



# WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY

## **Board Meeting Package**

October 15, 2014  
3:30 p.m.

### **Meeting Location:**

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

**MEMORANDUM**

To: Water Supply Authority Board of Directors and Interested Parties

From: Richard S. Owen, Executive Director

Date: October 2, 2014

Subject: Monthly Meeting of the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority

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The next meeting of the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority will be on **Wednesday, October 15, 2014, 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 the September 17, 2014 meeting
- 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](http://www.wrwsa.org). On the Authority's Home Page go to the left side of the page and click on "Meetings." On the slide out menu is a button for the current Board Package. Click on the Board Package to download and print the Board Package.

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

**LECANTO GOVERNMENT BUILDING  
3600 W. SOVEREIGN PATH, ROOM 166, LECANTO, FLORIDA 34461  
October 15, 2014 @ 3:30 p.m.**

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

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Introductions and Announcements**
- 4. Approval of Minutes**
- 5. Public Comment**
- 6. Springs Protection . . . Sky Notestein, SWFWMD**
- 7. Minimum Flows and Levels Priority Lists and Schedules . . . Richard Owen, WRWSA**
- 8. Executive Director's Report . . . Richard Owen, WRWSA**
  - a. Bills to be Paid [provided in hand-out]**
  - b. Modification to Citrus County Water Conservation Grant**
  - c. Correspondence**
  - d. News Articles**
  - e. Other**
- 9. Legislative Update . . . Diane Salz, Governmental Affairs Consultant**
- 10. Attorney's Report . . . Larry Haag, WRWSA Attorney**
- 11. Other Business**
- 12. Next Meeting Time and Location . . . November 19, 2014, 3:30 p.m., Lecanto Government Building, Room 166, 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Lecanto, Florida 34461**
- 13. Adjournment**

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

**Item 4.**  
**Minutes**  
**September 17, 2014**

**WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES  
September 17, 2014**

**TIME:** 3:30 p.m.  
**PLACE:** Lecanto Government Building  
3600 W. Sovereign Path, Room 166  
Lecanto, Florida 34461

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

**1. Call to Order**

Chairman Jim Adkins called the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (WRWSA) meeting to order at 3:31 p.m. and asked for a roll call.

**2. Roll Call**

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Jim Adkins, *Chairman*, Hernando County Commissioner  
Al Butler, *Vice-Chairman*, Sumter County Commissioner  
Ken Brown, Crystal River City Councilor  
Dennis Damato, Citrus County Commissioner  
Don Hahnfeldt, Sumter County Commissioner  
Joseph Johnston, Brooksville City Councilor  
Nick Nicholson, Hernando County Commissioner  
Dale Swain, Bushnell City Councilor

**ALTERNATES PRESENT**

Christine Dobkowski, City of Belleview  
Flip Mellinger, Marion County

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Rebecca Bays, Citrus County Commissioner  
Kathy Bryant, Marion County Commissioner  
Gary Ernst, Belleview City Councilor  
Stan McClain, *Treasurer*, Marion County Commissioner  
Carl Zalak, Marion County Commissioner

**3. Introductions and Announcements**

Mr. Owen announced that a quorum was present. Members of the audience introduced themselves.

**STAFF PRESENT**

Richard Owen, WRWSA Executive Director  
Larry Haag, WRWSA Attorney  
Diane Salz, Governmental Affairs Liaison  
Nancy Smith, WRWSA Administrative Assistant



**OTHERS PRESENT**

Jacob Arnette, Marion County  
Alys Brockway, Hernando County Utilities  
Debra Burden, Citrus County Water Resources  
Ken Cheek, Citrus County Water Resources Director  
Mike Czerwinski, MGC Environmental  
Paul Duchesneau, Citrus County Utilities  
Mark Fulkerson, SWFWMD  
Al Grubman  
Jan Grubman  
Jay Hoecker, SWFWMD  
J.P. Marchand, SWFWMD  
Richard Radacky, DPW City of Brooksville  
Chris Zajac, SWFWMD

**4. Approval of Minutes of July 16, 2014 Meeting**

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

Following consideration, a motion was made by Mr. Damato to approve the minutes for the July 16, 2014 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Johnston and carried unanimously.

**5. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**6. Withlacoochee River Watershed Analysis . . . Mark Fulkerson, SWFWMD**

Mr. Owen introduced Mark Fulkerson, Senior Professional Engineer, SWFWMD to present an analysis of the Withlacoochee River watershed. Historical alterations due to navigation, logging, mining and ranching have occurred as far back as the 1800s in the Withlacoochee River watershed. In addition to these man-made changes, the system experiences flooding and drought as a result of natural fluctuations in rainfall and groundwater levels. The Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) is studying the entire Withlacoochee River and its surrounding watershed to better understand how the river system functions, how alterations have affected the system and evaluate alternatives to better manage the resources. To accomplish this a comprehensive model of the entire river system has been developed. This model is being used to address specific issues and concerns identified by external stakeholders, special interest groups and residents throughout the watershed's eight county region. Dr. Fulkerson's presentation included a PowerPoint and a hand out of the model scenario locations.

This item was presented for information only. No action is required.

**7. RWSP Update . . . Richard S. Owen, WRWSA**

**a. 2013-14 Budget Amendment for the RWSP Retainage Payment**

The fiscal year budget was prepared early in 2013. For the RWSP budget, it was estimated that more than half of the expenditures for the report would be spent in 2012-13. Actual costs incurred in 2012-13 were less than projected with the result that the amount budgeted in 2013-14 was less than needed. The project was completed on July 25, 2014 on budget. No additional funds are needed for the total \$250,000 project, however, the budget must be amended to pay the final costs. Staff recommends a budget amendment of \$11,594.88 to be added to the Regional Water Supply Plan Update line item, resulting in a total 2013-14 budget of \$131,574.88 to pay the remainder of the

project costs. The funds will be transferred from the Water Supply Development Reserve funds.

Following consideration, a motion was made by Mr. Damato to approve the budget amendment to add \$11,594.88 to the Regional Water Supply Plan Update line item, for a total 2013-14 budget of \$131,574.88. The motion was seconded by Mr. Butler and carried unanimously.

**b. Final Payment to Cardno, ENTRIX**

The Board accepted the final draft of the Regional Water Supply Plan Update on July 16, 2014. The Plan was then submitted to SWFWMD and accepted with a few very minor changes. Cardno ENTRIX has completed the project consistent with the contract and staff recommends final payment of \$12,500.01, which is the amount retained from the project.

Following consideration, a motion was made by Mr. Damato to approve final payment to Cardno ENTRIX in the amount of \$12,500.01, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Butler and carried unanimously.

**8. Executive Director's Report ... Richard S. Owen, Executive Director**

**a. Bills to be Paid**

Mr. Owen presented the August 2014 bills and requested ratification of payment of the bills totaling \$23,801.18.

Following consideration, a motion was made by Mr. Brown to ratify payment of the August 2014 bills of \$23,801.18. The motion was seconded by Mr. Damato and carried unanimously.

Mr. Owen presented the September 2014 bills and requested approval of payment of the bills totaling \$44,626.10.

Following consideration, a motion was made by Mr. Nicholson to approve payment of the September 2014 bills of \$44,626.10. The motion was seconded by Mr. Swain and carried unanimously.

**b. Fiscal Year 2013-14 3rd Quarter Financial Report**

Mr. Owen presented the 3rd Quarter Financial Report. He reported that the WRWSA has a positive net position of slightly more than \$2.9 million. Mr. Owen stated that two actions are needed in regard to the report. The first item to be addressed is the Northern District Model Expansion. This was a co-funded project with the St. Johns River Water Management District, SWFWMD, and Marion County, which was completed in 2013, within the project scope and within the project cost. The WRWSA paid for the Model Expansion in January 2014. However, this item was anticipated to be paid in the 2012-13 budget and no carry-over was made in the 2013-14 budget. A budget amendment is needed to add \$37,500 for the Northern District Model to the 2013-14 budget; funds will come from the Water Resource Development Reserve account.

Following consideration, a motion was made by Mr. Nicholson to amend the 2013-14 budget to include \$37,500 for the Northern District Model Expansion. The motion was seconded by Mr. Damato and carried unanimously.

Mr. Owen recommended approval of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter financial report as contained in the Board Packet.

Following consideration, a motion was made by Mr. Nicholson to approve the 3rd quarter financial report as contained in the Board packet. The motion was seconded by Mr. Damato and carried unanimously.

**c. Records Management Training**

Mr. Owen recommended that the Board authorize Nancy Smith, Administrative Assistant, to attend a records management seminar and to pay the associated costs.

Following consideration, a motion was made by Mr. Swain to approve the request to attend the Records Management Training as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Johnston and carried unanimously.

**d. 2014 Water Forum Attendance**

Mr. Owen informed the Board that the 2014 Water Forum is scheduled to be held in Orlando on October 10, 2014. This forum is a good opportunity to hear from various industries about water management issues that may come up in the legislative session. Mr. Owen requested that the Board authorize Diane Salz, Government Affairs Consultant, to attend this meeting and to cover the associated registration and travel costs.

Following consideration, a motion was made by Mr. Damato to approve the travel request for Diane Salz to attend the 2014 Water Forum in Orlando on October 10, 2014 and to pay the registration and associated travel costs. The motion was seconded by Mr. Johnston and carried unanimously.

**e. SWFWMD 2016 Cooperative Funding Initiative**

Mr. Owen stated that the WRWSA usually submits a request for cooperative funding to the SWFWMD each year. However, the second phase of the irrigation system evaluation program will be on going during the next fiscal year and phase 3 of that program will begin this fiscal year and continuing through 2017. He recommended that the WRWSA not submit a request for 2015-16. This will also allow the WRWSA to not deplete its Water Supply Development Reserve funds for at least one year. The reserves have been depleted somewhat over the years, particularly with the Regional Water Supply Plan Update that was just completed.

This item was presented for information only. No action was required.

**f. Correspondence**

Recent correspondence was provided in the Board's packet. This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required.

**g. News Articles**

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

**h. Other**

- *Citrus County Chronicle* subscription. Diane Salz monitors the news items from various newspapers and other sources across the state. Mr. Owen has exhausted his ability to read articles sent from the online *Citrus County Chronicle*. Since this newspaper regularly contains articles related to water issues, Mr. Owen requested authorization to purchase a one-year subscription to the *Chronicle* for an estimated cost of \$190, which will come out of the budget for Contingencies.



Following consideration, a motion was made by Mr. Brown to approve purchase of a subscription to the *Citrus County Chronicle* for one year. The motion was seconded by Mr. Damato and carried by a vote of 9 to 1.

- *Professional Liability Insurance Renewal.* Mr. Owen informed the Board of the notice of the renewal for the professional liability insurance. The payment for the upcoming year is requested to be made prior to October 1, 2014, making the renewal request the second insurance payment required from this budget year. There is \$465.22 remaining in the budget line item. The renewal is \$2,362.68, leaving an unfunded balance of \$1,897.46. Mr. Owen requested that the budget be amended by the addition of \$1,897.46, from the administrative reserve account, to pay the professional liability insurance renewal.

Following consideration, a motion was made by Mr. Damato to amend the 2013-14 budget to transfer \$1,897.46 from the Administrative Reserves account to the professional liability insurance line item. The motion was seconded by Mr. Brown and carried unanimously.

- 2014 Environmental Permitting Summer School. Mr. Owen reported on his attendance at the Florida Chamber of Commerce, Environmental Permitting Summer School that was held in July. The sessions were worthwhile and afforded the WRWSA an opportunity to participate with others across the state regarding water management issues.

9. **Legislative Report . . . Diane Salz, Governmental Affairs Liaison**

Mrs. Salz presented the 2015 interim committee meetings schedule for the upcoming legislative session. The first meeting is November 18 and is the organizational meeting at which formal action is taken for the Senate President-designate and Speaker of the House-designate. It is expected that the legislative focus will be on water policy this year. The Legislative session will begin on March 3, 2015. In addition to attending the Water Forum, Mrs. Salz plans to attend the Florida Chamber of Commerce Board of Governors meeting, September 29, 2014, to hear the policy discussions on water supply development and funding issues.

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

10. **Attorney's Report . . . Larry Haag, WRWSA Attorney**

a. **Local Government Grants**

Mr. Haag presented the three grant agreements for water conservation programs with Citrus, Hernando and Marion counties. The Marion County program is a total of \$64,700 with 50% reimbursement from the WRWSA in the amount of \$32,350. This grant has been approved and signed by the Marion County Board of County Commissioners. The Citrus County program has a total program cost of \$80,500 with 50% reimbursement from the WRWSA in the amount of \$40,250. This grant has been approved and signed by the Citrus County Board of County Commissioners. The third agreement is with Hernando County whose total program cost is \$96,300 with 50% reimbursement from the WRWSA in the amount of \$48,150. This agreement is scheduled to go before the Hernando County Board of County Commissioners on September 23, 2014.

Following consideration, a motion was made by Mr. Nicholson to approve the grant agreements with Citrus County for \$40,250, with Hernando County for \$48,150, and with Marion County for \$32,350. The motion was seconded by Mr. Damato and carried unanimously.

**11. Other Business**

There was no other business.

<Mr. Adkins turned the gavel over to Mr. Butler and left the meeting at 4:31 p.m. Mr. Nicholson left the meeting at 4:31 p.m.>

**12. Next Meeting Time and Location**

**The next meeting is scheduled for October 15, 2014, 3:30 p.m.,** at the Lecanto Government Building, Room 166, 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Lecanto, Florida 34461.

**13. Adjournment**

Vice-Chairman Butler announced there was no further business or discussion to come before the WRWSA and adjourned the meeting at 4:34 p.m.

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James E. Adkins, Chairman

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Richard S. Owen, Executive Director

**Item 6.**  
**Springs Protection**

**Item 6. Springs Protection . . . Sky Notestein, SWFWMD**

At a previous Board meeting a Board member requested the Board be provided an update on springs protection activities within the WRWSA region. Sky Notestein, Senior Environmental Scientist, Natural Systems & Restoration Section, of the Southwest Florida Water Management District, is scheduled to provide an overview of the District's spring protection activities. This will include District projects to protect, restore and enhance springs within the region, including utilization of recently authorized State funds and partnerships with local governments.

This item is presented for information only; no action is required.

**Item 7.**  
**MFLs Priority**  
**List and Schedules**

## **Item 7. Minimum Flows and Levels Priority Lists and Schedules . . . Richard Owen, WRWSA**

Chapter 373, *Florida Statutes*, requires each of the water management districts to have a Priority List and Schedule for the establishment of minimum flows and levels (MFLs). The Priority List and Schedule identifies water bodies for which the District plans to establish minimum flows and levels and also identifies planned water reservations. Minimum flows and levels are limits set by the District Governing Board for surface waters and groundwater systems that are intended to prevent significant harm to the water resources or ecology of the area that may be caused by water withdrawals. Reservations set aside water from withdrawals for the protection of fish and wildlife or public health and safety. The Districts are required to update this List and Schedule each year and provide the updated List to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection by November 15<sup>th</sup>.

The Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) held a public workshop on its proposed Fiscal Year 2015 List on October 1, 2014. A summary of the SWFWMD's proposed FY2015 List as it applies to waterbodies within the WRWSA region, including changes from the current List, is included as an exhibit to this item. The SWFWMD Governing Board is scheduled to act on the FY2015 Priority List and Schedule at its October 28, 2014 Board meeting. Authority staff are coordinating with the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) to garner similar information for MFL waterbodies in the SJRWMD portion of Marion County. If available, this SJRWMD information will be presented at the meeting.

As can be seen in the exhibit, a number of SWFWMD MFL waterbodies within the WRWSA region are being postponed to later years compared to the current List.

**Staff Recommendation:** Staff is seeking direction from the Board on whether the WRWSA should provide comments to the SWFWMD and SJRWMD regarding their respective FY2015 Priority Lists and Schedules.



**SWFWMD Minimum Flows and Levels  
Proposed FY 2015 Priority List and Schedule  
Waterbodies Within the WRWSA**

**Priority Waterbodies with Adopted MFLs**

- Chassahowitzka River System and Springs
- Citrus County Lakes – Ft. Cooper, Tsala Apopka – Floral City, Inverness and Hernando Pools
- Hernando County Lakes – Hunters, Lindsey, Mountain, Neff, Spring, Tooke, Weekiwachee Prairie and Whitehurst
- Homosassa River System and Springs
- Marion County Lakes – Bonable, Little Bonable and Tiger
- Sumter County Lakes – Big Gant\*, Black\*, Deaton\*, Miona\*, Okahumpka\* and Panasoffkee\*
- Weekiwachee River System and Springs

**FY 2015**

- None

**FY 2016**

- Gum Springs Group\* (*was 2014*)
- Rainbow River and Springs\* (*was 2016*)

**FY 2017**

- Crystal River System and Kings Bay (*was 2016*)

**FY 2018**

- None

**FY 2019**

- Chassahowitzka River System and Springs (reevaluation) (*was 2019*)
- Homosassa River System and Springs (reevaluation) (*was 2019*)

**FY 2020**

- Withlacoochee River System – lower segment (*was 2016*)
- Withlacoochee River system – three middle/upper segments (*was 2016*)

**FY 2021**

- None

**FY 2022**

- None

**FY 2023**

- None

\* Indicates waterbodies that may be affected by withdrawals in an adjacent water management district

**Item 8.b.**  
**Citrus County 2015**  
**Grant Modification**

**Item 8.b.            Modification to Citrus County Water Conservation Grant . . . Richard Owen, WRWSA**

Included as an exhibit to this item is a request from Citrus County for a modification to the recently approved WRWSA water conservation grant. The County is requesting to reallocate funds to an expanded indoor water conservation program based upon recent success with the indoor conservation activities. The total project cost is \$80,500, with the Authority funding half, or \$40,250. The current scope contains an Irrigation System Checkup Rebates and Evaluations component, funded at a total of \$10,000, with the WRWSA contributing \$5,000. The County is requesting to reallocate all of these funds to an indoor plumbing fixture retrofit rebate program. In addition, the current scope contains a Water Conservation Education and Programming component, funded at a total of \$25,000, with the Authority funding \$12,500. The County is requesting \$5,000 of this (\$2,500 of Authority funds), also be reallocated to the indoor plumbing retrofit rebate component. Staff have reviewed this request and find the revised scope is in keeping with the intent of the Authority's program to implement water conservation.

**Staff Recommendation:** Staff recommends Board approval of this change in scope of the grant project.



**Citrus County Board of County Commissioners  
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**

3600 W. Sovereign Path, Suite 202  
Lecanto, Florida 34461  
Phone: (352) 527-7669 Fax: (352) 527-5429  
[www.bocc.citrus.fl.us](http://www.bocc.citrus.fl.us)

September 19, 2014

WRL-2014-11

Mr. Richard Owen, Executive Director  
Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority  
3600 W Sovereign Path, Suite 228  
Lecanto, FL 34461

Re: 2015 Grant Project Modification

Dear Mr. Owen,

I am requesting a modification to the proposed projects identified within the 2015 approved grant. In July 2014, the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority Board approved Citrus County replacing an 'Irrigation System Checkup Rebate' program with an indoor 'Faucet Aerator & Low-flow Showerhead Retrofit' install program. The indoor retrofit program had a tremendous response from customers. Additionally, the cost-benefit is among the lowest within the conservation program at 0.94 per thousand gallons saved.

Having measured the program success, I am requesting to once again replace the outdoor retrofit program with the indoor initiative. Attached is the revised 'Exhibit A', which incorporates the proposed program changes. There will be no change to the total budget.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Debra R. Burden  
Water Conservation Manager  
Citrus County Department of Water Resources

Enclosures: Revised Exhibit "A" Scope of Work

Cc: Ken Cheek, Director, Department of Water Resources

## Exhibit A 2015

The following programs were created to increase water conservation awareness and reduce water consumption:

PROJECT	BUDGET	WRWSA REIMBURSEMENT	Tasks
Annual Water Smart Rebate Incentive Program	\$45,500	\$22,750	Offer rebates to customers for installing water efficient products and irrigation systems upon replacement. *
Irrigation System Check-up Rebates & Evaluations	\$10,000	\$5,000	<del>Provide irrigation system check-ups to residential and commercial customers with automatic irrigation systems. Check-ups are conducted by Water Conservation Specialists and the FYN Coordinator at no cost to Citrus County Utilities' customers. A variety of water saving irrigation retrofits are available to qualifying customers. Irrigation evaluations may be offered through a coordinated effort by WRWSA.</del>
Faucet Aerator & Low-flow Showerhead Retrofit Program	\$15,000	\$7,500	<u>Install kitchen and bathroom faucet aerators and low-flow showerheads to reduce indoor water consumption.</u>
Water Conservation Education & Programming	<del>\$25,000</del> \$20,000	<del>\$12,500</del> \$10,000	Bill inserts, advertisements, youth conservation education, promotional items and water conservation workshops. Continue the indoor retrofit program for both residential and commercial sites.
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$80,500</b>	<b>\$40,250</b>	

Programming will begin October 2014. Citrus County intends to expend all grant funding by September 30, 2015.

\*Cooperative Funding Initiative applications are under review by the SWFWMD for the toilet and rain sensor rebate program, as well as the WRWSA coordinated Irrigation Evaluation Program. The amount of funding requested of the WRWSA grant program will not be affected by the outcome of these applications.



**Item. 8.c.**  
**Correspondence**



Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Chris Zajac <Chris.Zajac@swfwmd.state.fl.us>  
Date: September 17, 2014 at 9:13:31 AM EDT  
Cc: Terry Hansen <Terry.Hansen@dep.state.fl.us>  
Subject: Chassahowitzka and Homosassa TMDL meetings

FYI.

TMDL public workshops for Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Springs will be held on September 30, 2014.

- Homosassa-Trotter-Pumphouse Springs Group, Bluebird Springs and Hidden River Springs; September 30, 2014, at 10:00 a.m. EDT
- Chassahowitzka-Crab Creek Springs Group, Chassahowitzka River-Baird Creek, Baird Springs, Ruth Spring and Beteeyay Springs; September 30, 2014, at 1:30 p.m. EDT

**BOTH MEETINGS WILL BE HELD AT:**

Ellie Schiller Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park; Park Visitor Center – Florida Room; 4150 South Suncoast Blvd, Homosassa FL

A copy of the agenda may be obtained by contacting: Ms. Linda Quinn-Godwin, Ground Water Management Section, MS 3575, Department of Environmental Protection, 2600 Blair Stone Road, Tallahassee, FL 32399-2400 or by calling: 850/245-8449 or electronically: richard.w.hicks@dep.state.fl.us

Chris Zajac  
Government Affairs Program Manager  
Northern Planning Region  
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2379 Broad Street  
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(352) 796-7211 ext. 4413  
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chris.zajac@swfwmd.state.fl.us

**Item. 8.d.**  
**News Articles**

<http://www.tampabay.com/blogs/the-buzz-florida-politics/>

## **Adam Putnam says Florida should focus on energy, water use**

*Joshua Gillin, PolitiFact Florida/Times Staff Writer*  
*Friday, September 26, 2014 4:13pm*

Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam is hoping a second term will allow him to look ahead to new challenges, including building strategies for energy and water use.

The Bartow native told the *Tampa Bay Times* editorial board Friday those were just some of the issues the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services faces as he seeks re-election. He named other worries ranging from citrus greening to giant African land snails.

"A consequence of a smaller world and increased trade and increased visitation is that Florida is ground zero for any number of things," he said, "whether it's pythons in the Everglades or a threat to citrus or things with goofy names like redbay ambrosia beetle that threaten ficus trees and avocado industries and all the fancy hedges in Palm Beach."

But energy and water, those are the big ones people recognize right away. Although Putnam is an advocate of nuclear power, he said he thought the fiasco over Duke Energy's failed nuclear power plants highlights how Florida needs sustainable energy goals. And if consumer sentiment in the Tampa Bay area is any indicator, the state's Public Service Commission, which works with utility companies to set rates, needs to be addressed, too.

"This particular service area has had more than its share of problems, and they need to be corrected," he said of Tampa Bay, which comprises the bulk of Duke Energy's Florida customers. "There are other service areas who are paying less than what the Duke service area are paying, and they're less inclined to show up at the PSC with pitchforks and torches."

He said he thought the money Duke Energy is still collecting for the damaged Crystal River plant, specifically, is a burden that "could be more fairly apportioned between ratepayers and shareholders."

The visit came the same day word spread that state Sen. Jack Latvala, R-Clearwater, and Rep. Kathleen Peters, R-South Pasadena, [announced plans to draft legislation](#) to tighten regulation of Florida's utilities. And it follows criticism by Sen. Wilton Simpson, R-Trilby, of a [PSC staff recommendation in support of Duke](#) over a potential \$54 million credit to customers.

There already are programs in place to help large vehicle fleets convert to liquid and compressed natural gas, and in the future the Legislature could consider incentives for electric vehicles. The state is becoming increasingly dependent on natural gas, he said, so resource diversity and reliability is paramount, as long as it's affordable.

Creative solutions are also necessary for water policy, which the Republican sees as a goal



Tallahassee may be able to tackle soon. He would like to see an "overarching regional framework" in which all parts of Florida help one another in times of need.

"We need to recognize that every corner of Florida now has some type of water conflict," he said. "It's not just Tampa Bay water wars anymore."

He said would like to see three water districts in close proximity to Orlando working together to formulate a plan to deal with projected growth. He wants the state to work with ranchers to develop a shallow water storage plan to help control water levels in Lake Okeechobee. He thinks policies should foster the use of reclaimed water instead of groundwater for industrial use.

Florida should have a state funding mechanism that would spread project costs across the counties -- just as Pinellas County pays in part for cleanups in Monroe County, the Keys should help fund restoring Apalachicola Bay.

Putnam further noted he opposes Amendment 1, which would dedicate 33 percent of a tax on documentation to the Land Acquisition Trust Fund, because he was "opposed to writing the state's budget into the state's Constitution."

He also opposes Amendment 2, the medical marijuana initiative, because there were no caps on THC potency or the number of dispensaries. Among other objections, he cited murky liability language.

"No one has ever prescribed smoking anything as a medicine," he said, also expressing fears about edible marijuana. "Florida does not need to legalize marijuana for any reason, in the Constitution."

Putnam shrugged off a question about his [controversial hunting trips](#) to King Ranch in Texas, where he and other top Florida Republican elected officials have visited since U.S. Sugar leased land there in 2011. Putnam [previously told the Times](#) he has been on two deer hunts and one turkey shoot at King Ranch, but his last visit was 2012.

"I was invited to participate in a Republican fundraiser," he said, saying other politicians often come to this state for similar events. "Raising money around Florida and raising money outside of Florida is an unfortunate part of running in a state this expensive."

*[Last modified: Friday, September 26, 2014 4:18pm]*

**Subject:** Fwd: NEWS RELEASE: District Approves Millage and Budget  
**From:** Diane Salz <[disalz@yahoo.com](mailto:disalz@yahoo.com)>  
**Date:** Wed, Oct 01, 2014 9:12 am  
**To:** Richard Owen <[richardowen@wrwsa.org](mailto:richardowen@wrwsa.org)>  
**Cc:** Nancy Smith <[nsmith@wrwsa.org](mailto:nsmith@wrwsa.org)>

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Chris Zajac <[Chris.Zajac@swfwmd.state.fl.us](mailto:Chris.Zajac@swfwmd.state.fl.us)>  
**Date:** October 1, 2014 at 7:16:31 AM EDT  
**Subject:** NEWS RELEASE: District Approves Millage and Budget

September 30, 2014

## District Approves Millage and Budget

On Tuesday, the Governing Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District adopted a FY2014-15 millage rate of 0.3658 mill, four percent lower than the current fiscal year. For the owner of a \$150,000 home with a \$50,000 homestead exemption, the District tax would be \$36.58 a year, or about \$3.05 per month. The fiscal year runs from Oct. 1, 2014, through Sept. 30, 2015. The total FY2014-15 budget for the District is \$166.3 million.

The budget is designed to protect Florida's water resources and to improve Florida's economic vitality. All programs and projects are dedicated to the mission of the District and designed to provide the highest quality service to residents within the District.

The District will also leverage \$75 million of its funds through cooperative partnerships with public and private partners. The funds are matched by our partners resulting in approximately \$150 million available for alternative water supply development and other water resource management projects.

Additionally, a total of \$12 million is budgeted for springs initiatives, of which \$5.7 million is designed to enhance and improve submerged aquatic vegetation and wetland habitat. Another \$6.4 million in state funding is designated for water supply activities to reduce groundwater withdrawals and improve water quality.

Other key budget highlights include \$22 million for reclaimed water projects which reduce reliance on groundwater sources; \$12 million for the restoration of impacted lands to improve water quality and re-establish wetland and upland natural systems; and \$11 million for stormwater improvement projects to improve water quality of SWIM priority water bodies.

Chris Zajac  
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**Subject:** Fwd: NEWS RELEASE: District to Hold Public Workshop on Priority List and Schedule for the Establishment of Minimum Flows and Levels  
**From:** Diane Salz <[disalz@yahoo.com](mailto:disalz@yahoo.com)>  
**Date:** Thu, Sep 25, 2014 4:32 pm  
**To:** Richard Owen <[richardowen@wrwsa.org](mailto:richardowen@wrwsa.org)>  
**Cc:** Nancy Smith <[nsmith@wrwsa.org](mailto:nsmith@wrwsa.org)>

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Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Chris Zajac <[Chris.Zajac@swfwmd.state.fl.us](mailto:Chris.Zajac@swfwmd.state.fl.us)>  
**Date:** September 25, 2014 at 3:16:16 PM EDT  
**Subject:** NEWS RELEASE: District to Hold Public Workshop on Priority List and Schedule for the Establishment of Minimum Flows and Levels

September 25, 2014

## District to Hold Public Workshop on Priority List and Schedule for the Establishment of Minimum Flows and Levels

The Southwest Florida Water Management District (District) is soliciting stakeholder input on the annual update of the Priority List and Schedule for the Establishment of Minimum Flows and Levels. A workshop will be held at the District's Tampa Service Office, 7601 Highway 301 North on Wednesday, Oct. 1 from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Minimum flows and levels are limits set by the District Governing Board for surface waters and groundwater that are intended to prevent significant harm to the water resources or ecology of an area that may be caused by water withdrawals. Reservations set aside water from withdrawals for the protection of fish and wildlife or public health and safety. The Priority List identifies water bodies for which the District plans to establish minimum flows and levels and reservations.

Written comments on the draft Priority List and Schedule are welcome and may be submitted to Doug Leeper, Chief Advisory Environmental Scientist with the District's Water Resources Bureau via email at [doug.leeper@watermatters.org](mailto:doug.leeper@watermatters.org) or by U.S. Mail at 2379 Broad Street, Brooksville, Florida, 34604-6899 no later than October 15, 2014.

The current Priority List and Schedule is posted on the District's Minimum Flows and Levels (Environmental Flows) Documents and Reports web page at: [www.watermatters.org](http://www.watermatters.org). The draft FY2015 Priority List and Schedule will be made available at the same web page on September 19, 2014.

This workshop can also be accessed remotely via conference call and on-line through Cisco WebEx Meetings. For instructions, please visit [www.watermatters.org/calendar](http://www.watermatters.org/calendar) and click on the meeting agenda.

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September 18, 2014

It is always a pleasure to share my views and experiences in working to save our waters.

In keeping with this year's Save Our Waters Week theme of "Florida Springs: A Treasure in Jeopardy," the opportunity to update our community about an important local springs water quality initiative — the Springs Coast Steering Committee — is very much appreciated.

The Southwest Florida Water Management District has designated the first-magnitude Rainbow, Crystal River/King's Bay, Homosassa and Weeki Wachee springs groups as a top priority.

These springs groups, located in an area known as the Springs Coast, collectively discharge more than a billion gallons per day. Because of the uniqueness and complexity of each spring within the system, the water management district invited local, regional and state agencies to form the Springs Coast Steering Committee (SCSC).

The steering committee is composed of the following members: the city of Crystal River, Citrus County, Hernando County, Marion County, the Florida Department of Environmental protection (FDEP), Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC) and the water management district. The goal of the SCSC is to develop management plans tailored for each springs system to identify issues, solutions, cost and responsibilities. I was unanimously chosen by the Board of County Commissioners to represent Citrus County.

A technical working group conducts informal discussions and provides all options to the management group outside of the Sunshine Law. The management committee conducts its discussions at meetings in the sunshine, providing recommendations to the steering committee, which also operates in the Sunshine.

During our first meeting on July 30, 2014, at the water management district headquarters in Brooksville, I presented two projects for study and future funding:

- \* The treatment of storm water in existing water courses before it reaches the Three Sisters Spring remediation project and the Hunters Spring Water Quality Improvement Project for the area around Hunter Springs Bay, funded by the water management district and Citrus County.

- \* An application for the water management district's "Living Shorelines" project around Hunters Spring bay.

Under action item No. 7: Development of Management Plans Schedule, I motioned to have the Crystal River/King's Bay spring group, along with Rainbow Spring, receive future priority project funding by the water management district. The motion was seconded by Marion County Commissioner Stan McClain and unanimously approved. This presentation can be viewed on the BOCC website under "Commissioner Dennis Damato."

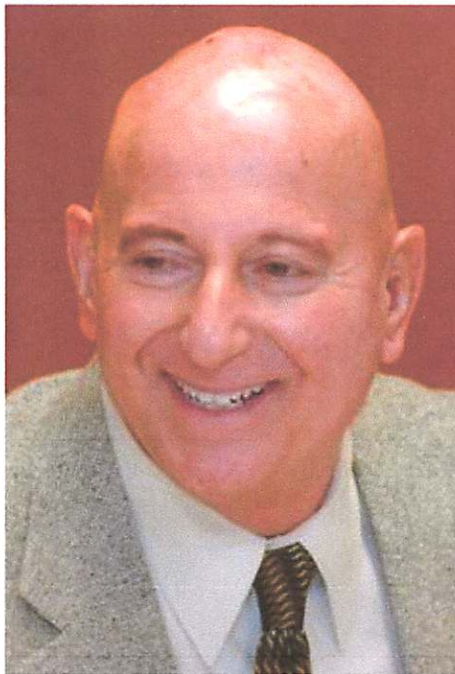
Spring initiatives are very important to our local water management district. They are endeavoring to identify, develop management plans and provide future funding for projects aligned with their 2013-17 Springs Management Plan.

Please keep in mind, springs protection and water quality issues are an extremely important priority which state lawmakers have promised to address during the 2015 and 2016 legislative sessions.

I am currently researching and compiling information for three new water quality projects that will be presented to the SCSC at its next meeting in early November.

We all must be vigilant in educating ourselves about water quality and the value of local springs to our community — that is why the water management district has aptly named this area the “Springs Coast.” I strongly urge your support of the Springs Coast Steering Committee and my proposed model for the clean-up and restoration of our local waterways starting with the Crystal River/King's Bay spring group.

In closing, I would like to thank the Chronicle and the Save Our Waters Week Committee for affording me the opportunity to provide an update on the important work of the SCSC and my efforts on behalf of the Crystal River/Kings Bay Springs Group as the Citrus County Board of County Commissioners' representative to the SCSC.



Dennis Damato is a 43-year resident of Crystal River and represents District 1 on the Citrus County Commission

## State projects planned in attempt to help Silver Springs

By Fred Hiers

Staff writer

Published: Thursday, September 18, 2014 at 6:20 p.m.

Last Modified: Thursday, September 18, 2014 at 6:20 p.m.

Florida government scientists on Thursday laid out the first steps of their strategies that they hope will reduce polluting nitrogen in Silver Springs in order to meet new water quality standards.

But as they take better stock of the sources of nitrogen — such as a before-uncounted 7,141 septic tanks near the springs — Florida Department of Environmental Protection scientists say they cannot guarantee how much cleaner the springs will get when nitrogen loading is reduced on the 588,417-acre area that recharges the springs.

The state-mandated goal is to reduce all of Florida springs' nitrogen concentrations to 0.35 milligrams per liter (mg/l) of spring water, a 79 percent reduction from Silver Springs' current concentration of 1.69 mg/l.

The FDEP has registered nearly 80 projects, overseen by a variety of government agencies, that scientists hope will help reduce Silver Springs polluting nitrogen.

But FDEP scientist Mary Paulic told the Star-Banner there was an "unclear linkage" and "uncertainty between land application (of nitrogen) and the concentration in the springs." She drew the conclusion immediately after a meeting in Marion County to discuss the Silver Springs Basin Management Action Plan.

In addition, Paulic said there is no clear-cut answer as to how much each project will reduce nitrogen concentrations in the springs.

But despite the uncertainty, Paulic said scientists know that reducing the amount of nitrogen that's loaded onto the springs recharge area will reduce the amount of nitrogen in the springs.

The basin management action plan is the blueprint by which Marion County and FDEP determine which activities, such as nitrogen generation, affect the springs, and it spells out how such activities can be curtailed. There are basin management action plans (BMAPs) for a number of water basins throughout Florida.

The nitrogen comes from a variety of sources, such as septic tanks, cattle and horse ranches, farms and residential fertilizer.

The FDEP has already designated Silver Springs as impaired, with a nitrate level that is more than three times beyond the acceptable range.

Nitrogen contributes to unwanted, high concentrations of algae and water grasses in the springs and creates a chemical imbalance in the spring affecting fish and wildlife that depend on the water body.

Here's a look at some key nitrogen numbers:

FDEP estimates that 12 million pounds of nitrogen is placed on land surfaces making up the BMAP area.

About 7.6 million pounds of that comes from commercial agriculture: cattle, horse and crop farms.

Paulic said that if all of the BMAP area farms and ranches follow state laid-out best management practices, the amount of nitrogen applied to the land would be reduced by 30 percent, or 2.3 million pounds.

Florida requires farms and ranches in the basin area to follow best management practices, but there is no penalty if they do not.

Paulic reported during the meeting that 18.2 percent of the agricultural land in the BMAP area already reports following best management practices. More farms and ranches may already be following those practices, but the FDEP may not be aware of it.

In addition, following draft basin management recommendations would also reduce nitrogen from wastewater treatment plants, septic tanks, drain fields and urban fertilizer and runoff another nearly another 300,000 pounds.

About 1.6 million pounds of nitrogen annually makes its way into the area groundwater.

But Paulic and Shane Williams, a Marion County stormwater project manager who helped organize the meeting and some of the nitrogen data, warned that the nitrogen reduction estimates are still preliminary and could likely change.

But some of the 40 people in attendance said they wanted a clearer tie from DEP showing how the projects and best management practices would reduce nitrogen polluting Silver Springs.

"How on earth is this getting us to (a) 79 percent (nitrogen reduction in Silver Springs)?" asked Lisa Saupp, a Silver Springs Alliance board member.

If many farmers and ranchers are already following best management practices and "if there's no enforcement ... beyond that point, we're just continuing to build the problem," Saupp said.

"We need to show actual (nitrogen reduction) outcome," she said, not lists of projects.

Paulic replied that best management practices were complicated and their effect not immediately known. In addition, the basin management plan report calls for FDEP to come back in five years and review nitrogen concentrations and measure how well projects are helping to reduce those levels.

"That's for the five-year reviews to figure out," she told the audience, made up mostly of local and state officials and environmentalists. "That's the best answer I can give you right now."

Whitey Markle, Suwannee/St. Johns Sierra Club conservation chairman, said five years was too long to wait.

"What I see is a slow moving machine not keeping up with (the rising level of nitrogen)," he said during the meeting. "Step it up."

Bill Dunn is an environmental consultant, often for the St. Johns River Water Management District. He attended the meeting Thursday and told the crowd that the effort to quantify the nitrogen loading into the spring is still new. The projects to clean the spring are moving the community in the right direction.

"We're not going to get it all right," he said during the meeting. "We want to get it mostly right."

*Contact Fred Hiers at [fred.hiers@starbanner.com](mailto:fred.hiers@starbanner.com) and 867-4157.*



**Subject:** Fwd: District adopts final FY 2014-2015 budget  
**From:** Diane Salz <[disalz@yahoo.com](mailto:disalz@yahoo.com)>  
**Date:** Tue, Sep 23, 2014 6:21 pm  
**To:** Richard Owen <[richardowen@wrwsa.org](mailto:richardowen@wrwsa.org)>  
**Cc:** Nancy Smith <[nsmith@wrwsa.org](mailto:nsmith@wrwsa.org)>

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**From:** Water News <[waternews@sjrwmd.com](mailto:waternews@sjrwmd.com)>  
**Date:** September 23, 2014 at 5:53:20 PM EDT  
**To:** [disalz@yahoo.com](mailto:disalz@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** District adopts final FY 2014-2015 budget  
**Reply-To:** [waternews@sjrwmd.com](mailto:waternews@sjrwmd.com)

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## St. Johns River Water Management District

# Water News

News, meetings  
and notices

September 23, 2014

## District adopts final FY 2014-2015 budget

The St. Johns River Water Management District's Governing Board gave final approval on Sept. 23 to a fiscal year 2014-2015 budget that reduces the millage rate for taxpayers and funds projects to protect the region's springs and improve water quality in the Indian River Lagoon and St. Johns River.

The Board approved a 0.3164 millage rate that will generate \$81.8 million in tax revenue toward a total \$145.5 million budget for the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1, 2014. The new millage rate is approximately 3.6 percent less than the current year's tax rate. The budget is also funded through state, federal and other sources, including timber sales, cattle leases, interest earnings and permit fees.

Under a 0.3164 millage rate - 31.64 cents for every \$1,000 of assessed property value - the owner of a \$200,000 house with a \$50,000 homestead exemption will pay \$47.46 in the coming year in property taxes to the District.

"This balanced budget includes more than \$41 million for strategic priorities that reflect our continued commitment to water resource and water supply development, natural systems

### Connect with us



### Upcoming meetings

For a listing of upcoming meeting dates, times and locations, visit:

- [Governing Board meetings and agendas](#)
- [Other District meetings and notices](#)

### Lobbyist registration requirements

### Contacts

District staff contacts for:



protection and restoration, surface water restoration and regional flood protection," said Governing Board Chairman John A. Miklos of Orlando.

Major projects in the budget focus on District initiatives supporting minimum flows and levels prevention and recovery strategies, springs protection, and water quality protection in the Indian River Lagoon, Northern Coastal Basins and the middle and lower St. Johns River basins. The final budget includes \$33.6 million in cooperative cost-share funding for construction of projects that will help to reduce nutrient loading in springsheds and other water bodies, develop traditional and alternative water supplies, and conserve water.

Funds also will pay for reclaimed water and stormwater projects, water conservation, muck removal and restoration activities. Other projects included in the final budget:

- Completion of the Fellsmere Water Management Area and the final phase of the Canal 1 Rediversion Project in Brevard and Indian River counties, which are among the final components of the Upper St. Johns River Basin Project
- Construction of the 1,300-acre C-10 Reservoir in Brevard County, which will provide additional water storage and treatment and nutrient reduction benefits
- Construction of Lower Floridan aquifer wells, which will help to expand data collection to support priority District initiatives

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## About us

The St. Johns River Water Management District is a regional agency of the state of Florida whose mission is to protect and ensure the sustainable use of water resources. The District is responsible for managing groundwater and surface water resources in all or part of 18 counties in northeast and east-central Florida.

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