



**WITHLACOOCHEE  
REGIONAL  
WATER  
SUPPLY  
AUTHORITY**

## **Board Meeting Package**

April 21, 2010  
4:30 p.m.

### **Meeting Location:**


Withlacoochee Regional Planning Council  
Headquarters Conference Room  
1241 SW 10<sup>th</sup> Street (SR 200)  
Ocala, Florida 34474-0323



# WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY

## MEMORANDUM

To: Water Supply Authority Board of Directors and Interested Parties

From: Jackson E. Sullivan, Executive Director 

Date: April 7, 2010

Subject: Monthly Meeting of the Withlacoochee Regional  
Water Supply Authority

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The next meeting of the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority will be on **Wednesday, April 21, 2010, 4:30 p.m., at the Withlacoochee Regional Planning Council Headquarters Conference Room, 1241 SW 10<sup>th</sup> Street (SR 200), Ocala, Florida 34474-0323.**

Enclosed for your review are the following items:

- Agenda
- Minutes of the March 17, 2010 meeting
- Board Package\*

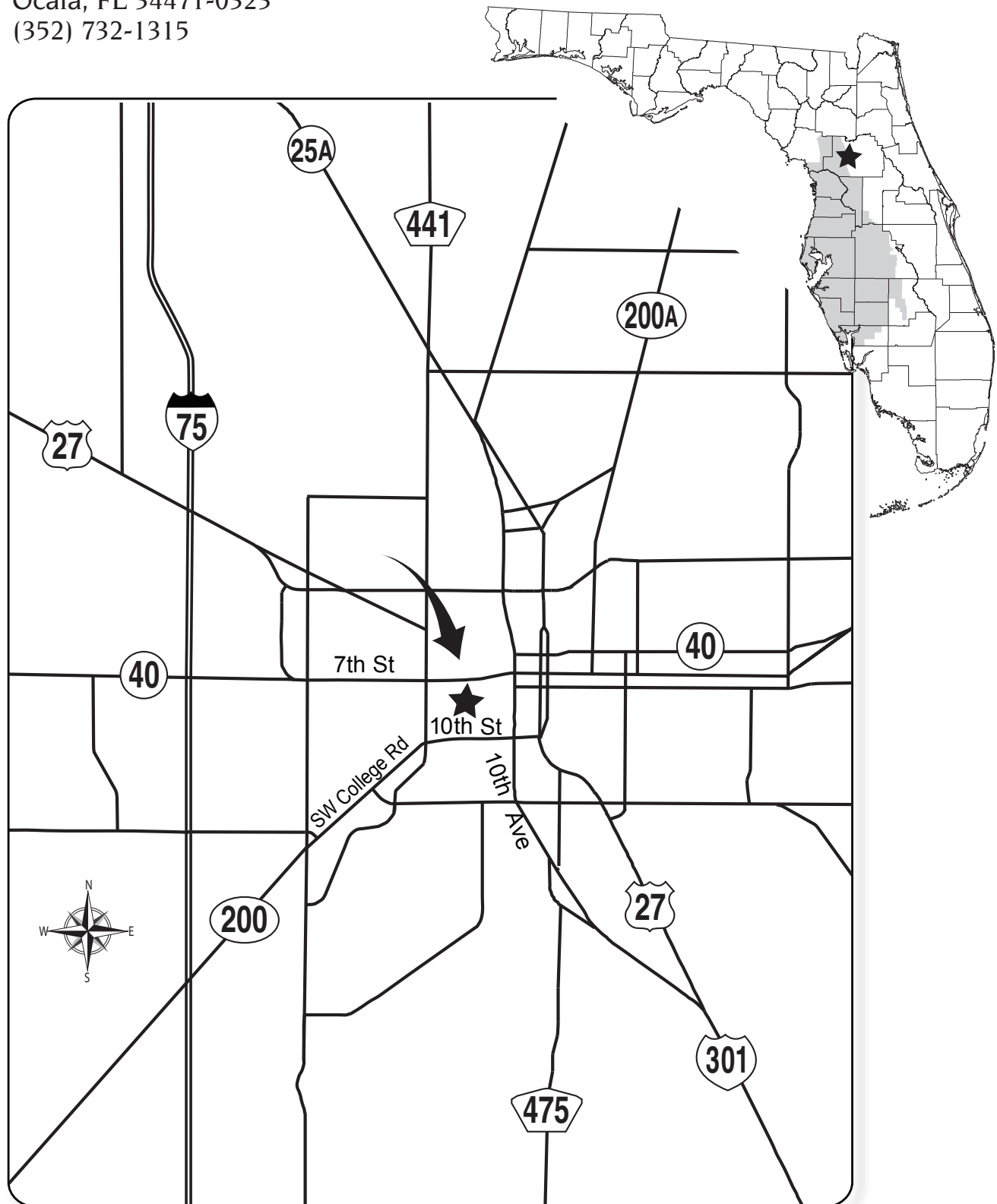
Please note that if a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at the above cited meeting, he will need a record of the proceedings, and for such purpose, he may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes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

\* For persons other than Board Members and government agencies, pursuant to Board policy adopted at the March 9, 1995 Meeting, a self-addressed 8.5 x 11 inch envelope, pre-stamped and with \$3.00 postage should be sent to the WRWSA at the address below. Board packages may also be obtained free of charge at the Board meeting.

Enclosures

1107 Shalimar Drive – Tallahassee, FL 32312  
(850) 385-0220 – FAX (850) 385-0223  
jesull@comcast.net

Withlacoochee Regional Planning Council  
1241 S.W. 10th Street (SR 200)  
Ocala, FL 34471-0323  
(352) 732-1315



Note:

The Council's office is located approximately 2.6 miles east of Interstate 75 on State Road 200 and approximately .5 miles west of Pine Street, which is also US Highway 27, 301 & 401.

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

**WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL  
HEADQUARTERS CONFERENCE ROOM  
1241 SW 10<sup>TH</sup> STREET (SR 200)  
OCALA, FLORIDA 34474-0323**

**April 21, 2010  
4:30 p.m.**

- Item #1 Call to Order**
- Item #2 Roll Call**
- Item #3 Introductions and Announcements**
- Item #4 Approval of Minutes of March 17, 2010 Meeting**
- Item #5 WRWSA Regional Water Supply Plan Update, Phase II – Approval of Workshop Recommendations for Further Study by Staff ... Pete Hubbell, Principal, Water Resource Associates and Jack Sullivan, WRWSA**
- Item #6 Executive Director's Report ... Jack Sullivan, WRWSA**
  - a. Bills to be Paid**
  - b. Approval of Phase II Study for Payment**
  - c. Local Government Water Conservation Grant Application Notification**
  - d. Correspondence**
  - e. News Articles**
- Item #7 Legislative Update ... Diane Salz, Legislative Consultant**
- Item #8 Attorney's Report ... Larry Haag, WRWSA Attorney**
- Item #9 Other Business**
- Item #10 Public Comment**
- Item #11 Next Meeting Time and Location ... May 19, 2010, 4:30 p.m., SWFWMD Headquarters Governing Board Meeting Room, 2379 Broad Street (US 41 South), Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899**
- Item #12 Adjournment**

**4. March 17, 2010 Minutes**

**WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES  
March 17, 2010**

**TIME:** 4:30 p.m.  
**PLACE:** Southwest Florida Water Management District  
2379 Broad Street (SR 41)  
Brooksville, Florida 34604

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

**1. Call to Order**

Chairman Richard Hoffman called the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (WRWSA) meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. and asked for a roll call.

**2. Roll Call**

Mr. Jack Sullivan, Executive Director, called the roll and a quorum was declared present.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Richard Hoffman, Chairman, Sumter County Commissioner  
Rose Rocco, Treasurer, Hernando County Commissioner  
Joe Bernardini, Brooksville City Councilman  
Christine Dobkowski, Belleview City Commissioner  
John Druzbeck, Hernando County Commissioner  
Dennis Damato, Citrus County Commissioner  
John Priester, Ocala City Councilman  
David Russell, Hernando County Commissioner  
Dale Swain, Bushnell City Councilman  
Winn Webb, Citrus County Commissioner

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Barbara Fitos, Vice-Chairman, Marion County Commissioner  
Jim Adkins, Hernando County Commissioner  
Mike Amsden, Marion County Commissioner  
Gary Bartell, Citrus County Commissioner  
Ken Hinkle, Inverness City Councilman  
Randy Mask, Sumter County Commissioner  
Stan McClain, Marion County Commissioner  
Mary S. Rich, Ocala City Councilwoman

**3. Introductions and Announcements**

Mr. Sullivan introduced others in the audience.



**OTHERS PRESENT**

Jack Sullivan, WRWSA Executive Director  
Larry Haag, WRWSA Attorney  
Janey Baldwin, Withlacoochee River Basin Board  
Tom Baldwin, Hernando County Citizen  
Al Grubman, TOO FAR  
Ken Herd, SWFWMD  
Cara Martin, SWFWMD  
Miki Renner, SWFWMD  
David Hamilton, Hernando County  
Joe Stapf, Hernando County Utilities  
Alys Brockway, Hernando County Utilities  
Peter Hubbell, Water Resource Associates  
Josh Schmitz, Water Resources Associates  
Robert Knight, Citrus County Utilities  
Darryl Muse, City of Ocala  
Richard Radacky, City of Brooksville  
Peter Rocco, Hernando County Citizen  
Brian Huston, R.W. Beck  
Tahla Paige, Recording Secretary

Chairman Richard Hoffman congratulated Ms. Christine Dobkowski on the birth of new daughter.

**4. Approval of Minutes of February 17, 2010 Meeting**

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. Damato to approve the minutes for the February 17, 2010 meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Rocco and carried unanimously.**

**5. Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (WRWSA) – Regional Water Supply Plan Update, Phase II – WRWSA Detailed Water Supply Planning Feasibility Analyses Overview**

Mr. Sullivan informed the board there was a long list of recommendations that Mr. Peter Hubbell, Water Resources Associates, will be reviewing in his presentation. Mr. Sullivan stated that Mr. Hubbell and he felt at least a two-hour workshop before the next WRWSA meeting was necessary to receive input from the board members on the recommendations. Mr. Sullivan also felt that Mr. Hubbell and he were too closely associated with the recommendations. Therefore, he suggested it would be beneficial to hire a facilitator for the workshop and suggested the WRWSA authorize up to \$5,000 to hire a facilitator. Mr. Sullivan asked the board to discuss the matter after Mr. Hubbell's presentation.

Mr. Hubbell proceeded to give an update on the Detailed Water Supply Feasibility Analyses with recommendations that included:

- a. **Population and Water Demand** - Update population and water demand figures every five years concurrently with SWFWMD and SJRWMD; follow water uses other than public supply for potential impact to public water supply uses; track proposed large water users within the region to determine if such use will affect WRWSA planning efforts; participate with Water Management Districts (WMDs) to monitor and study the impact of Domestic Self Supply (DSS).
- b. **Minimum Flow and Levels (MFLs)** – Continue to monitor MFL development in both the SWFWMD and SJRWMD; determination of potential impacts to water supply development of WRWSA projects; act as the technical reviewer for WRWSA members; ensure water resources and environmental features are protected; and compare with proxy MFLs developed for the Phase II analyses of potential water resources.
- c. **Data Collection, Monitoring and Resources Assessment** – Monitor Lower Floridan Aquifer (LFA) and Surficial Aquifer (SA) data collection in south Marion and north Sumter Counties to determine if the LFA is a viable source of future water supply; facilitate a coordinated monitoring program for hydrogeologic information in the southeast portions of Marion County and northeast portions of Sumter County; coordinate a common set of resource evaluation methods; educate members on appropriate supply strategies and advocate on their behalf with the WMDs; work with WMDs to determine, prioritize and fund needed hydrogeologic studies in the region; work with SWFWMD and SJRWMD to address different groundwater models so that models are applied in a consistent manner; work with WMDs to provide consistency on boundary conditions; continue to monitor MFL establishment by WMDs; and work with the WMDs to develop a better understanding of the Surficial Aquifer System and Surficial Resources.
- d. **Water Conservation** - WRWSA should develop a comprehensive plan that targets and prioritizes water conservation programs using the SWFWMD Non-Agricultural Water Conservation Modeling; and work with local governments and the SWFWMD to develop strategies for implementing aggressive water conservation programs in order to meet the 150 gpcd requirement established by WMDs.
- e. **Reclaimed Water** - Take a proactive role in the analyses and promotion of reclaimed water projects for its members; prepare sub-regional reclaimed water plans. Develop priority projects and multi-year budgets for a 10-year period. Plans would be submitted with applications by member governments for WMD cooperative funding; establish a Reclaimed Water Workgroup to liaison with statewide workgroup; work with WMDs to ensure cooperative funding for beneficial water projects within the region.
- f. **Groundwater & Alternative Water Supply Projects** - Fresh Groundwater -North Sumter wellfield and NW Marion wellfield recommended for short-term implementation and Citrus wellfield and northeast Marion wellfield recommended for Mid or Long-term implementation; and Alternative Water Supply Development - Lake Rousseau and North Sumter Conjunctive Use AWS recommended for mid or long-term



implementation and Crystal River Power Plan Desalination project recommended for Mid or Long-term implementation.

- g. **Water Supply Partnership** - Incentives for a regional approach to groundwater development as well as AWS should be pursued by the WRWSA with WMDs; work with WMDs to establish a common understanding of resource conditions for utilities to meet AWS conditions in local WUPs in an environmentally and economically sound manner; work with member governments to provide supporting information for local government 10-year facility work plans.
- h. **WRWSA Water Supply Regional Framework** - A visioning session or series of workshops should be scheduled to determine the implications of establishing a Regional Framework for development of an AWS delivery system; prepare a comprehensive review of the WRWSA governance documents to reflect recommendations and initiatives approved from the Regional Framework visioning session(s); and review the funding mechanisms to support the administrative, technical and operations functions of the Authority.

Mr. Webb asked if the SJRWMD, which was currently setting MFLs, would be publishing the information at the same time as WRWSA, and he wanted to know how it would affect the WRWSA. Mr. Hubbell stated there was some overlap and it would only affect the Oklawaha River, Silver River, and Silver Glen Springs. Mr. Webb asked if MFL's for Lake Panasoffkee would be set. Mr. Josh Schmitz, Water Resource Associates stated the MFLs for Lake Panasoffkee had already been adopted. Mr. Webb asked if studies had been done on the effects of salt from the desalination plant on marsh areas. Mr. Hubbell stated studies had not been done in great detail, but water discharge was in a deep and dark area that did not affect grass growth. Mr. Webb asked how the 150 gallons per day use level had been determined. Mr. Hubbell said he would research the answer and get back with him on it.

Mr. Russell asked why ASR not mentioned. Mr. Hubbell said because the area is a highly karst region, ASRs did not work effectively. Mr. Russell asked what the procedure was for computing MFL's for Lake Hancock when it was dry and there was no water flow. Mr. Hubbell replied the bad news was the lake was dry, but the good news was MFL's were higher than the lake being dry, and it would create severe constraints on developing water in the area. Mr. Damato asked if the low MFL's of the Withlacoochee River would be handled the same. Mr. Hubbell replied there would be constraints on removing water from the river until the water levels had recovered.

Public input was taken at this time. Mrs. Janey Baldwin, Withlacoochee River Basin Board Member, stated the information presented at this meeting was relative to the Withlacoochee River Basin Board (WRBB) and requested the WRBB be informed of future WRWSA meetings. Mr. Sullivan stated he will have agendas mailed to the appropriate basin boards.

Al Grubman, TOO FAR, expressed two concerns. First, the use of the overflow of the Withlacoochee River supplies water to local lakes and using it for water supply could affect

lake levels. Second, the inter-county pipelines meant water could be brought in and out of the area.

Discussion centered on hiring a facilitator for the April workshop. Ms. Rocco voiced concerns about spending \$5,000 for a facilitator in today's economic climate. She asked how the amount was determined. Mr. Hubbell stated it was a high estimate with the expectation to use only a portion of the amount. Mr. Russell added he could not approve spending money on a facilitator and suggested asking Mr. Sonny Vergara to volunteer for the job. Mr. Druzbeck also suggested Mr. Fritz Musselmann. A consensus was reached that if neither Mr. Vergara or Mr. Musselmann could facilitate the workshop, the board would prefer Mr. Hubbell facilitate the workshop instead of spending the money.

This was an information item only.

## **6. Citrus County Utilities Response to CAB Evaluation Report**

Mr. Robert Knight, Director of Utilities, Citrus County stated there were no disagreement with the findings and recommendations issued by Black & Veatch in the audit of the Charles A. Black facility. However, he urged the WRWSA to move forward on the potential routes or easements along State Road 44 and County Road 486 and begin the lengthy process of obtaining the use of right-away.

## **7. Executive Director's Report**

### **a. Bills to be Paid**

Mr. Sullivan provided a handout to the Board detailing March 2010 bills which totaled \$15,038.63. Mr. Sullivan requested the Board approve the payment of those bills.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. Damato to approve payment of the March 2010 bills totaling \$15,038.63. The motion was seconded by Ms. Rocco and carried unanimously.**

### **b. Annual Financial Report to the Department of Financial Services**

Mr. Sullivan explained that each year the Authority was required to submit its financial report to the Auditor General and to the Department of Financial Services. Both reports are based on the figures presented in the annual audit. Mr. Sullivan said both reports needed to be submitted on-line. He requested the approval of the Board to submit the prepared report to the Department of Financial Services.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Ms. Rocco to approve submittal of the Annual Financial Report to the Department of Financial Services as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Webb and carried unanimously.**

### **c. April as Water Conservation Month Resolution**

Mr. Sullivan stated the resolution that the Board agreed to adopt at the February Board meeting is included in the Board Package. He recommended approval of the resolution.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. Swain to approve the Water Conservation Resolution as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Rocco and carried unanimously.**

**d. News Articles**

Mr. Sullivan provided news articles on water supply issues relating to areas both regional and statewide.

**e. Update to Web Page**

Mr. Sullivan informed the Board that he was having some difficulty over the past few months getting a timely response from the current web master to post the agenda and the Board Package on the web page. He felt a change was necessary and found another person to take care of the web page. Mr. Sullivan stated Ms. Karen Allan is located in Citrus County and currently manages several web pages within the region.

Ms. Allan submitted a proposal of \$1,200 to re-design and setup a new web page with a \$75 a month maintenance fee. If the Board preferred to wait until next budget year, Ms. Allan would post the agenda and minutes, plus the Board Package each month for a \$45 monthly fee.

Mr. Sullivan stated the web page had not been updated in six years and felt the fees were reasonable and the added expense could be paid for out of the current operational funds. He recommended the Board approve the redesign of the web page and maintenance costs.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. Damato to approve the New Web Page Proposal as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Russell and carried unanimously.**

**8. Legislative Update**

Mr. Sullivan stated that Ms. Diane Salz could not be present, as she was attending Committee meetings. He handed out her latest Legislative report.

**9. Attorney's Report**

Mr. Haag, Esq., stated he did not have anything new to report to the WRWSA.

**10. Other Business**

None.

**11. Public Comment**

Mrs. Baldwin suggested reimbursement of travel for the facilitator at the April workshop.

**12. Next Meeting Time and Location**

Next meeting is scheduled for April 21, 2010 at 4:30 p.m., Withlacoochee Regional Planning Council Headquarters Conference Room, 1241 Southwest 10<sup>th</sup> Street (SR 200), Ocala, Florida 34474-0323.

**13. Adjournment**

Chairman Hoffman announced there was no further business or discussion to come before the Board and adjourned the meeting at 6:28 p.m.

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Richard Hoffman, Chairman

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Jackson E. Sullivan, Executive Director

**5. Workshop Recommendations  
for Further Study by Staff**

**Recommendations forwarded by the Board  
from the workshop will be considered for further study by staff.**



**6.a. Bills to be Paid**

**BILLS TO BE PAID WILL BE HANDED  
OUT AT THE BOARD MEETING**

**6.b. Approval of Phase II  
Study for Payment**

**MEMORANDUM****April 7, 2010**

**To: Board of Directors, WRWSA**  
**From: Jack Sullivan, Executive Director**  
**Re: Regional Water Supply Plan Update, Phase II - Approval of Final Report**

**Background**

In 2005, the WRWSA established the WRWSA – Master Water Supply Planning and Implementation Program (WRWSA – MWSP&IP), which is a comprehensive process to plan for the region's water supply future. The WRWSA – MWSP&IP is a multi-year, multi-phase program. It contains phases for water supply planning; identification and prioritization of water supply projects; the design of selected projects; and implementation of the projects and initiatives.

This report, which is Phase II of the WRWSA – MWSP&IP process, was initiated in 2007 as a follow-on to the WRWSA Regional Water Supply Plan Update (RWSPU), which was completed in 2007. The purpose of Phase II is to update regional population and water demands and determine potential water supply projects to supply these needs. As the study progressed Marion County decided to rejoin the WRWSA.

The re-entry of Marion County into the WRWSA required that the RWSPU be amended to consider existing and projected water demands in Marion County, and that the amended RWSPU outline the basis for future water supply development in the WRWSA region, including Marion County. This study was called the Marion County Compendium and was completed in December of 2009.

**Phase II – WRWSA Detailed Water Supply Planning Feasibility Analyses**

At the February WRWSA Board meeting the consultants for the Authority, Water Resource Associates (WRA), gave an overview of the draft final Phase II report. The report contains a number of recommendations that were categorized but not dealt with in depth at the February meeting. The recommendations were discussed at the March Board meeting but it was decided that a workshop to discuss them and the future direction of the Authority would be held in conjunction with the April 21, 2010 Board meeting. At this workshop, we will discuss the recommendations in more detail and start the process of addressing them from a scheduling or priority standpoint, budget implications and other potential impacts they may have. We are not asking for Board approval of these recommendations at the workshop. However, we do expect the Board to provide guidance to staff on those recommendations that the Board wants to examine for further consideration.

### **Approval of the Phase II Report**

As a reminder, the TRC has been given several presentations of the final draft report. Formal comments to the report had been requested by March 21, 2010 and the report has been revised to reflect these comments. A spreadsheet has also been prepared to address reviewer's comments and how they were addressed in the report.

The consultants and I are requesting formal approval of the Phase II report at the Board's April 21, 2010 meeting. Please note that formally approving the report does not approve or endorse the recommendations in Phase II. The recommendations will be considered at the Board's workshop and become discussion items for future Board meetings.

As a reminder the final Phase II report and associated spreadsheet will be posted on the WRA website by April 14, 2010 and can be accessed using Board and TRC members log-in and password. If you have difficulty accessing the site, contact either Pete Hubbell ([phubbell@wraconsultants.com](mailto:phubbell@wraconsultants.com)) or Rita Garrison ([rgarrison@wraconsultants.com](mailto:rgarrison@wraconsultants.com)).

### **Staff Recommendation:**

*Approval of the Phase II final report and the final payment and project retainage monies, excluding \$5,000 to be released when Phase II presentations are given by the consultants to the Coastal Rivers and the Withlacoochee Basin Boards of the SWFWMD, as per their contract.*

**6.c. Water Conservation  
Grant Applications**





## MEMORANDUM

April 9, 2010

To: All Local Governments and Utility Directors in the Withlacoochee Region  
 From: Jack Sullivan, Executive Director, WRWSA

Re: WRWSA Funding for Regional Water Supply Projects

This is a memorandum informing the officials listed below that the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (WRWSA) will open applications for its local government grant program as of May 1, 2010. This program is sponsored by the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority to fund local water supply projects on a matching basis. **In 2010, monies are extremely limited and the Board will continue to place the highest funding priority on water conservation projects.**

The WRWSA Board of Directors has decided to sponsor this cooperative program on an annual basis by reviewing requests from local governments each May 1st with the application process running through June 30. The applications will be considered by the Board during its July and August Board meetings. Awards will be made no later than the September Board meeting. Please review the attached program guidelines for details.

If any of you have questions about the information above, please contact me at (850) 385-0220 at the WRWSA Tallahassee office or the Brooksville office at (352) 796-4970. If all else fails, dial my cell phone number at (850) 591-7422. If you desire to contact me by FAX, my FAX numbers are (352) 754-6874 and (850) 385-0223 and my e-mail address is "jesull@comcast.net".

## MAILING LIST:

Utility Directors

Knight, Robert, Citrus County  
 Mullins, Keith, Crystal River  
 Cornelius, Brad, Sumter County  
 Halcomb, Jeff, City of Ocala  
 Stapf, Joe, Hernando County  
 Smith, William, Brooksville  
 Hinkle, Bruce, Bushnell  
 Kreager, Russell, Inverness  
 Allen, Ron, Wildwood  
 Johnson, Dennis, Webster  
 Petrie, Todd, Marion County  
 McMurdy, Donna, Belleview

County/City Managers

Brown, Eber, Citrus Co.  
 Hamilton, David, Hernando Co.  
 Norman-Vacha, Jennene, Brooksville  
 DiGiovanni, Frank, Inverness  
 Horst, Ricky, Ocala  
 Smith, Robert, Wildwood  
 Arnold, Bradley, Sumter County  
 Ruano, Vince, Bushnell  
 Houston, Andy, Crystal River  
 Niblock, Lee, Marion County  
 McKamey, Sandi, Belleview  
 Richard Radacky, Brooksville

## Attachments:

Others

Berry, Ralph, Mayor, Center Hill  
 Evans, Lonnie, Mayor, Coleman

cc: WRWSA Board Members

**Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority  
Local Government Water Supply  
Funding Assistance Program**

During 1999, the Board of Directors of the Authority moved to participate with local governments in providing funding assistance for water supply projects. Monies for these projects will come from the Authority's Water Resource Capital Projects Fund. The source of monies for this fund comes from revenues secured from the Charles A. Black Water Supply Facility jointly owned by Citrus County and the Authority. Other funds from the Authority administration budget may be utilized as they are available. The criteria for possible funding of a local water supply project are as follows:

1. The project must be within the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority jurisdiction and must be for a member local government.
2. The project must relate to water supply or be a water resource project that affects the provision of water supply.
3. The project must be approved by the submitting local government's City Council or County Commission prior to submittal to the WRWSA. A resolution of support for the project and commitment of funding by the local government should accompany the application. The Authority, in its sole discretion, will evaluate and approve/disapprove each project based on its merits.
4. The Authority Board of Directors will establish the amount of money available each year for inclusion in the funding program. Maximum funding levels and the number of approved applicants will determine the amount of funding for each project. However, generally, the Authority will not fund more than 1/2 of a project budget up to an amount not to exceed \$50,000 per project.
5. The local government applicant must provide a scope of services for the project that describes the objective of the project, the tasks involved in the project, the cost per task and the time frame for completion of the project. Generally, the Authority requests that the local government expend its pro rata portion of the project budget before the Authority begins paying its pro rata portion.

6. Local governments that have received approval for a grant from the Authority shall not be eligible for another project grant until the previous grant project has been completed subject to the following conditions:
  - a. Completion of a project shall mean that the total project or the phase of a project for which the grant was used must have been completed. Completion shall also mean that the local government has made payment for services funded by the grant and a request for final reimbursement of the two-thirds contribution by the Authority has been sent by the local government and received by the Authority. An exception to this procedure may occur when the local government has shown evidence that the money to be expended has been encumbered, but for scheduling purposes, has not yet been expended. However, the monies must be spent within a specified timeframe proposed by the local government and approved by the Authority. The Authority shall only reimburse the local government for monies actually expended. [Approved July 16, 2003]
  - b. Projects for which Authority funding constituted only a part of the total project must have a formal resolution from the member local government that the balance of the project will be completed.
  - c. In setting funding priorities during a grant funding cycle, projects for which Authority funding constituted only a part of the total project will defer priority first to projects for member governments that have never been funded and second to previously funded projects that have completed their total project.
7. If either the approved project tasks or the project time frames are changed, the project applicant must revise the scope of services as soon as they are known and receive approval of these revisions from the Authority at a regularly scheduled meeting. Approved changes will be incorporated into the local government contract.
8. The application process will open on May 1 of each year and close on June 30. The applications will be considered by the Board during its July and August Board meetings as necessary. Awards normally are made no later than the August Board meeting. Local Government contracts will be prepared by the Authority's Attorney and Executive Director and approved by the Authority Board and submitted to Local Governments for review and approval by the September Board meeting.

**WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT GRANT APPLICATION  
2010-11 FISCAL YEAR**

**Name of member local government:** \_\_\_\_\_

**List previous grants received from WRWSA and date completed:**

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**Short description of proposed water supply project:**

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**Is this a water conservation project?    Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_**

**Attachments to application:**

- 1.      Resolution of support that includes the following commitments:**
  - a.      The local government will budget and expend its matching funds as required by the grant program.**
  - b.      The local government will expend its required matching funds first prior to requesting reimbursement from the Authority for its 50% match for the project.**
- 2.      A summary of the project tasks (scope of services) with estimated costs by task, if applicable.**
- 3.      A time schedule for the project and expected completion date that will be inserted in the local government contract.**

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**The completed application and all attachments must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on the last working day of the month of June. The application should be sent to:**

**Jack Sullivan, Executive Director  
Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority  
1107 Shalimar Drive  
Tallahassee, Florida 32312**

**It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the grant application is sent to and received by the Executive Director by the required date. The Authority assumes no responsibility for delays or other problems with the transmittal of the application.**

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

- 1. The grant application period opens on May 1 of each calendar year and closes on the last working day of June.**
- 2. Applications will be considered at the July Board meeting following receipt of applications. Member governments applying for a grant will be expected to have a representative at the Board meeting to explain the request and answer questions.**
- 3. Once a grant request is approved by the Board, the applicant's resolution, summary of the project and time schedule will be incorporated into a contract between the Authority and the local government. The contract (in three copies) will be sent to the local government for review, approval and signature by the local government and then sent back to the Executive Director for presentation to the Authority Board for final approval and signatures at the September or next appropriate Board meeting. Once signed an original signed copy of the contract will be sent to the local government.**
- 4. Changes to the internal budget of the project, if applicable, may be approved by the Executive Director up to a 10% change in budget items. The Authority Board at a regular Board meeting must approve changes in excess of that amount. Requests for changes in the date of completion of the contract must be submitted in writing to the Executive Director for placement on the agenda at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Authority. Requests for an extension of the contract date must be done prior to the expiration of the contract.**
- 5. A copy of the guidelines for the Local Government Grants Program may be found at the Authority's web page. Go to [www.wrwsa.org](http://www.wrwsa.org). On the Home Page click "About Us" and select the "Local Gov't Grant Program" from the right hand side selection menu.**



**Checklist for Grant Applications**  
**Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority**

1. Grants are only for member governments of the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority. [Citrus, Hernando and Sumter Counties and all cities within each County plus the City of Ocala.]
2. Project must be a water supply project or a project that relates to development of water supply for the member local government.
3. The local government must pass a resolution supporting the specific project being applied for and must commit in the resolution to budget the project match funds.
4. The application should include a scope of services (description of the project). If the project can be divided into discrete tasks, please describe each task and the cost per task. If not, project the total project cost. Also include a timeframe for completion of tasks and/or the total project. Be sure to remember the time necessary for consultant selection.
5. Applications should be submitted no later than 5:00 p.m., June 30, 2010 to Jack Sullivan, Executive Director at 1107 Shalimar Drive, Tallahassee, Florida 32312.

**6.d. Correspondence**



An Equal  
Opportunity  
Employer

# Southwest Florida Water Management District

**Bartow Service Office**  
170 Century Boulevard  
Bartow, Florida 33830-7700  
(863) 534-1448 or  
1-800-492-7862 (FL only)

**Sarasota Service Office**  
6750 Fruitville Road  
Sarasota, Florida 34240-9711  
(941) 377-3722 or  
1-800-320-3503 (FL only)

**Tampa Service Office**  
7601 Highway 301 North  
Tampa, Florida 33637-6759  
(813) 985-7481 or  
1-800-836-0797 (FL only)

2379 Broad Street, Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899

(352) 796-7211 or 1-800-423-1476 (FL only)

TDD only: 1-800-231-6103 (FL only)

On the Internet at [WaterMatters.org](http://WaterMatters.org)

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**H. Paul Senft, Jr.**  
Polk  
**Douglas B. Tharp**  
Sumter  
**Judith C. Whitehead**  
Hernando

**David L. Moore**  
Executive Director  
**William S. Bilenky**  
General Counsel

March 2, 2010

Jack Sullivan  
WRWSA  
1107 Shalimar Dr  
Tallahassee, FL 32312

Dear Mr. Sullivan:

The Southwest Florida Water Management District (District) is currently updating the 2006 Regional Water Supply Plan (RWSP) in accordance with Section 373.0361, Florida Statutes. The District's first RWSP was published in 2001 and is required to be updated every five years.

The updated RWSP will assess projected water demands and potential sources of water to meet these demands through 2030. For the first time, the updated RWSP will include the Northern Planning Region of the District, which encompasses Hernando, Citrus, Marion, Lake, Sumter, and Levy counties.

Due to the inclusion of the Northern Planning Region, and in an effort to receive significant public comment, the District is establishing a Northern Planning Region Water Supply Plan Workgroup.

**The first meeting of the Northern Planning Region Water Supply Plan Workgroup will be held on March 17, 2010 at 1:30 p.m. in the Governing Board Room of the District Headquarters, which are located at 2379 Broad Street (US 41), Brooksville.**

If you or a representative from your organization would like to be represented on the Northern Planning Region Water Supply Plan Workgroup, please RSVP to Cara Martin, Community Affairs Program Manager, at (352) 796-7211 ext: 4636.



**State Board of Administration**  
**LOCAL GOVERNMENT SURPLUS TRUST FUNDS INVESTMENT POOL**  
**PARTICIPANT STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT**  
**FROM 3/1/2010 TO 3/31/2010**  
**LGIP**  
**(formerly known as LGIP-A)**  
**AGENCY ACCOUNT 311171**

Page 1 of 1

WITHLACHOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER  
SUPPLY AUTHORITY  
1107 SHALIMAR DRIVE  
TALLAHASSEE, FL 32312

Participant Return: 0.2 %

Date	Transaction Type	Description	Amount	Balance
3/1/2010	BEGINNING BALANCE			231,623.12
3/5/2010	TRANSFER IN	RETURN OF FUNDS FROM LGIP B	173.18	231,796.30
3/16/2010	WITHDRAWAL	JACKSON E. SULLIVAN	(15,000.00)	216,796.30
3/16/2010	TRANSFER IN	JACKSON E. SULLIVAN	780.00	217,576.30
3/31/2010	EARNED INCOME	INTEREST	37.30	217,613.60
3/31/2010	DEPOSIT	CHECK	6,747.04	224,360.64
	Totals:		(7,262.48)	224,360.64

**Fund B statements will be mailed separately by mid-month.**

For questions regarding your statement, please call (850) 488-7311 or Suncom # 278-7311



**State Board of Administration**  
**LOCAL GOVERNMENT SURPLUS TRUST FUNDS INVESTMENT POOL**  
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Page 1 of 1

WITHLACHOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER  
SUPPLY AUTHORITY  
1107 SHALIMAR DRIVE  
TALLAHASSEE, FL 32312

Participant Return: 0.2 %

Date	Transaction Type	Description	Amount	Balance
3/1/2010	BEGINNING BALANCE			1,301,133.05
3/3/2010	DEPOSIT	CHECK	1,125.00	1,302,258.05
3/5/2010	TRANSFER IN	RETURN OF FUNDS FROM LGIP B	443.05	1,302,701.10
3/12/2010	DEPOSIT	WIRE	18,361.83	1,321,062.93
3/16/2010	TRANSFER OUT	JACKSON E. SULLIVAN	(780.00)	1,320,282.93
3/31/2010	EARNED INCOME	INTEREST	218.09	1,320,501.02
Totals:			19,367.97	1,320,501.02

**Fund B statements will be mailed separately by mid-month.**

For questions regarding your statement, please call (850) 488-7311 or Suncom # 278-7311



**6.e. News Articles**

## Don't ruffle feathers

### Residents asked to be on the lookout for nesting cranes

By Chris Van Ormer

Spring has sprung, and birds are hatching their young.

Please be aware of sandhill cranes nesting in shallow water, a Hernando resident wants to tell the public, especially airboat pilots.

"Most airboaters are considerate about the speed, but the other day there were two huge white airboats, and instead of following the waterway they were flying over the marsh," said Maureen Shea. "Birds just suddenly flew up in the air."

Shea lives near the Hernando pool of the Tsala Apopka chain of lakes. Her concern for nesting birds led her to contact government agencies about putting up some signs to tell boaters to use caution in nesting areas. She said she got the runaround as no one she spoke to could commit to putting up some signs.

"There ought to be signs up warning people," Shea said. "It may be that people have no idea about the cranes."

Shea said she might put up signs herself to let the public know it is nesting season.

"Chicks are hatching now," said Karen Parker, spokeswoman for Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Parker said the nesting sandhill cranes are the subspecies Florida sandhill cranes, which number between 4,000 and 5,000 and are listed as threatened. The other subspecies in Florida is the greater sandhill crane, numbering about 25,000 migrating individuals. It does not nest here, but nests when it migrates in the spring to the Great Lakes region.

The Florida sandhill crane stays in Florida year round, Parker said, and mating pairs stay together for life.

Heavier rains this past winter may have raised the risk that water birds nesting this spring are more likely to come into contact with boats.

Greater flow in the Withlacoochee River allowed the Southwest Florida Water Management District to change its guidelines Feb. 2 to raise water levels in the Tsala Apopka chain of lakes simultaneously. More than 23 million gallons of water per day from the Withlacoochee River have been flowing into the lakes.

For the first time, all three pools — Floral City, Inverness and Hernando — are getting equal shares of water, something people who use the lakes have wanted for a long time.

"Historically, the way we've managed the water control structures has resulted in the Floral City pool getting Withlacoochee River water before the Inverness and Hernando pools," said Mike Holtkamp, District Operations director. "Under the new guidelines, all three pools will share the river water equally whenever it is available."

Shea said the release of water has made a big difference to the Hernando pool.

"It was about eight feet across, but now it's about 25 feet across," Shea said.

The increased release of water has coincided with spring, when birds hatch. The cranes nest in marsh or on ground close to water, and the district's water release makes their nests closer to boaters.

According to FWC, the female lays two eggs on a mound of vegetation. Sandhill cranes nest during late winter and spring on mats of vegetation about two feet in diameter and in shallow water. These mounds are in or near water because the cranes wade and forage, although they don't fish. Young sandhill cranes stay with their parents until they are about 10 months old.

Parker said FWC was unaware of the need for signs in the area, but would look into the subject.

Likewise, Robin Felix, spokeswoman for the water management district, said her agency would be in contact with FWC regarding the need for signs to raise awareness about nesting birds.

It was an unforeseen consequence of raising lake levels after a long drought.

"The levels are generally three feet higher than they were last year," Felix said. "We've been able to raise the levels because of the rainfall."

Airboat enthusiasts realize it is nesting season and observe speeds and waterways, said the president of the Citrus County Airboat Alliance.

"We are very aware that it's nesting season," said Joe Springer, head of the group that numbers about 130 members. "If we know of any nesting areas, we don't go near them."

Springer said the alliance works on community activities, such as taking handicapped people out in their boats and working on lake cleanup. Members also have created a recreational area off the Hernando pool that is open to the public for camping and has a compost toilet.



## Legislative Update April 2, 2010

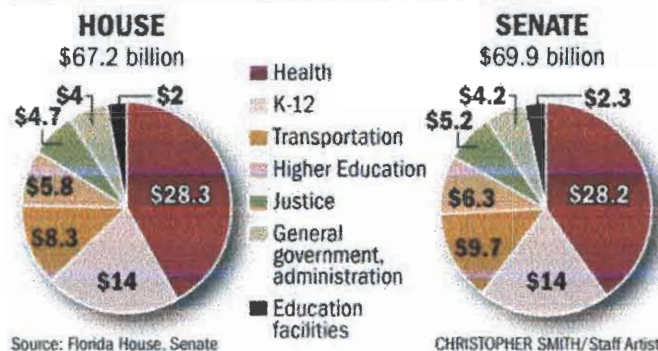
### House and Senate Pass Budgets

The House and Senate both passed their respective budgets and several implementing bills during the shortened work week. The legislators only met on Wednesday and Thursday due to Passover and Good Friday.

The House passed a \$67.2 billion dollar budget on party lines, 74-44. The House budget includes an amendment by Representative Rich Glorioso providing \$1 million for the West-Central Florida Water Restoration Action Plan. The Senate approved a \$69.5 billion version of the budget unanimously which included money from the gaming compact with the Seminole tribe which the House did not include. The Senate budget includes \$15 million for Florida Forever and \$10 Million for Everglades Restoration. The budgets will now go through the conference process.

### **Budget breakdown**

Here's how the Florida House and Senate propose spending state tax money for the year that will begin July 1. Both proposals exceed this year's \$66.5 billion budget.



### District Continues to Monitor FRS Legislation

There are several bills moving this session that could affect the Florida Retirement System and state employees. During this past week the House passed HB 5703 which suspends for three years the requirements for public retirement plans to pay the full contribution rates and HB 5701 which eliminates the Retiree Health Insurance Subsidy and ends further contributions on July 1, 2010. Originally HB 5701 was defeated, but was brought back again for reconsideration and

passed yesterday by a narrow 63-56 vote. There are currently no identical companion bills in the Senate for either of these bills.

The main piece of legislation passed by the Senate is SB 2022 by J.D. Alexander which would require employees to contribute 0.25 percent of their salary toward pensions.

The [2010 Legislation page](#) of the FRS web site includes a summary of all bills impacting the FRS. Again the District is closely monitoring the progress of these bills and will inform employees as soon as any bills are passed that affect retirement benefits.



From: Diane Salz <disalz@yahoo.com>  
Subject: **Fw: SJRWMD: North FL is running short on water**  
Date: April 2, 2010 12:12:53 PM EDT  
To: Jack Sullivan <jesull@comcast.net>

--- On Fri, 4/2/10, Diane Salz <[disalz@yahoo.com](mailto:disalz@yahoo.com)> wrote:

From: Diane Salz <[disalz@yahoo.com](mailto:disalz@yahoo.com)>  
Subject: SJRWMD: North FL is running short on water  
To: "Diane Salz" <[disalz@yahoo.com](mailto:disalz@yahoo.com)>  
Date: Friday, April 2, 2010, 12:12 PM

## North Florida is running short on water

By [Nathan Crabbe](#)  
Staff writer

Published: Friday, March 26, 2010 at 5:34 p.m.

Last Modified: Friday, March 26, 2010 at 6:09 p.m.

Gainesville residents are being confronted with a choice: Ease off the tap or prepare to get your drinking water from the Atlantic Ocean or Ocklawaha River.

Total water use by county in millions of gallons per day:

County	2007	2008
Alachua	36.37	33.91
Baker	5.85	4.96
Bradford	1.55	1.08
Brevard	141.56	114.43
Clay	28.23	25.83
Duval	178.99	164.08
Flagler	41.38	31.69
Indian River	118.35	110.04
Lake	115.75	105.18
Marion	49.51	48.62
Nassau	53.01	52.18
Okeechobee	21.32	18.93
Orange	168.77	148.91
Osceola	26.54	23.58
Putnam	50.86	47.88
St. Johns	60.81	47.44
Seminole	79.19	69.72
Volusia	94.48	87.42
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,272.52</b>	<b>1,135.88</b>

That's the essence of the message being delivered by the St. Johns River Water Management District, which is proposing to designate a region spanning across Northeast Florida as a water resource caution area.

Such a designation would push utilities in the region, including Gainesville Regional Utilities, to reduce groundwater use or consider alternatives involving surface water.

GRU's options include building pipelines to the lower Ocklawaha River at Rodman Reservoir or a proposed desalination plant in Jacksonville, although district officials caution that nothing is set in stone and such large projects might take decades.

GRU engineer Tony Cunningham said the utility is instead exploring projects to conserve water, such as toilet retrofits, and to reuse water, such as irrigating golf courses with treated wastewater.

"We are not interested in these large regional alternative supply projects that are going to be delivering surface water, and I don't think our community is either," Cunningham said.

While conservation and reuse are the least expensive options, Cunningham said, they still require additional funding that likely would mean higher utility rates in the years ahead. Whatever choices are made, water managers say, the era of relying on the Floridan aquifer as a cheap and easy drinking-water source is ending.

The St. Johns district's current estimates show that Northeast Florida by 2030 will need about 91 million gallons more per day than could be drawn from groundwater without harming the environment. Projections show that a number of lakes, springs and wetlands in the area would start suffering environmental harm in just five years -- if they haven't already.

Source: St. Johns River Water Management



*District; reuse data were not available*

"We're sending up the flag and saying we can't make it 20 years," said David Hornsby, a technical program manager for the St. Johns district who

is leading its water supply planning effort.

Hornsby announced the caution-area designation, which still must be approved by the district's governing board, at a meeting last week in Gainesville. Just five years ago, the district had designated a much smaller caution area that didn't include any of Alachua County or Jacksonville.

District officials said better modeling and the impact of rapid growth have led to the larger caution area. That has fueled skepticism among environmental advocates, some of whom have been sounding the alarm for years about the aquifer being drained and believe tapping surface water will only exacerbate the problem.

"I think we should all be careful about the information that the district is putting out," said Karen Ahlers, president of the Putnam County Environmental Council. "They want us to trust them, but we've found out in the last five years they've discovered this huge mistake."

The St. Johns district has been meeting jointly with the Suwannee River Water Management District over the past several months to craft water supply plans for the next two decades, a process scheduled to be completed in December. The St. Johns district covers part of Alachua County, while the remainder of Alachua County falls into the Suwannee River district.

The St. Johns district still is determining exact figures for every utility, but the current estimates show GRU is responsible for about 2.8 million gallons per day of the water deficit. That figure is dwarfed by JEA's 46 million gallons per day, but Hornsby cautioned against expecting the Jacksonville utility alone to deal with the problem.

"If we start getting into the finger-pointing process, it does not become productive for the environment," Hornsby said.

He said the surface-water options are being put out there simply to establish cost estimates and that utilities are free to consider other approaches involving conservation.

However, environmental advocates such as Ahlers are concerned the district is more seriously considering tapping surface water without looking at how it will impact the recharging of groundwater.

"The connection between groundwater and surface water cannot be denied," she said. "To have them move to the next victim, which is surface water, just doesn't work for me."

Cunningham said GRU is well-positioned to undertake projects involving conservation or reclaimed water, some of which it already has been pursuing.

Studies are ongoing to determine whether subsidizing retrofits for low-flush toilets would be effective and what areas should be targeted.

Reuse projects also are being considered but provide a greater challenge, Cunningham said, requiring ground to be torn up to install pipes to deliver water from water plants to sometimes distant golf courses and development.

Whatever projects are pursued, Cunningham said people should get used to the idea that water will get more expensive.

"I think in general the cost of water is going to go up in the future," he said.

Contact Nathan Crabbe at 338-3176 or [nathan.crabbe@gvillesun.com](mailto:nathan.crabbe@gvillesun.com).

From: Diane Salz <disalz@yahoo.com>  
Subject: **Ocklawaha River study put on hold**  
Date: April 2, 2010 12:06:29 PM EDT  
To: Jack Sullivan <jesull@comcast.net>

## Ocklawaha River environmental study put on hold

Source URL: <http://jacksonville.com/news/florida/2010-03-30/story/ocklawaha-river-environmental-study-put-hold>

By Steve Patterson

ST. AUGUSTINE - A state environmental review of plans to take drinking water from the St. Johns River has stopped studying the Ocklawaha River, which Jacksonville-area utilities are reluctantly considering tapping.

The river still needs to be studied closely but that will have to wait, Mike Cullum, the St. Johns River Water Management District's director of engineering, said Tuesday.

"We don't have the pressure right now to develop that resource," Cullum said about the Ocklawaha, which empties into the St. Johns in Putnam County.

The management district decided to focus on withdrawal plans farther south because Central Florida utilities have immediate interest in those, he told members of a National Academy of Sciences panel tracking the management district's review.

Some environmental advocates who oppose river withdrawals said they would rather see the Ocklawaha remain part of the current review.

"I'm not sure we'll ever see another study like this again," said St. Johns Riverkeeper Neil Armingeon.

The management district launched the study in December 2007, after activists and some governments criticized its estimates that 262 million gallons per day - including 107 million from the Ocklawaha - could be taken without causing environmental harm.

A panel of nationally respected scientists was recruited to monitor and critique the review and is meeting this week for the fourth in a series of multi-day updates about the work.

Opponents have argued too many withdrawals could invite seawater intrusion into the river, damage wetlands and increase algae blooms by slowing down the currents that carry algae-feeding pollutants out to sea.

Out of a slew of recent withdrawal proposals, only a 5.5-million-gallon-per-day project by Seminole County has been permitted. But Cullum said other utilities will be seeking new permits in the near future.

The Ocklawaha was initially considered a candidate to supply water to Central Florida, but this year JEA and other utilities have discussed the potential of tapping the river near Rodman dam.

That discussion has been a response to management district warnings that Northeast Florida's supply of ground water will be unable meet public demand within 20 years.

The district has told JEA and others they must identify new places to get water, although utilities have repeatedly questioned the need to do so. Black Creek in Clay County, the St. Marys River on the state line and one or two desalination plants are among other options the management district has suggested.

The Ocklawaha shouldn't be tapped, said Karen Ahlers, president of the Putnam County Environmental Council. She said the river has already shrunk by many millions of gallons as the water coming from Silver Springs, its primary water source, has declined over several decades.

"We've given our share," Ahlers said.

The river was included in a first phase of the management district's review, but dropped from a later stage that includes detailed research on subjects including effects of withdrawals on wetlands.

Cullum said the management district doesn't have the staff and resources to give proper attention to effects on both the St. Johns and Ocklawaha at one time. He said focusing on the St. Johns will let staff develop clear standards and procedures that can be used later on the smaller river.

The ongoing study is expected to be finished in July 2011 at a cost of about \$3.5 million.

## IN OUR OPINION

### Wells a big part of water equation

*Published: Sunday, March 28, 2010 at 6:30 a.m.*

If there is one point about Florida's water supply upon which there is universal agreement, it is this: As the state's population and water consumption has steadily grown over the generations, its groundwater supply has steadily dwindled. And to continue drawing from the aquifer at ever-escalating rates is simply environmentally unsustainable.

To prevent the ruination of the Florida aquifer, which today provides more than 90 percent of the state's fresh water supply, water-management districts are gradually enacting regulations aimed at forcing public and private utilities to curtail aquifer dependence through greater conservation and development of alternative water supplies. A big part of the strategy is "tiered pricing," which calls for bigger consumers to pay higher prices.

Those additional fees - and inevitably some sort of alternative water-supply tax - will be used to help fund alternative water projects like desalination and reservoirs.

The problem is, many big and not-so-big water users are not connected to any utility and would not be subject to tiered pricing or any other conservation measures or helping pay for alternative water projects. They have private water wells, and there are tens of thousands of them in Marion County alone. There are 20,000 private wells just within the city of Ocala.

Water officials say Marion County pumps some 15 million gallons of private well water a day, more than any other county in the state.

Adding insult to injury, while water managers do not - and under existing law cannot - monitor private well withdrawals, they do count the estimated output of those wells toward a community's long-range water consumption projections. That, in turn, means when calculating how much Ocala, Marion County or any other utility must chip in toward alternative water projects, they will end up paying for their own metered customers' consumption as well as the unmetered wells.

It is simply an unfair situation. Asking water consumers who are hooked up to a utility to meet conservation mandates and foot the bill for billions of dollars in alternative water supply projects while tens of thousands of private well owners are held to no conservation standard nor are required to help pay to develop new water sources, is clearly unjust.

Lawmakers and water managers have avoided the question of regulating private wells over the years because it is politically explosive. They fear the inevitable public backlash from well owners who will wave the flag as they argue private property rights and water rights. Nonetheless, the only way to know how much water these wells are pumping from the aquifer, and how much they should be chipping in to help develop alternative water supplies, is to regulate and monitor them.

The St. Johns Water Management District took its first step toward that discussion on Friday at a meeting in Vero Beach. Although the water districts lack the authority

to meter private wells, that has to be part of any serious discussion. More such meetings are planned.

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Utility system customers cannot be asked to shoulder all the burden of conservation and alternative water supply development when we know private wells are using significant volumes of groundwater. It will be a long and bitter policy debate, for sure, but one that cannot be avoided any longer.

We all tap the aquifer, and therefore, we all must contribute to preserving it.

So, let the latest water-wars battle begin.

## Why are Hernando and Pasco lakes so dry?

By Dan DeWitt, Times Columnist

Published Saturday, March 27, 2010

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We seem to be just about done with the drought.

The aquifer is back to a normal level. So, for the first time in years, is the Withlacoochee River. There has even been talk recently at the Southwest Florida Water Management District of lifting restrictions and allowing homeowners to resume watering their lawns twice a week.

So how come, when I walked down to the shore of Lake Theresa at Delta Woods Park in Spring Hill on Thursday, all I saw was grass, weeds and scattered, shallow puddles?

What's the explanation for that same view at Crews Lake Park in Pasco County?

True, I did see actual rippling water in Hunter's Lake, in the southwest corner of Hernando. But why was it only visible beyond another expanse of weedy former lake bed and the padlock blocking access to the Kenlake Avenue boat ramp, which has been closed since August 2007 due to low water?

Here's Swiftmud's answer to those questions:

First of all, the district hesitates to make official declarations about the end of the drought, and lakes are always the last bodies of water to recover.

"They are a lagging indicator," said Granville Kinsman, the district's hydrologic data manager.

That's especially true of lakes such as the ones in western Hernando and Pasco counties, with sandy, porous beds that don't stay full unless there is groundwater beneath them.

Remember, also, this drought has lasted nearly five years, Kinsman said. And even though rainfall in most of the district was normal much of last year and above normal this winter, look back even two years and you will see deep rainfall deficits.

"We've had consistent rain, but we haven't had anything extraordinary," Kinsman said Thursday (a few hours before one of those downpours that always seems to arrive as soon as we commit to writing about a shortage of water).

Everything he says sounds reasonable and is, I'm sure, based on good science. Still, I can't shake the feeling that something scary is going on with our bodies of water.

The Withlacoochee, as I reported last fall, has been far more prone to extended low levels in the past two decades than it was before that time. The declining levels in many lakes may be even more dramatic, as you can see from the eye-popping graph that accompanies this column.



It shows the average water level in Swiftmud's northern lakes — a category that includes every one in Hernando and several in Pasco — along with their historic levels as established through studies of wetland vegetation and other natural features.

The average level of these lakes has hovered well below the normal range for most of the past 13 years, and climbed into the normal range only after what most of us think of as highly abnormal rain events, including the record-breaking El Nino years of 1997-98 and the multiple tropical storms of 2004.

If you've lived here long enough, this probably corresponds with what you've noticed over the years.

When my oldest son was a toddler, my father-in-law took him canoeing several times on Crews Lake. He's in high school now, so almost all of his childhood has passed with only a few more chances for canoeing, and with Crews almost always looking more like a field than a lake.

"They've got a dock (at Crews Lake) that never sees water," said Frank Bourgeois, a Spring Hill fishing guide who has worked in Florida since 1980.

Though some say this may in fact be a fish story, it is believed that Big Fish Lake in Pasco once consistently held enough water to nurture a 20.13-pound largemouth bass, which set an unofficial state record when it was caught there in 1923. Look at a graph of the lake's water levels and you'll see the same general pattern as the regional average: other than a couple of dramatic spikes, far below average water levels for most of the past 15 years.

"I've never even heard of Big Fish Lake," Bourgeois said.

Though he makes it clear he's just a guy who spends a lot of time on the water, and not a scientist, he thinks pumping for development is responsible for the falling water levels.

That's not the case, according to Swiftmud.

Two years ago, when the district established the minimum water levels needed to maintain the health of the Spring Hill lakes, it estimated that less than a foot of their decline was due to withdrawals. Also, a Swiftmud scientist pointed out at the time, lakes in eastern Hernando, an area where far less water is removed from the aquifer, have been just about as low for just about as long.

Except for a small mud puddle, Bystre Lake dried up last year for the first time in memory, said Hernando County Commissioner Jim Adkins, who lives on its shores and watched cattle graze in its bed. There still isn't enough water in the lake to allow fishing, said Roy Link, Hernando's parks and waterways maintenance supervisor.

That leads to another puzzle. The beds of most lakes in eastern Hernando are richer in clay, meaning they should hold more rainwater, and should have rebounded more quickly than the ones on the west side of the county. Kinsman said hidden sinkholes appear to draining some of these eastern lakes.

Regardless, he said, the overall culprit for low lake levels in recent decades is low rainfall, which he hopes is just part of a temporary natural cycle.

"I would definitely hesitate to say this is a permanent thing," Kinsman said.

Of course he doesn't know that for sure and, given the complexity of long-term climate changes, I'm not sure it's fair to expect him to.



But I think looking at this issue should be one of the district's top priorities.

Because if the root cause of shrinking lakes is uncertain, this is not: Full, healthy lakes could do a lot to make Hernando a better, more marketable place to live. Look back at the original 1960s advertising brochures for Spring Hill and you might be surprised at all the images of speed boats, water skis and youthful-looking retirees holding strings of bass.

These lakes have been gone, or almost gone, for so long, I'm not sure we even realize how much we miss them.

## Once-troubled desal plant gets mixed reviews

By NEIL JOHNSON | The Tampa Tribune

The nation's largest desalination plant cost \$158 million, was plagued with problems and shoddy construction that caused six years of delays, sat idle for two years and produces the most costly water coming out of your faucet.

Since 2007, the desalination plant owned by regional utility Tampa Bay Water has shed its boondoggle image and produced 18 billion gallons of water.

The plant, near the Tampa Electric Co. Big Bend power plant in Apollo Beach, can produce up to 25 million gallons a day of drinking water by removing salt from water pumped out of Tampa Bay.

The 25 million gallons daily helped the Tampa Bay region get through last year when the main springtime water source dried up and will be leaned on again when repairs begin on the region's reservoir possibly in two years.

Still, views of its worth by members of Tampa Bay Water's board are mixed and the likelihood of picking a second desalination plant when the region needs more water is not certain.

For some board members, the desalination plant is a costly source that drives up water bills. Others view it as an environmental savior worth the money and headaches.

The differing views mostly depend on geography.

Pasco County's two representatives on the Tampa Bay Water board praise the desalination plant as a water source that relieves strains on wellfields clustered in Pasco and northwest Hillsborough.

When the desalination plant was first considered in the late 1990s, wellfields were the main source of the region's drinking water but residents and the environment around those wells paid a price for providing water.

Lakes and wetlands dried. Century-old cypress trees toppled. The ground dried and contracted and neighbors of the wellfields complained their house walls cracked and foundations settled.

Water from the desalination plant relieved some strain on the wellfields and allowed environmental damage to heal.

"It's hard to put a true value on it. How do you put a value on saving the environment?" said Pasco County Commissioner Ted Schrader. "Look in Pasco County, how some wellfields recovered. In Pasco County it was worth the money."

Pasco Commissioner Ann Hildebrand was on the utility board when the desalination idea was hatched and still represents the county.

"I look at it as one of two representatives of Pasco County where there was the most severe environmental damage. We saw the devastation that occurred," she said.

"Am I happy with the delays and additional cost? Heavens no. Nobody is," she said.

Hillsborough County Commissioner Al Higginbotham, one of the county's two board members, said problems with desalination and Tampa Bay Water's reservoir are evidence the utility moved too fast.

"I think it is an example of rushing to a project. When we see we have problems with desal and the reservoir, that's the result of rushing. But in drought conditions, it's priceless," he said.

Hillsborough Commissioner Mark Sharpe, the county's second representative on the utility board, said building the desalination plant was the right choice.

"We were using 150, 160 million gallons of groundwater a day. It was destroying people's property," he said.

Using groundwater may be less expensive, but damaging the environment carries a price.

"While it may be cheaper up front to pump water, there's also an environmental cost," Sharpe said. In St. Petersburg, where the price of water is a concern, the cost of desalinated water is an issue.

St. Petersburg Council Member Karl Nurse said the utility board could have looked at other ways to get the water when deciding on a desalination plant that originally was supposed to cost \$110 million.

"I'm the newest member of the board, but from my perspective there were lots of things we could have done, conservation wise or efficiency-wise," he said.

"I'm a big believer that you sort out your choices from the cheapest to the most expensive. We chose the most expensive before I would have liked," Nurse said.

Pinellas County Commissioner Neil Brickfield pointed out that desalinated water is the most expensive but acknowledged it belonged in the utility mix of sources. It shouldn't be run at capacity all year.

Desalinated water costs about three times the price of groundwater and twice as much as river water.

"You want to mix the three. My goal is to keep water rates as low as possible," Brickfield said.

His counterpart on the utility board, Pinellas Commissioner Susan Latvala, said the plant is a necessary element in the region's water supply because it is the only source not affected by drought.

"It's our ace in the hole, our silver bullet and available when nothing else is. It serves a very valuable purpose in our system. That's the key," she said.

When it comes time for Tampa Bay Water to find an additional supply, desalination will be on the short list of options. The other likely option would be another reservoir.

The selection of desalination is not certain, even if a new plant can avoid the minefield of problems

the existing plant encountered.

Construction started in 2001 but the plant wasn't fully operational for more than six years, including sitting idle for two years. Along the way, two companies hired to build it went into bankruptcy and the cost mushroomed from the original estimate of \$98 million to \$110 million that produced a plant that never ran as designed.

When a third company was hired to fix the plant's problems, the price ballooned to \$158 million.

Despite problems getting the plant to work, some, like Hildebrand and Higginbotham, favor building a new plant or expanding the existing one.

"We will not shy away from it," Higginbotham said.

But Krause would not be easy to convince.

"I'll be the hardest one to sell," he said.

Sharpe said the cost for desalination might make him wary of expanding the existing plant or building another.

"Desalination is very expensive. If we wanted to bump it up to 35 million gallons, what we have to pay for energy and chemicals is very high," he said.

"I think we might see an additional reservoir could make more sense. That might be better than another desalination plant," Sharpe said.

## **7. Legislative Update**

Update on Legislative Issues  
Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority  
March 26, 2010

**Bottle Bill:** The Senate Committee on Commerce has passed SB 152 sponsored by Senator Evelyn Lynn (R-Ormond Beach) which would authorize the levy of a 6 cents environmental surcharge on bottled water sold at retail outlets in the state, which could raise \$42.3 million in FY 2010-2011. HB 167 sponsored by Rep. Rehwinkel-Vasilinda (D-Tallahassee), the House companion has not been considered in any committee.

**Changes to Chapter 373:** Rep. Trudi Williams (R-Ft. Myers), House Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee Chair has filed HB 1109 intended to reorganize Chapter 373, F.S., creating a new Part VII for laws governing water supply policy, planning, production & funding. This proposal has stalled in the past when concern has been raised that substantive changes by moving provisions from one section of law to another can inadvertently occur. **HB 1109 is now ready to be taken up by the full House.** Senate President-designate Mike Haridopolos (R-Melbourne) has filed SB 2202 which is similar to HB 1109, and has been included in the "Omnibus Water Bill," SB 550 sponsored by Senator Lee Constantine (R-Altamonte Springs).

**Conservation:** Proposed Committee Bill (PCB) ANR 10-10 relating to water conservation was approved by the House Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources (ANR) and is now referred to as HB 7177. Senator Dave Aronberg (D-Greenacres) has filed SB 2080, the Senate companion intended to among other things require a public water supply utility that develops a goal-based water conservation plan to submit the plan to the appropriate water management district (WMD) for approval; & would encourage public water supply utilities to use the Conserve Florida Clearinghouse Guide for developing a goal-based water conservation plan. **SB 2080 has not been considered in any committee.**

**Demand-Management:** PCB ANR 10-09 relating to management of water demand is now referred to as HB 7175 and has passed by the House Committee on Natural Resources Appropriations. HB 7175 proposes to extend the interval of time from 5 years to 10 years for a compliance report prepared by a water utility as a condition of a 20 year water use permit, among other things. Another proposal, PCB ANR 10-13 would divert 40% of a water management district's funding available from developing alternative water supplies to "demand-management" activities, and significantly



revise conditions for a water management district to issue a water use permit, was temporarily postponed by the House Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources with the understanding that stakeholders will continue working on acceptable legislation during the summer.

**Drinking Water Revolving Fund:** PCB ANR 10-14 which would expand the long term funding capacity of the state revolving fund (SRF) by 25-30% over time from its current \$60-\$70 million per year capacity, was approved by the House Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources. SB 2296 sponsored by Senator Carey Baker (R-Eustis) the Senate companion has not been considered in any committee.

**Omnibus Water Bill:** The Senate Committee on Environmental Preservation and Conservation has passed SB 550 including: a rewrite of chapter 373; authorization for funding water projects through the State Board of Administration (SBA); creation of the "Florida Springs Protection Act;" redefinition of alternative water supply to include conservation projects; changes in ranking criteria for funding alternative water supply projects; expansion of the Drinking Water Revolving Fund; direction to DEP to submit a report to the Governor and Legislature on the effects of reclaimed water use by 2/1/2012, and direction to DEP to submit to EPA by 8/16/2010 numeric limits on nitrogen & phosphorus, among other things. SB 550 will be considered next by the Senate Committee on Government Oversight and Accountability. Several components of SB 550 are advancing as separate bills through the legislative process.

**Water Management Districts (WMDs):** The House Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources considered a proposed committee to combine HB 1407 sponsored by Rep. Alan Hays (R-Umatilla) intended to establish a nominating commission for appointing water management district governing board members; HB 1367 sponsored by Rep. Doug Holder (R-Sarasota) intended for basin board housekeeping; and HB 1605 sponsored by Rep. Debbie Mayfield (R-Vero Beach) intended to direct cities and counties in cooperation with WMDs to conduct an evaluation of primary water resources, and would authorize cities and counties to use funds collected for water and sewage utility usage to help finance the protection of such resources. The combined bill will be referred to as HB 1407, and includes additional housekeeping measures regarding landscape irrigation ordinances, among other things. The Senate companion SB 2604 sponsored by Senator Mike Bennett (R-Bradenton) has not been considered in any committee.