



**WITHLACOOCHEE
REGIONAL
WATER
SUPPLY
AUTHORITY**

Board Meeting Package

October 17, 2012
4:30 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 4, 2012

Subject: Monthly Meeting of the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority

The next meeting of the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority will be on **Wednesday, October 17, 2012, 4:30 p.m., at the Lecanto Government Center Building, Room 166, 3600 Sovereign Path, Lecanto, FL 34461.**

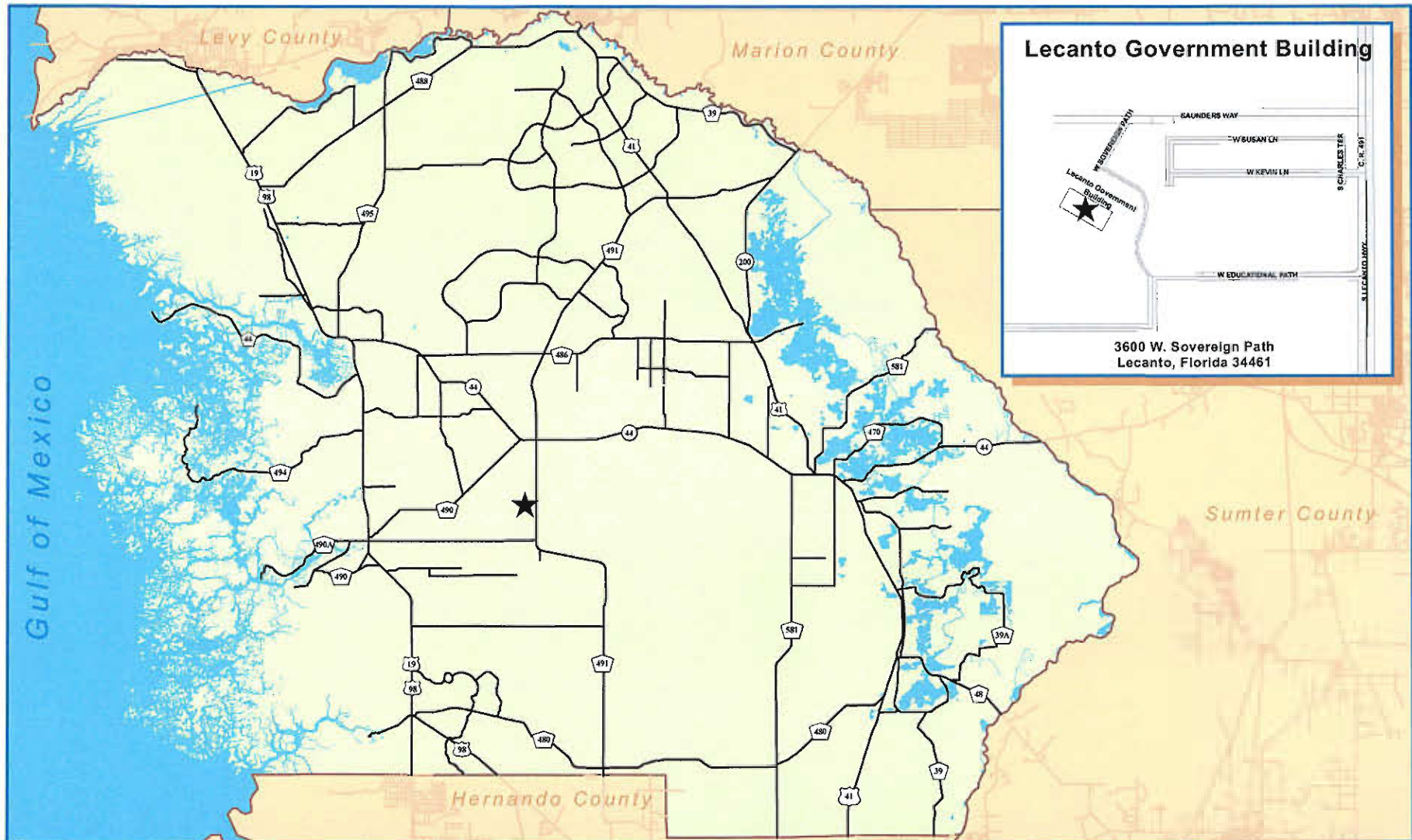
Enclosed for your review are the following items:

- Agenda
- Minutes of the September 19, 2012 meeting
- Board Package*

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

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

Enclosures



3 1.5 0 3 6 Miles



Lecanto Government Building Locator Map

Office of Geographic Information Systems

Prepared By : R.W. Voak

Date: January 4, 2012

Source: Enterprise Geodatabase

Map Number: BV000029

This information is to be used for general purposes only. The Citrus County Office of GIS makes every effort to provide content that is accurate and up-to-date as of the date it is printed. However, all information presented must be independently verified by the user.

Citrus County shall not be liable for any errors, omissions, or losses of any kind in connection with the use of this information, including but not limited to damages or losses caused by reliance upon the accuracy or timeliness of the information and the resulting, directly or indirectly, in damages or losses.



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.



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

**3600 W. SOVEREIGN PATH, ROOM 166
LECANTO, FLORIDA 34461
October 17, 2012 @ 4:30 p.m.**

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

- | | | |
|-------------|------------|--|
| Item | #1 | Call to Order |
| Item | #2 | Roll Call |
| Item | #3 | Introductions and Announcements |
| Item | #4 | Approval of Minutes of September 19, 2012 |
| Item | #5 | City of Ocala's Withdrawal from Authority—Potential Rule Revisions, Budget Revisions and Board Changes . . . Richard Owen, WRWSA |
| Item | #6 | Marion County/SJRWMD/SFWMD Joint Funding of Groundwater Model Expansion – WRWSA Participation . . . Richard Owen, WRWSA |
| Item | #7 | Consumptive Use Permitting Application Noticing Criteria . . . Richard Owen, WRWSA |
| Item | #8 | Letter of Engagement for Jackson E. Sullivan for As-Needed Management Assistance . . . Richard Owen, WRWSA |
| Item | #9 | Executive Director's Report . . . Richard Owen, WRWSA <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Bills to be Paid [To be provided in handout]b. 2013 Calendar of Authority Board Meetingsc. Correspondenced. News Articlese. Other |
| Item | #10 | Legislative Update . . . Diane Salz, Governmental Affairs Consultant |
| Item | #11 | Attorney's Report . . . Larry Haag, WRWSA Attorney |
| Item | #12 | Other Business |
| Item | #13 | Public Comment |
| Item | #14 | Next Meeting Time and Location . . . November 28, 2012, 4:30 p.m., Lecanto Government Building, Room 166, 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Lecanto, Florida 34461 |
| Item | #15 | Adjournment |

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

Item 4. Minutes
September 19, 2012

**WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
September 19, 2012**

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

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

1. Call to Order

Chairman Dennis Damato called the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority meeting to order at 4:37 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, Hernando County Commission
Dennis Damato, Chairman, Citrus County Commission
Gary Ernst, Belleview City Council
Richard Hoffman, Sumter County Commission
Joe Johnston, Brooksville City Council
Stan McClain, Marion County Commission
Maureen McNiff, Crystal River City Council
Dale Swain, Bushnell City Council
Winn Webb, Citrus County Commission

MEMBERS ABSENT

Rebecca Bays, Citrus County Commission
John Druzbeck, Vice Chairman, Hernando County Commission
Wayne Dukes, Hernando County Commission
Randy Mask, Sumter County Commission
John McLeod, Ocala City Council
Jay Musleh, Ocala City Council
David Russell, Hernando County Commission
Charlie Stone, Marion County Commission
Carl Zalak, Treasurer, Marion County Commission

3. Introductions and Announcements

Mr. Richard Owen introduced consulting staff present at the meeting.

Mr. Owen announced that there is a reception for Jack Sullivan, former executive director of the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority, in the lobby following the Board meeting. Everyone is invited to attend.

OTHERS PRESENT

Pete Hubbell, Water Resource Associates, Inc.
Larry Haag, WRWSA Attorney
Diane Salz, Governmental Affairs Consultant
Nancy Smith, Administrative Assistant
Jack Sullivan, WRWSA Consultant

Barbara Sullivan, Citizen
Brett Cunningham, Jones Edmunds
David Hornsby, SJRWMD
Alys Brockway, Hernando County Utilities
John Ferguson, SWFWMD
Jack Overdorff, Eco Land Design
Kim Dinkins, Marion County Water Resources Coordinator
Al Grubman, TOOFAR
Debra Burden, Citrus County Water Conservation
Len Sossamon, Hernando County Administrator
Chris Zajac, SWFWMD
Jimmy Brooks, Farm Bureau
Mark White, Purvis Gray & Company

4. Approval of Minutes of July 18, 2012 Meeting

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

Following consideration, a motion was made by Ms. McNiff to approve the minutes for the July 18, 2012 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Adkins and carried unanimously.

5. Amendment to the Residential Irrigation Audit Pilot Program (N278) . . . Nancy Smith, Program Administrator

Ms. Smith presented a request to amend the Cooperative Funding Agreement with the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) for the irrigation system evaluation program. The request is to reduce the number of follow-up evaluations from 100 percent to up to 50 percent, to extend the ending date for the follow-up evaluations to December 1, 2013, to extend the deadline for completion of the on-site evaluations until December 1, 2012, to amend the deadline for the final report to January 31, 2014, and to reduce the overall budget.

Following consideration, a motion was made by Mr. McClain to request an amendment to the Cooperative Funding Agreement with SWFWMD for the residential irrigation audit program, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Swain and carried unanimously.

6. SWFWMD 2013/14 Cooperative Funding Program – Approval of Applications . . . Richard Owen, WRWSA

Mr. Owen presented two proposed applications for the 2013-2014 Cooperative Funding Initiative funding cycle. The Cooperative Funding Initiative is a 50/50 matching fund program with submittals due by October 5, 2012.

The recommended applications are a Sub-regional Planning for Beneficial Reclaimed Water Project and an Irrigation Audit Project that is a continuation of the FY 2010-11 and FY 2012-13 projects. During a meeting with staff members of the Authority's member governments, concern was expressed that the Sub-Regional Planning for Beneficial Reclaimed Water may be duplicative of activities already undertaken by some of the members. Therefore, Mr. Owen recommended that both applications be submitted and that staff continue to work with member governments and the SWFWMD to address these concerns. If the member governments do not believe that there is value in proceeding, the Sub-Regional Planning application will be withdrawn.

Mr. Owen requested that the priority order given to the projects be revised. Since the Sub-Regional Planning project may be changed or withdrawn, he recommended that the Irrigation Audit project be ranked as the first priority and the Sub-Regional Planning project be ranked as the second priority.

Following consideration, a motion was made by Mr. Johnston to approve submittal of the two applications and to rank the Irrigation Audit project as the first priority and the Sub-Regional Planning for Beneficial Reclaimed Water project as the second priority. The motion was seconded by Ms. McNiff and carried unanimously.

7. Board Resolution Recognizing Jackson E. Sullivan's Service to the WRWSA as Executive Director

Chairman Damato read Resolution No. 2012-2 into the record, recognizing Jackson Sullivan's service to the WRWSA as executive director from 1983-2012. The resolution expressed appreciation for Mr. Sullivan's commitment and leadership to the Authority.

Following consideration, a motion was made by Mr. Adkins to approve Resolution No. 2012-2. The motion was seconded by Mr. Webb and carried unanimously.

8. Executive Director's Report ... Richard Owen, WRWSA

a. Bills to be Paid

Bills paid for the month of August 2012 were provided in the Board's packet. A handout to the Board detailed the bills for September 2012. Mr. Owen requested that the Board ratify payment of the August bills in the amount of \$46,103.57 and approve the September bills in the amount of \$40,682.49.

Following consideration, a motion was made by Mr. Webb to approve payment of the August and September 2012 bills totaling \$46,103.57 and \$40,682.49, respectively. The motion was seconded by Mr. McClain and carried unanimously.

b. 3rd Quarter Financial Report

Mr. Owen presented the 3rd Quarter Financial Report as prepared by Purvis Gray and Company. It was noted that the City of Ocala has paid its assessment for the third and fourth quarters of the current fiscal year since the 3rd quarter ended on June 30, 2012.

Following consideration, a motion was made by Mr. Hoffman to approve the 3rd Quarter Financial Report. The motion was seconded by Ms. McNiff and carried unanimously.

c. Adena Springs Ranch CUP Application Update

Mr. Owen updated the Board on the status of the Adena Springs Ranch CUP. The applicant has indicated that their application will be amended to reduce the volume of water requested to 5 mgd and to reduce the total number of pivots. The applicant has requested a time extension to November 24, 2012 to complete the request for additional information.

WRWSA Chairman Damato and Mr. Owen met with Adena Springs Ranch representatives Matt Baker and Ed de la Parte, at their request. This was an informational meeting to discuss the Adena Springs Ranch water use permit submittal. Mr. Baker and Mr. De la Parte asked that a PowerPoint presentation be made available to the members of the Authority in either electronic or hard copy.

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

d. Correspondence

Mr. Owen reviewed the correspondence provided in the Board's meeting packet. This item was provided for information only. No action was required.

e. Other

Mr. Owen reviewed three additional topics with the Board.

i. SWFWMD has announced changes to the MFLs for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers. While the changes to the minimum flows and levels are slightly more restrictive to future water use, the SWFWMD model shows that there would be no restraint on water supply development plans as identified in the WRWSA Master Plan. A public meeting on the MFLs will be held on October 2, 2012, at 5:30 p.m. in the Lecanto Government Building at 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Lecanto.

ii. The WRWSA Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for As Needed Technical Services was issued on September 7, 2012 with responses due on October 5, 2012 at 2 p.m. Inquiries from 23 firms that may submit qualifications have been received. Mr. Owen will make a recommendation for contracting with 3-5 firms at the November Board meeting. Actual agreements for work would be issued subsequently for specific needs.

iii. The WRWSA received matching funds to update the Master Water Supply Plan during the 2013 Cooperative Funding Initiative funding cycle. This project is included in the WRWSA 2012/13 Budget. Mr. Owen met with SWFWMD staff to discuss the pending update. He advised the Board that he wants to set up a process to involve the member governments in refining the Scope of Services. A separate RFP or RFQ will be issued for this project.

These items were provided for information only. No action was required.

9. Legislative Update ... Diane Salz, Governmental Affairs Consultant

Ms. Salz reviewed a series of on-going activities related to water supply planning and preliminary legislation that are occurring throughout the state. Some of the most pertinent to the WRWSA are efforts to provide collaborative water supply planning, consistency in defining MFLs, and in issuing consumptive use, or water use, permits. The Department of Environmental Protection is holding public workshops around the state on consistency issues for consumptive use permits in order to have a rule available prior to the 2013 legislative session.

The Board discussed concerns of possible duplication of efforts, statewide consistency, and regionally significant hydrogeological differences.

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

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

a. Member Government Grant Contracts

Mr. Haag presented the grant contracts for Citrus, Hernando, and Marion counties. Each county submitted an application for funding assistance under the Local Government Grant program for water conservation programs. The WRWSA voted at the July 18, 2012 meeting to provide matching funds for the grants as follows: Citrus County, \$48,300; Hernando County, \$46,800; and Marion County, \$34,900. Mr. Haag requested a motion to authorize entry into each Agreement and to authorize the Chairman of the Authority to sign each Agreement.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. Adkins to authorize funding each Contract and to authorize the Chairman of the Authority to sign. The motion was seconded by Mr. Johnston and carried unanimously.**

b. Nancy H. Smith, Inc., Administrative Assistant Services Contract

Mr. Haag presented the contract with Nancy H. Smith, Inc. to continue administrative assistant services for the WRWSA for the 2012-2013 fiscal year in the amount of \$37,500. This contract provides for automatic year-to-year renewal, termination clause, and additional responsibilities for the FY2013 Irrigation Audit Program. Mr. Johnston recommended that the name Nancy Smith on page 4 of 5 be revised to Nancy H. Smith, Inc. consistent with her corporate capacity.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. McClain to enter into the Agreement and to authorize the Chairman of the Authority to sign the contract with the noted revision. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ernst and carried unanimously.**

11. Other Business

Mr. Owen presented a letter from Jeff Halcomb, Director of the City of Ocala Utilities, which was received on Tuesday, September 18, 2012. Each Board member was provided a copy of the letter, which states that the City of Ocala respectfully withdraws from active membership on the WRWSA. Mr. Owen and the Board discussed the WRWSA Rule concerning membership and per capita assessments. If an amendment to the WRWSA Rule is required, Mr. Owen recommended that the board repeal their Rules and adopt a Statement of Agency Organization and Operations. He will bring information back to the Board.

Mr. Haag recommended that Mr. Owen send a letter to the Ocala City Council to clarify whether or not there has been a vote of Council to withdraw from the Water Supply Authority. This is an administrative item. No action by the Board is required.

Ms. McNiff requested that the WRWSA request notification from the St. Johns and Southwest Florida Water Management Districts as to pending water use permits of a certain size. Mr. Owen suggested that he bring criteria for notification requests to the Board for water use permits within the WRWSA area.

12. Public Comment

Mr. Al Grubman, TOOFAR, expressed concerns about the water use permit recently issued within the City of Crystal River without prior notice to the City, which has home rule authority.

Mr. Adkins introduced Leonard Sossamon, Hernando County Administrator, to the Board.

13. Next Meeting Time and Location

The next meeting is scheduled for October 17, 2012 at 4:30 p.m., at the Lecanto Government Building, Room 166, 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Lecanto, Florida 34461.

Mr. Owen requested that the Board consider amending the meeting schedule in November and December to avoid the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. He recommended that the Board consider meeting on November 28, 2012 and cancel the meetings scheduled for November 21 and December 19, 2012.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. Swain to approve moving the November Board meeting to November 28, 2012 and canceling the December 19, 2012 meeting. Mr. McClain seconded the motion. The motion was amended by Mr. Swain to allow the bills to be paid as usual in absence of a Board meeting. The amendment was seconded by Mr. McClain and carried unanimously.**

14. Adjournment

Chairman Damato announced there was no further business or discussion to come before the WRWSA and adjourned the meeting at 5:59 p.m.

Dennis Damato, Chairman

Richard S. Owen, Executive Director

Item 5.
City of Ocala

Item 5. City of Ocala's Withdrawal from Authority—Potential Rule Revisions, Budget Revisions and Board Changes . . . Richard Owen, WRWSA

At the September Board meeting there was discussion regarding the City of Ocala's withdrawal from the Authority. At the meeting it was unclear whether the City Council had formally voted to withdraw from the Authority. Staff will report on discussions with City representatives regarding the City's actions.

Potential Rule Revisions

The Authority currently has administrative rules that are found in Chapter 40C-1, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.). These rules were originally adopted in 1978 and were amended most recently in 1993. As was discussed at the last meeting, these rules were adopted pursuant to a statutory requirement that agencies' adopt rules that describe its organization and operating procedures. Chapter 120, Florida Statutes (F.S.), was subsequently revised in 1996 and the rulemaking requirement was deleted. Rather, agencies are now required to adopt a written statement of organization pursuant to section 120.53(4), F.S. The Authority did not go through rulemaking to repeal its rules at the time of the statutory revision.

With the advent of Ocala withdrawing from the Authority, it may now be appropriate for the Authority to repeal its rules and replace the rules with a Statement of Agency Organization and Operation. However, it will take staff some time to prepare the Statement and this may be an opportunity to update certain provisions, including Board membership and representation, meeting schedules and locations, and other provisions. With the Board's concurrence, staff will bring back to a future Board meeting a comprehensive list of potential changes, options for these changes and will seek Board concurrence and action at that time. It is anticipated this would be an agenda item in the January – March 2013 timeframe. No action is required at this time.

Budget Amendment

Marion County did adjust its final budget as approved by the Board of County Commissioners on September 20th to include a per capita contribution to the Authority for the entire county population, including the City of Ocala's population. This increases Marion County's per capita contribution from an original amount of \$52,288 by \$10,744 to a new total of \$63,032 for Fiscal Year 2012-13.

Board Changes

Pursuant to the Authority's existing rules, with the City of Ocala withdrawing from the Authority, Marion County is now entitled to 5 voting members on the Authority Board. No action is required from the Board.

Staff Recommendation: It is recommended the Board approve an amended budget to reflect the City of Ocala no longer contributing a per capita contribution and Marion County's contribution for the entire county at an amount of \$63,032, as shown in the exhibit to this item.

WITHLACOCOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY				Proposed 1st Amendment		
Adopted 2012-13 FY Budget				10/17/12		
Date of Adoption - 6/20/12						
X = Increases	4/1/11		Original	Revised	Rev/Exp	% Inc/Dec
✓ = Decreases	Population	Comments on budget change	Annual	Annual	Inc./Decr.)	Rev/Exp
	BEER Est.		Amounts (\$)	Amounts (\$)	Orig v. 1st Amdmnt	Orig v. 1st Amdmnt
FYE 13						
(\$ 1B/cap)						
Revenues: Administrative						
Assessments:						
Citrus	140,956	per capita rate	\$28,782	\$28,782	\$0	0.0%
Hernando	173,078	per capita rate	\$32,885	\$32,885	\$0	0.0%
Sumter	96,615	per capita rate	\$18,357	\$18,357	\$0	0.0%
X Manon (Less-City of Ocala)	275,200	per capita rate	\$52,288	\$83,032	\$10,744	20.5%
✓ City of Ocala	56,545	per capita rate	\$10,744	\$0	(\$10,744)	-100.0%
Total Population/Assessments @						
19¢/Capita	742,394	See Attachment 2 for detail	\$141,055	\$141,055	\$0	0.0%
Carry-over Administration Reserve Funds (Est.)		See Attachment 1 for detail	\$397,105	\$397,105	\$0	0.0%
Overhead from Citrus Contract		Based on Citrus County contract	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$0	0.0%
Total Administrative Revenue Available			\$598,160	\$598,160	\$0	0.0%
Revenues: Water Supply Facility Development						
SWFWMD Matching Funds for 2010-12 Irrigation Audit Program		SWFWMD CFI Initiative	\$18,900	\$18,900	\$0	0.0%
SWFWMD Matching Funds for 2012-14 Irrigation Audit Program		SWFWMD CFI Initiative	\$21,030	\$21,030	\$0	0.0%
LG Match for 2012-14 Irrigation Audit Program		SWFWMD CFI Initiative	\$36,038	\$36,038	\$0	0.0%
Villages Matching Funds for 2010-12 Irrigation Audit Program		SWFWMD CFI Initiative	\$1,550	\$1,550	\$0	0.0%
Villages Matching Funds for 2012-14 Irrigation Audit Program		SWFWMD CFI Initiative	\$2,628	\$2,628	\$0	0.0%
SWFWMD Matching Funds for 2012 Master Plan Update		SWFWMD CFI Initiative	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$0	0.0%
(SBA2) Carryover WRDF Reserve Funds (Est.)		See Attachment 1 for detail	\$919,431	\$919,431	\$0	0.0%
(SBA2) Annual Citrus Amortization Pmts		See Attachment 2 for detail	\$163,587	\$163,587	\$0	0.0%
Total Water Supply Development Revenue Available			\$1,288,164	\$1,288,164	\$0	0.0%
Total Revenues Available			\$1,886,324	\$1,886,324	\$0	0.0%
Expenditures:						
General Administration						
Executive Director		Based on Annual contract	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$0	0.0%
Overlap fund for Continuing Executive/Administrative Resource			\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0	0.0%
Administrative Assistant		Based on Annual contract	\$37,500	\$37,500	\$0	0.0%
Legal Services		Based on Annual contract	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$0	0.0%
Monthly Meetings @ \$500/meeting	\$5,000	No change				
Other Services @ \$150/hr.	\$14,000	No change				
Legislative Consultant		Based on Annual contract	\$42,000	\$42,000	\$0	0.0%
Advertising		Based on current usage	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$0	0.0%
Audit		Based on CPI	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$0	0.0%
Bank Charges		Based on current usage	\$800	\$800	\$0	0.0%
Bookkeeping Services		Based on current usage	\$1,350	\$1,350	\$0	0.0%
Office Supplies		Based on current usage	\$3,600	\$3,600	\$0	0.0%
Postage		Based on current usage	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0	0.0%
Printing and Reproduction		Based on current usage	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0	0.0%
Publications/Software		Based on current usage	\$200	\$200	\$0	0.0%
Rent (Lecanto Gov't Bldg)		Based on Lease Agreement	\$2,048	\$2,048	\$0	0.0%
Registrations/Dues		Based on current usage	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0	0.0%
State Fees/Assessments		Based on current usage	\$175	\$175	\$0	0.0%
Telephone		Based on current usage	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$0	0.0%
Travel		Based on current usage	\$14,000	\$14,000	\$0	0.0%
Web Page Maintenance		Based on current usage	\$1,850	\$1,850	\$0	0.0%
Subtotal - General Administration Expenditures			\$225,823	\$225,823	\$0	0.0%
Fund Balance for Admin. Reserves			\$372,337	\$372,337	\$0	0.0%
TOTAL ADMIN. EXPENDITURES and FUND BALANCE			\$598,160	\$598,160		
Water Supply Studies and Facilities						
General Services Contract		RFQ's - Firms on Call	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$0	0.0%
Update of Regional Water Supply Plan		SWFWMD CFI Contract	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$0	0.0%
Local Government Water Supply Projects (12-13 FYE)		Based on action of BoD	\$130,000	\$130,000	\$0	0.0%
North Sumter Data Collection Program		Based on Contract w/ SWFWMD	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0	0.0%
FY 2010-12 Irrigation Audit Program Completion		SWFWMD CFI Contract	\$37,800	\$37,800	\$0	0.0%
FY 2012-14 Irrigation Audit Program		SWFWMD CFI Contract	\$42,060	\$42,060	\$0	0.0%
Purvis Gray Rate Analysis (CAB WSF)		Contract with Purvis Gray	\$8,588	\$8,588	\$0	0.0%
Subtotal - Water Supply Studies and Facilities Expenditures			\$548,448	\$548,448	\$0	0.0%
Fund Balance for Water Supply Development Reserves			\$739,716	\$739,716	\$0	0.0%
TOTAL WRDF EXPENDITURES and FUND BALANCE			\$1,288,164	\$1,288,164	\$0	0.0%
Total Administration and WRDF Fund Balances at FYE 2012		See Attachment 1 for detail	\$1,112,053	\$1,112,053	\$0	0.0%

Item 6.
Joint Funding
Groundwater Model

**Item 6. Marion County/SJRWMD/SFWMD Joint Funding of Groundwater Model Expansion
– WRWSA Participation . . . Richard Owen, WRWSA**

The issue of consistency across water management district boundaries has become of greater importance in recent years as water resources have become scarcer and it has become ever more difficult and costly to meet growing water demands. One issue of inter-District consistency that is currently being addressed is how the availability of groundwater is determined in portions of the St Johns River (SJRWMD) and Southwest Florida (SFWMD) Water Management Districts, specifically where these two districts divide Marion County. The Districts and County have recently agreed to undertake an expansion of the SFWMD's Northern District groundwater model that currently encompasses about three-quarters of Marion County. The model is to be expanded such that it will include all of Marion County and both Districts are agreeing to use this model in future determinations of groundwater availability. The project is estimated to cost \$150,000 and is currently to be split equally among the three parties.

As of the date this write-up was prepared, WRWSA staff has had discussions with the County and SFWMD staffs about contributing to this effort and being a part of this important endeavor. Both entities have welcomed and encouraged the Authority's participation. We hope to discuss this with SJRWMD staff prior to the Board meeting and will report on those discussions. It is recommended that the Authority join in this effort and be an equal partner with the other funding entities. This will allow the Authority to have a seat at the table in the development of one of the most important tools for evaluating the availability of groundwater in the region.

Although not budgeted for the current fiscal year, there are adequate funds available for the Authority to participate. This would include authorization to transfer \$37,500 (one fourth of \$150,000) from the Water Supply Development Reserves to a new project entitled Northern District Model Extension. These reserves are budgeted for the fiscal year in an amount of \$739,716. As currently envisioned, the SJRWMD will be taking the lead on this project by retaining the services of a qualified consultant and the other funding entities will contribute their share of the funds through purchase orders or pursuant to an inter-local agreement.

Staff Recommendation: Should the SJRWMD concur with the Authority's participation prior to the Board meeting, it is recommended the Board authorize the transfer of \$37,500 from the Water Supply Development Reserves and for either the Chair to sign a cooperative funding agreement with the other parties or for staff to make payment to an invoice received from one of the other parties for an amount not to exceed \$37,500.

Item 7.
CUP Notice Criteria

Item 7. Consumptive Use Permitting Application Noticing Criteria . . . Richard Owen, WRWSA

At the September Board meeting, there was discussion by the Board regarding a Water Use Permit issued by the Southwest Florida Water Management District located in the City of Crystal River area that the City expressed concerns regarding. It was pointed out that the City did not learn of the permit application in time to formally comment on or object to the permit within the window of opportunity provided by Florida statutes and rules. It was suggested the Authority may want to look at requesting notice be provided for certain Water Use Permit applications within its jurisdiction. Staff will report to the Board on the options available to the Authority or its member governments to request notice of applications from both the St. Johns River and Southwest Florida Water Management Districts. No Board action is required.

Item 8.
Letter of Engagement

**Item 8. Letter of Engagement for Jackson E. Sullivan for As-Needed Management Assistance
... Richard Owen, WRWSA**

Included in the Authority's current budget is a line item entitled for *Overlap Fund for Continuing Executive/Administrative Resource*. This item is budgeted in an amount of \$5,000.00. These funds were anticipated to be used by the new Executive Director to retain the expertise of the previous Executive Director, Jackson E. Sullivan, on an as-needed basis. Included as an exhibit to this item is a proposed Letter of Engagement to retain the services of Mr. Sullivan.

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends Board approval of this letter of engagement.

October 2, 2012

Mr. Jackson E. Sullivan

Re: Letter of Engagement for Management Advice Services

Dear Mr. Sullivan,

This letter confirms the terms of our engagement with you as a management advisor to the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (Authority) and it outlines the terms, nature and extent of the services you will be providing.

You will provide advice and recommendations to the Executive Director regarding ongoing Authority projects and initiatives, including but not limited to the Charles A. Black wellfield engineering analysis, the rate study being undertaken by Purvis Gray and Company, subsequent negotiations with Citrus County, the Water Supply Master Plan update, the Marion County Water Conservation and Reclaimed Water project and the Irrigation Audit program. Advice may also be in regards to potential new Authority projects or initiatives. Services will be provided in response to written or oral requests for specific advice and input from the Executive Director. Services may also include meeting attendance.

Management advisor services will be charged on an hourly basis at \$50.00 per hour. Travel expenses will be reimbursed consistent with the Authority's reimbursement policies and procedures. The total cost of services, including travel reimbursements, shall not exceed \$5,000.00. This letter of engagement shall remain in effect until either the \$5000.00 limit has been reached, or either party terminates the agreement, or through September 30, 2014, whichever occurs sooner.

The above terms will remain in effect unless amended in writing by both parties or terminated by written notice from either party. Either party may terminate this agreement by providing 30 days written notice to the other party.

If the above terms are acceptable to you and the services outlined are in accordance with your requirements, please sign the copy of this letter in the space provided and return it to us.

By:


Jackson E. Sullivan

10/3/12
Date

ATTESTED:


Barbara A. Sullivan

By:

Dennis Damato
WRWSA Board Chairman

Date

ATTESTED: _____

Item 9.b.
2013 Board Calendar

2012-2013 WRWSA Meeting Schedule

Meeting Dates:

October 17, 2012, 4:30 p.m.

November 28, 2012, 4:30 p.m.

December 21, 2012, 4:30 p.m.

January 16, 2013, 4:30 p.m.

February 20, 2013, 4:30 p.m.

March 20, 2013, 4:30 p.m.

April 17, 2013, 4:30 p.m.

May 15, 2013, 4:30 p.m.

June 19, 2013, 4:30 p.m.

July 17, 2013, 4:30 p.m.

August 21, 2013, 4:30 p.m.

September 18, 2013, 4:30 p.m.

October 16, 2013

November 27, 2013*

December 18, 2013

Meeting Locations:

LGB, 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Lecanto

LGB, 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Lecanto

Canceled

To Be Determined (TBD)

TBD

TBD

TBD

TBD

TBD

TBD

TBD

TBD

TBD

TBD

TBD

* 4th Wednesday of the month to avoid Thanksgiving Holiday

Item 9.c.
Correspondence



October 1, 2012

Kim Dinkins, Water Resources Coordinator
Marion County Engineering
412 SE 25th Ave.
Ocala, Florida 34471

Dear Kim:

As you are aware, the City of Ocala submitted a letter to the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority, dated September 17, 2012, withdrawing their active membership status in the Authority.

In response to the City's withdrawal, it is our understanding that Marion County has graciously agreed to include in its Fiscal Year 2012-2013 budget an amount sufficient for both the County's and City's previously determined per capita assessments, which is consistent with the Authority's governing rules (s. 49C-1, F.A.C.). The enclosed invoice reflects a revised annual assessment for the County of \$63,032 and a quarterly amount of \$15,757.89.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Richard S. Owen, AICP
Executive Director

C: WRWSA Board members
Larry Haag, Attorney
Flip Mellinger, Marion County Utilities Director

Enclosures



September 28, 2012

Southwest Florida Water Management District
Attn: Cooperative Funding Program Administrator
2379 Broad St.
Brooksville, FL 34604

Subject: Irrigation Audit Program Continuation and Sub-Regional Planning for Beneficial Reclaimed Water Projects Submittal
Funding Information

Dear CFI Administrator:

At its September 19, 2012 meeting, the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (Authority) Board approved submittal of two applications for consideration for the Southwest Florida Water Management District's fiscal year 2014 Cooperative Funding Initiative.

These applications include (1) continuation of the ongoing regional program for Residential Irrigation Audit & Education and (2) a Sub-Regional Planning for Beneficial Reclaimed Water Project. The Irrigation Audit Project has a total funding amount of \$192,200 and the Sub-Regional Planning for Beneficial Reclaimed Water Project has a total funding amount of \$250,000, for a combined total amount of \$442,200. The SWFWMD is requested to fund \$96,100 for the Irrigation Audit Project and \$125,000 for the Sub-Regional Planning for Beneficial Reclaimed Water Project, for a total SWFWMD funding of \$221,100. The Board approved ranking the Irrigation Audit Project as its #1 priority and the Sub-regional Planning for Beneficial Reclaimed Water Project as its #2 priority. The Board's action also included a commitment to fund the Authority's portion of these projects (\$96,100 and \$125,000 respectively) in its FY 2013-2014 budget should the projects be approved for funding by the SWFWMD.

Please contact me if there are any questions or additional information needed.

Sincerely,

Richard S. Owen, Executive Director
Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority

cc: WRWSA Board Members
Larry Haag, WRWSA Attorney

Item 9.d.
News Articles

► "Conservation is a state of harmony
between men and land."

Aldo Leopold, 1887-1948

CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE

Think about water

It is always a pleasure to share my views and experiences in working to "Save Our Waters."

As a commission member of the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority for the past eight years and as the twice-elected chairman of the 18-member authority, I want to address three topics that are important as to how we should think about water.

The first topic I would like to speak with you about is water supply.

Participating in the water authority for the past eight years provided me firsthand knowledge and information about regional water supply issues that are being addressed for Citrus, Marion, Sumter and Hernando counties by the authority.

The authority has a 30-year approved water supply master plan.

Its largest asset is the Charles A. Black well field in central Citrus County, which provides most of our county's drinking water through the Citrus County Utility System.

It can receive priority funding from the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) for the development of new water supply projects.

It also funds over \$135,000 per year in water conservation grants for its members.

The second topic I would like to address is water quality.

Citrus County has participated in developing projects that capture existing SWFWMD basin board water quality grant funding for our community.

I wrote a proposal for a Northeast 2nd Street/Hunters Spring water quality project in the city of Crystal River, and am pleased to report that project will receive funding.

Also high on the funding list is a second water quality project written by county staff to increase water flows from Ozello to Crystal River/King's Bay by cleaning out and installing some new culverts under Fort

Island Trail.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and SWFWMD will jointly fund the purchase of a small dredge, which will be utilized to clean up King's Bay.

The final water-related topic I would like to discuss is "Think About Water."

Water has a multitude of uses that sustain our environment and daily lives.

Potable drinking water comes from a variety of sources like private wells, public supply and bottled water.

The provision of sanitary sewerage systems should be utilized to eliminate septic tanks from environmentally sensitive areas by pumping effluent to central plants for treatment to re-use standards. Reclaimed water can be used as a valuable resource for irrigation and process water to help sustain our subsurface aquifer.

Recently we have seen the importance of storm water retention and treatment, or sometimes the lack thereof during our current

above-normal rainy season.

Irrigation best management practice standards are extremely important to conserve water used to maintain turf, plantings and agricultural products.

We all know and realize the value of clean water for a multitude of recreational uses. In Citrus County, you are never more than 10 minutes away from a water body.

Water is also used in agricultural, institutional, industrial, mining, power generation, and manufacturing processes.

The proper use and application of fertilizers and pesticides have a direct effect on water quality.

Our waters must be preserved and protected as everything that touches it has a direct cause and effect relationship.

We must train ourselves to "Think About Water" if we are to produce only good outcomes on every water-related issue we address.

The most important thing to remember about water is that it is a finite resource that must be treasured, conserved and protected, as life is not sustainable without good clean water.

I would like to thank the *Chronicle* and the Citrus 20/20 Save Our Waters Week Committee for allowing me the opportunity to share my thoughts about my water-related experience as the District 1 commissioner.

Dennis Damato is a Crystal River resident, Citrus County commissioner and Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority member for the past eight years. Currently, he is the authority's chairman.



Dennis Damato

**OTHER
VOICES**

Maybe water board's makeup changes the aquifer's health

Submitted by [Ron Littlepage](#) on September 17, 2012 - 8:59am [Ron Littlepage's Blog](#)

The fact that the St. Johns River Water Management District launched a “Springs Protection Initiative” last week with a focus on Silver Springs is a good thing.

What’s happening to Silver Springs and our other iconic springs with dramatically decreased flows and increased nitrate loads that degrade water quality is a tragedy that requires action. However — with the water management district, there’s always a however.

Hal Wilkening, the district’s director of water resources, gave the first of what’s to be several presentations on the springs initiative to the district’s governing board last Tuesday. The district’s executive director, Hans Tanzler III, introduced Wilkening’s presentation by saying, “If this is like building a house, we are simply laying the slab here.”

Here’s the problem: After listening to the presentation, it appears that not only has the slab now been laid, but the design of the house has already been determined.

For instance, one concern of some scientists independent of the district is that the springshed for Silver Springs is migrating westward and that water that once fed Silver Springs is now going to Rainbow Springs.

Not happening, Wilkening said.

Another concern is that pumping too much water out of the aquifer for commercial, agricultural and domestic uses is causing the flow in Silver Springs to drop precipitously.

Nope, the board was told, water levels in the aquifer are tied to the amount of rainfall or the lack thereof, and pumping has minimal impact on the aquifer.

When one board member listed his takeaways from the presentation, Tanzler quickly interjected another.

“You can’t blame it on over pumping,” he said.

That in itself is intriguing if not head-scratching.

The previous executive director of the district, Kirby Green, spent months warning that too much water is being taken out of the aquifer and that alternate sources had to be found as early as 2013, such as pumping 260 million gallons of water a day out of the St. Johns River.

Then a new governor takes office, Green and a whole flock of district scientists are out, there’s a new executive director and, voila, pumping water out of the aquifer is no longer a problem.

Those permits to allow the pumping, of course, are issued by the district, which is now being dictated to by Tallahassee.

There was one concern with Silver Springs that wasn’t disputed in the presentation.

A nitrate overload is filling the springs and the Silver River with damaging algae. Conveniently, that problem falls to the Department of Environmental Protection.

The degradation of our springs has been happening over a period of years not months.

Hopefully, as the springs initiative proceeds, every possible cause will be thoroughly examined.

Responding to Wilkening's presentation, the board's chairman, Lad Daniels, praised the urgency with which the district staff has reacted.

"You jumped on this like a dog on a June bug," he said.

Let's see: In 1972, the Legislature ordered that minimum flows be set for the state's rivers and springs to protect the environment.

Forty years later, the minimum flow for Silver Springs has yet to be established.

That June bug has had a long life.

ron.littlepage@jacksonville.com: (904) 359-4284

Diane Salz <disalz@yahoo.com>

Fwd: Former WMD Board Members Urge Gov. to Restore Lost Tax Revenue

September 18, 2012 8:26 PM

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Diane Salz <salz.govconsultant@gmail.com>
Date: September 18, 2012 8:25:06 PM EDT
To: Diane Salz <disalz@yahoo.com>
Subject: Former WMD Board Members Urge Gov. to Restore Lost Tax Revenue

Former water district board members urge Gov. Scott to restore lost tax revenue
Bruce Ritchie, 09/18/2012 - 05:03 PM

Twenty former board members of Florida's five water management districts have written to Gov. Rick Scott this week asking him restore funding for the regional agencies.

The Legislature earlier this year passed **SB 1986**, repealing a 2011 bill that required the districts to cut property taxes by \$210 million.

Despite the repeal, the districts have proposed keeping the same or slightly lower tax rates under reported pressure from the **Florida Department of Environmental Protection**.

In their letter sent Monday, the 20 former board members recount the establishment of the districts by voters in the 1970s.

The former board members also describe the economic benefits of proper water management and threats to future water supplies from a growing population. They point out that the owner of a \$150,000 home in the **South Florida Water Management District** saved less than \$20 in taxes paid because of the cuts last year.

"In order to effectively manage our water resources, water management districts need to adopt budgets that are based upon science and best professional judgment planning for future water quality and quantity," the former board members wrote.

They further suggest the option of allowing "some discretion" for each of the five districts to adopt tax rates needed "to accomplish their core mission."

Asked how much the boards should raise taxes if needed, former **St. Johns River Water Management District** chairman **Bill Kerr** of Melbourne said the districts already have varying tax limits set under state law and the constitution.

"They ought to be able to take their maintenance and monitoring programs and determine what has been done and what needs to be done and base their budgets on what has to happen," he said.

Former **Suwannee River Water Management District** board member **David Flagg**, a former state representative from Gainesville, said the districts won't restore revenue that they lost last year without a signal from the governor.

"The governor and DEP more than previous administrations have lessened the independent decision-making of water management districts in my opinion," Flagg said. "I don't mean that DEP is irresponsible. I just believe they need to give the water management districts the latitude of independent thinking and decision they were created to have and not run out of Tallahassee all five of them."

There was no response on Tuesday to a request for comment from the governor's press office.

Last week, DEP spokesman **Patrick Gillespie** said that the department "collaborated" with the water management districts to help each of them "live within its means" without raising the cost of living for Floridians.

Kerr said the 20 letter signatures were the most that could be collected in a short period of time. The districts have until Sept. 30 to adopt their budgets because their fiscal year begins Oct. 1. The *Current* tried unsuccessfully to reach other former water district board members who didn't sign the letter.

Diane Salz <salz.govconsultant@gmail.com>
get involved in water issues...
September 20, 2012 4:01 PM

Katie Tripp: Get involved in water issues

Published: Thursday, September 20, 2012 at 11:12 a.m.

It has been a big year for water issues in Florida, particularly north Florida. Folks in every corner of the state have likely heard about the Adena Springs Ranch permit application in Marion County, originally for 13.2 million gallons per day (mgd) from the Floridan aquifer, now for 5.3 mgd. A North Florida Regional Water Supply Partnership has been convened to solve trans-boundary water issues between the lesser developed Suwannee River Water Management District and the ever-thirsty St. Johns River Water Management District.

In Crystal River, on Florida's Gulf Coast, residents and local government are outraged over a water bottling permit issued by the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) to allow 76,700-153,400 gallons to be withdrawn daily from the Floridan aquifer. This issuance came after residents and the environmental community worked arduously to purchase and protect local springs, only to have a well permitted in the city limits so water can be pumped, shipped, bottled, and sold by a private water bottling company. Meanwhile, no minimum flows and levels (MFLs) have been set for Crystal River and Kings Bay, where anyone who lives on or recreates on the water will tell you that the bay is saltier and the spring flows have been reduced. Just to the south, a group of stakeholders have been fighting MFL proposals from the SWFWMD for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers that would allow reduced flows. All of these issues are integral to the future of our state's water supply and the vitality of our aquatic ecosystems and the species dependent upon those ecosystems, including manatees.

While these permit applications and the continued mindset of the Water Management Districts to find "more" water are disconcerting, there is one positive and it is this: people are angry. People are tired of business as usual while they watch the waters that they love continue to decline. They are angry at Florida's leadership for lacking vision and a sustainable long-term plan for water use. Folks are right to be angry, and if we are going to create positive change in the way we provide, use, and value water, we all need to channel that anger into action; to contact our water management districts and our local governments and to show up at the public meetings where these issues are being discussed, and let our leaders know that we want a more sustainable future for Florida's water resources.

What we need are safeguards that will curb our wasteful water use and move us toward water neutrality where we find creative ways to use what we already have. We need to stop giving our limited and precious water away to corporations that will turn around and use our public resources for private profit. New developments can find water from the existing permitted water supplies. They can install cisterns in those new developments; pay to install low flow fixtures in every home adjacent to and within those developments; and plant Florida-friendly landscapes that do not need intensive irrigation. Our existing developments must also do more to curb water use.

Our Water Management Districts are tasked with providing us water. As long as they see a demand, they will make it happen, but at what cost? Whether that means setting a lower MFL for state water bodies, drawing surface waters off our rivers like the St. Johns, or building a seawater desalination facility, they will "find" the water. Meanwhile, people and the environment will pay the price. By 2030, the Districts have estimated that Floridians will "need" 1.9 billion gallons more per day than they did in 2005, as our population is expected to grow by 48%. The price tag to construct the alternative water supply projects to meet this demand: \$3.6 billion.

Our state is at a crossroads, or perhaps more appropriately, a fork in the river. If we want to steer the ship down a path of sustainability, we must get and stay engaged. We must be vigilant in defending our natural resources and our water supply, and we must support laws and leaders that are committed to these principles. Ultimately, we must realize the true costs associated with the water that seems to flow so freely from our faucets.

Dr. Tripp has been Save the Manatee Club's Director of Science and Conservation (savethemanatee.org) since May of 2008. She received her Ph.D. in Veterinary Medical Sciences from the University of Florida, where she conducted research on manatee physiology.

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Diane Salz <salz.govconsultant@gmail.com>
more on former water leaders...
September 20, 2012 4:04 PM

Former water leaders call on governor to restore \$210 million collectively slashed from budgets

By [Bill Thompson](#)
Staff Writer

Published: Wednesday, September 19, 2012 at 5:14 p.m.

Twenty former leading water managers from across Florida are calling on Gov. Rick Scott to restore the funding slashed from the budgets of the water management districts.

In a letter sent to Scott on Monday, the former district governors say their "simple" request to pump more money into the regulators' budgets would provide an environmental and economic "lift" to the state.

"Our 18.8 million residents and businesses rely on water management districts to effectively manage flooding and to ensure abundant water supply for their livelihoods and recreation," says the letter, whose signers include Ocala Realtor Clay Albright, who served eight years on the St. Johns River Water Management Governing Board. "With the possibility of climate change contributing to more weather extremes such as drought and sea level rise threatening Florida's freshwater resources, it is all the more urgent to invest now in solutions so that the people and new businesses coming to Florida can be assured of a clean water supply."

The letter is intended to urge Scott to reverse course on budget cuts that collectively drained the districts of \$210 million.

That is a large number from a fiscal point of view, yet the former governors maintain in the letter that the cuts have had little impact for taxpayers.

They offer the example of the owner a home valued at \$100,000 for tax purposes within the South Florida Water Management District who, after the budget cuts, would save less than \$20.

Locally, the picture is about the same.

Two years ago, St. Johns, which regulates water usage in Marion County east of Interstate 75, charged property owners under their jurisdiction a rate of 41.58 cents per \$1,000 of taxable value. That meant, for example, the owner of a home valued at \$100,000 for tax purposes would pay \$41.58.

In 2011 St. Johns' governors lowered the rate to \$33.13, a savings of \$8.45 for that same homeowner.

The Southwest Florida Water Management District, which oversees water use west of I-75, has enacted a slightly larger cut.

Two years ago, Swiftmud, as the district is commonly known, would have charged that homeowner used in the example \$60.78 in property taxes. Last year the tax bill came to \$39.38, or a savings of \$21.50.

Scott's petitioners maintain the districts are vital because water, as a resource, is best regulated regionally.

Doing so at the state level removes the necessary regional expertise that understands distinct waterways in given areas, the letter argues.

The district governors also write, though, that going down a notch and leaving it to the locals would invite the water wars that incited neighbors around Tampa Bay — and has Marion county residents ever on the defensive.

The science, testing and land conservation necessary to keeping the state's water supply healthy and abundant requires an "adequate" level of funding, they add in the letter.

"One thing is for certain," the letter states, "regional water solutions are a bargain for property owners in Florida."

"We think the average Floridian would rather pay a little more for water management solutions today than have to pay for much more expensive projects later."

"Restored, well managed ecosystems support a quality of life that is singular to Florida attracting people and business," the former governors write.

Albright, who served on St. Johns' Governing Board from 1999 to 2007, said in an interview that he joined the lobbying effort because of concern about the effects of reduced spending on land management.

"We made some dynamite acquisitions for recharge areas, stormwater management. But they cannot manage themselves. And in order to properly maintain them, the money has to come from somewhere," he said.

"We do a helluva lot more good than harm," added Albright, noting how St. Johns helped fund flood control and water quality projects in downtown Ocala and the so-called "monster pipe" that, until rerouted, once carried run-off from East Silver Springs Boulevard to Half Mile Creek, a small waterway the fed into the Silver River.

"We do have a lot of projects that need to move forward, and the thing you don't want to do is to diminish your foothold of state lands and get rid of them," he said.

"I don't think we need to start yard sale-ing everything."

Contact Bill Thompson at 352-867-4117 or bill.thompson@starbanner.com.

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Diane Salz <disalz@yahoo.com>
Fw: St. Johns River Water Management District Water News
September 25, 2012 5:40 PM

----- Forwarded Message -----
From: Water News <waternews@sjrwmd.com>
To: disalz@yahoo.com
Sent: Tuesday, September 25, 2012 5:34 PM
Subject: St. Johns River Water Management District Water News

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

St. Johns River Water Management District Water News

News, meetings
and notices

September 25, 2012

District Board adopts final 2012–2013 budget

The St. Johns River Water Management District's Governing Board on Sept. 25 approved a balanced budget that holds the line on property taxes while funding priority water quality protection activities and projects to enhance water supplies.

At the public meeting, the Board approved a 0.3313 millage rate that will generate \$80 million in revenue toward a \$120.7 million budget for the fiscal year that begins Oct. 1. The budget also will be funded with prior years' state appropriations, fund balance, timber sales, cattle leases, interest earnings and permit fees.

In July, the Board approved a revised budgeting method that provides funding to support only the expenditures anticipated during the fiscal year. The final budget applies \$17.6 million in fund balances to continue or complete planned major projects and initiatives.

The approved budget is 6 percent less than the current fiscal year 2011–2012 budget. Ad valorem (property tax) revenue also is reduced by about 6 percent.

Under a 0.3313 millage rate — 33.13 cents for every \$1,000 of assessed property value — the owner of a \$200,000 house with a \$50,000 homestead exemption will pay \$49.70 per year in property taxes to the District.

"This budget allocates District resources in a manner that will achieve our core mission responsibilities and reflects the District's continued commitment to developing water supplies and improving water quality in our rivers, lakes and springs,"

Connect with us



Upcoming meetings

For a listing of upcoming meeting dates, times and locations, visit our [meetings calendar page](#).

Contacts

District staff contacts for:

- [Local governments](#)
- [Public and media](#)

[How to contact your local government](#)

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.

said Governing Board Chairman Lad Daniels of Jacksonville. "We also concentrated on being responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars by applying a pay-as-we-go budgeting approach that uses committed fund balance to continue or complete priority projects and initiatives."

floridaswater.com

The adopted budget will fund major programs, including the District's springs protection initiative and the North Florida Aquifer Replenishment Initiative. Major projects funded in the budget include the Fellsmere Water Management Area, water quality improvement projects in the lower and middle St. Johns River basins, Ocklawaha River Basin gizzard shad harvesting and alum treatment, the Lake Apopka North Shore Restoration Area project and C-1/C-10 redirection to improve water quality and develop alternative water supplies.

In addition, the budget provides funds to rehabilitate flood control structures, conduct groundwater resource assessments and exploration, and maintain current staffing levels.

Areas of the budget where expenditures are being reduced include operating expenses, equipment purchases and fixed capital outlay.

Gov. Rick Scott approved the budget on Sept. 18.

St. Johns River Water Management District
P.O. Box 1429 • Palatka, FL 32178-1429

(800) 725-5922

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[Unsubscribe](#) from this list.

Diane Salz <dialz@yahoo.com>
Fwd: District Approves Millage Rate and Budget
September 26, 2012 10:41 AM

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Chris Zajac <Chris.Zajac@swfwmd.state.fl.us>
Date: September 26, 2012 10:24:27 AM EDT
Subject: District Approves Millage Rate and Budget

Sept. 26, 2012

District Approves Millage Rate and Budget

The Southwest Florida Water Management District Governing Board Tuesday adopted its fiscal year 2012-13 (FY2012-13) millage rate and budget.

The Governing Board adopted a FY2012-13 millage rate of 0.3928 mill, which is the same as the current fiscal year. FY2012-13 will run from Oct. 1, 2012, through Sept. 30, 2013. With taxable property values declining by 2.9 percent, this rate will result in a \$3 million reduction in ad valorem property tax revenue.

The total FY2012-13 budget for the District is \$159.5 million, 2.5 percent higher than the adopted budget for FY2011-12, which was \$155.5 million. The \$3.9 million increase in the budget is primarily due to additional funding requests from local governments for water resources projects. The increase is funded from additional balances available from prior years due to the cancellation of projects and projects completed under budget.

The budget includes \$83.2 million for capital/infrastructure and other District projects. The District's funds leveraged with its partners will result in a total investment of more than \$132 million for water resource management projects benefitting the region.

Over the long term, the District has identified adequate fiscal resources to address the core mission areas of responsibility for water supply, water quality, flood protection and floodplain management, and natural systems. The District's fiscal resources supplemented with project reserves will adequately maintain a healthy investment in the economy and water resources during the next five to 10 years.

Chris Zajac
Government Affairs Manager
Northern Planning Region
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, Florida 34604
(352) 796-7211 ext. 4413

Diane Salz <disalz@yahoo.com>
Fwd: SWFWMD Executive Director Announces Restructuring
September 27, 2012 5:09 PM

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Chris Zajac <Chris.Zajac@swfwmd.state.fl.us>
Date: September 27, 2012 3:34:39 PM EDT
Subject: SWFWMD Executive Director Announces Restructuring

September 27, 2012

Executive Director Announces Restructuring

Plan calls for reducing and recruiting staff

Southwest Florida Water Management District Executive Director Blake Guillory announced today that the agency will undergo organizational restructuring in the coming months.

"We are committed to providing the greatest value to the taxpayer," said Guillory. "By implementing new business processes we have found opportunities to improve our efficiency and further reduce our operational costs."

The District currently has 617 full-time employees. This restructuring, to be implemented in phases during the next nine months, will affect approximately 30 employees, primarily administrative, IT and management staff.

The organizational changes include creating a Project Management Office to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of how the agency's more than 400 projects are managed.

Guillory also anticipates hiring approximately 15 additional scientific and engineering staff this year to support the District's groundwater and surface water modeling work as well as its springs and water quality initiatives.

"We've identified some areas in which we can use some additional expertise to meet our core mission," said Guillory. "Our pool of technical experts has eroded during the last decade with employees retiring or leaving for the private sector. This restructuring will ensure that we have a high level of scientific expertise to manage and protect the water resources of the region."

Chris Zajac
Government Affairs Manager
Northern Planning Region
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, Florida 34604
(352) 796-7211 ext. 4413
Cell # 352-299-5538
chris.zajac@swfwmd.state.fl.us

Diane Salz <disalz@yahoo.com>
Fwd: Notice of Proposed Rule
October 2, 2012 7:59 PM

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Lou Kavouras <Lou.Kavouras@swfwmd.state.fl.us>
Date: October 2, 2012 4:31:56 PM EDT
Subject: Notice of Proposed Rule

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE: The Southwest Florida Water Management District is proposing to amend the following rule(s): 40D-2.091, F.A.C.

The purpose and effect of this rulemaking will be to amend Rule 40D-2.091, F.A.C., and Section 3.1 of the Southwest Florida Water Management District's Water Use Permitting Basis of Review to require permit applicants to utilize specific information, to be requested from and provided by a reuse utility, in an evaluation of the environmental, economic and technical feasibility of the use of reclaimed water to meet all or a portion of the applicant's needs.

The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking appeared in the Florida Administrative Weekly, Vol. 38, No. 40, on October 1, 2012. A copy of the proposed rule can be viewed on the District's website at the link below:

<http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/rules/proposed/>, <http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/rules/proposed/details/61/>

Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to provide comments on this rulemaking is asked to contact The Southwest Florida Water Management District Human Resources Director, 2379 Broad Street, Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899; telephone (352) 796-7211, ext. 4702 or 1-800-423-1476 (FL only), ext. 4702; TDD (FL only) 1-800-231-6103; or email to ADACoordinator@swfwmd.state.fl.us. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the agency using the Florida Relay Service, 1(800)955-8771 (TDD) or 1(800)955-8770 (Voice).

THE PERSON TO BE CONTACTED REGARDING THE PROPOSED RULES AND TO OBTAIN A COPY IS: Sonya White, Office of General Counsel, Southwest Florida Water Management District, 7601 Highway 301 North, Tampa, FL 33637-6759, (813) 985-7481 (Ext. 4660) (Ref OGC # 2011030).

Lou Kavouras
Southwest Florida Water Management District
1-352-796-7211 (x4604)

IMPORTANT NOTICE: All E-mail sent to or from this address are public record and archived. The Southwest Florida Water Management District does not allow use of District equipment and E-mail facilities for non-District business purposes.

Year-round water conservation rules are now in effect

Though water shortage restrictions imposed by the Suwannee River Water Management District (District) have expired, year-round water conservation rules are now in effect.

After a pattern of heavy rainfall this summer, the restrictions were allowed to expire on Sept. 30. The District declared a water shortage order in June to ease drought conditions. Conditions have improved considerably since that time.

"Groundwater levels have recovered to normal or above normal in most areas and river levels have not been this high since 2010," said Megan Wetherington, District senior professional engineer.

In August, the District received an average of more than 9 inches of rainfall, with accumulations of up to 16 inches in localized areas. On Aug. 26, the Santa Fe River near Fort White experienced minor flooding after it crested at 0.3 feet above flood stage, and the Waccasassa River saw its third highest stage in 10 years. The

Ichetucknee River had sustained flows not seen since 2006.

The National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center is predicting a weak to moderate El Niño, which typically means cooler and wetter conditions in the fall and winter.

The water shortage restrictions mostly restricted outdoor watering, particularly lawn and landscape irrigation. Under the order, lawn and landscape irrigation was limited to once per week.

Since the order expired, residents and others fall under mandatory, year-round water conservation rules. The rules limit lawn and landscape irrigation to twice per week for this time of year, and apply to residential landscaping, public or commercial recreation areas, and public

YEAR-ROUND WATER CONSERVATION RULES

- Rules apply to lawn and landscape watering of residential landscaping, public or commercial recreation areas, and public and commercial businesses
- Watering may take place twice-per-week
- Watering is prohibited between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

and commercial businesses. In addition, watering is prohibited between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Farmers are required to follow conservation measures included in their water use permit.

"Though the District does not feel it is necessary to prolong water restrictions at this time, we ask that all water users conserve water and help us sustain our water resources," said District Executive Director Ann Shortelle.

SRWMD seeks to adopt monitoring requirements for largest water users

The Suwannee River Water Management District (District) Governing Board has moved forward with a water use monitoring rule for its largest users and to assist agricultural water users with the required monitoring.

The program will monitor 75 percent of the total water allocated in the District.

"The District needs actual water use data to accurately forecast sustainable, future water supply needs and to develop water supply plans," said District Assistant Executive Director Jon Dinges.

The water use monitoring requirements have been developed with statewide consumptive use permitting consistency (CUPcon) in mind. CUPcon is a statewide effort led by the Department of Environmental Protection to improve consistency in water use permitting to

All stakeholders will have an opportunity to comment on the proposed rule at a public workshop on Oct. 11 at 5:30 p.m. at District headquarters, 9225 CR 49, Live Oak, FL 32060.

ensure less confusion for the applicant; treat applicants equally; protect the environment; streamline the process; and incentivize behavior that protects the environment.

In the District, agricultural producers hold the greatest number of water use permits. The District has collaborated with the agricultural community to provide incentives that should entice farmers to put in place a monitoring system before regulatory requirements kick in.

The new rule will require automated monitoring and reporting of withdrawals on a daily basis as a condition for new, renewed, and modified water use permits. The rule will apply to all groundwater wells with an inside diameter 8 inches or greater and to surfacewater withdrawals that have an outside diameter 6 inches or greater.

The Governing Board took the extra step that provides agricultural users a voluntary, convenient, no-cost method of measuring water use by calculating electric consumption. In cooperation with their electric utilities, producers would authorize the sharing of their power use data with the District. If electrical consumption data is not available, other run time monitoring methods may be used.

Donald Quincey reappointed to Governing Board



Quincey

Governor Rick Scott recently announced the reappointment of Donald J. Quincey Jr. to the Suwannee River Water Management District (District) Governing Board.

Quincey is reappointed for a term beginning August 16, 2012, and ending March 1, 2016. He represents the Lower Suwannee Basin.

Quincey, 56, of Chiefland, is the president of Quincey Cattle Company. Quincey currently serves as the chairman of the District's Governing Board and he is the past president of the Florida Cattleman's Association.

White Springs dive will provide benefits for MFLs program

Two cave divers from Karst Environmental Services entered the cave system at White Sulphur Springs recently to assess the condition of the cave as a first step toward understanding the source aquifer(s) of the spring.

John Good, District chief professional engineer, said the exploratory dive will, among other things, help the District better understand why the spring isn't flowing consistently. This information is important in the District's efforts to establish an MFL and model for White Sulphur Springs, which has not flowed reliably for more than 20 years.

FY 2012-13 budget will fund resource protection initiatives and reduce taxes

On Sept. 25, the Suwannee River Water Management District (District) Governing Board adopted a Fiscal Year 2012-13 budget of \$16.1 million. Maintaining the same millage rate of 0.4143 as last year means that a homeowner with a property value of \$150,000 with a \$50,000 homestead exemption would pay \$41.43 in property taxes to the District. With taxable property values declining by 2 percent, the District's millage rate will reduce taxpayers' burden by approximately \$280,000.

"The District is pleased to present a budget that enables the District to protect our water resources for the benefit of our citizens and natural systems while lessening the burden on taxpayers and establishing a high level of public service," said District Executive Director Ann Shortelle. "The final budget documents our dedication to implement cost efficiencies and enhance existing programs."

The District budget establishes two cost-share programs totaling \$3 million. One cost-share program will set aside \$1.5 million to partner with farmers to reduce groundwater use and to put in place best management practices to reduce nutrient loading to water resources. The other cost-share program will establish \$1.5 million to partner with public water suppliers to develop alternative water supply projects to offset groundwater withdrawals, protect springs, build flood protection projects, improve water quality, and to enhance our natural systems.

The budget is fiscally responsible and supports the agency's core mission of water supply, water quality, flood protection, and natural systems.

Key core mission projects in the budget include:

- More than \$2.2 million to establish **Minimum Flows and Levels** on the Upper and Middle Suwannee River and three Bradford County Lakes (Sampson, Crosby, and Rowell).
- **Santa Fe River Nutrient Reduction and Irrigation Retrofit Project** is a partnership with \$900,000 from DEP, \$180,000 from the District, and \$50,000 from the Department of Agriculture and

Consumer Services. The project will enhance water supplies through water conservation and protect natural systems by reducing nitrogen loading to streams and aquifers by up to 1 million pounds per year and save 670 million gallons of water per year.

- **Upper Floridan Aquifer Recharge Project** is a \$265,000 partnership project between the SRWMD and SJRWMD, through the North Florida Regional Water Supply Partnership to develop concepts for recharging the Upper Floridan Aquifer.

- **Alligator Creek Restoration Project** located in Bradford County is a partnership with the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) to construct a sediment control structure and reconnect a portion of the creek to its historic floodplain. The project will protect natural systems, Lake Rowell in particular, by capturing 169 tons per year of sediment, provide flood control benefits by directing water into the historic floodplain, and restore 31 acres of wetlands. The project invests \$250,000 from FWC and up to \$350,000 from the District.

- **Bell Springs Restoration Project** located in Columbia County is a partnership with the FWC to remove dams within a spring run on District lands. FWC is investing \$55,000 through a grant to the District to improve natural systems by restoring natural flows of water through the spring run and downstream to the adjacent Suwannee River.

- **Steinhatchee Rise Dispersed Water Storage Project** located in Dixie County is an environmental restoration project enhancing natural systems and flood control by placing water diversion structures in a canal on District lands that is currently draining wetlands directly to the Steinhatchee River. This is a \$20,000 project that will disperse 8.3 million gallons of water, providing hydrologic restoration to approximately 50 acres of wetlands.

"The Governing Board is proud to adopt a fiscally sound budget that efficiently and effectively implements our core mission," said District Board Chairman Don Quincey. "The budget ensures the Board's commitment to an exceptional level of customer service while reducing the tax burden on the taxpayer."

Item 10.
Legislative Update

MEMORANDUM

**TO: Board of Directors,
Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority**

FROM: Diane Salz, Governmental & Legislative Affairs Consultant

SUBJECT: Tracking Activities

DATE: October 17, 2012

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding the updated summary of most current tracking activities listed below in alphabetical order.

Each activity provides an opportunity for exchanging ideas with key policy makers related to emerging issues potentially impacting the Authority, water policy direction, and funding for developing water resources and supplies.

Staff will continue to monitor and report when appropriate on the following (in alphabetical order):

- **American Water Works Association (Florida Section) Annual Conference** in Orlando on November 25-28.
- **Central Florida Water Initiative:** subcommittee meetings are on-going; collaborative process for uniform groundwater model, consistent MFL & regional water supply planning--see <http://cfwiwater.com/> for details.
- **Consumptive Use Permitting/Consistency (CUPcon):** DEP received public comment on rule revisions through September 14, 2012; effort is intended to minimize water use permitting confusion without losing environmental protection, provide equitable treatment, predictability, & "incentivize" water conservation; draft rule 62-40, FAR will be released in September-October 2012, prior to the 2013 Legislative Session--see <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/waterpolicy/rule.htm> for details.
- **Florida Association of Counties (FAC):** legislative priorities for the 2013 Legislative Session will be adopted at legislative conference November 28-30 in Sarasota.
- **Florida League of Cities (FLC):** legislative priorities for the 2013 Legislative Session will be adopted at the FAC legislative conference on November 15-16 in Orlando.
- **Florida Conservation Coalition (affiliates & members):** hosting "Ocali Country Days" on November 10, in Silver River State Park--see <http://floridaconservationcoalition.org/calendar/> for details.

- **Florida Earth Foundation:** hosted "Water Choices V" on September 21, at the U of FL in Gainesville: described as a think-tank format that looks at creating tools to solve water problems in Florida--see floridaeearth.org/waterchoicesV for details.
- **Florida Water Advocates:** met in Orlando on October 3--designing a succession (to SB 444) strategy for water project funding.
- **Human Health Based Surface Water (Criteria) Quality Peer Review Committee (DEP):** met in Tallahassee on October 8-9--see for details--
<http://sharepoint.dep.state.fl.us/PublicNotices/Lists/Calendar/DispForm.aspx?ID=672&Source=http%3A%2F%2Fsharepoint.dep.state.fl.us%2FPublicNotices%2Fdefault.aspx>
- **Key Executive Agency, Water Management Districts, and Legislative Policy and Staffing Changes:** on-going monitoring and reporting.
- **Nature Coast Regional Water Authority:** the next meeting is October 17, in the City of Fanning Springs.
- **North Florida Regional Water Supply Partnership:** met in Lake City on September 24--reviewed draft regional water supply plan work plan (collaborative effort for SRWMD and SJRWMD cross district impacts)--see <http://www.northfloridawater.com/> for details.
- **Numeric Nutrient Criteria (NNC) Coalition:** a conference call is scheduled for 10:30 am on each Monday--waiting for EPA approval--likely by November 30, (date of consent decree); more legal challenges will likely follow; no continuing resolution to prohibit EPA budget for NNC implementation.
- **Study Committee on Investor-owned Water/Wastewater Utility Systems (HB 1389):** met on October 3, in Tallahassee--monitoring closely since this legislation initially prohibited water conservation rates.
- **Water Management Districts (SJRWMD & SWFWMD):** attend or monitor televised governing board meetings as needed.