have some relationship with more awareness, but this information source is minimally used compared to others, which denotes an opportunity for Extension to play a more prominent role in information dissemination.

Communication should focus on awareness-knowledge and how-to knowledge. The creation of awareness typically takes place through sources an individual does not actively seek out (Rogers, 2003), and thus communications should be delivered through information sources people are already using (e.g., mass media). Messages should be framed in a way that is salient to message recipients (Barnes et al., 2021) and include a consistent message with details of enforcement, allowable days and times, and reinforcement of a legitimate water shortage or water resource concern (AWE, 2020; Maibach et al., 2011; Sisser et al., 2016). Environmentally framed messages urging conservation tend to be the default and may be salient with some individuals but they are not universally effective or influential (Maibach et al., 2011). For example, permanent in-ground irrigation users are less likely to follow irrigation restrictions (Barnes et al., 2021) and tend to value landscape aesthetics and a green lawn more than others (Bremer et al., 2012). Thus, a salient barrier to the adoption of water-conserving practices is a concern over potential lawn decline (Salter Mitchell, n.d.; Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration, 2018), and educational messages could be framed around avoiding lawn decline that results from overwatering. Interestingly, the collective concentration on having a perfect lawn is reinforced by informal social norms as well as formal landscape ordinances, which can create a misalignment with irrigation restriction compliance (Sisser et al., 2016). People may be willing to conform to a broader norm, and thus change the status quo (Cialdini, 2003; Schultz et al., 2014) by overlooking their own yard preferences (e.g., for irrigating more frequently than is permitted). Therefore, messages appealing to a desire to fit in with social norms (e.g., join neighbors in conservation efforts) or to maintain lawn health/aesthetics (e.g., avoid lawn decline) should also be considered (Salter Mitchell, n.d.; Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration, 2018). This is a difficult challenge as the actions that contribute to a desirable norm (irrigation restriction compliance) are nearly if not totally invisible (Warner & Diaz, 2022).

4.1 | Limitations and future research opportunities

Despite the value of the findings, there are limitations that should be considered in interpreting the meaning of this study. First, the data are drawn from individuals' self-reports, which introduces the potential for bias such as social desirability bias. This limitation could be especially pronounced given the regulatory nature of irrigation restrictions and corresponding desire to provide the "right" response, although the anonymous survey format likely mitigated this effect to an extent. Consideration of the water source was outside the scope of this inquiry. The nature of irrigation water sources and related exemptions add complexity to understanding respondents' perceptions and accuracy in understanding irrigation restrictions, and present opportunities to design targeted research and interventions in the future. Another possible limitation is the use of an electronic survey, which would have excluded individuals without computer access. Lastly, this research is limited by the sample size attained, and future studies with larger samples are recommended to improve generalizability.

Research should be conducted to better understand perceptions (relative advantage, compatibility, complexity, trialability, observability) as outlined in the Diffusion of Innovations Theory (Rogers, 2003), to better understand active decisions to adopt (i.e., comply) or reject compliance with irrigation restrictions. Future research should also explore how people have learned about irrigation restrictions in the past, and how to improve both awareness-knowledge and how-to knowledge. There are opportunities to examine distinctions in perceptions between temporary restrictions due to droughts or permanent restrictions for conservation. There remains an opportunity to better capture the true extent to which Floridians both install and use in-ground irrigation systems since some residents irrigate excessively while many do not irrigate at all (e.g., Palenchar, 2009). Capturing the year respondents' homes were built could be done with minimal effort and may support better estimation of in-ground irrigation installation, and quantifying the extent of irrigation use given a lack of a comprehensive statewide dataset presents a challenge for future researchers. There is some local variability in regions where residents can water more or less frequently than the larger region (with some changes taking place since these data were collected), and future studies should integrate these nuances.

5 | CONCLUSIONS

A "persuaded individual can make an adoption decision that a person with insufficient knowledge cannot"

(Kaplan, 1999, p. 486). With a lack of knowledge identified as a barrier among approximately half of the irrigation users to whom irrigation restrictions apply, we can conclude that only about half of these individuals are aware of these policies and thus advancing to the persuasion stage of the Innovation-Decision process. Pervasive lack of awareness-knowledge means many residents cannot proceed to develop a positive, informed opinion about these policies which is needed to actively decide to comply. This discrepancy must be addressed to facilitate advancement in the Innovation-Decision process.

Adoption of conservation behaviors is more likely when programs are designed using a target audience's needs. Water management district personnel, policy-makers, researchers, utility staff, public employees, and other educators and communicators who are charged with developing policies, promoting, and enforcing irrigation restrictions, may find this information helpful when working with this approach to water conservation. There are important opportunities to increase awareness and accuracy in understanding irrigation restrictions to harness the potential of this water conservation tool.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Laura A. Warner: Conceptualization; formal analysis; funding acquisition; methodology; writing – original draft; writing – review and editing. **Bernardo Cardenas:** Writing – original draft; writing – review and editing. **Michael D Dukes:** Writing – original draft; writing – review and editing. **Nicholas Taylor:** Writing – original draft; writing – review and editing. **Deirdre Irwin:** Conceptualization; writing – original draft; writing – review and editing. **James Harmon:** Writing – original draft; writing – review and editing. **Masoud Yazdanpanah:** Formal analysis; methodology; writing – review and editing. **John M Diaz:** Writing – original draft; writing – review and editing.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This work was supported in part by the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Hatch project 1018367.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

The data that support the findings of this study are available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request.

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SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Additional supporting information can be found online in the Supporting Information section at the end of this article.

How to cite this article: Warner, L. A., Cardenas, B., Dukes, M. D., Taylor, N., Irwin, D., Harmon, J., Yazdanpanah, M., & Diaz, J. M. (2023). Insights from residents under year-round irrigation restrictions to improve water conservation impacts. *AWWA Water Science*, e1348. <https://doi.org/10.1002/aws2.1348>

All but two local projects survive the veto pen

Jun 26, 2023

Citrus County Chronicle

Despite a couple of disappointments, Citrus County did well in local project funding from the 2023 state legislative session. Gov. Ron DeSantis recently approved funding for 10 big Citrus projects, and vetoed funding for just two others.

These big wins came from great teamwork. We owe thanks to our county's legislative delegation: Rep. Ralph Massullo, who spearheaded efforts in the Florida House, and Sen. Blaise Ingoglia, who Massullo thanked for his support "in helping move us over into the end zone with so many of our initiatives."

We also thank the Chamber of Commerce and its government affairs committee, plus community leaders who have traveled to Tallahassee, have met with our legislative delegation in the Capitol and locally, and have communicated with them regularly. When Massullo and Ingoglia held pre-Session input meetings at the Inverness courthouse in January, they said repeatedly that advocacy and continuing communication are important, and they urged folks to stay in touch with their staff offices and/or attend meetings in Tallahassee. "We need to keep hearing from you," they said.

The Citrus County projects that were funded are:

- Inverness Airport Phase 2: \$9 million – for critical infrastructure for the business/industrial park
- Halls River Multi-Use Path: \$2.3 million
- Crystal River Government Center: \$1.35 million – for a new city hall
- Whispering Pines Park: \$1 million – for planned new park entrance off U.S. 41
- Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) Reclaim Project: \$1 million – for infrastructure to send reclaimed water to westside golf courses
- Homosassa River Restoration: \$4 million – to clean up and restore the river
- Kings Bay Restoration: \$2 million – to finish the bay restoration/maintenance project
- Citrus Construction Academy: \$308,500 – for operating costs
- LifeStream facility: \$1.5 million – for construction of a Baker Act facility
- LifeStream Capital Outlay: \$2 million

Two projects were vetoed by the Governor. One is \$1.1 million for the West Inverness Trail Connector to connect 19 acres west of Whispering Pines Park to the Withlacoochee State Trail. This is the second time this effort has not been funded. The other is \$700,000 for cleaning up the Tsala Apopka Chain of Lakes. Both projects are important, strategically and environmentally. Their backers and supporters should not give up.

Want to visit the manatees in Three Sisters Springs in Crystal River? Wait 'til November

WUSF Public Media

June 29, 2023



Three Sisters Springs at Crystal River is a big draw for kayakers, boaters, and other visitors, but it's caused decades of shoreline damage, but is now being restored while the springs are temporarily closed.

If you want to visit one of the best known springs and manatee watering holes in the state - you're out of luck. At least through November. Three Sisters Springs at Crystal River is closed as workers try to undo decades of damage from too many visitors.

As we walk down an empty boardwalk that is normally crowded with visitors, Lizanne Garcia points to an eerily beautiful - and empty - spring. It's a perfect illustration of what environmentalist Marjorie Stoneman Douglas described as Florida's "bowls of liquid light."

"This is Three Sisters Springs," she said. "Little Sister, Pretty Sister and Big Sister. And this is where the manatees come in the winter, when the water is cold."



Lizanne Garcia is the project manager at Three Sisters Springs with the Southwest Florida Water Management District.

Garcia is the project manager here with the Southwest Florida Water Management District. She's in charge of returning much of this spring into what it used to look like. Too many manatees nosing around - and kayakers getting off their boats and trampling the sandy shoreline - has caused the edges of the spring to collapse. Garcia said that sent trees into the water, threatening to cloud the famously clear spring vents with sediment.

"This would be packed. I've seen a picture that this area had kayaks all over. You could have literally walked across it," she said. "And that may have been during the COVID, when everything was shut down."

During cold snaps, hundreds of the sea cows crowd snout to tail around the warmth of the Three Sisters Springs. About 20 million gallons of crystal-clear water pour forth at 73 degrees every day into surrounding Kings Bay. That brings scores of kayakers and boaters to this famed spot. But for now, the only sounds to be heard here are the roar of backhoes that are reshaping the landscape.



Kayakers make their way around the bay, checking out the barriers closing visitors off from the springs.

The only kayakers here hover out in the bay, pointing at the commotion and wondering why they can't visit the biggest tourist attraction in this part of Florida. Their path is blocked by yellow floating booms and steel poles sticking out of the sand.



The interior of the springs was restored several years ago with new rocks that have taken on the greenish tinge of the fresh water.

This is the second part of a long-term stabilization project. The interior of the springs was restored several years ago with new rocks that have taken on the greenish tinge of the fresh water. Now, construction equipment is rebuilding the shoreline from where the springs empty into Kings Bay - to the curiously named Idiot's Delight Spring.

When I ask Garcia if she knows why it's called Idiot's Delight, she said with a laugh: "I do not. I've seen several things on the internet, and probably every one of those explanations is true."

Closing down the biggest draw in Crystal River was initially a tough sell here. Garcia said there was only some backlash from locals who didn't want to see their beloved springs closed - even temporarily.

"We hear that, but the overarching comments that seemed to come during the public meeting were 'there are so many kayaks, and there are so many people.'"



The shoreline restoration project has closed the springs until later this year.

That's about what I heard taking a walk through the small but charming downtown to Hunter Springs Kayaks. There, co-manager Melissa Daniels cools herself in front of a whirring fan as only one customer showed up. She says business has been down - a lot - this year.



Hunter Springs co-managers Melissa Daniels and Chris Doucette

"A small price to pay where we'll get through it. We'll gladly take the loss in revenue for the continuation of the beautiful environment out there," Daniels said. "We're happy to take the hit this year, because we feel that Three Sisters Springs is more important. It's just been kind of hard to adjust, I guess." But she says the closure it has a silver lining - visitors are learning about the more than 70 springs in the Crystal River/Kings Bay "springshed."

"So they think that since it's closed, they're not going to see that pretty clear blue water, when in fact it's everywhere. Yeah, you're going to see the murkier waters, but there are so many springheads, there'll be a clear spot in the middle of the bay that you won't even know it's there until you get on to it," she said.

Daniels described herself as "super-passionate" about the ecosystem here. And she hopes that future generations will now get the chance to witness what 18th-century explorer William Bartram called "enchanted and amazing crystal fountains."



Hordes of kayakers descend on the springs during COVID



The springs are closed until November to accommodate a shoreline restoration project.

DeSantis budget carves out \$1.8M for Brooksville

Hernando Sun

July 2, 2023

The City of Brooksville will receive more than \$1.8 million via the landmark \$117 billion spending plan for Fiscal 2023-2024 signed by Gov. Ron DeSantis on June 15. A total of \$600,000 of those appropriations are derived from budget requests made by State Sen. Blaise Ingoglia (R-Spring Hill) and State Rep. Jeff Holcomb (R-Spring Hill).

Specifically, the city received \$375,000 for the Brooksville Master Lift Station Modification, \$150,000 for the street sweeper, and \$100,000 for the Brooksville Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition System.

“This is an IT project that deals with infrastructure, information systems or computer technology,” said Brooksville Mayor Blake Bell.

Funds for all three represent a 50/50 revenue match from the City, Bell said.

“That means they (the State budget) give us 50 percent, and we match the funds 50 percent,” he said.

“In addition, the City of Brooksville received more than \$500,000 for a Water Masterplan to be used to modernize our aging infrastructure.”

Finally, Brooksville also received a \$750,000 Small Cities Community Block Grant to relocate water mains, install fire hydrants and pave streets.

Bell said the appropriations demonstrate that DeSantis supports small cities.

“Brooksville appreciates the friendship of Gov. DeSantis,” Bell said. “He understands Florida’s heart is in the small towns across our state (and) the support he has shown for our small town is very much appreciated.”

Fiscal 2023-2024 begins in Florida on July 1.