



WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY

Board Meeting Package

January 16, 2019
3:30 p.m.

Meeting Location:

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

Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority

Board of Directors

Effective October 19, 2018

Office	Board Members
Chair	The Honorable Michelle Stone
Vice Chair	The Honorable Stephen Printz
Treasurer	<i>Vacant</i>

Jurisdiction	Board Members
Citrus County	The Honorable Scott Carnahan
	The Honorable Jeff Kinnard
Hernando County	The Honorable Steve Champion
	The Honorable Wayne Dukes
Marion County	The Honorable Kathy Bryant
	The Honorable Michelle Stone
	The Honorable Carl Zalak
Sumter County	The Honorable Al Butler
	The Honorable Stephen Printz
City of Belleview	The Honorable Gary Ernst
City of Brooksville	The Honorable William Kemerer
City of Bushnell	The Honorable Dale Swain
City of Crystal River	The Honorable Ken Brown

Meeting Dates

The schedule of meetings for the 2018-2019 fiscal year are as follows:

October 17, 2018
Special Budget Meeting

November 14, 2018
January 16, 2019
March 20, 2019
May 15, 2019
July 17, 2019
September 18, 2019



January 7, 2019

MEMORANDUM

To: Water Supply Authority Board of Directors and Interested Parties

From: Richard S. Owen, Executive Director

Subject: Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority Board of Directors Meeting

The next meeting of the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority will be on **Wednesday, January 16, 2019, 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 October 17, 2018 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.

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

From Brooksville:

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

From Ocala

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

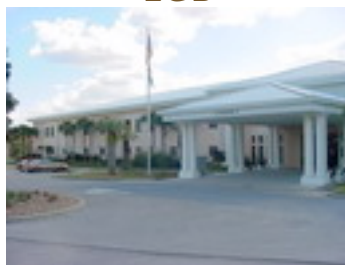
From Bushnell

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

From Wildwood

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

LGB



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

A G E N D A

**January 16, 2019 -- 3:30 p.m.
LECANTO GOVERNMENT BUILDING -- ROOM 166
3600 W. Sovereign Path, Lecanto, Florida 34461**

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

PAGE

1. **Call to Order** . . . Michelle Stone, Chair
2. **Roll Call** . . . Richard Owen, WRWSA Executive Director
3. **Introductions and Announcements** . . . Richard Owen, WRWSA
4. **Pledge of Allegiance** . . . Led by the Board
5. **Public Comment**
6. **Consent Agenda** . . . Michelle Stone, Chair
 - a. **Approval of Minutes** 9
 - b. **Bills to be Paid** 13
[November and December 2018 bills included, January 2019 bills provided at the meeting]
7. **Election of Board Officers** . . . Board Members 17
8. **City of Inverness Request for Board Representation** . . . Richard Owen, WRWSA 21
9. **Regional Water Supply Plan Update** . . . Gregg Jones, Brown & Caldwell 29
10. **Phase 4 Enhanced Irrigation System Evaluation Program**
Status Report . . . Richard Owen, WRWSA 31
11. **Charles A. Black Wellfield – Renewal and Replacement Fund**
Annual Report . . . Richard Owen, WRWSA 33
12. **Charles A. Black Wellfield – Citrus County Discussions** . . . Richard Owen, WRWSA 37
13. **Executive Director’s Report** . . . Richard Owen, WRWSA
 - a. **Correspondence** 39
 - b. **News Articles** 51
 - c. **Other**
14. **Legislative Report** . . . Diane Salz, WRWSA Governmental Affairs
 - a. **Draft Legislative Matrix** 61
 - b. **Other**
15. **Attorney’s Report** . . . Larry Haag, WRWSA Attorney
16. **Other Business**
17. **Next Meeting** . . . March 20, 2019; 3:30 p.m.; Lecanto Government Building, Room 166
18. **Adjournment**

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

Item 6.a.

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes

DRAFT

WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Minutes of the Special Budget Meeting October 17, 2018

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

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

1. Call to Order

Chair Stone called the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (WRWSA) Board of Directors meeting to order at 3:31 p.m. and requested a roll call.

2. Roll Call

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

BOARD MEMBERS PRESIDING

Michelle Stone, Chair, Marion County Commissioner
Stephen Printz, *Vice-Chair*, Sumter County
Commissioner
Al Butler, Sumter County Commissioner
Wayne Dukes, Hernando Co Commissioner
Gary Ernst, Belleview City Commissioner
Dale Swain, Bushnell City Councilor

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Jeff Kinnard, *Treasurer*, Citrus County
Commissioner
Ken Brown, Crystal River City Councilor
Kathy Bryant, Marion County Commissioner
Scott Carnahan, Citrus County Commissioner
Steve Champion, Hernando Co Commissioner
William Kemerer, Brooksville City Councilor
Carl Zalak, Marion County Commissioner

ALTERNATE(S) PRESIDING

Richard Radack, City of Brooksville Public Works Dir

3. Introductions and Announcements

WRWSA STAFF PRESENT

Richard Owen, Executive Director
Larry Haag, Attorney (via phone)
LuAnne Stout, Administrative Asst.

OTHERS PRESENT

Alys Brockway, Hernando County Water Res Mgr
Debra Burden, Citrus Co Water Conservation
Michon Fabio, Marion County Water Res Liaison
Denise Lyn, Citrus County Attorney
Joyce Valentino, Resident of Inverness
Mike Wright, Citrus County Chronicle

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

5. Public Comment – Chair Stone opened public comment and noted that one speaker card was submitted. Ms. Joyce Valentino, resident of Inverness and former WRWSA board member, spoke in support of Citrus County and the Authority reaching a fair and equitable solution regarding the Charles A. Black Wellfield. There being no further requests to speak, Chair Stone closed public comment.

6. Consent Agenda

- a. **Approval of Minutes** – The September 19, 2018 minutes were provided in the Board's meeting materials and recommended for approval.
- b. **Bills to be Paid** – Staff recommended approval of the October 2018 bills in the total amount of \$23,269.21.

Mr. Butler moved, seconded by Mr. Printz, to approve Consent Agenda Items 6.a. and 6.b. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Fiscal Year 2018-19 Budget Approval Ratification

Mr. Richard Owen, Executive Director, said the Fiscal Year (FY) 2018-19 Proposed Budget was scheduled for approval at the Board's May 16, 2018 meeting. He noted that the Interlocal Agreement creating the Authority requires at least one County Commissioner representative from each county be present for budget approval. This budget approval quorum requirement was not met at the May meeting due to the absence of a Citrus County representative. Because the Interlocal Agreement requires the Authority to submit its budget to each county by June 1st, the Board members present at the May meeting (including Hernando, Marion and Sumter counties) unanimously approved the budget, based on the staff recommendation, subject to ratification when the quorum requirement was met at a future meeting. The budget was then scheduled for the July and September meetings for ratification by the Board and was deferred due to a lack of the quorum necessary for approval.

At its September meeting, the Board approved utilization of the FY 2018-19 budget that was tentatively approved at the May 16, 2018 Board meeting with three counties represented until such time as all four counties are in attendance or such time as further action is taken by the Board. The Board also directed staff to schedule a special meeting in October for budget approval and to send correspondence to Citrus County Board members to emphasize the necessity and importance of attendance. Mr. Owen said he had spoken to the Citrus County representatives as requested by the Board at the September meeting and the letter to the County was sent, with all Authority Board members receiving copies. Mr. Owen informed the Board that the Citrus County Board of County Commissioners voted to direct its representatives not to attend today's meeting.

Included in the meeting materials was Exhibit A, the proposed FY 2018-19 budget; and Exhibit B, a description of the Authority's FY 2018-19 work program that is supported by the proposed budget. Resolution 2018-04 for adoption of the Fiscal Year 2018-19 was also provided. Staff recommended the Board, representing three counties and three cities, ratify the action taken by the Board at its May 16, 2018 meeting approving the FY 2018-19 budget by adoption of Resolution 2018-04, shown as in the Exhibit, said budget including budgeted expenditures in the amount of \$835,255, budgeted reserves in the amount of \$1,330,756, and a combined total amount of \$2,166,010, as presented in Exhibit A.

Mr. Butler moved, seconded by Mr. Swain, to ratify Board action approving the proposed FY 2018-19 budget by adoption of Resolution 2018-04, including budgeted expenditures in the amount of \$835,255, budgeted reserves in the amount of \$1,330,756, and a combined total amount of \$2,166,010. The motion carried with one dissenting vote from Mr. Dukes.

The resolution was made a part of these minutes as if set forth in full but, for convenience, was filed in the permanent resolution files of the WRWSA.

8. Other Business – None

9. Next Meeting Time and Location

- Next Regular Board Meeting - November 14, 2018 at 3:30 p.m. at the Lecanto Government Building, Room 166.

10. Adjournment – Chair Stone adjourned the meeting at 3:42 p.m.

Michelle Stone, Chair

Richard S. Owen, Executive Director

Item 6.b.

Consent Agenda

Bills to be Paid

**November and December 2018
included in packet.**

**January 2019 to be
provided at meeting**

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

Bills For Payment
11/14/2018

<u>Administrative Invoices</u>	<u>Invoice Number(s)</u>	<u>Invoice Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Richard S. Owen, AICP, Executive Director	2018-10	11/1/2018	\$6,913.62
Larry Haag, Attorney	34405	11/2/2018	\$485.50
Diane Salz, Governmental Affairs (Professional Fee)	103118	10/31/2018	\$3,500.00
Diane Salz, Governmental Affairs (Travel)	103118	10/31/2018	\$651.64
C. LuAnne Stout, Admin Asst (Services)	010-Oct-2018	11/1/2018	\$3,125.00
Karen Allen (Web Maintenance/Page Creation)	105	11/1/2018	\$125.00
FL Dept of State FAR (Yearly Mtg Calendar)	901149	10/9/2018	\$40.04
Sun Trust Business Card Statement	10.2.2018	10/2/2018	\$198.09
Total Administrative Invoices			\$15,038.89

<u>Water Supply Studies and Facilities</u>	<u>Contract/ Budget</u>	<u>Balance Remaining</u>	<u>Current Invoice(s)</u>
General Services Contract	\$75,000.00	\$35,000.00	
Work Order 18-01. Water Resource Associates	\$25,000.00	\$20,754.60	
Work Order 18-02. Weber and Associates	\$15,000.00	\$13,156.25	
Regional Water Supply Plan Update	\$299,940.00	\$232,806.97	
FY2017-18 Water Conservation Grants Program			
Citrus County	\$42,627.50	\$42,627.50	\$40,166.12 (1)
Hernando County	\$48,350.00	\$48,350.00	\$40,376.31
Marion County	\$35,245.00	\$35,245.00	
Phase 4 Irrigation Program	\$200,000.00	\$68,139.78	
Total Project Invoices	\$741,162.50	\$496,080.10	\$80,542.43

Total Bills to be Paid	\$95,581.32
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State Board of Administration	Transfer from SBA2 to SBA1	\$80,542.43
State Board of Administration	Transfer from SBA1 to SunTrust Bank	\$95,581.32

Notes:

(1) Water Conservation Grant Program

Citrus County	\$40,166.12	WCL-2018-11
Hernando County	\$40,376.31	UTY18-063

Transfer funds from SunTrust to SBA Acct 311172

SWFWMD Reimbursement - Regional Water Supply Plan	\$32,066.52
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Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority
3600 W. Sovereign Path, Suite 228, Lecanto, Florida 34461

Bills For Payment
12/19/2018

<u>Administrative Invoices</u>	<u>Invoice Number(s)</u>	<u>Invoice Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Richard S. Owen, AICP, Executive Director	2018-11	12/11/2018	\$6,925.83
Larry Haag, Attorney	34476	12/5/2018	\$586.14
Diane Salz, Governmental Affairs (Professional Fee)	113018	11/30/2018	\$3,500.00
C. LuAnne Stout, Admin Asst (Services)	011-Nov-2018	12/3/2018	\$3,125.00
Karen Allen (Web Maintenance)	106	12/8/2018	\$100.00
FL Dept of State FAR (Cancel Nov Mtg)	901526	11/6/2018	\$28.84
Citrus Co BoCC (Yearly Lease)	RLEX000461	11/21/2018	\$2,047.68
Sun Trust Business Card Statement	11.2.2018	11/2/2018	\$52.92
Total Administrative Invoices			\$16,366.41

<u>Water Supply Studies and Facilities</u>	<u>Contract/ Budget</u>	<u>Balance Remaining</u>	<u>Current Invoice(s)</u>
General Services Contract	\$75,000.00	\$35,000.00	
Work Order 18-01. Water Resource Associates	\$25,000.00	\$20,754.60	
Work Order 18-02. Weber and Associates	\$15,000.00	\$13,156.25	
Regional Water Supply Plan Update	\$299,940.00	\$209,705.71	\$23,101.26 (1)
FY2017-18 Water Conservation Grants Program			
Citrus County	\$42,627.50	\$2,461.38	
Hernando County	\$48,350.00	\$7,973.69	
Marion County	\$35,245.00	\$35,245.00	
Phase 4 Irrigation Program	\$200,000.00	\$66,739.78	\$1,400.00 (2)
Total Project Invoices	\$741,162.50	\$391,036.41	\$24,501.26

Total Bills to be Paid	\$40,867.67
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State Board of Administration	Transfer from SBA2 to SBA1	\$24,501.26
State Board of Administration	Transfer from SBA1 to SunTrust Bank	\$40,867.67

Notes:

(1) Regional Water Supply Plan Update

Cardno, Inc. \$23,101.26 Invoice 264727

(2) Phase 4 (N822) - Irrigation Audit Reinspections

Jack Overdorff, ECO Land Design \$1,400.00 Invoice 331

Election of Board 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 Election of Officers Policy, 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 Marion County Commissioner Michelle Stone, Chair; and Sumter County Commissioner Steve Printz, Vice Chair. The Treasurer position is currently vacant due to the resignation of Citrus County Commissioner Jeff Kinnard. 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)

City of Inverness Request for Board Representation

Mr. Richard Owen, WRWSA Executive Director, will present this item.

The Authority has received a request from the City of Inverness in Citrus County to have representation on the Authority Board (see included correspondence as exhibit 1). The Interlocal Agreement creating the Authority provides that there may be one (1) municipal representative from each of the member counties. The relevant portion of the Interlocal Agreement is included as exhibit 2 to this item. Currently the City of Crystal River is the municipal representative from Citrus County, with Councilman Ken Brown representing Crystal River. Crystal River and Inverness are the only two municipalities in Citrus County.

The Interlocal Agreement is silent on how to handle a situation where municipalities within an Authority member county have not reached agreement on WRWSA Board representation. To the best of staff's knowledge, this situation has not been previously encountered. If the cities of Crystal River and Inverness can not reach a mutual agreement on WRWSA Board representation, one way for the Board to address this issue is to adopt a Board policy. One option would be to provide for rotation among multiple municipalities within a member county who desire to have representation on the WRWSA Board.

See Exhibit.

Staff Recommendation:

Provide direction to staff to draft a Board policy that resolves the issue of multiple municipalities within a member county who desire to have representation on the WRWSA Board.



City of Inverness

Administration Office

212 W. Main Street

Inverness, Florida 34450-4149

Administration@Inverness-FL.gov

(352) 726-2611

Fax (352) 726-0607

November 8, 2018

Mr. Richard S. Owen
Executive Director, WRWSA
Lecanto Government Building
3600 W. Sovereign Path, Suite 228
Lecanto, FL 34461

Dear Mr. Richard S. Owen:

The City of Inverness enjoyed many years of interaction when participating on the Board of the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (WRWSA). The two cities in Citrus County previously alternated their representation between the WRWSA and the now defunct Withlacoochee Regional Planning Commission (WRPC). At a point in time, the City of Crystal River made a request to Inverness that they be permitted an opportunity to address their potable water concerns to the WRWSA by remaining on that board, provided the City of Inverness would agree to remain on the WRPC. The Inverness Council agreed to support the desire of Crystal River to fulfill their need. Following dissolution of the WRPC, Inverness lost its seat, voice, and activism as a regional board member. With reference to enclosed documents, the Inverness City Council Inverness took steps to reach an arrangement to "share" participation on the WRWSA with the City of Crystal River. For reasons unknown, requests have gone unanswered. Our appeal turns to you.

We are not clear on the process, but if approved to participate on the WRWSA Board, the City of Inverness Council will commit to attend meetings, actively apply itself as a member to deliberate and support the majority outcome of initiatives, and be a fully engaged partner to the WRWSA. It goes without saying that water is a limited and precious commodity. Political agenda has no place in the development of high quality policies and programs that promote the long-term interests to protect and properly manage potable water resources. Our request to participate is straightforward and needs your support to make our involvement a reality.

Your consideration is appreciated, and we await your reply.

Sincerely,



Frank DiGiovanni
City Manager

Enclosures

XC: Inverness Elected Officials
Office of City Clerk
Office of City Attorney

Subject: Municipal Representation on Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (WRWSA)
Date: Monday, April 2, 2018 at 10:36:09 AM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Frank DiGiovanni
To: dburnell@crystalriverfl.org
CC: Susan Jackson
BCC: Eric Williams, Larry Haag, Bob Plaisted, Dave Ryan, Cabot McBride, Linda Bega, Jacquie Hepfer, Ken Hinkle

Dave;

A recent discussion by Inverness City Council members raised a question about representation on the WRWSA.

For many years the two Cities from Citrus County alternated their responsibilities to have a municipal representative on the Withlacoochee Regional Planning Council (WRPC) and the WRWSA. One City would serve on the WRPC while the other would serve on the WRWSA. About the time of 2007 or 2008, not entirely sure exactly when, the City of CR Council members, wished to focus on the WRWSA, and have Inverness continually represent the two cities on the WRPC.

In May 2015, the Florida Legislature, defunded and further eliminated the WRPC. (<http://www.ocala.com/news/20150512/withlacoochee-council-will-soon-be-no-more>) This action left the City of Inverness with no role, and caused the City of Crystal River to continue serving on the WRWSA.

Inverness City Council Members would like to get back in the game, and propose a return to a rotational arrangement.

It appears the City of Crystal River has been serving on the WRWSA since May 2011. (Appointments are for two-year periods that seem to expire in May.)

At your earliest opportunity, please inquire with Crystal River Council members about reengaging a rotational system. Since CR has appointed a representative for the "current" term, let us know when the current appointment term will end, and when the City of Inverness will need to appoint a representative.

Your understanding and attention to this is appreciated.

Thanks,

Frank DiGiovanni
City Manager
Phone: 352-726-2611 x1001
www.Inverness-FL.gov

Subject: Municipal Representation: Withlacoochee Water Supply Authority

Date: Friday, April 13, 2018 at 12:45:43 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Frank DiGiovanni

To: dburnell@crystalriverfl.org

CC: Susan Jackson

Dave;

For many years the two cities rotated representation between the Withlacoochee Water Supply Authority (WRWSA) and the Withlacoochee Regional Planning Commission (WRPC). In 2010, the rotational program was dropped for consistent representation of one city on the WRWSA and the other to on the WRPC. Inverness appointed a representative to the WRPC, while Crystal River served on the WRWSA. To the best of my knowledge, Crystal River is still representing both municipalities on the WRWSA.

Several years prior, Governor Scott made a point to eliminate regional planning councils, which ended Inverness's role as representative on the WRPC. At a recent meeting of City Council the question was posed to determine if Crystal River would welcome (return to) a rotational sharing of appointed representation on the WRWSA.

What is proposed would disrupt nothing. Crystal River would complete the current term, and Inverness would appoint a Council Member to serve as representative for both communities for a term, with a rotational appointment by each community for a term thereafter.

At your convenience, please let us know if this sounds acceptable, workable, and when the next term would commence.

Thanks,

Frank DiGiovanni

City Manager

Phone: 352-726-2611 x1001

www.Inverness-Fl.gov



City of Inverness

Administration Office
212 West Main Street
Inverness, Florida 34450-4149

(352)-726-2611

FAX (352) 726-0607

www.Inverness-Fl.gov

August 18, 2018

Honorable James Farley, Mayor
City of Crystal River
123 NW Hwy. 19
Crystal River, FL 34428

Dear Mayor James Farley:

The City of Inverness and City of Crystal River enjoy a long tenured relationship of inter-governmental cooperation. The past several months, Inverness Council members expressed interest to share a vocal presence on the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (WRWSA). Previously the two governments alternated appointments on the WRWSA and WRPC (Withlacoochee Regional Planning Council). The history of this entails an agreement for Inverness to represent City interests on the WRPC, while Crystal River provided City representation on the WRWSA. For various reasons, upon being elected Governor Scott moved to eliminate the WRPC. This left the Inverness City Council without a voice on a regional board. The purpose of this letter is to seek a mutual understanding and agreement that causes participation and representation by both entities on the WRWSA.

We consulted with WRPC representatives about appointment terms and found that Board appointments are open ended. The fact this is a casual arrangement allows the two City Councils to form an agreement that will work for all concerned.

Please reply with a suggested date to meet with the Inverness City Council President and Mayor. The goal of which would be to find a reasonable means for a transition of representation by the two Cities on the WRWSA Board. Until an arrangement is finalized, please be advised that a representative from the City of Inverness is commence attending WRWSA meetings to enable a smooth transfer.

We look forward to your reply and further discussion on this matter.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Inverness Council,

Linda Bega Council President

Mayor Bob Plaisted

XC: Office of the Inverness City Clerk
Office of the Inverness City Attorney



December 21, 2018

Mr. Frank DiGiovanni
City Manager
City of Inverness
212 West Main Street
Inverness, Florida 34450-4149

Dear Mr. DiGiovanni:

I have received your letter dated November 8, 2018 regarding the City having representation on the Board of Directors of the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority. I apologize for not responding sooner.

Your request will be placed on the agenda for the Board's January 16, 2019 meeting. The meeting starts at 3:30 p.m. and is held at the Citrus County Lecanto Government Center in Room 166 (3600 W. Sovereign Path, Lecanto). I hope that you or other City representatives will be able to attend.

Please feel free to contact me should you wish to discuss this matter in advance of the meeting.

Sincerely,

Richard S. Owen, AICP
Executive Director

cc: WRWSA Board of Directors

Exhibit 2 - REVISED AND RESTATED INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT

SECTION V. – Membership and Representation: The Authority shall be governed by a Board comprised of representatives of the parties to the Interlocal Agreement, as well as up to one municipal representative from a municipality within each member county. Each Governing Board member shall have one vote. A County or municipality represented on the Board may appoint an alternate to each Board member representative from that respective County or municipality and such alternate shall have the power to vote in the absence of the primary designated representative. Alternates must be appointed by the respective county commission or city council and, if not a member of that county commission or city council, must be a staff member of the respective local government.

1. County Representation – County representation shall be as follows:

Citrus County shall have two (2) Board representatives;
Hernando County shall have two (2) Board representatives;
Marion County shall have three (3) Board representatives; and
Sumter County shall have two (2) Board representatives.

2. Municipal Representation – Authority membership, and Governing Board representation, is hereby extended to all municipalities as follows:

(a) Any municipality, upon adoption of a resolution indicating a desire to become an Authority member, shall be included as a party hereto upon such terms and conditions as set forth herein.

(b) All cities within each member county will have one (1) joint representative who shall be selected by all member cities within their respective county by selecting the said representative who will thereafter represent all member cities within the respective county.

(c) All municipal representatives heretofore selected to serve shall remain as the representative to the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority with any new representative to be appointed pursuant to the provisions of SECTION V. 2. (b) set forth above.

Regional Water Supply Plan Update

Mr. Gregg Jones, Brown and Caldwell, will present this item.

The Regional Water Supply Plan Update project progresses, with a focus on estimating future water savings through conservation, evaluating potential supply sources and seeking input from various public supply utilities in the region.

Staff Recommendation:

This is an information item only and no Board action is required.

Phase 4 Enhanced Irrigation System Evaluation Program Status Report

Mr. Richard Owen, WRWSA Executive Director, will present this item.

Staff will provide a status update to the Board on the Phase 4 Enhanced Irrigation System Evaluation Program. The Program is co-funded by the Southwest Florida Water Management District, participating utilities and the WRWSA. Participating utilities include Citrus, Hernando and Marion counties, the Village Center Community Development District (VCCDD) and the North Sumter County Utility Dependent District (NSCUDD).

The program was initiated in late 2016. Eco Land Design, LLC was chosen to implement the program in September 2016 and work by the contractor began in November 2016. The WRWSA/SWFWMD Cooperative Funding Project was approved in February 2017. This was the first time this continuing Irrigation System Audit program included an “enhanced” component. Irrigation system audits conducted in previous phases included recommendations to participating homeowners for optimizing the use of water outdoors through Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ practices and other efficient irrigation best management practices and included installation of standard rain sensor devices for participants who do not have a functioning device. The Enhanced component included, in addition to core services, installation of an advanced evapotranspiration (ET) controller and ET sensor device (instead of a standard rain sensor), as well as implementing some of the irrigation system modifications that are recommended, such as changing or capping irrigation system heads.

The contractor continued to implement irrigation system audits for customers within the five utilities through September 2018, consistent with the project timeline. The contractor has started conducting follow-up visits with approximately 25% of the participating customers. Pre- and post-audit water use data will be collected by the participating utilities and provided to the WRWSA for analysis once one year of post-audit water use data is available. All data should be available by October 2019. The final report is scheduled for completion in early 2020.

Staff Recommendation:

This is an information item only and no Board action is required.

Charles A. Black Wellfield – Renewal and Replacement Fund Annual Report

Mr. Richard Owen, WRWSA Executive Director, will present this item.

Citrus County has submitted to the Authority the annual report for the Charles A. Black (CAB) Wellfield Renewal and Replacement (R&R) Fund, documenting deposits and expenditures for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, the first two pages of which are included as an exhibit to this item. This annual report is required by the Water Supply Contract between the WRWSA and Citrus County. Staff has reviewed this report, has corresponded with Citrus County staff regarding several questions and based in part on the County's responses to these questions has found that the report is consistent with the pertinent Contract requirements, which state in part:

R&R Reserve Fund Reporting – The County shall provide to the Authority an annual report on contributions to and utilization of the R&R Reserve Fund, describing the date and amount of contributions to the Fund, interest earnings in the Fund; and the date, amount, and description of expenditures from the fund, including the purpose of the capital facility replacement, renewal or major repair. This annual report shall be for the prior Contract Year and shall be provided no later than January 31st in the following Contract Year.

See Exhibit.

Staff Recommendation:

Board acceptance of Citrus County's annual report for the CAB R&R Fund, documenting expenditures and deposits for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018.



ANGELA VICK
EX-OFFICIO CLERK
TO THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Citrus County, Florida



110 North Apopka Avenue, Inverness, FL 34450
(352) 341-6424 • Fax (352) 341-6458
ssullivan@citrusclerk.org

December 4, 2018

Mr. Richard Owen
Withlacoochee River Water Supply Authority
3600 West Sovereign Path – Suite 228
Lecanto, Florida 34461

Dear Mr. Owen:

Enclosed is a listing of the interest revenue and transfers to as well as expenditures Citrus County made from the renewal and replacement fund for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2018. These expenditures were allowed by the Water Supply Contract between Withlacoochee Water Supply Authority and Citrus County, Florida, dated October 12, 2016. This information is provided so that your records may accurately reflect the change in the amount of this fund. The following is a summary of the transactions in the renewal and replacement fund:

Beginning Balance 10/1/2017	\$2,248,536.82
Deposit	180,000.00
Interest Revenue	28,592.83
Less: Expenses	<u>(217,366.15)</u>
Ending Balance 9/30/2018	<u>\$2,239,763.50</u>

A detailed report of the above activity is attached along with copies of the individual invoices. If you have any questions regarding these transactions, please call me at 352-341-6464.

Sincerely,

Susan Sullivan, CPA
Financial Analyst

Enclosures

Cc via e-mail: Randy Oliver, County Administrator
Ken Cheek, Water Resources Director

Detail of Transactions

Beginning Balance			\$ 2,248,536.82
Transfers In			
10/5/2017	Contractual transfers	15,000.00	
11/7/2017	Contractual transfers	15,000.00	
12/5/2017	Contractual transfers	15,000.00	
1/9/2018	Contractual transfers	15,000.00	
2/8/2018	Contractual transfers	15,000.00	
3/8/2018	Contractual transfers	15,000.00	
4/6/2018	Contractual transfers	15,000.00	
5/7/2018	Contractual transfers	15,000.00	
6/7/2018	Contractual transfers	15,000.00	
7/5/2018	Contractual transfers	15,000.00	
8/7/2018	Contractual transfers	15,000.00	
9/5/2018	Contractual transfers	<u>15,000.00</u>	180,000.00
Interest Earnings			
11/1/2017	Monthly interest earnings	1,577.40	
12/1/2017	Monthly interest earnings	1,501.83	
1/1/2018	Monthly interest earnings	1,705.62	
2/1/2018	Monthly interest earnings	1,995.70	
3/1/2018	Monthly interest earnings	2,133.93	
4/1/2018	Monthly interest earnings	2,409.90	
5/1/2018	Monthly interest earnings	2,497.80	
6/1/2018	Monthly interest earnings	2,527.41	
7/1/2018	Monthly interest earnings	2,615.53	
8/1/2018	Monthly interest earnings	2,980.19	
9/1/2018	Monthly interest earnings	2,938.44	
9/30/2018	Monthly interest earnings	<u>3,709.08</u>	28,592.83
Repair & Maintenance			
1/31/2018	6191 CARDNO INC - Generators for CAB	2,745.32	
	0388 CITRUS WELL DRILLING - Repair CAB Well #7		
5/7/2018	Motor	11,015.00	
	24066 EXPERT CONSTRUCT - Emergency		
7/19/2018	Generators	18,000.00	
9/11/2018	6191 CARDNO INC - Generators for CAB	18,719.00	
	24066 EXPERT CONSTRUCT - Emergency		
10/12/2018	Generators	159,576.25	
6/30/2018	13883 TRANE PARTS CENT - Replace A/C Unit	3,615.58	
	18516 MADER ELECTRIC MOTORS - Replace Motor		
8/14/2018	on High Service Pump	<u>3,695.00</u>	(217,366.15)
Ending Balance			<u><u>\$ 2,239,763.50</u></u>

Charles A. Black Wellfield – Citrus County Discussions

Mr. Richard Owen, WRWSA Executive Director, will present this item.

Citrus County Commissioner and WRWSA Board member Jeff Kinnard contacted the Executive Director subsequent to the last WRWSA Board meeting and requested a meeting to discuss possible resolutions of the County's desire to take ownership of the Charles A. Black wellfield facilities. After consultation with the WRWSA Chair, the Executive Director and Authority Attorney, Mr. Haag met with Commissioner Kinnard and Citrus County Attorney Dennis Lynn.

Staff will report on the outcome of these discussions.

Staff Recommendation:

This is an information item only and no action is recommended at this time.

Item 13.a.

Executive Director's Report

Correspondence



October 11, 2018

Haag, Friedrich & Williams, P.A.
Attn: Larry Haag
452 Pleasant Grove Road
Inverness, Florida 34452

Our auditors, Purvis, Gray and Company, LLP, 2347 SE 17th Street, Ocala, FL 34474 are conducting an audit of our financial statements at September 30, 2018 and for the year then ended. This letter will serve as our consent for you to furnish to our auditors all the information requested herein. Accordingly, please provide to them the information requested below involving matters with respect to which you have been engaged and to which you have devoted substantive attention on behalf of Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (the Authority) in the form of legal consultation or representation.

Pending or Threatened Litigation, Claims, and Assessments
(excluding unasserted claims and assessments)

Please prepare a description of all material pending or threatened litigation, claims, and assessments (excluding unasserted claims and assessments). Materiality for purposes of this letter includes items involving amounts exceeding \$5,000 individually or in the aggregate. The description of each matter should include:

- 1) the nature of the litigation;
- 2) the progress of the matter to date;
- 3) how management of the Authority is responding or intends to respond to the litigation; e.g., to contest the case vigorously or to seek an out-of-court settlement; and
- 4) an evaluation of the likelihood of an unfavorable outcome and an estimate, if one can be made, of the amount or range of potential loss.

Also, please identify any pending or threatened litigation, claims, and assessments with respect to which you have been engaged but as to which you have not devoted substantive attention.

Unasserted Claims and Assessments

We have represented to our auditors that there are no unasserted possible claims or assessments that you have advised us are probable of assertion and must be disclosed in accordance with FASB Accounting Standards Codification 450, Contingencies.

October 11, 2018
Haag, Friedrich & Williams, P.A.
Page Two

We understand that, whenever, in the course of performing legal services for us with respect to a matter recognized to involve an unasserted possible claim or assessment that may call for financial statement disclosure, if you have formed a professional conclusion that we should disclose or consider disclosure concerning such possible claim or assessment, as a matter of professional responsibility to us, you will so advise us and will consult with us concerning the question of such disclosure and the applicable requirements of FASB Accounting Standards Codification 450, Contingencies (excerpts of which can be found in the ABA's Auditor's Letter Handbook). Please specifically confirm to our auditors that our understanding is correct.

Response

Your response should include matters that existed as of September 30, 2018, and during the period from that date to the effective date of your response. Please specify the date of your response if it is other than the date of reply.

Please specifically identify the nature of, and reasons for, any limitations on your response.

Our auditors would appreciate receiving your reply by December 1, 2018, with a specified effective date as close as feasible to that date. You may also be requested to provide updates to your written response at a later date. We appreciate your timely response to such requests.

Other Matters

Please also indicate the amount we were indebted to you for services and expenses (billed and unbilled) on September 30, 2018.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard S. Owen", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Richard S. Owen, AICP
Executive Director



**OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
Citrus County Board of County Commissioners
Executive Offices**

**3600 W. Sovereign Path, Lecanto, FL 34461
Phone: (352) 527-5205 Fax: (352) 527-5204**

"We will be a user-friendly and common sense organization dedicated to responsive citizen services."

October 19, 2018

EOL 18-66

Purvis Gray & Company
P.O. Box 141270
222 N.E. 1st Street
Gainesville, FL 32614-1280

RE: Budgetary Non-Compliance with Florida Statutes

Gentleman/Ladies:

We understand you are the Auditors for the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (WRWSA). We wanted to call your attention to an item of non-compliance that we believe will cause a major qualification to the financial statements for the Authority in FY 2018/2019.

The Revised and Restated Interlocal Agreement dated January 14, 2015 Section X, Meetings, subsection 4 states: "In addition to SECTION X. 3. Above, a quorum for the purpose of approving the annual budget shall require at least one County Commission member representative from each of the member counties". WRWSA reportedly "ratified" its Budget at its meeting on October 17, 2018. No Commissioner from Citrus County attended the meeting. Therefore, the requirements of this Interlocal Agreement that created the Authority were not met and a valid budget was not adopted.

We believe that because a valid budget was not properly adopted the expenditure of any funds is in violation of State law and potentially subject to criminal penalty. Additionally, this will, at a minimum, cause an "except for" qualification to WRWSA's financial statements.

We would suggest you discuss this non-compliance issue with your client to ensure they understand the seriousness of this action. I am also copying the State Attorney General and the State Auditor General as the action taken, in my opinion, has far-reaching implications.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charles R. Oliver".

Charles R. "Randy" Oliver
County Administrator

Xc: State Attorney General
State Auditor General

RECEIVED NOV 29 2018

Purvis
Gray &
Company

November 26, 2018

REQUIRED AUDITORS' COMMUNICATION LETTER

Governing Board
c/o Richard S. Owen, AICP, Executive Director
Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority
Lecanto Government Building
3600 W. Sovereign Path, Suite 228
Lecanto, Florida 34461

This letter communicates information to those charged with governance regarding the audit services we are to provide Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (the Authority) for the year ending September 30, 2018.

We will audit the financial statements of the business-type activities, and the major fund, including the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the basic financial statements of the Authority as of and for the year ended September 30, 2018. Accounting standards generally accepted in the United States of America provide for certain required supplementary information (RSI), such as management's discussion and analysis (MD&A), to supplement the Authority's basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. As part of our engagement, we will apply certain limited procedures to Authority's RSI in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. These limited procedures will consist of inquiries of management regarding the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We will not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance. The following RSI is required by U.S. generally accepted accounting principles and will be subjected to certain limited procedures, but will not be audited:

■ Management's Discussion and Analysis

Audit Objectives

The objective of our audit is the expression of opinions as to whether your financial statements are fairly presented, in all material respects, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles and to report on the fairness of the supplementary information referred to in the second paragraph when considered in relation to the financial statements as a whole. Our audit will be conducted in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards for financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and will include tests of the accounting records and other procedures we consider necessary to enable us to express such opinions. We will issue a written report upon completion of our audit of the Authority's financial statements. Our report will be addressed to Governing Board of the Authority. We cannot provide assurance that

Certified Public Accountants

P.O. Box 141270 • 222 N.E. 1st Street • Gainesville, Florida 32614-1270 • (352) 378-2461 • FAX (352) 378-2505
Laurel Ridge Professional Center • 2347 S.E. 17th Street • Ocala, Florida 34471 • (352) 732-3872 • FAX (352) 732-0542
443 East College Avenue • Tallahassee, Florida 32301 • (850) 224-7144 • FAX (850) 224-1762
5001 Lakewood Ranch Blvd. N., Suite 101 • Sarasota, Florida 34240 • (941) 907-0350 • FAX (941) 907-0309

MEMBERS OF AMERICAN AND FLORIDA INSTITUTES OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
MEMBER OF AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS PRIVATE COMPANIES AND S.E.C. PRACTICE SECTIONS

Governing Board
Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority
c/o Richard S. Owen, AICP, Executive Director
Lecanto Government Building
Lecanto, Florida

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November 26, 2018

Audit Objective (Concluded)

unmodified opinions will be expressed. Circumstances may arise in which it is necessary for us to modify **our opinions** or add emphasis-of-matter or other-matter paragraphs. If our opinions are other than **unmodified**, we will discuss the reasons with you in advance. If, for any reason, we are **unable to complete the audit** or are unable to form or have not formed opinions, we may decline to express opinions or issue reports, or may withdraw from this engagement.

We will also provide a report (that does not include an opinion) on internal control related to the financial statements and compliance with the provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a material effect on the financial statements as required by *Government Auditing Standards*. The report on internal control and on compliance and other matters will include a paragraph that states: (1) that the purpose of the report is solely to describe the scope of testing of internal control and compliance, and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control on compliance; and (2) that the report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. The paragraph will also state that the report is not suitable for any other purpose. If during our audit we become aware that the Authority is subject to an audit requirement that is not encompassed in the terms of this engagement, we will communicate to management and those charged with governance that an audit in accordance with U.S. generally accepted auditing standards and the standards for financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* may not satisfy the relevant legal, regulatory, or contractual requirements.

Audit Procedures—General

An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements; therefore, our audit will involve judgment about the number of transactions to be examined and the areas to be tested. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. We will plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether from: (1) errors; (2) fraudulent financial reporting; (3) misappropriation of assets; or (4) violations of laws or governmental regulations that are attributable to the government or to acts by management or employees acting on behalf of the government.

Because the determination of abuse is subjective, *Government Auditing Standards* do not expect auditors to provide reasonable assurance of detecting abuse.

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

Governing Board
Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority
c/o Richard S. Owen, AICP, Executive Director
Lecanto Government Building
Lecanto, Florida

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November 26, 2018

Audit Procedures—General (Concluded)

Our procedures will include tests of documentary evidence supporting the transactions recorded in the accounts, and may include tests of the physical existence of inventories, and direct confirmation of receivables and certain other assets and liabilities by correspondence with selected individuals, funding sources, creditors, and financial institutions. We will request written representations from your attorneys as part of the engagement, and they may bill you for responding to this inquiry. At the conclusion of our audit, we will require certain written representations from you about your responsibilities for the financial statements; compliance with laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements; and other responsibilities required by generally accepted auditing standards.

Audit Procedures—Internal Control

Our audit will include obtaining an understanding of the government and its environment, including internal control, sufficient to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements and to design the nature, timing, and extent of further audit procedures. Tests of controls may be performed to test the effectiveness of certain controls that we consider relevant to preventing and detecting errors and fraud that are material to the financial statements and to preventing and detecting misstatements resulting from illegal acts and other noncompliance matters that have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. Our tests, if performed, will be less in scope than would be necessary to render an opinion on internal control and, accordingly, no opinion will be expressed in our report on internal control issued pursuant to *Government Auditing Standards*.

An audit is not designed to provide assurance on internal control or to identify significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. Accordingly, we will express no such opinion. However, during the audit, we will communicate to management and those charged with governance internal control related matters that are required to be communicated under AICPA professional standards and *Government Auditing Standards*.

Audit Procedures—Compliance

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

Other Services

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

Management Responsibilities

Management is responsible for designing, implementing, establishing, and maintaining effective internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, including evaluating and monitoring ongoing activities to help ensure that appropriate goals and objectives are met; following laws and regulations; and ensuring that management and financial information is reliable and properly reported. Management is also responsible for implementing systems designed to achieve compliance with applicable laws, regulations, contracts and grant

Governing Board
Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority
c/o Richard S. Owen, AICP, Executive Director
Lecanto Government Building
Lecanto, Florida

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November 26, 2018

Management Responsibilities (Continued)

agreements. You are also responsible for the selection and application of accounting principles, for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements and all accompanying information *in conformity* with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles, and for compliance with *applicable laws and regulations* and the provisions of contracts and grant agreements.

Management is also responsible for making all financial records and related information available to us and for the accuracy and completeness of that information. You are also responsible for providing us with: (1) access to all information of which you are aware that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, (2) additional information that we may request for the purpose of the audit, and (3) unrestricted access to persons within the government from whom we determine it necessary to obtain audit evidence.

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

You are responsible for the design and implementation of programs and controls to prevent and detect fraud, and for informing us about all known or suspected fraud affecting the government involving: (1) management, (2) employees who have significant roles in internal control, and (3) others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements. Your responsibilities include informing us of your knowledge of any allegations of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the government received in communications from employees, former employees, grantors, regulators, or others. In addition, you are responsible for identifying and ensuring that the government complies with applicable laws, regulations, contracts, agreements, and grants and for taking timely and appropriate steps to remedy fraud and noncompliance with provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, or grant agreements, or abuse that we report.

You are responsible for the preparation of the supplementary information, which we have been engaged to report on, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. You agree to include our report on the supplementary information in any document that contains and indicates that we have reported on the supplementary information. You also agree to include the audited financial statements with any presentation of the supplementary information that includes our report thereon or make the audited financial statements readily available to users of the supplementary information no later than the date the supplementary information is issued with our report thereon. Your responsibilities include acknowledging to us in the written representation letter that: (1) you are responsible for presentation of the supplementary information in accordance with GAAP, (2) you believe the supplementary information, including its form and content, is fairly presented in accordance with GAAP, (3) the methods of measurement or presentation have not changed from those used in the prior period (or, if they have changed, the reasons for such changes), and (4) you have disclosed to us any significant assumptions or interpretations underlying the measurement or presentation of the supplementary information.

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

Governing Board
Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority
c/o Richard S. Owen, AICP, Executive Director
Lecanto Government Building
Lecanto, Florida

-5-

November 26, 2018

Management Responsibilities (Concluded)

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

Engagement Administration, Fees, and Other

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

The audit documentation for this engagement is the property of Purvis, Gray and Company, LLP and constitutes confidential information. However, subject to applicable laws and regulations, audit documentation and appropriate individuals will be made available upon request and in a timely manner to a regulator or its designee. We will notify you of any such request. If requested, access to such audit documentation will be provided under the supervision of Purvis, Gray and Company, LLP personnel. Furthermore, upon request, we may provide copies of selected audit documentation to aforementioned parties. These parties may intend or decide to distribute the copies or information contained therein to others, including other governmental agencies.

The audit documentation for this engagement will be retained for a minimum of five years after the report release date or for any additional period requested by a regulator.

We expect to begin our audit in October 2017, and to issue our reports no later than January 31, 2018. I am the engagement partner and am responsible for supervising the engagement and signing the reports or authorizing another individual to sign them.

Our fee for these services will be at our standard hourly rates plus out-of-pocket costs (such as report reproduction, word processing, postage, travel, copies, telephone, etc.) except that we agree that our gross fee, including expenses will not exceed \$10,000, which is the prior year fee plus a 3% CPI adjustment, rounded. Our standard hourly rates vary according to the degree of responsibility involved and the experience level of the personnel assigned to your audit. Our invoices for these fees will be rendered each month as work progresses and are payable on presentation. The above fee is based on anticipated cooperation from your personnel and the assumption that unexpected circumstances will not be encountered during the audit. If significant additional time is necessary, we will discuss it with you and arrive at a new fee estimate before we incur the additional costs.

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

Very truly yours,

PURVIS, GRAY AND COMPANY, LLP



Mark A. White, C.P.A.
Partner

MAW/jlk

ATTN: AGENCY REAL PROPERTY CUSTODIAN/MANAGER

The Florida Resources and Environmental Analysis Center (FREAC), under contract with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, has prepared the Florida Public Lands Inventory for 2018-2019. This publication is in partial compliance with Sections 253.03 and 195.073, Florida Statutes, relating to accounting and documentation of public land ownership.

This year the data pertaining to the public land ownership(s) are available through the Public Lands Research Program's website at:

<http://floridapli.net>

On the website, select the button, *PLI Code Look-Up* and type in the name of your agency. Select the four-digit PLI code that corresponds to your agency's name to view the results. Your agency's four-digit code can **also** be found in parenthesis on the address label of the envelope that enclosed this letter. To use this code to look up your agency's ownership data on the website, select the second button, *Agency Data by PLI Code*, then enter your four-digit code on the screen.

The ownership data are derived from Florida Department of Revenue's tax roll data. These data are provided to facilitate compliance with the statutory requirement. Each public agency is asked to provide county property appraisers with corrective data relating to their real property ownership annually (Section 193.085, Florida Statutes, and Ad Valorem Tax Administration Rule 12D-1.04). Please note that the parcel data provided are taken directly from tax roll information supplied to the Department of Revenue by each county property appraiser's office.

Each public owner should review the ownership data and communicate any changes to the appropriate property appraiser's office so that the tax roll records will accurately reflect your agency's real property ownership.

Should you require a printed copy of your agency's public land ownership data, our office *will* make arrangements to provide you with a hard copy.

If you have any questions relating to the Florida Public Lands Inventory data, please contact:

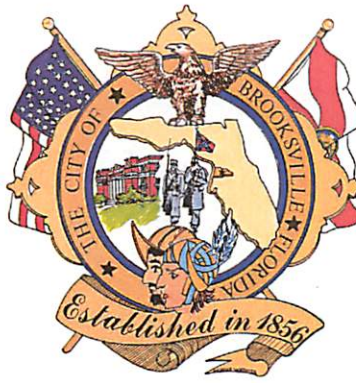
The Public Lands Research Program
(850) 644-9292

or write to:

The Public Lands Research Program
Florida State University
Room C6140 UCC
296 Champions Way
P. O. Box 3062640
Tallahassee, FL 32306-2640

Sincerely,

Anthony K. (Tony) Roberts
Research Scientist, Public Lands Research Program
aroberts@fsu.edu



RECEIVED DEC 27 2018

December 18, 2018

Michelle Stone, WRWSA Chair
Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority
Lecanto Government Building
3600 W. Sovereign Path, Suite 228
Lecanto, FL 34461

Re: Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority

Dear Chair Stone:

This will confirm action taken on Monday, December 17, 2018, wherein Council reappointed Mayor William Kemerer as the Brooksville City Council representative on Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority with Richard Radack remaining as the alternate member from the City.

Please continue to send agenda packets, meeting schedules and correspondence directly to Mayor Kemerer at wkemerer@cityofbrooksville.us. Alternatively, if you wish to speak to him, please contact him through the City Manager's Office at 352-540-3855.

Should you have any questions please contact me at (352) 540-3816, or via e-mail jbattista@cityofbrooksville.us.

Sincerely,

Jennifer J. Battista, CMC
City Clerk

cc: Mayor William Kemerer



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

December 26, 2018

RECEIVED 12/27/2018
RECEIVED JAN 02 2018

Citrus County Board of County Commissioners/Attn: Ken Cheek
3600 West Sovereign Path, Suite 241
Lecanto, FL 34461

Subject: **Water Use Permit Reports - 2017 Water Audit Report - Acknowledgment**
Water Use Permit Application No.: 20007121.006
Compliance Tracking No.: 400738
Project Name: Charles A Black Water Supply System
County: Citrus

Dear Mr. Cheek:

The Southwest Florida Water Management District received the 2017 Water Audit Report for the referenced project on December 7, 2018. The report was reviewed by District staff and is acceptable as submitted.

Please be advised that this letter does not constitute a declaration of success or completion, as monitoring and continued efforts are still necessary.

Thank you for your timely submittals. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at (813) 985-7481, extension 2063, in the Tampa Service Office.

Sincerely,

Dalton Weinstein
Hydrologist
Water Use Permit Bureau
Regulation Division

cc: Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority/Attn: Richard Owen

Item 13.b.

Executive Director's Report

News Articles

Citrus County Chronicle

Water board OKs budget in Citrus County's absence

Mike Wright / Oct 17, 2018

A board most people have probably never heard of approved a budget Thursday in a building owned by the county whose representatives were not there.

The Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority voted 4-1 on a \$2.1 million budget for the fiscal year that started Oct. 1.

Missing from the meeting, at the Lecanto Government Building, were Citrus County's representatives -- Commissioners Scott Carnahan and Jeff Kinnard. They were absent at the direction of their own board, which is embroiled in a dispute over how much the county contributes to the authority through the Charles A. Black Wellfield.

The authority's interlocal agreement with its members -- Citrus, Hernando, Marion and Sumter counties -- requires at least one voting member from all four to be present when the budget is approved.

Asked after the meeting how the budget was legal since Citrus was absent from the vote, authority Executive Director Richard Owen said authority attorney Larry Haag advised it was the proper move.

"This is the best way to move forward," Owen said.

Citrus County officials are trying to negotiate an agreement with the water authority to either buy the Charles A. Black Wellfield or come up with another financial arrangement. Citrus commissioners say the authority is balking at negotiating, and they say missing the budget meeting was the only way to bring the authority to the bargaining table.

All four counties pay dues based on their population, but Citrus also pays for bulk water and all repairs and equipment costs at the facility.

Owen and Marion County Commissioner Michelle Stone, who chairs the authority board, said the authority will consider selling the wellfield to Citrus at an appraised value based not only on the facility but lost future income.

"Citrus County should present a reasonable offer to the board," Owen said.

The authority is expected to discuss the wellfield issue at its next meeting, 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 14 at the Lecanto Government Building.

Contact Chronicle reporter Mike Wright at 352-563-3228 or mwright@chronicleonline.com.

Florida's water future: Where is it going? Where will it come from?

Mike Vogel | 11/28/2018

Florida's problem isn't a lack of water, but where it is, how it's used, where it gets dumped when we're through with it, and how much it will cost by 2035 to satisfy farms, 5 million new Floridians — and the needs of the environment.

Florida tapped 6.4 billion gallons of water per day three years ago. By 2035, Florida will need another 1.1 billion gallons a day, a 17% increase.

The good news: The state's water management districts — the water-use regulatory bodies that cover the state — have identified enough water conservation opportunities and water supply projects to keep the water flowing in Florida through at least 2035.

The bad news: Building everything the districts have in their plans will cost billions, and then there's the ongoing spending on energy, operations and maintenance to run them. In the 2017-18 fiscal year, the water management districts spent nearly \$350 million on water supply and water quality projects and another \$300 million on flood protection and natural systems.

Water will become more expensive. Nearly 90% of the water for "public supply" — residential, commercial and industrial customers served by utilities — comes from groundwater. But, the state says in a water and land use report, "freshwater withdrawals have increased to the point where they are impacting water resources and related natural systems in some regions." Other sources — reclaimed water or brackish groundwater — will have to be considered, but water from those sources is typically more expensive to treat and deliver compared to groundwater and surface water. Desalination? The most efficient desal plants, developed by an Israeli firm, cost about \$500 million to build and aren't cheap to operate.

In the course of supplying water to consumers, "we need to not forget the environment needs water, too," says Jennifer Jurado, Broward's chief resilience officer. Stetson University associate professor Jason Evans says the state can keep "pumping and pumping" — but only if we "don't care about springs, rivers and lakes. When it comes to water quality in particular we've moved way, way backward," Evans says. "It has actually reached a crisis point in lots of areas in Florida."

The state says the environment's water needs are safeguarded in a number of ways: Permits to draw water must show there will be no harm to wetlands, lakes, springs and other water resources; regional water supply plans must protect natural resources; water is "reserved" for natural waterbodies; and minimum water flows and levels are set to prevent "significant" harm to water resources and the ecology of areas. "Florida protects its natural systems through a network of overlapping programs," says Dee Ann Miller, spokesperson for the state Department of Environmental Protection.

Not well enough, say environmental advocates. The problems of water bodies like Lake Okeechobee and the state's 1,090 recognized springs — the world's biggest concentration of springs — are well documented. "We're way past the point of pumping too much for the health of the springs," says Robert Knight, director of the Howard T. Odum Florida Springs Institute in High Springs.

Knight says both farmers and residents use too much water. The permitted amount of water that cities can draw is twice what it needs to be because people use so much to irrigate their yards. “That’s a very silly way to use our most valuable water supply,” he says.

Already, water-related costs have become more of a factor for developers. Environmental attorney Luna Phillips says that 10 to 15 years ago, securing water supply for a project amounted to little more than checking a box on a form. No longer. “More and more the water supply of a project is more front and center,” she says. “It is sometimes an eye-opening issue for developers when they realize that this is going to take more time, more thought and a lot more money than they anticipated to be sure their developments get enough water.”

Reconciling Supply and Demand

89% Share of water consumed by residential, commercial and industrial

“We need to not forget the environment needs water, too.”

— Jennifer Jurado, chief resilience officer, Broward County

“Groundwater withdrawals are impacting water resources and related natural systems in some regions. Other sources — reclaimed water or brackish groundwater — will have to be considered, but water from those sources is typically more expensive to treat and deliver.”

— State Office of Economic and Demographic Research

The Demand Side

Growth and Trend

Total Demand

2015: 6.4 billion gallons per day | **2035: 7.5 billion** gallons per day (projected)

	2015 (% of total demand)	2035 (projected)
Public supply (provided by utilities)	39.1%	41.1%
Agriculture self-supplied (farmers’ wells)	39.8	36.0
Others (homeowner wells, recreational landscape, commercial self-supplied, power generation)	21.1	23.9

» The state’s water management districts expect demand for water to **increase 17%**, reaching 7.51 billion gallons daily by 2035. Four areas account for most of the growth: The **Miami-Palm Beach** corridor; the **Tampa Bay** area; the **Orlando** area; and **Jacksonville**.

» The two biggest drivers for increasing demand are **population growth** and **agriculture**.

» The two biggest **wild cards** in estimating increased demand are **drought** and increased use of **water conservation strategies**.

Source: State Office of Economic and Demographic Research

Floridians Are Using Less Water

Florida’s gross per capita water use — all the water consumed in the state, by all users, including businesses, divided by the number of residents — has fallen by 24% since 1985 to 134 gallons per capita per day. Nationally, water use has fallen to the lowest levels in 45 years. The state Department of Environmental Protection attributes Florida’s falling per capita consumption to overall conservation, including changes in building codes, year-round landscape watering restrictions, Florida-friendly landscaping and reclaimed water use.

Enough with the Grass

There are two ways to look at landscape irrigation in Florida.

The first is to tally up all the places that are permitted to draw water to irrigate golf courses, parks, homeowner association common areas and wells used for irrigating. Such “recreational/landscape” users consumed more than half a billion gallons of water a day in Florida in 2015 — about 8% of Florida’s water use. They are projected to want another 145 million gallons a day by 2035, an increase of 27%.

But that tally typically doesn’t include watering lawns. Much of that use gets drowned in the total for the “public supply” — the water that local utilities draw and treat for our drinking water, cooking, showers, toilet flushing and, yes, yard watering. The state doesn’t set out how much of Florida’s public supply goes to wetting yards, but some researchers say half the public supply ends up in the grass. That is 1.25 billion gallons per day, projected to grow to 1.55 billion gallons per day by 2035. In short, if Florida got out of the business of using drinking water for yards and water in general for parks and golf courses, the state wouldn’t have to add any water projects to meet demand through 2035.

“Every drop we’re putting onto lawns that is not reclaimed water is water that’s coming from an aquifer, from a surface-water source,” says Jason Evans, Stetson University associate professor of environmental science and studies and faculty director of its Institute for Water and Environmental Resilience. “It’s basically coming from an ecosystem. We’re not getting food out of it. It’s not anything that gives back to society except I guess aesthetic.”

Advocates want more homeowners and developers to choose vegetation suited to Florida’s climate that won’t require as much watering and to lay out new developments to minimize water use and to use reclaimed water.

THE SUPPLY SIDE

Agriculture

The state projects demand for water by agriculture will grow 6% by 2035 to 2.7 billion gallons per day. In 2015, agriculture in Florida drew more water than utilities providing drinking water. By 2035, agriculture will still be a big user but will fall to No. 2 behind public water utilities. There are indications that as Florida growers change their land use — whether row crops over pasture or grass-fed beef over traditionally raised cattle — they have more intensive water needs.

But agriculture’s getting more efficient in its water use through the implementation of best management practices and through technology such as moisture sensors, says Del Bottcher, president of agriculture, environmental and water resources engineering firm Soil and Water Engineering Technology in Gainesville. He says farmers have an incentive not to over-irrigate because too much water washes nutrients out. But farmers worry about being squeezed out of access to water if they should need it as urban areas expand.

Bottcher says the tracking of agricultural irrigation by farmers’ government-permitted use can lead to overestimating farmers’ consumption.

Bottcher says that on average, farmers use less than they are permitted to use and that use varies “tremendously” depending on rainfall. He says Florida’s problem is that water is needed on the urbanized coasts but typically is pumped from wells in the interior. Rainfall hits paved surfaces in urban areas and then winds up going to the sea as stormwater. “If we captured our

urban stormwater, we would have plenty of water,” Bottcher says.

Meeting Demand

- » The state’s water management districts say demand cannot be met with existing capacity but can be met through a combination of traditional and alternative water sources, conservation and implementation of projects identified in regional water supply plans.
- » The state spent \$57 million on water supply projects and an additional \$806 million on water quality and other water resource-related programs in 2016-17. Since then, spending for water resources has increased steadily, and the state can’t maintain those levels of spending without additional revenue sources. The state Office of Economic and Demographic Research says those sources could include statutorily uncommitted documentary stamp taxes, additional general revenue funds or bonds.

The Tampa Bay Seawater Desalination plant provides up to 25 million gallons of drinking water a day.

Possible Alternate Sources

- » Desalination
- » Brackish surface and groundwater
- » Surface water captured and/or stored during wet weather flows
- » Reclaimed water
- » Stormwater

Aquifers

Most of the fresh groundwater used in Florida comes from the Floridan aquifer system. In 2010, of a total groundwater use of 4.1 billion gallons per day (bgd), nearly two-thirds was obtained from the Floridan aquifer. The remaining groundwater was from the Biscayne, surficial and intermediate aquifer systems. Finally, the sand-and-gravel aquifer has served as a water source in the Florida panhandle.

Continued water withdrawals from the aquifer systems pose long-term threats to water supply — and also to the health of Florida’s springs. Robert Knight, director of the Howard T. Odum Florida Springs Institute in High Springs, wrote in a recent op-ed article that abundant rainfall beginning in June 2017 reversed the effects of a several-year drought in North Florida, producing rising levels in the Floridan aquifer and area lakes and increased flows into the springs. “However, despite these two years of above-normal rainfall, long-term aquifer levels are still trending downward and have been declining for the past 50 years. Long-term average flows in North Florida’s springs continue to be well below historic rates,” he wrote.

Conservation Lands

One part of ensuring adequate water supply involves the state’s acquisition of conservation lands, which limit development and provide areas for recharging aquifers. Currently, 10.66 million acres — 30% of the state’s land area — are in conservation.

Every Florida county has publicly owned lands dedicated to conservation. More than 50% of the land in eight counties is in conservation; the smallest public share occurs in Union County, just 0.1%.

Less than 3% of the conservation acreage in Florida is privately owned; the state owns about 53% of the publicly owned land, with 42% owned by the federal government and about 5% owned by local governments.

Currently, a dedicated revenue source for managing the state's lands does not exist, and the additional lands for conservation will require funds for both acquisition and management. In 2016-17, the state spent \$68.1 million to acquire land and \$192.6 million to manage its conservation holdings. The projected cost for future acquisitions by the state and water management districts exceeds \$10.6 billion. The additional cost for managing these lands is projected to be \$172.4 million annually for both the state and water management districts.

Wild Card — The Everglades and Sea Level Rise

Eighteen years into Everglades restoration, as rising seas overtake the ecosystem and the glacial pace of replumbing points toward needing a half-century or longer to finish, state and federal authorities need to make a midcourse assessment. That's the view of an independent scientific panel required by Congress every two years to review Everglades restoration progress.

The panel found "impressive" efforts but said more thought must be given on how climate change and sea-level rise will impact projects. The Everglades midcentury will differ from that envisioned in the 2000 plan. "There is now ample evidence that the South Florida climate is changing," the report says. "There is general consensus that temperatures will increase over time, although considerable uncertainty about future rainfall patterns remains. There is also compelling recent evidence that sea-level rise is accelerating. These changes will have profound impacts on the South Florida ecosystem and the related challenges of providing flood protection and meeting future water and recreational demands." The report says restoration is "likely" to increase the system's resilience to climate change but that needs to be studied. A bright note: Phosphorus runoff — a bane of the Everglades — reached its lowest level ever in 2017. Water quality is improving south of Lake Okeechobee.

Reclaimed Water

The largest amount of additional water in Florida by 2035 will come from recycled water projects, the state says. Projects to treat wastewater for reuse — in irrigating lawns, cemeteries, golf courses and in agriculture and industry or for flowing back into the aquifer — can supply nearly 40% of the growth in demand for water in Florida through 2035, the state says. Of the wastewater generated in Florida, 48% gets reclaimed. The majority of it goes to irrigate golf courses, lawns and other "public uses" as opposed to agriculture and industry. Some 477 treatment facilities in Florida produced enough reclaimed water in 2017 to irrigate 419,016 residences, 574 golf courses, 1,016 parks and 397 schools, according to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Reclaimed water also irrigated 12,897 acres of edible crops on 67 farms. The amount of water Florida reuses has increased 66% since 1998.

Statewide Water Reuse Rankings (Per capita)

County	Rank
Orange	3
Pinellas	16
Palm Beach	23
Hillsborough	40
Duval	54
Broward	62
Miami-Dade	63

Source: 2016 Reuse Inventory, Department of Environmental Protection

Overall, the state likes to tout that Florida is a national leader in using reclaimed water. But some of the counties in Florida that use the least reclaimed water are also the most populated. Broward, for example, is one of Florida's leading counties in addressing sustainability issues such as rising seas, but it's one of the least productive at reusing water.

Jennifer Jurado, Broward's chief resilience officer, says county comparisons can mislead. Some counties might use reclaimed water to feed the aquifer in a way that Broward wouldn't because of water quality issues. Also, lightly populated counties that produce small volumes of water for reclamation but have large agricultural areas may be able to reuse all reclaimed water.

A major issue in reclaim is when development occurred. While some Broward municipalities, especially in the more recently developed west, are active with reclamation projects, it would be too expensive in other parts of the county to tear up roads to lay pipes to water yards that are just an eighth or quarter of an acre. Some 62% of Broward's area is land in conservation, one of the highest percentages in Florida, with nearly 2 million people packed into the other 38%.

"It's a tight place in which we're working," Jurado says. "The numbers just don't work for the size of investment. Admittedly, we want to do more, we need to more and will continue to do more."

Even where reclaimed water is available — governments require nearby users to tap into it — issues can arise as to quality and quantity, says Luna Phillips, an environmental and land-use attorney with law firm Gunster in Fort Lauderdale. In dry times, for example, users need more water and may compete for available reclaimed water supplies. "It creates a lot of uncertainty for the user. It's not clear sometimes how much water will be available and how much it will meet the needs of that user," Phillips says.

Rates: A Sampler

The University of North Carolina's Environmental Finance Center collects data on water rates throughout the country.

Looking at a sample of water rates in Florida's larger metro areas, Miami-Dade County charges its residents less than most for the initial 4,000 gallons. Water rates in the Orlando area are also among the lowest among the metros, and the Orlando Utilities Commission sends its users a weak "conservation signal" — the price it charges per 1,000 gallons for usage that exceeds 10,000 gallons. Among the state's major metros, West Palm Beach charges the highest for the initial 4,000 gallons.

For data on all Florida communities, Google "Florida Water And Wastewater Rates Dashboard."

	Water bill at 4,000 gallons	Charge per 1,000 gallons after 10,000 gallons	Median affordability (annual bills as % of median household income)
West Palm Beach	\$35.55	\$4.27	.91%
Pensacola	21.70	2.44	.57
St. Petersburg	20.35	5.15	.51
Palm Beach County	19.77	7.91	.43

	Water bill at 4,000 gallons	Charge per 1,000 gallons after 10,000 gallons	Median affordability (annual bills as % of median household income)
Fort Lauderdale	18.71	6.10	.43
Jacksonville	16.32	2.60	.41
Tampa	11.29	5.44	.30
Orlando (OUC)	11.11	1.66	.30
Miami-Dade County	9.19	5.16	.25

Item 14.a.

Legislative Report

Draft Legislative Matrix

DRAFT

Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority 2019 Legislative Issues

November 14, 2018

Issue	Type of Change	Further Detail
Support the allocation of state funds that promotes regional partnerships for water resource and supply development through existing statutes and not create additional bureaucracy, or inappropriate funding diversions.	Legislative and Regulatory	Strengthen emphasis on funding regionally significant water projects.
Support continued and enhanced funding for restoration and protection of springs, with an emphasis on an appropriate amount of funding for activities addressing the springsheds within the WRWSA region.	Legislative and Water Management Districts	Oppose any diversions away from at least \$50 million annually for springs restoration and protection.
Support funding for the Water Protection and Sustainability Program (SB 444), and funding for implementing the WRWSA Regional Water Supply Plan.	Legislative (section 403.890 and 403.891, F.S.) and Water Management Districts	Emphasis on implementing the WRWSA Regional Water Supply Plan.
Support Senate confirmations of Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) Governing Board Members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scott Wiggins (Hillsborough) • Jeff Adams (Pinellas) • Ed Armstrong (Pinellas) 	Legislative (section 373.073, FS)	Each SWFWMD Governing Board Member will be confirmed for a 4-year term.
Support Senate confirmations of St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) Governing Board Members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Janet Price (Area 1) • John Miklos (At Large) • Allan Roberts (Area 3—including Marion County) 	Legislative (section 373.073, FS)	Each SJRWMD Governing Board Member will be confirmed for a 4-year term.
Monitor legislation to be filed to implement Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Reclaimed Water recommendations and the Potable Reuse Commission's recommendations.	Legislative and Regulatory	Legislation expected to be filed by Senator Wilton Simpson for 2019 Legislative Session.
Support a collaborative approach to water management when there are cross-district impacts for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water supply planning; • Setting Minimum Flows and Levels (MFLs), Reservations; and • Resource recovery or impact prevention strategies. 	Legislative and Regulatory	Monitor Central Florida Water Initiative for potential statewide impacts.
Monitor efforts to revise the existing surface water classification system or to reclassify surface waters within the region which may limit water resource development opportunities.	Legislative and Regulatory	Continue to monitor rules for the use of surface water for drinking water.