



**WITHLACOOCHEE
REGIONAL
WATER
SUPPLY
AUTHORITY**

Board Meeting Package

January 20, 2016
3:30 p.m.

Meeting Location:

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

Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority

Board of Directors

<i>Office</i>	<i>Board Members</i>
Chair	The Honorable Al Butler
Vice Chair	
Treasurer	The Honorable Dennis Damato

<i>Jurisdiction</i>	<i>Board Members</i>
Citrus County	The Honorable Scott Carnahan
	The Honorable Dennis Damato
Hernando County	The Honorable Jim Adkins
	The Honorable Nick Nicholson
Marion County	The Honorable Earl Arnett
	The Honorable Kathy Bryant
	The Honorable Cark Zalak
Sumter County	The Honorable Al Butler
	The Honorable Don Hahnfeldt
City of Belleview	The Honorable Ron Livsey
City of Brooksville	The Honorable Robert Battista
City of Bushnell	The Honorable Dale Swain
City of Crystal River	The Honorable Ken Brown

Meeting Dates

The schedule of meetings for the 2015-2016 fiscal year are as follows:

October 21, 2015
November 18, 2015
December 16, 2015
January 20, 2016
February 17, 2016
March 16, 2016

April 20, 2016
May 18, 2016
June 15, 2016
July 20, 2016
August 17, 2016
September 21, 2016

**MEMORANDUM**

To: Water Supply Authority Board of Directors and Interested Parties

From: Richard S. Owen, Executive Director

Date: January 7, 2016

Subject: Monthly Meeting of the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority

The next meeting of the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority will be on **Wednesday, January 20, 2016, 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:

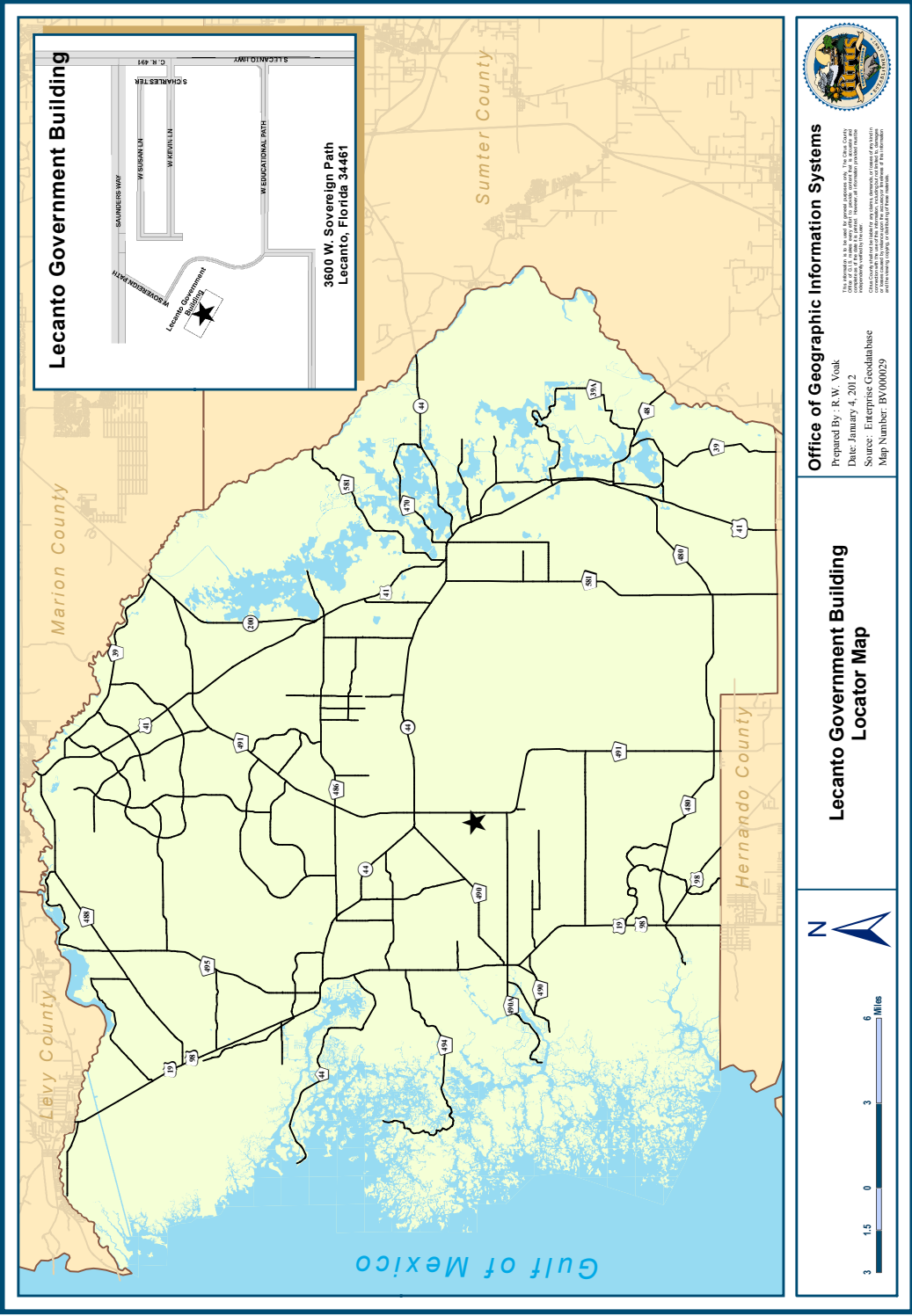
- Agenda
- Minutes of the November 18, 2015 meeting
- Board Package*

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.

- On the Authority's Home Page go to the left side of the page and click on "Meetings."
- On the slide out menu is a button for the current Board Package.
- Click on the Board Package to download and/or print.



Office of Geographic Information Systems
Prepared By: R.W. Volk
Date: January 4, 2012
Source: Enterprise Geodatabase
Map Number: BV000029

**Lecanto Government Building
Locator Map**



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

From Brooksville:

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

From Ocala

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

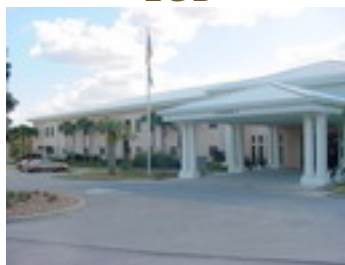
From Bushnell

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

From Wildwood

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

LGB



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

AGENDA

JANUARY 20, 2016 -- 3:30 p.m.
LECANTO GOVERNMENT BUILDING
3600 W. Sovereign Path, Room 166, Lecanto, Florida 34461

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

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16. Next Meeting Time and Location . . . Richard Owen, WRWSA	
a. Next Meeting: February 17, 2016; 3:30 p.m.; Lecanto Government Building, Room 166, 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Lecanto, Florida 34461	
17. 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 of the Meeting

DRAFT

WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Minutes of the Meeting November 18, 2015

TIME: 3:30 p.m.
PLACE: Lecanto Government Building
ADDRESS: 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

Commissioner Al Butler, Chairman, called the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (WRWSA) meeting to order at 3:35 p.m. and asked for a roll call.

2. Roll Call

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

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Al Butler, *Chairman*, Sumter County
Commissioner
Dennis Damato, *Treasurer*, Citrus County
Commissioner
Gary Ernst, Belleview City Councilor
Nick Nicholson, Hernando County Commissioner
Robert Battista, Brooksville City Councilor
Dale Swain, Bushnell City Councilor

ALTERNATES PRESENT

Susan Goebel-Canning, Hernando County
Flip Mellinger, Marion County

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Stan McClain, *Vice-Chairman*, Marion County
Commissioner
Jim Adkins, Hernando County Commissioner
Earl Arnett, Marion County Commissioner
Ken Brown, Crystal River City Councilor
Kathy Bryant, Marion County Commissioner
Scott Carnahan, Citrus County Commissioner
Don Hahnfeldt, Sumter County Commissioner

WRWSA STAFF PRESENT

Richard Owen, Executive Director
Larry Haag, Attorney
Diane Salz, Governmental Affairs Liaison
LuAnne Stout, Administrative Assistant

3. Introductions and Announcements

- *Introductions.* Mr. Owen recognized Authority staff and audience members present for this meeting.

OTHERS PRESENT

Dr. Chris Anastasiou, Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD)
Jacob Arnette, Marion County
Debra Burden, Citrus County Water Conservation
Robin Grantham, SWFWMD
Gary Loggins, Citrus County
Jack Pepper, Attorney
Richard Radacky, City of Brooksville
Chris Zajac, SWFWMD

4. Approval of Minutes

A copy of the September 16, 2015 minutes was provided in the Board packet for review.

Following consideration, **Mr. Damato moved to approve the minutes for the September 16, 2015 meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Swain and carried unanimously.**

5. Public Comment

No Request to Speak cards were submitted to address the Board.

6. SWFWMD Springs Coast Initiative . . . Dr. Chris Anastasiou, SWFWMD

Dr. Anastasiou, SWFWMD's Chief Environmental Scientist, provided a status report to the Board of the SWFWMD's ongoing Springs Coast Initiative. He noted that the SWFWMD has a website for current and ongoing activities of the Springs Coast Steering Committee, as well as identified projects.

The Springs Coast Steering Committee approved the Rainbow River Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) Plan at its November 4, 2015 meeting. This was the first updated or newly created SWIM Plan scheduled for approval by the Steering Committee. Other waterbodies with SWIM Plans under development include the Crystal River/Kings Bay, Weeki Wachee, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka springs and river systems. These Plans are intended to guide not only the SWFWMD's future management actions, but also those actions of the many stakeholders involved, including many of the Authority's member governments.

Mr. Owen presented Resolution 15-01, A Resolution by the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (WRWSA) in Support of the Rainbow River Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) Plan. He clarified that any costs for implementation will be identified and approved by the appropriate entity within the limits of its resources. It was noted there is no cost to the Authority or its member governments at this time.

Following consideration, **Mr. Damato moved for Board approval of Resolution 15-01, A Resolution by the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority in Support of the Rainbow River Surface Water Improvement and Management Plan. Mr. Ernst seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

7. 2015-16 Water Conservation Grant Agreement with Citrus County . . . Debra Burden, Citrus County and Robin Grantham, SWFWMD

Ms. Burden noted that, at its July 15, 2015 meeting, the WRWSA Board approved entering into an Agreement with Citrus County to provide grant monies to the County for its ongoing water conservation activities. Citrus County has requested a modification to the water conservation activities that were approved as a part of the 2015-16 Grant Agreement. These changes are intended to provide for a Florida Water StarSM component to the County's conservation program and are described in the correspondence included as an exhibit in the Board's meeting materials. There is no change in the overall cost of the program. Mr. Owen noted that this request does not increase the funding amount but requests authorization to move funds from one item to another.

Ms. Grantham provided a briefing on the Florida Water StarSM program criteria which certifies that residential homes meet specific water conservation levels and includes irrigation systems. She reviewed the rebate program Citrus County is offering to residents for water efficiency.

Chair Butler thanked Ms. Grantham for her informative presentation.

Following consideration, **Mr. Damato moved for Board approval of the County's request to modify the project activities funded as a part of the 2015-16 Grant Agreement, as outlined in the County's written request included in the Board's meeting materials. Mr. Swain seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

8. **Charles A. Black Well #7 Pump and Motor Replacement . . . Gary Loggins, Citrus County**

Mr. Loggins said that, pursuant to the Contract for Water Supply between Citrus County and the Authority, Citrus County is responsible for all operation and maintenance of the Authority's Charles A. Black wellfield. The County has been experiencing repeated problems with well number 7, one of the seven production wells at the wellfield. The County has investigated a number of options to correct this problem, including repairing the existing motor and pump, replacing the existing pump and motor with new submersible equipment, and replacing the existing submersible equipment with an in-ground pump and above-ground vertical turbine motor.

Mr. Owen said the County is recommending replacement of the existing submersible equipment with an in-ground pump with above-ground vertical turbine motor. Although this may be the alternative with the greatest up front cost (in excess of \$100,000), the long-term costs, including future downtime due to maintenance and repairs, will be minimized. The final approach taken, whether submersible or above-ground equipment, will likely set a precedent for future pump and motor replacement. Funds for this work will come from the Authority's Renewal and Replacement Fund.

Mr. Owen said the Authority has a number of consultants under contract to provide as-needed technical and engineering services. It is recommended that the Authority issue a work order to an appropriate consultant to review the problems with well number 7, evaluate the options and selected remedial action chosen by Citrus County, and present a recommendation to the Authority on the best approach to take, including the option selected by the County.

Mr. Owen said staff recommends Board authorization for the Executive Director to issue a Work Order to C&D Engineering for an amount not to exceed \$2,500 for review and recommendations regarding Repair and Replacement of Well # 7. The work order was provided for review at the meeting.

Discussion ensued regarding the current well situation and drawdown, life-cycle costs and turnaround time, standardization of all wells, and allowing an increase in the work order for life-cycle cost analysis. Mr. Owen noted that funds are available for this item.

Following consideration, **Mr. Nicholson moved Board approval to authorize the Executive Director to issue a Work Order to C&D Engineering for an amount not to exceed \$2,500 for review and recommendations regarding Repair and Replacement of Well Number 7 as provided in the work order presented during the meeting; and authorize the Executive Director to approve an additional \$500 if necessary for life-cycle analysis. Mr. Damato seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

9. **Charles A. Black Wellfield Contract for Water Supply . . . Richard Owen, WRWSA**

Mr. Owen said the Authority has been working with Citrus County to develop a new Contract for Water Supply to govern the Charles A. Black Water Supply Facilities. He reported on progress to-date since the Board's August 2015 meeting. There remain a number of issues to be resolved with the County to complete these negotiations.

Mr. Owen said the draft revised Water Supply Contract is intended, to the greatest extent possible, to replace all previous contracts and to provide for reliable, cost effective and sustainable long-term water supply for Citrus County. In order to ensure all necessary topics are appropriately addressed in the new Contract, and to assist in reaching a Contract that is mutually acceptable to the County and Authority, it is proposed that special counsel be retained to contribute to the Authority's expertise, to help facilitate discussions among the County and Authority representatives, and to participate in drafting the new Contract. A proposed contract for special counsel and an associated scope of work was included as an exhibit to this item.

Mr. Owen said he would like to engage Mr. Jack Pepper as the attorney to provide his services and experience. He provided a brief overview of Mr. Pepper's qualifications. He said this new contract is not contained within the existing budget so the Authority's budget would need to be amended.

Mr. Owen said staff recommends Board approval of the following:

- (1) Transfer of \$30,000 in funds from the Authority's Water Resource Development Reserves Account to Legal Services and an associated amendment of the Authority's Fiscal Year 2015-16 Budget; and
- (2) Authorization for the Chairman to sign the Agreement for Professional Legal Services included as an exhibit to this item.

In response to Mr. Nicholson's question, Mr. Haag said he may have a conflict of interest since he was the attorney with Citrus County when the original contract was negotiated. He said the professional services rate is the same. Mr. Haag said that, for the record, he is recusing himself.

Following consideration, **Mr. Nicholson moved for the Board to (1) transfer \$30,000 in funds from the Authority's Water Resource Development Reserves Account to Legal Services and an associated amendment of the Authority's Fiscal Year 2015-16 Budget; and (2) authorize the Chairman to sign the Agreement for Professional Legal Services included as an exhibit to this item. The motion was seconded by Mr. Damato and it carried unanimously.**

10. Phase II Irrigation Audit Program Final Report . . . Richard Owen, WRWSA

Mr. Owen said Phase II of the Irrigation System Audit Program was conducted over the past several years as part of the Authority's ongoing water conservation initiative. He provided an overview of Phase II of the Irrigation Audit Program funded by and completed in cooperation with the SWFWMD, Citrus, Hernando, and Marion counties, and two of the Villages utilities in Sumter County. Phase II has been completed and the final report on the program is due to the SWFWMD by November 30, 2015. A copy of the final report was provided at the meeting.

Following consideration, **Mr. Nicholson moved for the Board to accept the Phase II Regional Irrigation System Evaluation Program Final Report, dated November 18, 2015, and authorize staff to submit the Final Report to the SWFWMD. The motion was seconded by Mr. Damato and it carried unanimously.**

11. Executive Director's Report

a. Bills to be Paid

Mr. Owen requested Board concurrence with payment of October 2015 bills totaling \$27,090.23.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. Damato for Board concurrence for payment of the October 2015 bills in the amount of \$27,090.23. The motion was seconded by Mr. Swain and it carried unanimously.**

Mr. Owen presented the November 2015 bills and requested approval of payment totaling \$85,358.91. He noted that amount includes bills to be paid to each county (Citrus, Hernando and Marion) participating in the water conservation grant program.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. Damato for payment of the November 2015 bills in the amount of \$85,358.91, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Swain and it carried unanimously.**

b. 2015-2016 Regulatory Plan . . . Richard Owen, WRWSA

Amendments to Chapter 120, Florida Statutes, enacted during the 2015 legislative session revised the requirements for agency rulemaking plans. The WRWSA is now required to file a regulatory plan annually by October first. The regulatory plan must include certifications by the presiding officer and principal legal advisor to the agency.

Mr. Owen said, as shown in proposed 2015-2016 Regulatory Plan contained in the exhibit, no new laws were enacted during the pertinent time period that affect the duties or authority of the WRWSA. In addition, no rulemaking activities are planned for the 2015-2016 timeframe. Upon approval by the Board, the WRWSA will submit the Authority's 2015-2016 Regulatory Plan and publish it on the Authority's website.

Following consideration, **Mr. Damato moved for the Board to approve the WRWSA's 2015-2016 Regulatory Plan as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ernst and it carried unanimously.**

c. Correspondence

Correspondence sent to the Authority was provided in the Board's meeting materials.

d. News Articles

News articles of interest were included the Board's meeting materials.

e. Other

- *WRWSA Board Meeting Materials.* Mr. Owen noted that, to save printing costs, tabs will no longer be inserted. He noted that a title page will be added for better identification of agenda items.
- *Florida Section of the American Water Works Association.* Mr. Owen requested approval for Ms. Salz to attend the November 2015 annual meeting at an estimated cost of \$500. **Mr. Nicholson moved, seconded by Mr. Damato, to approve Ms. Salz's attendance at a cost not to exceed \$500. Motion carried unanimously.**
- *WRWSA Travel Approvals.* Mr. Owen requested Board concurrence that if travel occurs outside Authority jurisdiction or costs were not budgeted, then Board approval will be requested. He said travel costs can be itemized in the yearly budget, then no additional consideration is required. Board members were in concurrence.
- *SWFWMD King's Bay Tour.* Mr. Owen said he attended the October 22, 2015, tour to provide outreach to local elected officials.
- *SWFWMD Public Supply Advisory Committee.* Mr. Owen said he attended the November 10, 2015 committee meeting and items presented included a groundwater level monitoring network project. He said there has been a focus on the upper Floridan Aquifer. Mr. Owen said he initiated discussion to include studying the lower Floridan Aquifer which may be required for the next phase of water supply. He noted the committee concurred and recommended approval. He said the SWFWMD Governing Board reportedly concurred with the committee's recommendation.
- *Too Far Meeting.* Mr. Owen said he will be providing an informational update on November 19, 2015.

12. Legislative Report...Diane Salz, WRWSA Governmental Affairs

a. Updated Legislative Platform

Ms. Salz provided a review of current issues for the legislative session. To date, staff is monitoring over two dozen bills that could impact the Authority.

During the past several interim legislative committee weeks, progress has been made on comprehensive water policy legislation. Agreement has been reached between the House and Senate after three years of effort to craft comprehensive water policy legislation. It is anticipated that this legislation will be passed during the first part of January. HB 7005 and SB 552 related to environmental resources (the comprehensive water policy bills), do not include a provision to create a "water resource advisory council" to determine which water projects warrant funding, as proposed last year by the Senate. These nearly identical bills include provisions to codify the Central Florida Water Initiative; create a springs protection act; set up a pilot program for alternative water supply (AWS) in restricted allocation areas; establish a new classification for

surface waters used for potable water supply that would protect such surface water from pollution; revise water resource planning, and minimum flows and levels (MFLs) establishment and implementation; among other things.

For the Board's information, Mr. Owen provided clarification on legislation in HB 7005 and the actions it will set in motion.

Ms. Salz noted that the Senate Environmental and Preservation Committee has confirmed the SWFWMD governing board members and its executive director. She requested Board approval to formally adopt the key policy issues which will be provided to the Authority's legislative delegation members in the four-county region.

Mr. Damato moved, seconded by Mr. Swain, to adopt the proposed legislative policy positions as shown in the exhibit including any changes approved by the Board at the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

b. Florida Water Forum Report

Ms. Salz reported on topics discussed related to water policy. She noted that staff are able to assist with guidance for policy development.

13. Attorney's Report

Mr. Haag noted that he had no report to make at this time.

14. Other Business

No other business was brought before the Board.

15. Next Meeting Time and Location

a. Approve Canceling December Meeting

Mr. Owen said it is customary to cancel the December monthly meeting. **Mr. Ernst moved, seconded by Mr. Damato, to cancel the December 16, 2015 WRWSA Board meeting. Motion carried unanimously.**

- b.** The next monthly meeting is scheduled for January 20, 2016 at 3:30 p.m. The meeting location is the Lecanto Government Building, Room 166 (3600 W. Sovereign Path, Lecanto). Mr. Owen noted that election of officers will occur at this meeting.

16. Adjournment

Chair Butler announced there was no further business or discussion to come before the Board and adjourned the meeting at 5:05 p.m.

Al Butler, Chairman

Richard S. Owen, Executive Director

Election of Officers

The Board of the WRWSA annually elects its Board officers, including a Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer at its January meeting. The Executive Director is the Board Secretary who serves in an ex-officio capacity. Pursuant to the Policy governing Election of Officers, included as an exhibit to this item, the Board may entertain nominations for individual officers or a slate of officers. Typically, the current Vice Chair is nominated to become Chair and the current Treasurer is nominated to become Vice Chair. The office of Treasurer is customarily filled by a Board member from the county without a representative as an officer in the current slate of officers. This practice is informal and circumstances may warrant nominations and elections to deviate from this practice. Also pursuant to the Board Policy, the current Chair will chair the complete January meeting. The new officers will take their respective seats 24 hours before the next Board meeting.

Current Board officers include: Al Butler, Chair; Stan McClain, Vice Chair and, Dennis Damato, Treasurer. Hernando County currently does not have a Board representative as an officer. As additional background information, the following is excerpted from the Authority's Revised and Restated Interlocal Agreement:


SECTION VIII. – Officers: The officers of the Governing Board shall be as follows:

1. A Chairman, who shall preside at meetings of the Governing Board; sign, as authorized by the Governing Board, any contracts or other instruments which are deemed to be in the best interest of the Authority; and perform such other duties incident to the office as may be prescribed by the Governing Board.
2. A Vice Chairman, who shall act in the Chairman's absence. The Vice Chairman shall perform such other functions as the Governing Board may from time to time assign.
3. A Treasurer, who shall be entrusted with the receipt, care and disbursement of Authority funds in accordance with fiscal policies and regulations adopted by the Governing Board.
4. If none of the above officers are present at a Board meeting where there is otherwise a quorum, the Authority Board may elect a chairman pro-tem for the duration of the meeting.

See Exhibit.

Staff Recommendation:

Board election of officers.

BOARD POLICY			
WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY			
TITLE: ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS		PAGE: 1 OF 2	
NUMBER 2015-01			
APPROVED BY: 	JIM ADKINS, CHAIR	EFFECTIVE DATE: 01-21-2015	SUPERSEDES: N.A.

The purpose of this Policy is to clarify and facilitate the election process for Board of Directors Officers.

1. Officer Elections

The Board of Directors shall elect officers from its members in the following order:

- Chair
- Vice Chair
- Treasurer

The Executive Director shall serve as the non-voting Secretary for the Board.

2. Schedule for Elections

Election of officers shall occur annually in January. Elections will take place during the beginning of the Board meeting. New officers will assume offices twenty-four (24) hours prior to the next Board meeting.

3. Procedure for Election of Officers

- a. Separate elections shall be held for each office. The Board shall complete all voting on each individual office before proceeding to vote on the next office. Notwithstanding, a nomination for a slate of officers (Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer) may be made prior to the Chair accepting nominations for the office of Chair.
- b. Nominations for new officers shall be made orally.
- c. When everyone has had a reasonable opportunity to nominate, the Chair will accept a motion to close nominations.
- d. The Chair shall then proceed to put the nomination(s) to vote. If there is only one nomination for an individual office, or a slate of officers (Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer) is nominated, the Chair shall call for a vote orally. If there is more than one nomination for an office, the Chair shall call for a vote by ballot. Ballots must be signed by each member when voting.
- e. The Executive Director, with the assistance of the General Counsel, shall count the ballots, and the Chair will announce the results.
- f. Elections shall be determined by a majority.
- g. Should no candidate receive a majority on the first ballot, voting will continue with subsequent ballots until one candidate is elected. In the event three or more candidates are on the ballot, the names of all candidates will remain on subsequent ballots.
- h. If a candidate is present and does not decline, or if a candidate is absent but has consented to the candidacy, the candidate is elected. If the candidate is absent, has not consented to be a candidate and does not immediately decline upon being notified, the

BOARD POLICY	
WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY	
TITLE: ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS	
NUMBER 2015-01	PAGE: 2 OF 2
APPROVED BY:	JIM ADKINS, CHAIR EFFECTIVE DATE: 01-21-2015 SUPERSEDES: N.A.

candidate is elected. If a person declines election, there is a failure to elect, and the Board may proceed to continue the election.

- i. Elections will be held in accordance with *Robert's Rules of Order*, except as otherwise specified above.

4. Terms of Office

Board members elected to office will hold office until the next election of officers is held, unless the office is vacated. Officers serve one-year terms. No officer shall serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office.

5. Filling Vacancies

A vacancy in any office shall be filled at the meeting of the Board of Directors at which the vacancy occurs or the next meeting after the vacancy occurs unless delayed to a date certain by action of the Board. In case of disability, resignation, non-reappointment or death of the Chair, the Vice Chair shall become the chair for the remainder of the Chair's term.

6. Practice of Rotating Offices

It is the practice of the Board to rotate offices among the Board representatives from each county, such that three of the four counties comprising the Authority have a representative as an officer (Chair, Vice Chair or Treasurer) of the Board. Typically, the current Vice Chair is nominated to become Chair and the current Treasurer is nominated to become Vice Chair. The office of Treasurer is customarily filled by a Board member from the county without a representative as an officer in the current slate of officers. This practice is informal and circumstances may warrant nominations and elections to deviate from this practice.

AUTHORITY: Chapter 373, Florida Statutes

REFERENCE: Section 286.011, Florida Statutes (Government in the Sunshine Law)
Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, Eleventh Edition (2011)

SWFWMD Springs Coast Initiative, Crystal River/Kings Bay SWIM Plan

Ms. Veronica Craw, Springs and Environmental Manager, Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD), will provide an update on the recently completed Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) Plan for Crystal River / Kings Bay. The Plan is scheduled for approval at the Springs Coast Steering Committee meeting scheduled for January 6, 2016. This Plan is intended to guide not only the District's future management actions, but also those actions of the many stakeholders involved, including a number of the Authority's member governments.

A resolution in support of the Crystal River/Kings Bay SWIM Plan is included as an exhibit to this item.

See Exhibit to this item.

Staff Recommendation:

Board approval of Resolution 16-01 in Support of the Crystal River/Kings Bay SWIM Plan.

RESOLUTION 16-02

A RESOLUTION BY THE
WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY (WRWSA)
IN SUPPORT OF THE CRYSTAL RIVER / KINGS BAY SURFACE WATER
IMPROVEMENT AND MANAGEMENT (SWIM) PLAN

WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature created the Surface Water Improvement and Management Act of 1987, as amended for the purpose of protecting and restoring the surface water resources of the State of Florida, and

WHEREAS, the Act directs the water management districts to develop and implement management plans for protection and/or restoration of surface water bodies of state and regional significance, and

WHEREAS, the first SWIM Plan for Crystal River / Kings Bay was completed in 1989, and

WHEREAS, the Crystal River / Kings Bay spring system contains 70 documented springs that collectively form one of the largest spring groups in the state and this system contributes to the region's aesthetic, ecological, and economic resources, and

WHEREAS, the Southwest Florida Water Management District, in cooperation with the Springs Coast Steering Committee and other resource management agencies, developed a SWIM plan for Crystal River / Kings Bay, and

WHEREAS, the SWIM plan identifies the issues, strategies, and priority projects necessary to protect and restore the water body, and

WHEREAS, the SWIM plan identifies septic tanks, stormwater, and urban/residential fertilizer as the priority water quality management action categories, and

WHEREAS, the successful implementation of the management plan for Crystal River / Kings Bay will require a continuing commitment from the State, water management district, local governments and other stakeholders to the Surface Water Improvement and Management Act of 1987, as amended, to fulfill the requirements of the Act and Legislative mandates,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the WRWSA expresses its support for approval and implementation of the Crystal River / Kings Bay SWIM plan by the responsible parties within the limits of their respective resources.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 20th day of January 2016 by the WRWSA Board of Directors.

ATTESTED:

**WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL
WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY**

RICHARD S. OWEN
Executive Director

By: _____
Chairman

SWFWMD Regional Water Supply Plan

Mr. George Schlutermann, Senior Hydrogeologist and Project Manager of the Southwest Florida Water Management District's (SWFWMD's) 2015 Regional Water Supply Plan (RWSP), will provide an overview of the RWSP along with specific information about the Northern Region.

The SWFWMD's 2015 RWSP is an assessment of projected water demands for all use sectors and potential sources of water to meet those demands over a 20-year planning period. Legislation passed in 1997 requires the water management districts (WMDs) to complete a RWSP and update it every five years. The 2015 RWSP is the second five-year planning effort to include the Northern Region. The District's draft 2015 RWSP was presented to its Governing Board in April and numerous public meetings were held, including a July 23 workshop in Inverness. The final 2015 RWSP was approved by the Governing Board on November 17, 2015.

The District's RWSP has been completed for the 16-county area that extends from Levy and Marion counties in the north to Charlotte County in the south. The 2015 RWSP shows that sufficient water sources exist to meet future demands. Potential sources include fresh groundwater, aquifer storage and recovery, surface and stormwater, reclaimed water, water conservation, brackish groundwater desalination, seawater desalination and the Lower Floridan aquifer.

Additionally, a number of other regional water supply planning efforts were included in this District plan including the Central Florida Water Initiative (2015) and Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (2014).

Staff Recommendation:

This is an informational item and no Board action is necessary.

Charles A. Black Well #7 Pump and Motor Replacement, Status Report

Richard Owen, WRWSA Executive Director, will provide the status report for this item.

At the November 2015 Board meeting, the Board received a report on the need for remedial work at well #7 at the Charles A. Black wellfield. At that meeting, the Board authorized staff to issue a work order to C&D Engineering to evaluate the available options and to provide a recommendation to the Authority and Citrus County on how best to proceed.

C&D Engineering has completed its analysis and a copy of the report is included as an exhibit to this item. As can be seen in the report, C&D Engineering confirmed the approach recommended by Citrus County to replace the existing submersible pump and motor with a vertical lineshaft turbine pump and motor configuration. Although this option may have higher initial costs, this option has the lowest present worth cost, being \$82,360 less than that of a comparable submersible vertical turbine pump and motor configuration. This option is also shown to save energy over the other option and should result in less down time during future repair procedures.

Based upon this C&D Engineering analysis and recommendation, the WRWSA Executive Director informed the County it should move forward with implementation of this preferred option.

See Exhibits to this item.

Staff Recommendation:

This is an informational item and no Board action is necessary.

EVALUATION REPORT

FOR

CHARLES A. BLACK WELL-07 PUMP AND MOTOR REPLACEMENT



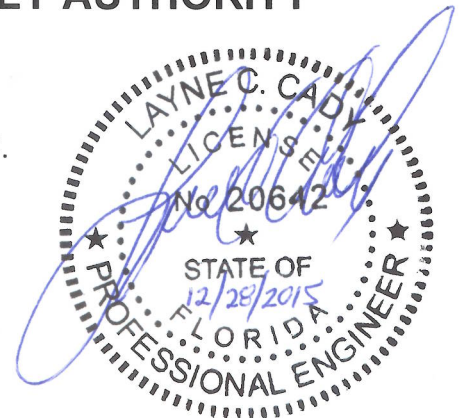
**WITHLACOOCHEE
REGIONAL
WATER
SUPPLY
AUTHORITY**

PREPARED FOR:

WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY

PREPARED BY: C&D ENGINEERING, INC.
5405 Cypress Center Dr., Suite 210
Tampa, FL 33609-1025
813-269-9777

December 2015



1.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVE

Citrus County is responsible for operation and maintenance of the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority's Charles A. Black Water System. In recent years, the County has experienced repeated problems with Well-07, one of the two largest production wells in the system. This well, along with four others, supplies water to the Charles A. Black No. I Water Treatment Plant (CAB-I), which is the system's primary water production facility.

Well-07 is a 3,500 gallon per minute (gpm) deep-well vertical turbine pump driven by a 300 horsepower (hp) submersible motor. The County has investigated various alternatives to address this well's problems including repair and re-building of the existing submersible pump and motor, replacement of the existing submersible pump and motor with new equipment, or replacement of the existing submersible pump and motor with a more common deep-well vertical lineshaft turbine pump and motor configuration. The County has recommended replacing the existing submersible pump and motor with a vertical lineshaft turbine pump and motor configuration.

Due to the similarity between Well-07's submersible pump and motor configuration with the four other wells supplying the CAB-I Water Treatment Plant, the alternative selected to remedy Well-07's problems may well be applied to future pump and motor replacements at other wells in the system. C&D Engineering, Inc., an experienced utility and wellfield engineering firm, was retained to review the record of problems, evaluate the alternatives considered, and make recommendations regarding the Authority's course of action. C&D Engineering staff met with Authority and County staff to discuss the history of Well-07 and obtained copies of relevant documents relating to the issue. These data were used as the basis for this evaluation.

2.0 BACKGROUND

Of the many public water supply wells throughout Florida, only a small percentage of them are equipped with deep-well vertical turbine pumps and submersible motors, like Well-07. The majority of these wells are equipped with vertical lineshaft turbine pumps. The attached illustrations show the general configuration of each of these deep-well turbine pump types. For the same application, each of these would essentially use the same pump and differ primarily in the location of the drive motor, plus the associated differences in mechanical and electrical connections.

As with most equipment, there are advantages and disadvantages to each of these pumping configurations. The following is a summary of the significant differences between these two types compared to one another:



SUBMERSIBLE



VERTICAL
LINESHAFT

SUBMERSIBLE VERTICAL TURBINE PUMPS AND MOTORS

Advantages

More quiet operation - The motor driver and pump are located well underground and submerged below the water level.

Physically less conspicuous - Most of the operating components are below land surface, leaving electrical equipment and discharge piping above ground.

Elimination of a long pump shaft and its associated bearings - The depth to the pumping water level results in a correspondingly long pump shaft, and its associated support bearings, for a vertical lineshaft turbine pump. This is avoided for a submersible motor driven pump.

Disadvantages

Higher initial capital cost: Submersible motors must operate underwater in a less forgiving operating environment than in air. In addition, they must have a restricted diameter in order to fit within a typical well casing. Consequently, these motors are more of a specialty item, there are fewer manufacturers, less competition, and less demand for them.

Higher power costs: Diameter limitations, friction caused by the rotor rotating in a fluid sealed chamber, bearing differences, and other factors generally result in submersible motors being significantly less efficient than conventional motor use to drive vertical lineshaft pumps.

Higher repair costs: The cost of a submersible motor failure can be a great deal more than the same failure of a vertical line shaft pump motor. To begin with, if a motor fails the entire pump assembly must be removed to access the motor. Many motor repair facilities will not rewind and/or repair submersible motors due to the technical competence required. Similarly, different pump manufacturers will generally not service each other's submersible pumps and motors, resulting in less competition and higher costs.

Shorter life expectancy: Thrust loads, load variations, available bearing types, impacts of normal pump wear, water intrusion, etc. can all contribute to the premature failure of a submersible pump and motor when compared to a comparable vertical lineshaft pump and motor.

VERTICAL LINESHAFT TURBINE PUMPS AND MOTORS

Advantages

Lower initial capital cost - Conventional motors operating in an air environment, without diameter restrictions, are a relatively common equipment item that can be obtained from numerous sources with ample opportunity for competition between suppliers.

Lower power costs - Conventional motors can be designed and constructed without the limitations imposed on submersible motors. Consequently, these motors tend to be more energy efficient.

Lower repair costs - The cost of repairing vertical line shaft pumps and motors is generally less than that of comparable submersible pumps and motors. If a motor fails, it can be removed and

replaced without having to remove the entire pump assembly. Many motor repair facilities will rewind and/or repair such motors. Also, it is common for competitors to service each other's vertical lineshaft type pumps, resulting in greater competition and lower repair costs.

Longer life expectancy - Thrust loads, load variations, available bearing types, impacts of normal pump wear, etc. all can be better accommodated by a vertical lineshaft pump and motor, when compared to a comparable submersible pump and motor.

Disadvantages

Less quiet operation - The motor driver is located above ground where the sound of its operation can be heard, when compared to a submersible motor.

Physically more conspicuous – The vertically mounted motor and wellhead of a vertical lineshaft pump generally projects above the wellhead for a greater distance, making the unit more visible.

Long pump shaft and associated bearings - The distance between the wellhead and submerged pump results in a correspondingly long pump shaft and its associated support bearings.

3.0 COMPARISON OF ALTERNATIVES

In order to objectively compare alternatives it is important that each be expected to provide the same level of service, and that the analysis take place over a common length of time. Although the above discussion suggests a shorter life span for submersible pumps and motors, for comparison purposes the service life of both submersible and vertical lineshaft pumps is assumed to be the same.

One common methodology used for the comparison of engineering alternatives is a "Present Worth Analysis". Simply stated, a Present Worth Analysis calculates the current worth of future sums of money, or streams of cash flow, in order to compare such sums as if they were incurred currently. The future sums are discounted, using a common discount rate, with higher discount rates yielding lower present values for future cash flows.

The following is a comparison between a submersible vertical turbine pump and motor configuration and a vertical lineshaft turbine pump and motor configuration:

ASSUMPTIONS COMMON TO BOTH ALTERNATIVES

Well-07 Permitted Capacity (Annual Average Daily Flow)	910,000 gal/day
Total Annual Pumpage	335,435,000 gal/yr
Pump Capacity	3,500 gal/min
Pump Run Time	95,839 min/yr
Pump Run Time	1,597 hr/yr
Power Cost	0.11 \$/kWh
Pump Motor Driver	300 hp
Pump Motor Driver	224 kW
Discount Rate (US Treasury Department 2015)	7%
Pump/Motor Service Life	15 yr

SUBMERSIBLE VERTICAL TURBINE PUMP AND MOTOR

Pump Motor Driver Efficiency	87 %.
Net Power Required	257 kW
Annual Power Required	410,729 kWh/yr
Annual Power Cost	\$45,180 \$/yr
Present Worth of Annual Power Cost (15 yr @ 7% P/A=9.10802)	\$411,500
New Pump Capital Cost	\$33,000
New Motor Capital Cost	\$85,000
Total Present Worth Cost	\$529,500

VERTICAL LINESHAFT TURBINE PUMP AND MOTOR

Pump Motor Driver Efficiency	92 %.
Net Power Required	243 kW
Annual Power Required	388,407 kWh/yr
Annual Power Cost	\$42,725 \$/yr
Present Worth of Annual Power Cost (15 yr @ 7% P/A=9.10802)	\$389,140
New Pump Capital Cost	\$33,000
New Motor Capital Cost	\$25,000
Total Present Worth Cost	\$447,140

Based on the above assumptions and comparison, the Present Worth Cost of the vertical lineshaft turbine pump and motor is **\$82,360** less than that of a comparable submersible vertical turbine pump and motor configuration. Changing the assumed service life, discount rate, or power costs would yield different values yet still favor a vertical lineshaft turbine pump and motor configuration. The potential annual power savings of **\$23,093**, that was calculated, also strongly favors this configuration.

4.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the above discussion of advantages, disadvantages, and costs, it is our opinion that Citrus County's recommendation to replace the existing submersible pump and motor with a vertical lineshaft turbine pump and motor configuration is a sound recommendation. Given the conversion is properly designed and constructed, one would expect this new configuration to yield years of satisfactory service at reduced cost. With respect to the alternative of repairing and/or rebuilding the existing submersible pump and motor we do not recommend this course of action. This is based on our review of the existing equipment, its history, condition, and frequency of repairs.

Item 10

Charles A. Black Wellfield Water Supply Contract, Status Report

Richard Owen, WRWSA and Jack Pepper, Special Counsel, will provide the status report for this item.

Staff and Special Counsel have meet to review the current draft Water Supply Contract with Citrus County and a meeting with the County is schedule for late January.

The purpose of this item is to keep the Board informed of progress on the proposed new water supply contract with Citrus County.

Staff Recommendation:

This is an informational item and no Board action is necessary.

Item 11

SWFWMD Fiscal Year 2017 Cooperative Funding Initiative

Richard Owen, WRWSA Executive Director, will provide an overview of this item.

The application period for submitting Cooperative Funding requests to the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) closed in October 2015.

The purpose of this item is to provide the Board with an overview of the applications received by the District, the upcoming process for evaluation, and selection of applications for funding.

Staff Recommendation:

This is an informational item and no Board action is necessary.

Item 12.a.

Bills to be Paid

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

Bills For Payment
12/16/2015

<u>Administrative Invoices</u>	<u>Invoice Number</u>	<u>Invoice Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Richard S. Owen, AICP	2015-11	12/7/2015	\$6,852.16
Haag, Friedrich & Williams, PA / WRWSA Business	31466	11/24/2015	\$135.00
Diane Salz, Governmental Affairs / Professional Fee	113015	11/30/2015	\$3,500.00
Diane Salz, Governmental Affairs / Travel		12/7/2015	\$191.98
C. LuAnne Stout, Administrative Assistant	004-Nov-2015	12/2/2015	\$3,125.00
Nick Nicholson (Nov Board Travel)		12/15/2015	\$19.58
Gary Ernst (Nov Board Travel)		12/15/2015	\$36.49
Dale Swain (Nov Board Travel)		12/10/2015	\$27.59
Flip Mellinger (Nov Board Travel)		12/14/2015	\$36.49
FL Dept of State - FL Admin Register (cancel Dec mtg)	602092	12/8/2015	\$38.50
Karen Allen, Web Maintenance (+ new page creation)	#0069	12/3/2015	\$100.00
Tech Support Services	1871	11/18/2015	\$95.00
1-Stop Prints of Citrus County (N491 Report)	15-01852	11/18/2015	\$80.25
Sun Trust Business Card Statement (Mail Nov Bd Pkts)	12.2.2015	12/2/2015	\$31.47
Total Administrative Invoices			\$14,269.51

<u>Water Supply Studies and Facilities</u>	<u>Contract/ Budget</u>	<u>Balance Remaining</u>	<u>Current Invoice</u>
<u>FY14-15 Remaining Contract Balances:</u>			
General Services Contract FY 14-15	\$75,000.00	\$47,645.76	
Work Order 14-03. Water Resource Associates	\$27,354.24	\$7,818.44	\$0.00
FY14-15 Local Government Water Supply Projects			
Citrus Water Conservation Pgm	\$40,250.00	\$21,780.42	\$0.00
Hernando Water Conservation Pgm	\$48,150.00	\$986.94	\$0.00
Marion Water Conservation Pgm	\$32,350.00	\$23,712.27	\$0.00
Phase 2 Irrigation Program (2013-2015)	\$69,584.00	\$65,884.00	\$0.00
Phase 3 Irrigation Program (2015-2017)	\$57,000.00	\$6,692.27	\$3,645.00 (1)
Purvis Gray CAB Rate Analysis Work Order	\$12,000.00	\$9,900.00	\$0.00

<u>Water Resource Development Projects (FY 15-16)</u>			
General Services Contract	\$75,000.00	\$75,000.00	\$0.00
FY15-16 Local Government Water Supply Projects	\$130,000.00	\$130,000.00	\$0.00
Phase 2 Irrigation Program (2013-2015)	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$0.00
Phase 3 Irrigation Program (2015-2017)	\$17,650.00	\$17,650.00	\$0.00
Purvis Gray CAB Rate Analysis Work Order	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$0.00
Total FY 15-16	\$334,334.00	\$176,601.66	\$3,645.00

Total Bills to be Paid	\$17,914.51
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State Board of Administration	Transfer from SBA2 to SBA1	\$3,645.00
State Board of Administration	Transfer from SBA1 to SunTrust	\$17,914.00

Notes:

(1) Breakdown of charges for Phase 3 (N640)

Jack Overdorff, evaluations:	\$3,245.00	Invoice 211 Eco Land Design
C. LuAnne Stout, administration:	\$400.00	Invoice 2015-N640-11
Sun Trust Business Card:	\$0.00	
	<u>\$3,645.00</u>	

Item 12.b.

Correspondence

CAMPAIGN SUMMARY



For the seventh year running, WaterSense partners from across the U.S. and Canada joined EPA in the race to chase down leaks! Participation in Fix a Leak Week has continued to grow year after year, and 2015 was no exception. With more than 75 events happening from coast to coast, WaterSense partners educated participants on how to find and fix household leaks and motivated consumers to make their homes more water-efficient. Here are some of the highlights!

SOCIAL MEDIA

TWITTER



The buzz about Fix a Leak week was strong on Twitter! Word spread on Monday, March 16th, when we kicked off the week with the annual #fixaleak Twitter party. We were thrilled to see how many folks tuned in to learn how to find and fix leaks, as well as how many partners stepped up to help answer questions and share the message. In fact, there were over 50 percent more contributors to this year's chat than last year—resulting in 60 percent more tweets! Tweets containing the #fixaleak hashtag continued to circulate throughout the week and those who took action at home even showed off pictures of their handiwork with the hashtag #ifixleaks.



FACEBOOK

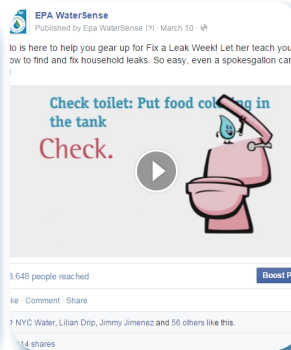
Facebook is a great platform to share detailed tips on how to find and fix leaks and to amplify partner's events and stories. Engagement was through the roof this year! In addition to our 2015 Fix a Leak Week Event Map, which helped viewers find partner events that were happening near them, our success was boosted by the launch of our Fix a Leak Week animated video! This new tool featured Flo, WaterSense's "spokesgallon," as she gave step by step instructions on how to "Check, Twist, Replace." The video was so popular that over 18,648 people were reached by it alone!

EPA WaterSense Fix a Leak Week Twitter Party

Go with the flow of Americans working to stop the 1 trillion gallons of water wasted annually by household leaks.

DATE: March 16, 2015
TIME: 2:00-3:00 p.m. Eastern
HASHTAG: #FixaLeak or #IfixLeaks

Check.
Twist.
Replace.



197,938
IMPRESSIONS

3,339
STORIES

4,137
ENGAGED
USERS

83,861
REACH

2.5K
CONTRIBUTORS

14.9M
IMPRESSIONS

6.1K
TWEETS

3.9M
REACH

700
NEW
FOLLOWERS



REACH: The number of unique users that saw a Tweet or Facebook story about Fix a Leak Week.

IMPRESSIONS: The total number of Tweets or Facebook stories that users saw about Fix a Leak Week. A single user can be exposed to multiple impressions.

STORIES: The number of Facebook newsfeed "stories" that were created. Stories are created when a user interacts with a page or post, either by liking a page, or by liking, commenting on, or sharing a post.

PARTNERS IN ACTION

In honor of this year's "Chasing Leaks" theme, partners held a variety of events to inspire consumers to chase down water-wasting culprits.

RACE TO CHASE LEAKS!

The City of Plano (TX) got a jump start on Fix a Leak Week by hosting their first ever Chasing Leaks Fun Run and "Save Drops, Save Watts" educational workshop on Saturday, March 14th. For a "super" twist, both kids and adults were encouraged to come dressed in their best water or energy conservation superhero costumes. Plano also held a social media contest to win a 50 gallon rain barrel or a drip conversion kit for those who applied what they learned at the event by fixing a leak or practicing other conservation efforts at home.

The City of Plano



The City of Fort Worth



The City of Fort Worth (TX) was off to the races on Sunday, March 15th. Also hosting their inaugural Chasing Leaks 5K and 1K Fun Run, the Fort Worth Water Department used a creative 1920's campaign to raise awareness about leaking toilets due to "bad flappers." Runners passed water-waste facts as they ran along the course and participants who dressed up were entered into a costume contest. Afterwards, **The Home Depot** and **Texas A&M AgriLife** helped teach participants how to find and fix leaks in their home.

Santa Rosa Water

Meanwhile out west, **Santa Rosa Water** (CA) went "green" by teaming up with the Santa Rosa Rec & Parks Department for the second year to chase down leaks at the St. Patrick's Day 5K on March 15th. Along the course water-saving tips were posted on mile markers for runners to read as they raced to catch the "running toilet." Afterward, runners stopped by the Fix a Leak Week booth to pick up leak detection kits and information on rebates!



Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District



Down south in Georgia, the Water Drop Dash & Water Festival proved to be a hit for the third year in a row! **Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District** worked with water providers across the Atlanta Metro area, including WaterSense partners **Cobb County Water District**, **Atlanta Department of Watershed Management**, and **The Home Depot**, to host the family friendly event on March 21st. After the race and Kid's Fun Run, where kids chased (and stopped!) one determined "running toilet," runners cooled down at the festival with water conservation education, games, giveaways, and activities.

Arizona Municipal Water Users Association

It may have been a four mile run, but **Arizona Municipal Water Users Association (AMWUA)**'s One for Water 4-Miler celebrated its fifth year! On Saturday, March 21st, participants in Peoria, Arizona raised awareness for Fix a Leak Week and chased down Leaky "Loo" McFlapper, a six foot tall running toilet. After the race, runners dropped by the Family Fun Festival for music, demos on how to find and fix leaks, music, and kids' activities. As one of the original "chasing leaks" themed races, we're proud this event continues to be such a success!



City of Charlottesville Water Conservation



The City of Charlottesville (VA) wrapped up Fix a Leak Week with their third annual Fix a Leak Week 5K on Sunday, March 22nd. The University of Virginia and Albemarle County Service Authority teamed up with the city's Water Conservation Department to make this the best year yet! Participants chased down a running toilet for the chance to win an award, learned how to tackle water leaks at home, and received information on rebates. Festivities included face painting, balloon animals, music, and giveaways (like some snazzy reusable water bottles).

CONTESTS & RAFFLES!



Contests were a popular way for utilities to motivate customers to take action on finding and fixing leaks! Online the City of Concord (NH), Irvine Ranch Water District (CA), City of Durham Water Management Department (NC), and El Paso Water Utilities (TX) each hosted a "Leak Detective" photo contest that encouraged residents to share snapshots of their leak detection (and prevention) efforts via social media for a chance to win WaterSense labeled products.

San Francisco Public Utilities (CA) held a Fix a Leak themed #TriviaTuesday contest and awarded winners with a WaterSense labeled Delta showerhead, while customers who commented and shared the City of Bend's (OR) daily Fix a Leak Week posts were eligible to be one of five lucky winners for a complete home water audit. The audit would be performed by locally trained plumbers certified by Green Plumbers, USA. The online contests didn't end there – Waste Water Education (MI) held their second virtual Golden Plunger Relay Race on Twitter that encouraged sharing of WasteWater Education's daily #fixaleak tweets in hopes of winning an artistically decorated "Golden Plunger"! WaterSense manufacturing partner, Hansgrohe USA, also took advantage of social media to raffle off 35 WaterSense labeled Club 100 showerheads.



Athens-Clarke County Water Conservation Office (GA) sent customers on a scavenger hunt around town in search of decorated "PottyO' Gold" bathroom stalls at water-efficient restaurants that participate in their "Certified Blue" program. Those who shared pictures were entered for the chance to win a new WaterSense labeled toilet or a gift card to the restaurant. Out west, the City of Goodyear (AZ) took Fix a Leak Week to the big leagues — Major League Baseball that is! Teaming up with the Cincinnati Reds and the Cleveland Indians, residents who lowered their water usage in January or February 2015 won two tickets to a spring training baseball game during Fix a Leak Week!

Fix a Leak Week is always a great opportunity to educate kids about the importance of water efficiency and sometimes a little friendly competition helps keep them excited and engaged!

In addition to their online showerhead giveaway for adults, Murray City Water Department (UT) hosted a drawing competition for local elementary students to share what they know about water conservation and promoted the winners in the city newsletter. Regional Water Authority (CA) teamed up with the Sacramento Bee to encourage students to submit a video PSA on the theme "BEAT THE LEAK: Find and fix leaks fast." Winners were announced at a Sacramento River Cats game with the winning video displayed on the jumbotron! Meanwhile, north of the border, the City of Winnipeg Water and Waste Department (MB, CA) and Fort Whyte Alive (MB, CA) hosted the annual Leak Detector Challenge for grades five through eight, in which classrooms at local schools were challenged to check for dripping taps, leaky showerheads, or running toilets for the chance to win various prizes.



WORKSHOPS!

Fix a Leak Week workshops were held across the country to learn from the experts on how to find and fix leaks. EPA's Region 3 office in Philadelphia, PA along with many of our utility partners, including **NYCWater** (NY), **City of Raleigh Public Utilities Department** (NC), **Henry County Water and Sewage Authority** (GA), **City of Carmel** (IN), and **East Central Illinois Regional Water Supply Planning Committee** teamed up with fellow WaterSense retail partners **The Home Depot** and **Lowes**, as well as, other local home repair providers and plumbers to host demos. In areas where water scarcity is an issue workshops and water conservation clinics became a popular way to celebrate Fix a Leak Week with **Arlington Water** (TX), **City of Frisco** (TX), **City of Mansfield** (TX), **The Woodlands Township** (TX), **Trophy Club Municipal Utility District No. 1** (TX), **Colorado Springs Utilities** (CO), **City of Lodi** (CA), **City of Oceanside** (CA), **Coachella Valley Water** (CA), **East Bay Municipal Utility District** (CA), **Lake Havasu City** (CA), and **San Dieguito Water District** (CA) all hosting events.



PROMOTIONS & INFO SESSIONS!

Fix a Leak Week awareness activities did not stop there. Down south, the **City of Atlanta Department of Watershed Management** (GA) toured the city in the new Atlanta Streetcar while educating passengers on water conservation and distributing leak detection kits. In Florida, **Citrus County Utilities** fixed leaks and got a jump start on Sprinkler Spruce-Up by offering a free "Schedule a Specialist" promotion in which a specialist taught customers how to check their water meter for leaks and conducted an irrigation system checkup.



Out west, the **City of Greeley Water Department** (CO) hosted a showerhead exchange and the **City of Fort Collins Utilities** (CO) used their advanced meter system to send letters to customers identified as likely having a leak and distributed over 2,000 Fix a Leak kits which included information pamphlets and toilet dye tablets. **City of Mesquite** (TX), **Chino Basin Water Conservation District** (CA), **San Diego County Water Authority** (CA), and **Department of Water, County of Kauai** (HI) distributed leak detection kits in their communities.

THANK YOU

Thanks to ALL of our partners who went above and beyond to make Fix a Leak Week 2015 such a success! Don't forget, the race to chase down and fix leaks lasts year round!

[Print](#) | [Close Window](#)

Subject: Re: WRWSA Board
From: WRWSA <richardowen@wrwsa.org>
Date: Thu, Dec 24, 2015 6:01 pm
To: "Griffis, Nadja" <Nadja.Griffis@marioncountyfl.org>
Cc: Stout Carolyn <lstout@wrwsa.org>

Thanks very much.

Richard Owen

On Dec 24, 2015, at 2:50 PM, Griffis, Nadja <Nadja.Griffis@marioncountyfl.org> wrote:

Richard,

To confirm from our recent conversation, the Marion County Commissioners that will be representing Marion are Commissioner Kathy Bryant, Commissioner Earl Arnett, and Commissioner Carl Zalak.

Thank you!

~ Nadja

Nadja M. Griffis
Executive Assistant to Commission
Marion County Board of County Commission
601 SE 25th Ave.
Ocala, FL 34482
352-438-2323, 352-438-2324 (f)

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Executive Director

C. Christopher Anderson, III
General Counsel/
Deputy Executive Director

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"A Public Office is a Public Trust"

MEMORANDUM

TO: LuAnne Stout, Financial Disclosure Coordinator
FROM: Kimberly R. Holmes, Program Administrator
RE: Request for Updated Information
DATE: December 23, 2015

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kimberly R. Holmes", is written over the "FROM:" line of the memorandum.

Each year the Commission on Ethics requests your help to compile the mailing list of public officials and employees required to file financial disclosure. Using this list, our office mails out financial disclosure forms and asks these persons to file financial disclosure by July 1st.

Effective **January 7, 2016**, you will update your agency's information directly on our website. The website has been tested with Internet Explorer 6.0 and should be accessible through any standard-compliant browser. For security reasons, each financial disclosure coordinator for each agency has been given a log-in name and a password to access and make changes in the information currently on record for his or her agency. If you have multiple organizations for which you are responsible, the username and password listed below will access all of them.

HOW DO I LOGIN?

Navigate to the Commission's home page at <http://www.ethics.state.fl.us>.

1. Click on the "Financial Disclosure" tab.
2. Scroll down to Login, click on "Coordinator". You will then be directed to the login screen.

A screenshot of a web browser showing the login page for the "Financial Disclosure Management System". The page title is "THE FLORIDA COMMISSION ON ETHICS". There are two input fields labeled "User Name:" and "Password:". Below these fields is a button labeled "Log In".

3. Type the following:
User Name: **STOUT204970**
Password: **KkUkdL3**
4. Click the "Log In" button. The Coordinators Financial Disclosure List Update page appears. **NOTE:** The user name and password are case sensitive and must be typed exactly as shown.

HOW DO I MAKE AND SAVE CHANGES IN MY AGENCY'S LIST?

Once you have logged into the Coordinator Portal, instructions are at the top of the Coordinators Financial Disclosure List Update page. Click "Instructions to Update Filer List" to obtain instructions you can read or print.

WHO SHOULD BE LISTED?

For each organization, you will find a link that states "Who Should be Listed." Click on this link and receive a printer-friendly pop-up detailing who should be included on this list. If you have multiple organizations, you will see different criteria for each. You must login to view this link.

ACCURACY IS IMPORTANT!

State-law imposes a fine of \$25.00 a day on persons who fail to file the annual disclosure form in a timely fashion. Accordingly, please give the utmost importance to the accuracy of the names and addresses that are included on the mailing list. Also, make sure that each person on your list actually belongs in one of the categories of personnel who are required to file disclosure.

DEADLINE!

Please complete all changes to your agency's list no later than **January 29, 2016**. When you have completed your updates, please click "All Changes are Complete for this Organization."

QUESTIONS!

If you have questions concerning the information requested, please do not hesitate to contact any member of the financial disclosure staff at the following:

Telephone: (850) 488-7864 or (800) 262-8824
Fax: (850) 488-3077
E-mail: disclosure@leg.state.fl.us

Item 12.c.

News Articles

Judge declines to toss suit over Amendment 1 spending

By Bruce Ritchie 7:21 p.m. | Dec. 3, 2015

TALLAHASSEE — A state circuit court judge on Thursday refused to throw out a lawsuit filed by environmental groups charging that the Legislature misappropriated \$237 million provided for conservation spending under a 2014 ballot initiative.

Seventy-five percent of Florida voters in 2014 approved Amendment 1, which designated that a portion of revenue from an excise tax on transactions be transferred to the state Land Acquisition Trust Fund.

The 2015-16 state budget provided \$742 million under Amendment 1. In June, environmental groups asked the court to declare the spending of \$237 million for "general state expenses" to be in violation of the constitution.

On Thursday, Circuit Judge George S. Reynolds III rejected a request by the Legislature to dismiss the case because the environmental groups could not show they were directly affected. But Reynolds granted a request by Chief Financial Officer Jeff Atwater to be dismissed from the case.

David Guest of the Earthjustice law firm said the groups had "crossed the first hurdle" by keeping their case from being thrown out.

"This is a turning point," Guest said after the court hearing. "Now we have a clear shot at the Legislature. They tried to take us out — it didn't work. They lost and we won."

Andy Bardos, a lawyer representing the Legislature, said only that his clients were pleased the court dismissed the chief financial officer from the case.

Amendment 1 faced no organized opposition in advance of the 2014 general election. But voter approval touched off debate between industry and environmental groups over whether pollution cleanup and water supply projects should receive funding under the initiative.

Legislative leaders also said many existing programs within state agencies, such as state parks management, also complied with the amendment.

The \$78.4 billion budget signed by Gov. Rick Scott in June included \$55 million for land acquisition. That compares to the \$300 million per year or more provided for the Florida Forever land acquisition program from 1990 to 2008.

Later in June the Florida Wildlife Federation and its president, Manley Fuller, the St. Johns Riverkeeper, the Environmental Confederation of Southwest Florida and the Sierra Club filed the lawsuit in Circuit Court in Tallahassee. An amended complaint was filed in September.

Those groups argued that the \$237 million in spending that violated Amendment 1 included \$174 million for salaries and overhead, nearly \$21.7 million for agricultural best management practices (of which \$5 million was vetoed by Scott), \$5 million for nutrient reduction and water retention projects on private lands and \$1.2 million for risk management insurance.

The groups asked the court to require Atwater to transfer \$237 million from surplus general revenue to the Land Acquisition Trust Fund.

Andy Bardos, a lawyer representing the Legislature, told Reynolds that the environmental groups could not show their members were directly affected by the Legislature's spending decisions on more than 80 contested line items.

But Reynolds repeatedly asked Bardos to provide an example of who would have standing to sue, but the lawyer said he couldn't provide one offhand.

"You can't give me an example of any plaintiff who might, which means nobody could ever challenge," Reynolds said.

Richard T. Donelan Jr., chief counsel in the Department of Financial Services, said the judge couldn't direct the chief financial officer to transfer the money from general revenue to the Land Acquisition Trust Fund because there was no authority in state law for the CFO to do that.

Reynolds agreed and dismissed the CFO. In response after the hearing, Guest said the court could require the Legislature to make the transfer.

Reynolds also dismissed a portion of the environmental groups lawsuit asking for a declaration as to what uses are permissible under Amendment 1.

And the judge raised his own questions about what spending constitutes is proper under Amendment 1, suggesting that a football field in the middle of a cow pasture could be an allowed recreational land purchase.

Guest acknowledged after the hearing that determining what spending should be allowed will be a challenge in the case.

"We think the intent of the voters was unmistakably clear," Guest said. "When you apply that intent to any rational standard you will find an order that says the constitution is violated."

He also said he hoped the case would influence the Legislature as it works on a 2016-17 state budget but he had no indication that has happened yet.

Judge rejects attempts by Legislature to dismiss lawsuit against them over Amendment 1

A Tallahassee judge on Thursday rejected attempts by the Florida Legislature to dismiss a lawsuit accusing lawmakers of violating the constitution by misspending \$237 million in money in Amendment 1 funds intended for water and land conservation.

Leon County Circuit Court Judge George Reynolds ruled from the bench that the lawsuit filed by the the Florida Wildlife Federation, the St. Johns Riverkeeper, the Environmental Confederation of Southwest Florida and the Sierra Club could continue.

But he dismissed a second prong of their complaint which attempted to have the court compel Chief Financial Officer Jeff Atwater to shift funds from the general revenue fund into the Land Acquisition Trust Fund to replace the errant spending.

Florida voters approved Amendment 1 in November 2014, setting aside 33 percent of the proceeds from the real estate documentary stamp tax go into the Land Acquisition Trust Fund to protect fragile wetlands, springs and other environmentally sensitive areas.

But challengers say that legislators stripped \$237 million of those funds to pay for other projects not intended by voters and they want the court to call them on it now to prevent repeating the mistake in the next budget year. The funds from documentary stamps on land transactions are expected to reach \$740 million next year.

Reynolds said the case could proceed but agreed with Atwater's attorney that only the Legislature has the power to decide how to spend state funds and the request violated the separation of powers doctrine.

"If the CFO has the independent authority to take money from one trust and put it into another, that would be a sea change in the way the Florida executive branch is operating," said Richard Donelan, Jr. chief counsel for Atwater.

Reynolds agreed and told the plaintiffs to amend their complaint to choose a different remedy.

David Guest, attorney for the environmental law firm Earthjustice, who represents the challengers in the case, said he would likely ask the court to direct the legislature to restore the money instead.

"This is nothing more than if a trustee misappropriates money, the court says put it back," Guest said. "I think we got the wrong people to put it back. We'll see."

The ruling was a "turning point," Guest said, because it the Legislature "tried to take us out and lost."

But Reynolds left open the possibility that the challengers will have additional hurdles ahead in trying to justify how the legislature's spending did not meet the voters' intent.

The complaint alleges at least 80 different allocations in the 2015-16 budget they believe violated the intent of the constitution. Among them:

- * \$1.2 million for risk management insurance for the Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the Department of State and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, covering liability for, among other things, damage awards for Civil Rights Act violations
- * \$623,043 to pay for executive leadership and administrative services to wildlife programs in the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission;
- * \$21.6 million to the Department of Agriculture to pay for implementation of agricultural best management practices on non-conservation, privately owned lands;
- * \$174 million for salaries and overhead for personnel within the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the Department of Environmental Protection, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and the Department of State;
- * \$838,570 for wildfire suppression vehicles for the Department of Agriculture;
- * \$5 million to the Department of Agriculture to pay private agricultural operations to keep their pollution on their own lands;
- * \$38,575,538 to the Department of Environmental Protection that can be used to build sewage treatment plants and stormwater treatment systems.

Reynolds said that it was not clear what standard should be used to decide whether one expenditure is appropriate to fund with Amendment 1 proceeds, and what is not.

“Whatever that standard is, that is going to be very important,” he said.

Guest said they would work on developing that as the case progresses.

“The voters intent was clear,” he said. “What the Legislature did just simply cannot be matched with what the voters intended.”

A second lawsuit was filed last month by Gainesville-based Florida Defenders of the Environment which is taking a different approach by asking the court to block four state agencies from spending the money intended for land and water preservation – DEP, the Department of State, DACS and FWC in the current fiscal year.

The proponents of Amendment 1 had proposed last session that the Legislature allocate \$60 million of the documentary stamp proceeds to restore natural springs and \$155 million go to the Florida Forever program. But lawmakers set aside only \$38.5 million for springs and \$15 million for Florida Forever.

Posted by Mary Ellen Klas on Thursday, Dec. 3, 2015 at 6:39 PM

New bottler shouldn't get OK to tap aquifer

Lauren Ritchie - Contact Reporter

COMMENTARY

Water experts say only 50 million gallons a day are left

You can't water your lawn when you want, but a new water-bottling operation is asking to pump millions of gallons for profit and probably will get an OK to do it.

The request is for more water than the controversial Niagara Bottling plant pumped when it first opened in Groveland. Are you surprised? You shouldn't be.

Florida's water-management districts can't say no to anyone. Despite a sloppy application, chances are high that Spring Water Resources of Ocala — doesn't the clever name sound like it's a group doing good? — will be getting permission to pump 181 million gallons a year.

The company's plan is to withdraw water from 10 acres just south of County Road 470 and east of U.S. Highway 301 in Sumter County. Some 144 tanker trucks a day would take the raw water to the Azure Bottling plant in Leesburg, owned by a Fruitland Park couple.

There, plans call for bottling the water and selling it to five retailers, including Niagara Bottling and Nestlé Water, according to a business plan filed with the Southwest Florida Water Management District.

The proposal is to drill a 10-inch well near Fern Spring, but don't worry — the application swears that tests show the pumping won't hurt the spring at all. Never mind that engineers at the water district have never even heard of the process the water company's consultant used to determine the spring is safe.

In a Nov. 24 letter to Spring Water Resources manager Darryl C. Lanker, a senior district engineer asked the consultant to explain her methods and to disclose precisely how many feet the proposed well would be from the spring. Seems that she left that little tidbit out of the application.

The engineer also noted that the well was pinpointed in two different places on maps, that it is proposed for a flood plain without a plan to keep floodwaters from contaminating the well and that it appeared only one flow test was done — three years ago. The engineer pointed out that the applicant hadn't suggested any way to mitigate the withdrawal from what's known as the upper aquifer, where all the sweet water is buried, and he questioned the conclusion that two springs on the property would be unharmed.

Longtime environmentalist and Lake County Water Authority Chairwoman Peggy Cox snorted aloud at the very notion that a 10-inch well near a spring wouldn't reduce spring flow before giving her personal opinion: "Good luck with that. The spring will probably not exist much longer."

Niagara, Cox said, also started with upper-aquifer withdrawals and got permission in 2014 to double the amount it pumps to roughly 365 million gallons a year by agreeing to pump from more than 1,000 feet deep, where water must be treated before drinking it.

So, is this new request just a way for Niagara to avoid having to deal with the water in the deeper aquifer? Perhaps.

But the problem is bigger. It's this: We like bottled water. People have gotten used to drinking it, and habit is a power motivator.

Bottled water is for drinking by humans, and that's the very "best and highest use" of sweet aquifer water, according to the experts at the districts who issue the permits. The fact that Niagara water sells for \$4 to \$5 a case and a typical utility charges only \$2 to \$5 for 1,000 gallons doesn't bother them in the least.

We also like to water our lawns, but the water districts aren't shy about trying to change that particular bad habit by imposing restrictions and making water more expensive. Too bad they don't have the courage to take on water bottlers, too.

Not many years from now, water experts at the districts will have to decide whether residents or for-profit companies rank higher when it comes to handing out the last of the cheap, easily accessible water in the upper aquifer.

The region has been consuming 800 million gallons a day from the aquifer, and hydrologists say pumping 850 million gallons is the point at which springs and wetlands will begin to degrade. Technically, utilities and other big users already have permits to pump the remaining 50 million, but they don't need it right now and aren't withdrawing it.

The trustees of the water districts must realize that the people paying their salaries have a valid point when they say the water should be theirs. The board of the Southwest district has an opportunity to forge a new path by turning down this request.

Lritchie@tribune.com. Lauren invites you to send her a friend request on Facebook at www.facebook.com/laurenonlake.

Florida Springs Council Asks EPA to Review Silver Springs BMAP

BY FLORIDA WATER DAILY · DECEMBER 9, 2015

From the Florida Springs Council Press Release:

In a letter to the Region IV Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Florida Springs Council has asked the EPA to review the Basin Management Action Plan recently adopted by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) for Silver Springs and the Upper Silver River.

The Florida Springs Council—an alliance of 34 private and public organizations that represent more than 100,000 people—is concerned that the Basin Management Action Plan, or BMAP, does not meet requirements set forth in two sections of the federal Clean Water Act. The Council's letter requests that the EPA "...exercise your full authority to require the State of Florida to follow the letter of the law with regards to this BMAP." According to federal law, if a state is found in violation of the Clean Water Act, the EPA has the authority to withhold CWA grant funding or other federal assistance until the deficiencies are corrected.

The Council's concerns about the Basin Management Action Plan include:

- FDEP failed to achieve the 79 percent nitrate reduction requirement established by that agency in 2012 in the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) allowed for Silver Springs.
 - Based on FDEP's calculations, there will be no more than a 6 percent reduction of the existing nitrogen load polluting Silver Springs and the Silver River with the BMAP.
 - FDEP failed to uphold a basic principle of TMDL implementation by emphasizing reliance on public utilities, instead of reliance on all polluters, to reduce nitrate pollution.
 - FDEP failed to hold agriculture and on-site treatment and disposal systems (such as septic tanks) accountable for their shares of nitrate pollution to the Silver Springs Basin.
- FDEP failed to conduct a federally required anti-degradation review of non-point sources of pollution to the Silver Springs Basin.
- FDEP failed to include annual milestones for implementation of voluntary agricultural Best Management Practices, or BMPs.
- FDEP failed to identify feasible funding sources to implement its recommended pollution reduction strategies.

More details about each of these complaints are given in the attached copy [shown below – not provided] of the Council's letter to the EPA.

The Florida Springs Council has concluded that the final Silver Springs BMAP fails to achieve springs restoration, fails to meet federal statutory requirements, and fails to result in any significant reduction in nitrogen loadings in the Silver Springs Basin during the next five years.

The State of Florida's failure to enforce federal and state water quality standards over the past 40 years has resulted in an environmental tragedy for Silver Springs, the largest and most revered spring system in the United States—a spring system that also holds an important place in the global history of science as the birthplace of systems ecology.

Motivated by the continuing failures by the State of Florida and its Department of Environmental Protection, the Florida Springs Council has asked the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to take whatever steps are available to force FDEP to take action to ensure that targeted water quality standards for Silver Springs and the Upper Silver River will be achieved in a timely fashion.

Editorial: Big springs challenge

Published: Sunday, December 13, 2015 at 6:30 a.m.; last modified: Friday, December 11, 2015 at 4:55 p.m.

From the outset it was clear that cleaning up Silver Springs was going to be a monumental task. Those who drafted the Silver Springs Basin Management Plan, or BMAP, said to make the springs healthy again would require reducing the nitrate load by 79 percent from current levels.

It was an admittedly ambitious plan, and the final BMAP approved in October by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection came under immediate fire for not going far enough, fast enough. In fact, members of the Silver Springs Alliance, the springs' most vocal and active advocacy group, argued that the existing plan would only reduce nitrate levels by 6 percent in the first five years, a charge the DEP did not dispute.

So the DEP has responded, not by going on the defensive, but by coming to Ocala/Marion County and trying to enlist support for what it acknowledges is a longshot — that is, achieving the 79 percent reduction. It's a longshot because it will require widespread support and cooperation from government, business, agriculture and thousands of homeowners. Oh, and there will be significant expense involved, and figuring out how to minimize the individual impact of that will be a key component to success.

The two biggest contributors to the nitrate pollution of the springs are agriculture and septic tanks. Agriculture — fertilizer and manure — is responsible for 38 percent of the nitrates, while septic tanks within the springs protection zone account for another 38 percent. Both of these are unregulated by the state.

The Silver Springs BMAP, however, gives the DEP new authority to regulate agriculture operations within the springs zone. It empowers the agency to provide each agriculture operation — and there are hundreds — with a set of “best practices” with which to reduce its nitrate load. Under the regulatory power of the BMAP, DEP can sanction, with court action and fines, if necessary, those ag operations that fail to meet the standards. Of course, DEP will have to hold the farmers' feet to the fire for it to work. And it will take time.

The second big contributor, septic tanks, is a bigger problem to fix than agriculture because there are 24,000 septic tanks located in the primary spring zone and more than 8,400 in the two-year capture zone. According to Drew Bartlett, DEP's assistant secretary for ecosystem restoration who oversaw the writing of the Silver Springs BMAP, if those septic tanks are not either taken out of use or replaced with nitrate-removing septic systems, the chance of cleaning up the springs is unlikely.

Here's the problem. Removing septic tanks and hooking those households up to public water and sewer systems will cost thousands of dollars per household. There will be citizen resistance and that will likely lead to political resistance. It will be up to DEP, the governor (whoever that is), the Legislature and our local elected officials to figure ways to make it financially affordable for all concerned. Because as long as faulty septic systems, and even functioning ones, are seeping into the aquifer, not only will our springs remain tainted, but so will our groundwater, yes, our drinking water.

We are at the beginning of the springs restoration process and conversation. Bartlett says completing the clean-up, if all goes according to plan, will take 20 years. It must be done. As Bartlett put it to us, “We're going to have to look each other in the eye and say, ‘How are we going to do this?’” He's right.

Now, DEP has to lead the way with funding and results.

Ocala company wants to pump 500,000 gallons of drinking water per day out of Sumter County

December 12, 2015 By Marv Balousek

An Ocala company is seeking a 20-year state permit to pump about 500,000 gallons of drinking water per day from two springs along County Road 470 near Sumterville.

Spring Water Resources of Ocala filed a permit application last month with the state Water Use Permit Bureau.

The water would be sold to Azure Water of Leesburg, whose clients include Consolidated Water Group, Publix, Niagara Bottling Co., DS Water and Nestle Water. Azure Water estimates its sales volume by 2025 will be 190 million gallons per year.

“Overall, this is a very good site for a spring water withdrawal project, utilizing a well, drilled to public supply standards, that is constructed near a flowing spring with excellent water quality, high spring flow rate, and definite hydrogeologic connection between the spring and well,” project consultant Vivian Bielski of Andreyev Engineering of Hudson stated in one of the application documents.

The well would pump water from Fern Spring and an unnamed spring east of CR 470 and north of U.S. 301 in Sumter County. A pumping station, loading driveway and office building would be built on the 10.5-acre property, which is owned by Spring Water Resources.

On an average day, the well operation would operate 13.3 hours, filling 80 trucks with 6,200 gallons each. But during peak months, the well would operate 24 hours a day, pumping 892,000 gallons a day and filling 144 trucks, according to permit application documents.

A hydrogeologic analysis estimates the well will lower the surficial aquifer by 0.4 feet and would lower the Florida aquifer by 0.25 feet. Estimated flow rates of the two springs are 11.8 million gallons a day.

Inactive quarries north, east and southeast of the project site are not classified as wetlands by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, according to the permit application. But they are designated as wetlands on a national inventory map.

Ralph Kerr, a senior professional geologist with the Water Use Permit Bureau in Tampa, said the application will undergo scrutiny.

“The permit application will be thoroughly reviewed to determine whether it meets the district’s conditions for issuance,” he said. “This means that the applicant must demonstrate a need for the water and also demonstrate that the proposed withdrawal will not cause harm to water resources or any existing legal user.”

Last year, the state granted a permit to Niagara Bottling Co. to nearly double its daily water pumping to 910,000 gallons per day from a well near Groveland.

Some Lake County residents said it was unfair to allow the increase when they faced lawn-watering restrictions. They also opposed the increase because the company is located in California.

Niagara officials said they pump less water than the amount used by juice and soft drink companies.

Special to the Star-Banner

Drew Bartlett: It's time to restore Silver and Rainbow springs

By Drew Bartlett

Published: Sunday, December 13, 2015 at 6:30 a.m.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's springs restoration efforts have been a recent topic of interest, and admittedly some skepticism.

There is no question that Silver and Rainbow springs are contaminated with nutrient pollution from fertilizers and human and animal waste. There is also no question that this must be addressed — the sooner, the better.

That is why the DEP sent Mary Paulic, Rick Hicks, Terry Hansen and other longtime DEP scientists to Marion and Levy counties to craft collaborative restoration plans. The Silver Springs plan was recently adopted into an enforceable department order, and Secretary Stevenson signed the Rainbow Springs order last week.

Every department action has critics, but what is critical is that the department takes action.

The Silver Springs Basin Management Plan requires more than 140 projects and management strategies to address nutrient pollution. The Rainbow Springs Basin Management Plan requires 97, fewer due to the more rural nature of the area.

Among other things, the Rainbow and Silver springs plans eliminate six older wastewater treatment facilities and many minor facilities that contribute high levels of nutrients, set stringent pollution reduction standards requiring upgrades for the remaining wastewater treatment facilities, mandate the elimination of more than 1,300 septic systems in Marion and Levy counties and also require agricultural operations to change their practices to reduce nutrient pollution.

We acknowledge that there is no perfect plan or instant fix, but these are significant strides in the right direction.

I have dedicated my career to environmental restoration, first at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and now at DEP. I tell all those who contribute to the restoration process that we will always face criticism until the water bodies are actually restored. I also tell them not to take it personally and to remain focused on moving the ball forward to restore the environment. Focusing on projects and progress is how we will achieve restoration.

Silver and Rainbow springs will get cleaner because of the efforts of the DEP, the St. Johns River Water Management District, the Southwest Florida Water Management District, Marion County, Levy County, the cities of Ocala, Bronson, Dunnellon, among others, and many committed local business owners and citizens. It will also improve because all stakeholders continue to demand more.

These plans include monitoring to inform our progress in reaching our restoration goals. The plans will be modified to add projects and activities as needed until restoration is achieved. We will continue to rely on stakeholder input and collaboration throughout this process.

Gov. Scott and the Florida Legislature are funding springs restoration at unprecedented levels, going from no funding four years ago to \$80 million over the last three years to fund projects that will reduce 3 million pounds of nutrient pollution from our environment. The governor has requested another \$50 million not just next year, but for the next 18 years, to ensure this focus continues.

Now is not the time to get discouraged. It's time to continue to take action to improve our springs.

— Drew Bartlett is deputy secretary for ecosystem restoration for the Florida Department of Environmental Regulation in Tallahassee.

SJRWMD WATER NEWS

Dec. 18, 2015

Message from the Executive Director:

Celebrating the Silver Springs Forest purchase; upcoming holidays



District Governing Board Vice Chairman Fred Roberts Jr. speaks at Wednesday's Silver Springs Forest event as Executive Director Ann Shortelle looks on.

I am excited to share with you that the St. Johns River Water Management District has officially acquired the Silver Springs Forest property into public ownership. I had the opportunity to celebrate this milestone earlier this week with many of the partners who made this venture a reality. What a great day it was visiting the property and celebrating with representatives of our Governing Board, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the Conservation Trust for Florida, Rayonier, elected officials and others.

This 4,900-acre public property will be a great asset in helping to protect Florida's springs, especially the Silver Springs group, and providing recreational opportunities. It protects the headwaters of Half Mile Creek and an unnamed tributary that flow into the Silver and Ocklawaha rivers and provides a link with other state and federal lands. I appreciate the long hours many of our district staff and our partners put into making this a memorable event. You are leaving a great legacy for future generations, and I encourage everyone to visit this natural beauty. The District will begin hydrologic restoration, along with other activities of priority, in 2016.

I know many of you are preparing to take some well deserved time off to enjoy the holidays with family and friends. I continue to be impressed with the dedication of the District's staff to management and protection of Florida's water resources and the many good things you

are doing outside of work as well. From mentoring students in local schools to volunteering in your churches and soup kitchens many of you are involved in numerous charities. While your acts of kindness may be as simple as driving an elderly neighbor to the grocery store or mowing the lawn for a sick friend, you do it with compassion and because you are dedicated to helping to others.

I want to thank each of you for the exceptional work you do year-round to protect Florida's water and for the work you do outside the office to make our communities better places. Enjoy your holidays! Together we will accomplish much in 2016!

Partners celebrate public ownership of 4,900-acre Silver Springs Forest

PALATKA, Fla., Dec. 16, 2015 -- Dozens of people from state and local government, the forestry industry and the environmental community today celebrated the purchase of Silver Springs Forest, which places the 4,900-acre tract north of Silver Springs into public ownership and will protect Silver Springs and the Silver and Ocklawaha rivers.

"Today's celebration gave us a glimpse of the exciting restoration and enhancement opportunities to come," said St. Johns River Water Management District Executive Director Ann Shortelle. "Thanks to the creative partnership and vision of many people, public ownership of Silver Springs Forest creates excellent potential for water storage projects, as well as allowing for restoration that will improve water quality in waters flowing to one of Florida's most iconic spring systems."

The district, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Conservation Trust for Florida (CTF) partnered on the \$11.5 million purchase from Rayonier, Inc.

On Dec. 10, the district took ownership of the property, which was purchased with \$2 million in funding from DEP and \$488,000 from CTF.

"This 4,900-acre acquisition is one of many projects made possible due to the record funding for springs restoration provided by Governor Scott and the Florida Legislature this year, is a clear demonstration of the state's ongoing commitment to protecting our important water resources," said DEP Secretary Jon Steverson.

"Springs are among the state's highest environmental priorities, and Silver Springs is one of Florida's most precious natural resources," said Sen. Charlie Dean. "Purchasing the forestland just north of the spring will protect Outstanding Florida Waters that flow into the Silver and Ocklawaha rivers and provide significant opportunities for aquifer recharge. I am proud to have been part of this event to commemorate this very successful public-private partnership."

"We are proud to partner with the district, the state, U.S. Forest Legacy, and CTF to preserve this important piece of forest," said David L. Nunes, president and CEO of Rayonier. "Large, contiguous forested landscapes, such as this one, filter rainwater, remove pollutants, and protect fish and wildlife habitat. This innovative public-private

partnership will assure that these public benefits are provided in perpetuity thanks to the hard work by all the stakeholders involved."

"I'd like to thank Dr. Ann Shortelle, the district's executive director, for her commitment to the Silver Springs Forest project and the district's Governing Board for unanimously approving to purchase and manage the property," said Susan Carr, CTF president. "We are thrilled to report that CTF helped affect this acquisition by negotiating the purchase contract and raising needed funding. We could not have done it without substantial donations from the Felburn Foundation, the Rick and Nancy Moskovitz Foundation, Matt and Ellen Dube in memory of Bill and Bonnie Huntley, Dr. Robert Norman and others."

"As both a district Governing Board member and a resident of Marion County, the purchase of Silver Springs Forest is a very special opportunity," said district Board Vice Chairman Fred Roberts of Ocala. "Through this acquisition, we are able to conserve and expand the natural, cultural and recreational resources of Marion County. Linking these thousands of acres of public lands creates a 20-mile ecological greenway that will increase public recreational opportunities and enhance the area's wildlife habitat."

Benefits of the acquisition include:

- Protecting the headwaters of Halfmile Creek and an unnamed tributary that flow into the Silver and Ocklawaha rivers, which are designated as Outstanding Florida Waters.
- Contributing to an eight-mile buffer zone where forests "capture" rainwater to recharge the aquifer and augment the springs' flow.
- Linking Indian Lake State Forest, Silver Springs State Park, the Cross Florida Greenway and district-managed lands to the Ocala National Forest.
- Creating a 20-mile ecological greenway that will enhance wildlife habitat.
- Increasing public opportunities for outdoor recreation.

Districts ready to fund \$4 million in water conservation projects

PALATKA, Fla., Dec. 18, 2015 -- A total of \$4 million in state funding is available for water conservation projects in the Central Florida Water Initiative region and the North Florida Regional Water Supply Partnership region.

The St. Johns River Water Management District -- in partnership with the Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD), Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD), South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) and Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) -- is soliciting for water conservation projects from public entities that help create sustainable water resources, enhance conservation efforts and improve efficiency of use.

The St. Johns District is accepting applications through Jan. 29, 2016, for water conservation projects that will protect or enhance springs in central and north Florida. Although the St. Johns District is administering the contractual portion of the program, applicants outside the jurisdiction of the St. Johns District will be given equal consideration.

Water conservation projects that result in measurable water savings affecting priority springs, such as those in the Lower Santa Fe, Ichetucknee and Wekiva River systems, are among the program's highest priorities.

"These cost-share dollars will provide financial support for effective water conservation in critical areas of the state and will result in measurable resource protection," said St. Johns District Executive Director Ann Shortelle. "Cost-share projects like this are one of the best ways to stretch our dollars to ensure tax payers are getting the best return on their investment."

"Leveraging resources across districts is a cost-effective means to address regional water supply issues," said Noah Valenstein, Suwannee district executive director. "Water conservation is both an essential and attainable goal critical to protecting current our natural resources."

Two workshops will be held to share information about the program:

- Jan. 6 at 10 a.m. at the district's Maitland Service Center, 601 South Lake Destiny Road, Suite 200, Maitland
- Jan. 7 at 10 a.m. at the Gateway College Lake City, Wilson S. Rivers Library and Media Center, Building 200, Room 102, 149 S.E. College Place, Lake City

Projects are generally eligible for a maximum cost-share of 50 percent of the implementation costs for selected water conservation projects and a maximum of \$1 million for a single project. Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) communities are encouraged to apply for funding. Full funding is available for these economically disadvantaged communities.

More information is available online at floridaswater.com/funding/FY2015-2016/springs.html or by contacting Deirdre Irwin at 386-546-8437 or dirwin@sjrwmd.com or Abby Johnson at the Suwannee district at 386-362-1001.

Orlando Sentinel: Legislature's Water Plan . . .

Florida wouldn't be Florida without clean, plentiful water. Our state's environment, economy — especially tourism — and quality of life depend on it.

Yet in recent years, legislators have repeatedly failed to agree on a comprehensive plan to update and strengthen water protections — even with many of Florida's precious springs and other waterways in decline, and groundwater supplies at risk. A state assessment in 2010 found that 80 percent of streams and rivers, 90 percent of lakes and 97 percent of bays and estuaries weren't meeting minimum water-quality standards for safe public use.

Now state Senate and House leaders have teed up a water plan for approval soon after the Legislature reconvenes next month for its 2016 session. While there are some positive elements in the plan, overall it's far too weak. Legislators shouldn't pass it before making it much stronger.

Last week House Speaker Steve Crisafulli, a Merritt Island Republican, issued a statement touting the water plan — known as House Bill 7005 in his chamber. He insisted it would "improve the quality and supply of water in our state." But as more than 100 leaders from environmental organizations, civic groups and businesses pointed out in a letter to the speaker and other legislators, the plan is riddled with flaws. Fortunately, the flaws can be fixed, if lawmakers are truly serious about protecting Florida's most critical natural resource.

The flaws in the legislation spotlighted by the leaders include:

- Failing to make water conservation a priority, even though it is cheaper than having to tap new water sources.
- Inhibiting regional water management districts from fulfilling their missions as stewards of water protection by subjecting them to costly state reviews if they deny water-use permits.
- Restricting local governments in regulating the use of fertilizer, a major contributor to runoff that taints waterways.
- Leaving out deadlines for setting limits in impaired waterways on so-called total maximum daily loads of nitrogen and phosphorous. These nutrients are degrading springs and other waterways throughout Florida by feeding harmful algae growth.
- Omitting deadlines for action plans to protect and restore impaired waterways other than springs.
- Delaying targets from 20 to 32 years for achieving minimum flows and nutrient limits in many waterways.

Any requirements without deadlines, or with targets after mid-century, can't be taken seriously. Nor can instructions for agricultural users to follow best management practices without any enforcement mechanism. These and other flaws show legislators yielded to pressure from lobbyists for agriculture and other big water users.

At the same time, there are key elements in the plan worth maintaining, including:

- A requirement for legislative researchers to issue an annual report on the state's progress in reaching its water restoration goals. A regular accounting should help keep this environmental imperative on legislators' agenda and help Floridians judge their representatives' effectiveness.
- A parallel reporting requirement on the money needed to meet restoration goals. Legislators will be more easily exposed for shortchanging water protection if their investment falls short of the mark.

As the plan's critics point out in their letter, "Ensuring a clean [water] supply costs money; doing the job incorrectly costs more." In other words, protecting waterways is cheaper than restoring them. Floridians need look no further for confirmation than the ongoing multibillion-dollar state and federal effort to restore the Everglades. Closer to home, the effort to restore Lake Apopka has cost hundreds of millions of tax dollars.

Legislators need to pass a plan that will pick up, not slow down, the pace for restoring impaired waterways, while it protects and conserves Florida's water supply for generations to come.

Epilogue: Derrill S. McAteer, a pioneering board chairman of Swiftmud

Dan DeWitt, Hernando Times Columnist

Monday, December 28, 2015 5:43pm

BROOKSVILLE — Derrill S. McAteer, one of the earliest and most influential board members of the Southwest Florida Water Management District, was a Republican and staunch believer in property rights but nevertheless fought for the right to regulate groundwater pumping.

Mr. McAteer, 83, who died early Monday of heart disease, also was an early advocate of the detailed mapping of floodplains to control flood-prone construction. And though he was the child of farmers, he used eminent domain to acquire crucial sections of the Green Swamp.

"He had strong ties to agriculture, and people would come to him with third- or fourth-generation farms and say, 'Please don't condemn our farms,' or 'Please don't take away our pumping rights,' " said his son, Derrill L. McAteer, 38, of Tampa.

"That was one of the toughest things he had to do. He had to choose (the public interest) over their right to farm." Jake Varn, the water management district's former general counsel, said Mr. McAteer should be remembered not only for helping to build the district, but also for a balanced approach that could serve as an example to current conservatives intent on dismantling regulation. "These days, with Gov. Scott in charge, I don't think most people would have any idea what (Mr. McAteer) did to make this state a better place," Varn said.

Besides serving on the district board for 13 years, from 1967 to 1980, and as chairman for the last 11, Mr. McAteer worked for Lykes Bros. Inc. for nearly 40 years.

A graduate of Tampa's Hillsborough High School and the University of Florida, and a former Navy pilot, he moved to Brooksville in the early 1960s to run a Lykes feedlot operation.

His support of Claude Kirk, who in 1967 became Florida's first Republican governor since Reconstruction, helped get Mr. McAteer his appointment to the Swiftmud board.

The feedlot's location, near district headquarters south of Brooksville at what is now Brooksville-Tampa Bay Regional Airport, allowed him to be a hands-on chairman.

"Oh my god, he was a micro-manager," Varn said. Though that might have driven away some good staffers, Varn said, it also means Mr. McAteer deserves credit for the many moves that brought the district into the modern era and helped set statewide models for groundwater regulation.

In the late 1960s, it became apparent that groundwater pumping for rapidly developing St. Petersburg and Pinellas County was starting to drain lakes and wetlands in northern Hillsborough County, said Sonny Vergara, who worked at the district in the 1970s and later served as its executive director.

Mr. McAteer's push for greater power to regulate pumping helped lead to the passage of the Water Resources Act of 1972, which also created the current statewide system of water management districts.

Before passage of the act, Vergara said, Mr. McAteer supported the science that established the connection between pumping and falling levels of surface water, and that enabled such regulation to stand up in court. "He was very much involved in the creation of the legal network and the science behind it," Vergara said.

Mr. McAteer's experience as a pilot generated his interest in using aerial photography to map floodplains. And he later supported using the information to control development that would adversely impact nearby property owners.

"He questioned (such regulation) strongly, but he realized there was a need to be addressed," Vergara said. "He understood it must happen if there is to be a sustainable future."

Though Mr. McAteer's son has no memory of his father's work at Swiftmud, he did witness the appreciation of natural Florida that influenced it.

The older Mr. McAteer, he said, who went on to run Lykes Development Corp. and spend much of his free time coaching youth baseball, owned and later lived on a ranch south of Brooksville.

He hunted and fished there, hosted father-and-son camp-outs and would sometimes take a moment to soak in its beauty. "There were several times we'd be driving along, going to fix fences or whatever, and he would stop the pickup and roll down the windows," the younger McAteer said. "And I understood that meant silence."

Contact Dan DeWitt at ddewitt@tampabay.com; follow @ddewitttimes.

Obituary

McATEER, Derrill Selwyn

83, of Brooksville, passed away Dec. 28, 2015. Mr. McAteer was born on July 25, 1932 in Tampa, and attended Hillsborough High School and the University of Florida, where he was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity. Mr. McAteer graduated college in 1954, having earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture. He then enlisted in the United States Navy and completed Officer Candidate School in Newport, RI. Mr. McAteer was subsequently stationed in Pensacola, where he earned his wings as a Naval Aviator. While in the Navy, Mr. McAteer qualified as a jet pilot and as a single and multi-engine flight instructor, specializing in all-weather instrument instruction. He retired from the United States Naval Reserve in 1964, having attained the rank of Lieutenant Commander. Following his service in the Navy, Mr. McAteer worked for Lykes Brothers, Inc. for nearly 40 years, first as president of its cattle feeding division and then as head of Lykes Development Corporation. He was an active public servant and community member, serving on the board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District for 13 years, 11 as chairman. He also served as president of the Hernando County Chamber of Commerce, the Florida Agricultural Council, and the Florida Cattlemen's Association. Mr. McAteer was a devoted youth league baseball coach and volunteer for Hernando Youth League baseball. He was also an avid quail hunter. Mr. McAteer was a member of St. John's Episcopal Church of Brooksville. Derrill Selwyn McAteer was predeceased by his parents, Nell Gooding and Thomas Selwyn McAteer of Tampa. He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Rosemary Lee Sparkman McAteer; a son, Derrill Lee McAteer of Tampa; a daughter-in-law, Megan Flynn McAteer; and two granddaughters, Clara Parrish McAteer and Kathryn Flynn McAteer; a sister, Carol Jean McAteer Spoto of Tampa; niece and nephew, Lauren Spoto, of Brooklyn, NY and David Spoto, of Tampa; sister-in-law, Lamar Jean Sparkman Toole and husband, John, of Charlottesville, VA, and their children, John Carter Toole (Barbara) of Nashville, TN and Lucy Bland Toole Guillot (Jason) of Richmond, VA. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations in memory of Mr. McAteer be made to Hernando Youth Leagues, Inc, Hernando Pasco Hospice or the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS). Funeral services are private.

Blount & Curry Funeral Home (813)876-2421

Ocala Star Banner

IN OUR OPINION Editorial: Get it right on our water

December 30, 2015

Supporters of a massive water measure oppose delaying the legislation, yet the bills would only delay protections for our imperiled water bodies.

State lawmakers promised for the past two legislative sessions to finally approve protections for our polluted and depleted springs and other water bodies. Yet after promising starts, they watered down protections and then still failed to pass them.

The upcoming session appears to be different, with lawmakers poised to vote on identical House and Senate water bills as one of their first orders of business. But instead of cheering the legislative breakthrough, some of our state's leading environmental advocates are rightly asking lawmakers to put on the brakes and do better.

More than 100 organizations and businesses have signed onto a letter to legislators criticizing the proposed measures.

The bill's improvements are undermined by loopholes and "needlessly forestall necessary action to protect and restore Florida's impaired waters," they wrote.

"Various regulated industries, agriculture, and their lobbyists are leading a retreat from protective policies and are instead relying on the same tools that have, for decades, failed Florida's citizens and our waters," the letter states.

As an example, the bills would allow up to 20 to 32 years before water-quality targets must be achieved. A failure to act sooner only makes it more costly for future generations to do the job right. The letter calls for accelerated deadlines.

It also calls for setting deadlines on legal tools that cap the acceptable amount of pollutants in water bodies and establish plans to reduce the flow of pollutants from land to water. In the current bills, those deadlines only apply to areas near springs designated as outstanding.

The bills would also create a massive transfer of public money to private pockets with no assurance of cost effectiveness. As an example, nearly \$1.8 billion worth of Central Florida water projects would be funded with tax dollars and run by private companies — with no requirements for conservation.

Frank Jackalone, Florida staff director for the Sierra Club, told us that some parts of the legislation work against water conservation and protection of groundwater and water bodies. He pointed to the current allowable time frame of at least two decades to restore a river or spring to its adopted minimum flows and levels, a tool intended to stop their decline. "You know what that says to me — it's not going to happen," he said.

Senate President Andy Gardiner's office released a statement saying he was happy to receive input but "believes the Senate has reached consensus on this important legislation." He wrote that he looks forward to bringing the legislation to the Senate floor for a vote during the first week of the session starting in January.

The organizations signing the letter simply want amendments to improve the legislation, something the Legislature should be able to do without scuttling the measures. As the letter states, "making bad water use decisions now will result in even costlier fixes in the future."

The declining flow and green waters of our region's springs are evidence of long legislative neglect. Lawmakers need to get it right this time rather than passing water legislation that delays real fixes and provides an excuse to again ignore the program for years to come.

New water policy expected to flow in session

By JIM TURNER
THE NEWS SERVICE OF FLORIDA

THE CAPITAL, TALLAHASSEE, December 30, 2015..... Shortly after the 2016 legislative session goes through its opening rituals, the House and Senate will take up a statewide water-policy proposal more than two years in the making.

The proposal (SB 552 and HB 7005), which sped through legislative committees, has attracted some last-minute opposition from environmental groups that contend it wouldn't go far enough to ensure clean waterways.

But the package, a priority of Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam and House Speaker Steve Crisafulli, is expected to quickly win approval from the House and Senate.

The proposal seeks to establish water-flow levels for the state's natural springs and set guidelines for the Central Florida Water Initiative, which is a regional water-supply planning effort that involves the Department of Environmental Protection, the St. Johns River Water Management District, the South Florida Water Management District, the Southwest Florida Water Management District, the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and regional water utilities.

The identical bills also include further management action plans for Lake Okeechobee, the Caloosahatchee Estuary and inland portions of the Caloosahatchee River watershed, and the St. Lucie River and Estuary.

The package also would require the Legislature's Office of Economic and Demographic Research to provide an annual assessment of the state's water resources and conservation lands.

Lawmakers will take up the issue during the annual 60-day session, which starts Jan. 12. The House and Senate also put together major water-policy bills during the 2015 session but could not reach agreement on a final version.

"This bill is a heavy lift," Putnam said. "It fell apart last year because it is a significant water policy that is comprehensive in nature and statewide in nature. If it were easy, it would be sailing through."

However, unlike in the 2015 session, the measure has been given a much simpler path heading into 2016.

Many bills go before three committees in each chamber before reaching the floor. The water-policy proposal was put before two Senate committees in November --- where it received no votes in opposition --- and a pair of House committees in October and November.

One of the House panels, the House Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee, spent less than 30 minutes debating and taking public input on the proposal. Only Rep. Jose Javier Rodriguez, D-Miami, voted against the measure.

House Minority Leader Mark Pafford, D-West Palm Beach, expects the measure to face a little more scrutiny when it's heard on the floor.

"It's geared for ag, and water quality will be looked over," Pafford, a critic of the package, said. "If you're in the Apalachicola area, if you're in Florida Bay, there is no relief coming."

That is not a view shared by Republican leaders.

Crisafulli noted that groups such as The Nature Conservancy generally voiced support for the legislation at the committee meetings, as did groups such as the Florida Farm Bureau, the Florida Realtors, the Florida Chamber of Commerce and Associated Industries of Florida.

"I think you will find them cherry-picking the things they do like in it, and then finding other things that they don't," Crisafulli, R-Merritt Island, said of the late round of opposition. "At the end of the day, I think we've got a good product in the policy piece."

The most vocal opposition arose in early December, when 106 environmental organizations and businesses --- including the Sierra Club, 1000 Friends of Florida, the Florida Wildlife Federation and Friends of the Everglades --- signed a letter seeking 12 changes to the proposal.

Among the desired changes were stricter deadlines for cleaning waterways, stronger enforcement language against polluters, wider authority for regional water-management districts to review water-use permits and the ability of local governments to impose stronger restrictions on the use of fertilizer.

In the letter, the groups also raised questions about the Central Florida Water Initiative, which they said plans "surface water withdrawal projects that total nearly \$1.8 billion, to be paid for with tax dollars and implemented and operated by private companies. ... This represents a massive transfer of public money to private pockets."

David Guest, managing attorney of the nonprofit environmental law organization Earthjustice, argued in a letter to newspaper editors that the water bill --- "written by lobbyists for agricultural corporations" --- is "a major rewrite of hundreds of clean water regulations that Florida has on the books."

Guest objected to what he calls the mostly voluntary "best management practices" regulations for Lake Okeechobee, the Everglades and the state's natural springs.

"The changes are artful and subtle, and --- if the bill passes --- the effects are going to come back to haunt us all," Guest said.

Putnam said the package is just a step in Florida meeting future water needs, as demand is expected to grow by more than 1.3 billion gallons a day by 2030. One-third of the growth is expected in the Orlando region.

"This builds on Florida's strong tradition of water policy that dates back to the early '70s," Putnam said. "And it won't be the end. I think there are things we need to continue to do, but in that march toward progress. This appears to be moving and I hope it goes all the way, unlike last year."

Over the summer and fall, the House and Senate resolved differences that scuttled efforts to enact the statewide policies during the 2015 session.

The Senate's push to include an oversight council to rate potential water projects was one of the sticking points earlier this year. The House agreed to have state economists perform some oversight, easing concerns from the Senate.

The policy doesn't dictate funding but provides some direction for spending money from a 2014 voter-approved constitutional amendment that requires 33 percent of an existing real estate tax to go toward land and water preservation and maintenance.

Water management districts make millions available for local government projects

By Chris Curry, Staff writer

Published: Friday, January 1, 2016 at 4:17 p.m.

A combined \$4 million in state money is available for local government water conservation projects in north central Florida and the central Florida area near Orlando.

In mid-December, the St. Johns River Water Management District and Suwannee River Water Management District announced the availability of funding for projects within the North Florida Regional Water Supply Partnership region, a 14-county area that includes Alachua County, and the Central Florida Water Initiative region, a five-county area centered around Orlando.

The latest round of funding follows tens of millions of dollars - including \$13 million this year in north central Florida alone - that the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the water management district have pumped into projects intended to cut water use and reduce pollution from utilities and agricultural businesses.

In statements included in a news release, St. Johns River District Executive Director Ann Shortelle and Suwannee River District Executive Director Noah Valenstein said the projects would leverage state and local government monies to protect water and natural resources.

"Cost-share projects like this are one of the best ways to stretch our dollars to ensure taxpayers are getting the best return on their investment," Shortelle said in a statement.

On the other hand, representatives of some environmental groups say the state and water management district are not taking significant steps to cap or curb withdrawals and protect the aquifer, rivers and springs.

"Of course, any funding for water conservation is helpful because conservation always seems to play second-fiddle to the more powerful economic interests that typically promote expensive water-supply projects," Bob Palmer, the legislative chair for the Gainesville-based Florida Springs Council, wrote in an email. "However, in past years, many of these conservation projects have subsidized big water users, allowing them to use (i.e. waste) just a little bit less water.

"There are more efficient approaches to conservation that the state is unwilling to consider. One would be a requirement for the largest water users to pay a moderate fee for the water that they are currently extracting for free. Another would be for the state to buy out, perhaps through conservation easements, some of the most water-intensive agricultural operations. The best method would be to determine, for each water management district, a cap on groundwater withdrawals that would leave sufficient water in the ground to protect the environment. That would be the simplest, cheapest and most effective water-conservation program. But given that the state water managers lack the vision or courage to try these sorts of novel approaches, the taxpayers of Florida will be asked, year after year, to mitigate impacts caused by those consuming the largest quantities of our groundwater."

In this area of the state, the latest round of funding is focused on springs in the Ichetucknee and Lower Santa Fe river systems. Both of those rivers are already flowing below their adopted minimum flows and levels, the point at which any additional groundwater withdrawals are considered to cause significant environmental harm. Still, agricultural businesses and utilities with existing groundwater pumping permits are not slated to face any potential required steps and permit conditions intended to bring those rivers back to healthy flow for up to four years. Instead, those minimum flows and levels will only be taken into account in water management

district reviews of brand new applications for groundwater pumping permits or if any existing users apply to increase their maximum allowable pumping when renewing a permit.

Existing permits will be grandfathered in until after a new computer model shows the groundwater flow in areas of North Florida in the Suwannee River Water Management District and the St. Johns River Water Management District and in south Georgia.

The St. Johns River and Suwannee River districts and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection established the North Florida Regional Water Supply Partnership in early 2012 in order to work more closely in planning and permitting decisions. They formed the partnership to address the fact that groundwater pumping in one district's jurisdiction affects water bodies and aquifer levels within the neighboring district.

The latest round of funding is for projects that conserve water and improve "efficiency" of use. A list of eligible initiatives included, but was not limited to, the replacement of toilets, faucets and shower heads, planting landscaping that require minimal watering, and more efficient irrigation systems. Similar projects that previously received funding included \$66,000 toward a \$212,000 Gainesville Regional Utilities project to replace old mechanical water meters with electronic "smart" meters that store downloadable information on usage and are designed to better detect a slow leak in a customer's system.

Rick Hutton, the GRU supervising engineer for water and wastewater, said utility officials plan to apply for funding for additional smart meters.

In the Lake City area, another project previously funded replaced 600 existing toilet fixtures and 665 faucets with "high efficiency units" designed to use less water. The DEP put \$250,000 toward those projects, local governments \$70,000 and the water management district \$30,000.

The funding now becoming available is intended to be a 50-50 cost split with the local governments and public utilities, with a \$1 million cap on any project. Designated Rural Economic Development Initiative communities may be eligible to receive full funding with no local contribution.

The St. Johns River District describes those communities, in general, as "economically disadvantaged with an employment base dominated by traditional agriculture or resource-based industries." In this area, they include the city of Hawthorne and Gilchrist, Bradford, Columbia and Putnam counties. The deadline to apply for funding is Jan. 29.

Florida Springs Council again pushes for stricter water bill

By Christopher Curry, Staff writer

Published: Friday, January 1, 2016 at 4:20 p.m.

With the start of the session in Tallahassee approaching, the Florida Springs Council is again pushing state leaders for more strict water legislation.

In a letter sent Tuesday to State Senate President Andy Gardiner R-Orlando and House Speaker Steve Crisafulli R-Merritt Island, the Gainesville-based environmental group reiterated its objection to the current water policy bills expected to go to a vote in both houses early in the session and again urged a slew of amendments.

"There are some springs-related provisions in the bill which are worthy of support," the environmental group wrote. "Overall, however, FSC does not believe that the pending water bills would restore Florida's beleaguered springs in the foreseeable future, and we would therefore only support the bill if significant amendments were adopted on the Senate and House floors."

The group has pushed for 17 changes and highlighted four priorities:

- Metering all permitted groundwater withdrawals of 100,000 gallons or more
- Requiring water management districts to come up with an estimate of the maximum amount of groundwater available for withdrawal within the jurisdiction of their district
- Authorizing an independent study on the potential of establishing water fees on withdrawals
- Selecting a "restoration focus spring" that will have its flow and water quality restored in 15 years.

In early December, the Florida Springs Council and dozens of other statewide and local environmental groups, including 1000 Friends of Florida, the Sierra Club, Our Santa Fe River, the Ichetucknee Alliance and Florida Defenders of the Environment, had simultaneous press conferences at Gardiner and Crisafulli district offices and in Gainesville to push for changes to the proposed water policy.

Some other changes they urged then included:

- Inserting deadlines for setting the total maximum daily loads that cap the acceptable amount of nutrients, nitrogen, phosphorous and other pollutants for water bodies and establishing Basin Management Action Plans that include strategies to reduce the flow of pollutants from land to water bodies. In the current bill, those BMAP deadlines only apply to areas near designated outstanding springs.
- Accelerating the timeline for meeting the minimum flows and levels, or healthy water flows for rivers and springs and total maximum daily loads of water bodies from the current bill, which allows 20 to 32 years.
- Changing the standard for minimum flows and levels for rivers and springs from the current language, which defines them as the point from which any additional groundwater withdrawals would be "significantly harmful," to the more stringent merely "harmful" standard. Last year's Senate water policy bill originally had the harmful threshold but "significantly" was added back at the urging of industry groups.

Several environmental groups have also objected to language in the current bills stating that any time a water management district denies an application for a groundwater pumping permit on the basis that the withdrawal would push a river or spring below its adopted minimum flow level, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection will review the district to update its regional water supply plan and require an update if the plan is deficient. The time-consuming and expensive process of updating those plans usually takes place every five years.

The new language says the review will take place because those water supply plans are intended to make sure enough water is available for all existing and future “reasonable-beneficial uses and natural systems.”

At the event in Gainesville, Frank Jackalone, the Florida staff director for the Sierra Club, said that language was another example of the FDEP exerting more control over water management districts to “pressure districts already strapped for resources into approving permits.”

Gardiner's office responded to the concerns with a statement that said in part:

“While President Gardiner is happy to receive and review continued input from dedicated stakeholders who share his concern for Florida’s environment, he believes the Senate has reached consensus on this important legislation and he looks forward to bringing it to the Senate floor for a vote during the first week of the 2016 Legislative Session.”

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Item 13

Legislative Report

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Subject: Fwd: 1/6/16 Bill Tracking Report
From: Diane Salz <salz.govconsultant@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Jan 06, 2016 8:13 am
To: Richard Owen <richardowen@wrwsa.org>
Cc: LuAnne Stout <lstout@wrwsa.org>

----- Forwarded message -----
From: **Diane Salz** <noreply@lobbytools.com>
Date: Wed, Jan 6, 2016 at 10:09 AM
Subject: 1/6/16 Bill Tracking Report
To: salz.govconsultant@gmail.com

FYI.

2016 Bills (24)			
Num	Title	Sponsor	
SB 0324	Relating to Utility Projects	Legg	10/06/15
(S: 0347)	Utility Projects; Creating the "Utility Cost Containment Bond Act"; authorizing certain local governmental entities to finance the costs of a utility project by issuing utility cost containment bonds upon application by a local agency; authorizing an authority to issue utility cost containment bonds for specified purposes related to utility projects; requiring the local agency or its publicly owned utility to collect the utility project charge, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2016		
	09/18/15 SENATE Filed		
	10/06/15 SENATE Referred to Communications, Energy, and Public Utilities; Finance and Tax; Appropriations		
HB 0347	Relating to Utility Projects	Sprohls	12/03/15
(S: 0324)	Utility Projects: Authorizes certain local agencies to apply to certain local government agencies to finance costs of certain utility projects by issuing utility cost containment bonds; provides criteria in applying for funds; provides criteria of drafting financing resolution; provides procedures to establish or adjust utility projects; provides requirements for collection of project charges; specifies legal status of project charges for securing payment of bonds; specifies payment obligations & legal status of utility cost containment bonds. Effective Date: July 1, 2016		
	10/09/15 HOUSE Filed		
	10/30/15 HOUSE Referred to Energy & Utilities Subcommittee; Finance & Tax Committee; Regulatory Affairs Committee		
	10/30/15 HOUSE Now in Energy & Utilities Subcommittee		
	11/10/15 HOUSE On Committee agenda - Energy & Utilities Subcommittee, 11/17/15, 9:00 am, 212 K		
	11/17/15 HOUSE Favorable by Energy & Utilities Subcommittee; 11 Yeas, 1 Nay		
	11/17/15 HOUSE Now in Finance & Tax Committee		
	11/24/15 HOUSE On Committee agenda - Finance & Tax Committee, 12/01/15, 12:00 pm, 17 H		
	12/01/15 HOUSE Favorable with CS by Finance & Tax Committee; 15 Yeas, 0 Nays		
	12/02/15 HOUSE Committee Substitute Text (C1) Filed		

SB 0400 (I: 0561)	12/03/15 HOUSE Now in Regulatory Affairs Committee Relating to Organizational Structure of the Department of Environmental Protection Hays Organizational Structure of the Department of Environmental Protection; Authorizing the secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection to establish divisions as necessary to accomplish the missions and goals of the department, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2016 10/01/15 SENATE Filed 10/09/15 SENATE Referred to Environmental Preservation and Conservation; Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government; Appropriations 11/09/15 SENATE On Committee agenda - Environmental Preservation and Conservation, 11/18/15, 2:00 pm, 37 S 11/18/15 SENATE Favorable with CS by Environmental Preservation and Conservation; 9 Years, 0 Nays 11/20/15 SENATE Committee Substitute Text (C1) Filed 11/20/15 SENATE Now in Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government Relating to Location of Utilities Flores Location of Utilities; Revising the circumstances under which a board of county commissioners is authorized to grant to a person or private corporation a license for specified projects related to lines for the transmission of certain public utilities and communication services; authorizing the Department of Transportation and certain local governmental entities to prescribe and enforce rules or regulations regarding the placement and maintenance of specified structures and lines within the right-of-way limits of roads or publicly owned rail corridors under their respective jurisdictions, etc. Effective Date: Upon becoming a law 10/02/15 SENATE Filed 10/09/15 SENATE Referred to Community Affairs; Transportation; Fiscal Policy 10/12/15 SENATE On Committee agenda - Community Affairs, 10/20/15, 12:30 pm, 301 S 10/20/15 SENATE Favorable with CS by Community Affairs; 7 Years, 0 Nays 10/21/15 SENATE Committee Substitute Text (C1) Filed 10/23/15 SENATE Now in Transportation 10/26/15 SENATE On Committee agenda - Transportation, 11/04/15, 2:00 pm, 37 S 11/04/15 SENATE Favorable by Transportation; 5 Years, 1 Nay 11/05/15 SENATE Now in Fiscal Policy 11/09/15 SENATE On Committee agenda - Fiscal Policy, 11/19/15, 9:00 am, 412 K 11/19/15 SENATE Favorable by Fiscal Policy; 9 Years, 0 Nays 11/20/15 SENATE Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading Relating to Location of Utilities Ingram Location of Utilities: Revises circumstances under which county commissioners may grant license for specified projects related to lines for transmission of certain public utilities & communication services; authorizes DOT & certain local governmental entities to prescribe & enforce regulations regarding placement & maintenance of specified structures & lines within right-of-way limits of roads or publicly owned rail corridors; specifies that owner of utility located within certain right-of-way limits must initiate & bear cost necessary to alleviate any interference to use of certain public roads or rail corridors; requires authority to bear cost of utility work necessary to eliminate unreasonable interference if utility is lawfully located within certain utility easement, subject to certain deductions; provides findings of important state interest. Effective Date: upon becoming a law 10/27/15 HOUSE Filed 11/05/15 HOUSE Referred to Local Government Affairs Subcommittee; Appropriations Committee 11/05/15 HOUSE Now in Local Government Affairs Subcommittee 11/24/15 HOUSE On Committee agenda - Local Government Affairs Subcommittee, 12/02/15, 11:30 am, 212 K 12/02/15 HOUSE Favorable by Local Government Affairs Subcommittee; 12 Years, 0 Nays 12/02/15 HOUSE Now in Appropriations Committee Relating to Special Districts Metz	11/20/15
SB 0416 (I: 0461)		
HB 0461		12/02/15
(I: 0416)		
HB 0479		12/03/15

(C: 0593 0745 7001 0516 0686) (S: 0956)	Special Districts: Revises legislative intent with respect to Uniform Special District Accountability Act to include dependent special districts; specifies Legislature's authority to create dependent special districts by special act; provides for identification of dependent special district as dependent, & of independent special district as independent, in its charter; specifies that local general-purpose governments may review certain special districts. Effective Date: October 1, 2016		
	10/29/15 HOUSE Filed		
	11/05/15 HOUSE Referred to Local Government Affairs Subcommittee; Local & Federal Affairs Committee		
	11/05/15 HOUSE Now in Local Government Affairs Subcommittee		
	11/10/15 HOUSE On Committee agenda - Local Government Affairs Subcommittee, 11/18/15, 1:00 pm, 212 K		
	11/18/15 HOUSE Favorable with CS by Local Government Affairs Subcommittee; 12 Yeas, 0 Nays		
	11/19/15 HOUSE Committee Substitute Text (C1) Filed		
	11/24/15 HOUSE Now in Local & Federal Affairs Committee		
	11/24/15 HOUSE On Committee agenda - Local & Federal Affairs Committee, 12/03/15, 01:00 pm, 212 K		
	12/03/15 HOUSE Favorable by Local & Federal Affairs Committee; 14 Yeas, 0 Nays		
HB 0491 (S: 0534)	12/03/15 HOUSE Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading		
	Relating to Water and Wastewater	Smith (J)	11/19/15
	Water and Wastewater: Requires Division of Bond Finance to review certain private activity bonds; exempts sales & leases to certain water utilities from sales tax; exempts from regulation person who resells water to certain entities; requires utility reserve fund & provides uses; revises provisions addressing rate case expenses; authorizes PSC to review water quality & wastewater service; expands entities to whom Water Pollution Control Financing Corporation may provide loans. Effective Date: July 1, 2016		
	10/30/15 HOUSE Filed		
	11/05/15 HOUSE Referred to Energy & Utilities Subcommittee; Finance & Tax Committee; Regulatory Affairs Committee		
	11/05/15 HOUSE Now in Energy & Utilities Subcommittee		
	11/10/15 HOUSE On Committee agenda - Energy & Utilities Subcommittee, 11/17/15, 9:00 am, 212 K		
	11/17/15 HOUSE Favorable with CS by Energy & Utilities Subcommittee; 12 Yeas, 1 Nay		
	11/18/15 HOUSE Committee Substitute Text (C1) Filed		
	11/19/15 HOUSE Now in Finance & Tax Committee		
SB 0516 (C: 0479 0956) (S: 0745)	Relating to Special Districts	Ring	01/04/16
	Special Districts; Requiring each special district to operate an official website; requiring each special district's official website to include specified budget information; requiring certain independent special districts to be subject to ch. 120, F.S., etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2016		
	10/13/15 SENATE Filed		
	10/21/15 SENATE Referred to Community Affairs; Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development; Fiscal Policy		
	11/09/15 SENATE On Committee agenda - Community Affairs, 11/17/15, 1:00 pm, 301 S		
	11/17/15 SENATE Favorable with CS by Community Affairs; 7 Yeas, 1 Nay		
	11/18/15 SENATE Committee Substitute Text (C1) Filed		
	11/19/15 SENATE Reference to Governmental Oversight and Accountability added; Remaining references Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development; Fiscal Policy		
	11/19/15 SENATE Now in Governmental Oversight and Accountability		
	01/04/16 SENATE On Committee agenda - Governmental Oversight and Accountability, 01/11/16, 4:00 pm, 401 S		
SB 0534 (S: 0491)	Relating to Water and Wastewater	Hays	11/20/15
	Water and Wastewater; Creating a provision requiring the Division of Bond Finance of the State Board of Administration to review the allocation of private activity bonds to determine the availability of additional allocation and reallocation of bonds for water and wastewater infrastructure projects; authorizing the Department of Environmental Protection to require or request that the Florida Water Pollution Control Financing Corporation make		

	loans, grants, and deposits to for-profit, privately owned, or investor-owned water systems, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2016	
	10/14/15 SENATE Filed	
	10/21/15 SENATE Referred to Environmental Preservation and Conservation; Communications, Energy, and Public Utilities; Appropriations	
	10/28/15 Bill to be Discussed During the Office of EDR's Revenue Estimating Impact Conference, 10/29/15, 1:00 pm, 117 K (No Votes Will Be Taken)	
	11/09/15 SENATE On Committee agenda - Environmental Preservation and Conservation, 11/18/15, 2:00 pm, 37 S	
	11/18/15 SENATE Favorable with CS by Environmental Preservation and Conservation; 9 Yeas, 0 Nays	
	11/19/15 SENATE Committee Substitute Text (C1) Filed	
	11/20/15 SENATE Now in Communications, Energy, and Public Utilities	
SB 0552	Relating to Environmental Resources	Dean 11/23/15
(C: 0589 1052)	Environmental Resources; Requiring the Department of Environmental Protection to publish, update, and maintain a database of conservation lands; authorizing certain water management districts to designate and implement pilot projects; prohibiting water management districts from modifying permitted allocation amounts under certain circumstances; creating the "Florida Springs and Aquifer Protection Act", etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2016	
(I: 7005)	10/16/15 SENATE Filed	
	10/23/15 SENATE Referred to Environmental Preservation and Conservation; Appropriations	
	10/26/15 SENATE On Committee agenda - Environmental Preservation and Conservation, 11/04/15, 11:00 am, 37 S	
	11/04/15 SENATE Favorable with CS by Environmental Preservation and Conservation; 9 Yeas, 0 Nays	
	11/05/15 SENATE Committee Substitute Text (C1) Filed	
	11/06/15 SENATE Now in Appropriations	
	11/09/15 SENATE On Committee agenda - Appropriations, 11/19/15, 1:00 pm, 412 K	
	11/19/15 SENATE Favorable with CS by Appropriations; 15 Yeas, 0 Nays	
	11/23/15 SENATE Committee Substitute Text (C2) Filed	
	11/23/15 SENATE Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading	
HB 0561	Relating to Organizational Structure of Department of Environmental Protection	Combee 11/16/15
(I: 0400)	Organizational Structure of Department of Environmental Protection: Revises provisions for appointment of deputy secretaries & general counsel; authorizes Secretary of Environmental Protection to establish divisions as necessary to accomplish missions & goals of DEP; authorizes offices to be established as necessary to promote efficient & effective operation of DEP; deletes required establishment of certain offices & divisions. Effective Date: July 1, 2016	
	11/04/15 HOUSE Filed	
	11/16/15 HOUSE Referred to Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee; Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee; State Affairs Committee	
	11/16/15 HOUSE Now in Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee	
HB 0589	Relating to Environmental Control	Pigman 11/17/15
(C: 7005 0552)	Environmental Control: Prohibits water management districts from modifying or reducing consumptive use permit allocations under certain circumstances; directs districts to adopt rules providing water conservation incentives; revises eligibility requirements for specified license examination; exempts certain constructed clay settling areas from reclamation rate & financial responsibility requirements; directs DEP to adopt classification to protect surface waters used for treated potable water supply; authorizes use of land set-asides & land use modifications in water quality credit trading; provides applicability of certain prohibited variances; excludes certain landfill systems from resource recovery; directs DEP to establish rules concerning use of surface waters for public water supply; directs DEP to add treated potable water supply as a designated use of surface water segment under certain circumstances; provides appropriation. Effective Date: upon becoming a law	
(S: 1052)	11/06/15 HOUSE Filed	
	11/17/15 HOUSE Referred to Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee; Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee; State Affairs Committee	
	11/17/15 HOUSE Now in Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee	

SB 0598 (S: 0181)	Relating to Public Works Projects Public Works Projects; Prohibiting the state and political subdivisions that contract for the construction, maintenance, repair, or improvement of public works from imposing restrictive conditions on contractors, subcontractors, or material suppliers or carriers; prohibiting the state and political subdivisions from restricting qualified bidders from submitting bids, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2016 10/21/15 SENATE Filed	Brandes	11/04/15
HB 0745 (C: 0479)	Relating to Special Districts Special Districts: Requires each special district to operate an official website; requires each special district's official website to include specified budget information. Effective Date: July 1, 2016 11/19/15 HOUSE Filed	Nuñez	12/10/15
HB 0851 (C: 0351 0092 0658)	12/10/15 HOUSE Referred to Local Government Affairs Subcommittee; Government Operations Subcommittee; Local & Federal Affairs Committee 12/10/15 HOUSE Now in Local Government Affairs Subcommittee Relating to Environmental Protection Environmental Protection: Requires DEP to include protocols for use of long-term natural attenuation where site conditions warrant; requires specified interactive effects of contaminants to be considered as cleanup criteria; revises how cleanup target levels are applied where surface waters are exposed to contaminated groundwater; authorizes use of relevant data & information when assessing cleanup target levels; provides that institutional controls are not required under certain circumstances if using alternative cleanup target levels; deletes prohibition of land application of septage from onsite sewage treatment & disposal systems. Effective Date: July 1, 2016 12/02/15 HOUSE Filed	Drake	12/18/15
HB 0989 (S: 1168)	12/18/15 HOUSE Referred to Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee; Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee; State Affairs Committee 12/18/15 HOUSE Now in Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee Relating to Implementation of Water and Land Conservation Constitutional Amendment Implementation of Water and Land Conservation Constitutional Amendment: Requires minimum specified percentage of funds within Land Acquisition Trust Fund to be appropriated for Everglades restoration projects; provides preference in use of funds to certain projects that reduce discharges to St. Lucie & Caloosahatchee estuaries. Effective Date: July 1, 2016 12/17/15 HOUSE Filed	Harrell	12/17/15
SB 1052 (C: 7005 0552) (S: 0589)	Relating to Environmental Control Environmental Control; Prohibiting water management districts from modifying or reducing consumptive use permit allocations if actual water use is less than permitted water use due to water conservation measures or specified circumstances; requiring the Department of Environmental Protection to adopt by rule a specific surface water classification to protect surface waters used for treated potable water supply, etc. Effective Date: Upon becoming a law 12/03/15 SENATE Filed	Hays	12/17/15
HB 1057	12/17/15 SENATE Referred to Environmental Preservation and Conservation; Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government; Appropriations Relating to Special Districts Special Districts: Prohibits certain special districts from levying or collecting taxes or special assessments from certain other special districts after specified date; specifies that certain notice requirements with respect to adoption or amendment of water control plans do not apply to certain water control districts. Effective Date: July 1, 2016 12/29/15 HOUSE Filed	Caldwell	01/04/16
HB 1069	01/04/16 HOUSE Withdrawn prior to introduction Relating to Water Resources	Murphy	12/30/15

(I: 1204)	<p>Water Resources: Directs DOT to establish a Water and Wastewater Utilities Relocation Study Committee; provides committee membership, duties, reporting requirements, & expiration; transfers review of water management district rules from Florida Land & Water Adjudicatory Commission to DEP; provides review procedures & standards; repeals provisions relating to supplemental damages connected with consumptive use permit violations; provides retroactive applicability. Effective Date: upon becoming a law</p> <p>12/30/15 HOUSE Filed</p>	SB 1168	<p>Relating to Implementation of the Water and Land Conservation Constitutional Amendment</p> <p>Negron</p> <p>12/17/15</p>
(S: 0989)	<p>Implementation of the Water and Land Conservation Constitutional Amendment; Requiring a minimum specified percentage of funds within the Land Acquisition Trust Fund to be appropriated for Everglades restoration projects; providing a preference in the use of funds to certain projects that reduce harmful discharges to the St. Lucie Estuary and the Caloosahatchee Estuary, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2016</p> <p>12/17/15 SENATE Filed</p>	SB 1204	12/21/15
(I: 1069)	<p>Relating to Water Resources</p> <p>Water Resources; Directing the Department of Transportation to establish a Water and Wastewater Utilities Relocation Study Committee; specifying committee membership; transferring review of water management district rules from the Florida Land and Water Adjudicatory Commission to the Department of Environmental Protection, etc. Effective Date: Upon becoming a law</p> <p>12/21/15 SENATE Filed</p>	(I: 1069)	Altman
SB 1312	<p>Relating to Protection Zones For Springs</p> <p>Protection Zones For Springs; Providing penalties for violations relating to protection zones for springs; directing the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to establish protection zones to prevent harm to springs; requiring the commission to set vessel speed and operation standards for protection zones; requiring the commission to consult with certain other entities under certain circumstances; specifying responsibility for posting and maintaining regulatory markers, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2016</p> <p>01/04/16 SENATE Filed</p>	SB 1312	01/04/16
HB 7001	<p>Relating to Special District Accountability</p> <p>Special District Accountability: Requires DEO to exclude inactive special districts from official list of special districts; requires DEO to remove special districts declared inactive from official list of special districts. Effective Date: July 1, 2016</p> <p>10/13/15 HOUSE Filed (Formerly PCB LGAS1)</p>	(C: 0479 0956)	<p>Local Government Affairs Subcommittee</p> <p>12/03/15</p>
HB 7005	<p>10/30/15 HOUSE Referred to Economic Development & Tourism Subcommittee; Local & Federal Affairs Committee</p> <p>10/30/15 HOUSE Now in Economic Development & Tourism Subcommittee</p> <p>11/25/15 HOUSE On Committee agenda - Economic Development & Tourism Subcommittee, 12/02/15, 11:30 am, 12 H</p> <p>12/02/15 HOUSE Favorable by Economic Development & Tourism Subcommittee; 12 Years, 0 Nays</p> <p>12/03/15 HOUSE Now in Local & Federal Affairs Committee</p>	HB 7005	12/01/15
(C: 0589 1052) (I: 0552)	<p>Relating to Environmental Resources</p> <p>Environmental Resources: Provides for conservation lands database; provides assistance to self-suppliers of water; authorizes pilot projects for certain water management districts (WMDs); requires adoption of minimum flows & levels for Outstanding Florida Springs; requires concurrent adoption of recovery or prevention strategies & minimum flows & levels; provides for Central Florida Water Initiative Area; authorizes allocation of water by SFWMD; requires monitoring of consumptive use permits; provides for certain preferred water supply sources; prohibits modification of permitted water allocations; provides priority consideration to certain public-private partnerships for water storage, groundwater recharge, & water quality improvements on private agricultural lands; revises Northern Everglades & Estuaries Protection Program; revises membership qualifications for Harris Chain of Lakes Restoration Council; requires certain funding plans in w ater resource development work program; authorizes private landowners to assist WMDs; requires promotion of certain cost-share criteria; creates the Florida Springs & Aquifer Protection Act; authorizes funding for nutrient & sediment reduction & conservation pilot projects; revises requirements for basin management action plans; provides treated potable water supply as designated use of surface waters; requires DEP & DACS to assess water resources & conservation lands. Effective Date: July 1, 2016</p> <p>10/26/15 HOUSE Filed (Formerly PCB SAC1)</p>	(C: 0589 1052) (I: 0552)	State Affairs Committee

11/05/15 HOUSE Referred to Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee
11/05/15 HOUSE Now in Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee
11/10/15 HOUSE On Committee agenda - Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee, 11/18/15, 3:30 pm, 102 H
11/18/15 HOUSE Favorable with CS by Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee; 11 Yeas, 1 Nay
11/24/15 HOUSE Committee Substitute Text (C1) Filed
12/01/15 HOUSE Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading



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