



**WITHLACOOCHEE
REGIONAL
WATER
SUPPLY
AUTHORITY**

Board Meeting Package

March 15, 2017
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 February 2017

| Office | Board Members |
|---------------|------------------------------|
| Chair | The Honorable Nick Nicholson |
| Vice Chair | The Honorable Michelle Stone |
| Treasurer | The Honorable Stephen Printz |

| Jurisdiction | Board Members |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Citrus County | The Honorable Scott Carnahan |
| | The Honorable Jeff Kinnard |
| Hernando County | The Honorable Steve Champion |
| | The Honorable Nick Nicholson |
| 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 Ron Livsey |
| 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 2016-2017 fiscal year are as follows:

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| October 19, 2016 | April 19, 2017 |
| November 16, 2016 | May 17, 2017 |
| December 21, 2016 | June 21, 2017 |
| January 18, 2017 | July 19, 2017 |
| February 15, 2017 | August 16, 2017 |
| March 15, 2017 | September 20, 2017 |

**MEMORANDUM**

To: Water Supply Authority Board of Directors and Interested Parties

From: Richard S. Owen, Executive Director

Date: March 6, 2017

Subject: Monthly Meeting of the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority

The next meeting of the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority will be on **Wednesday, March 15, 2017, 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 January 18, 2017 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.



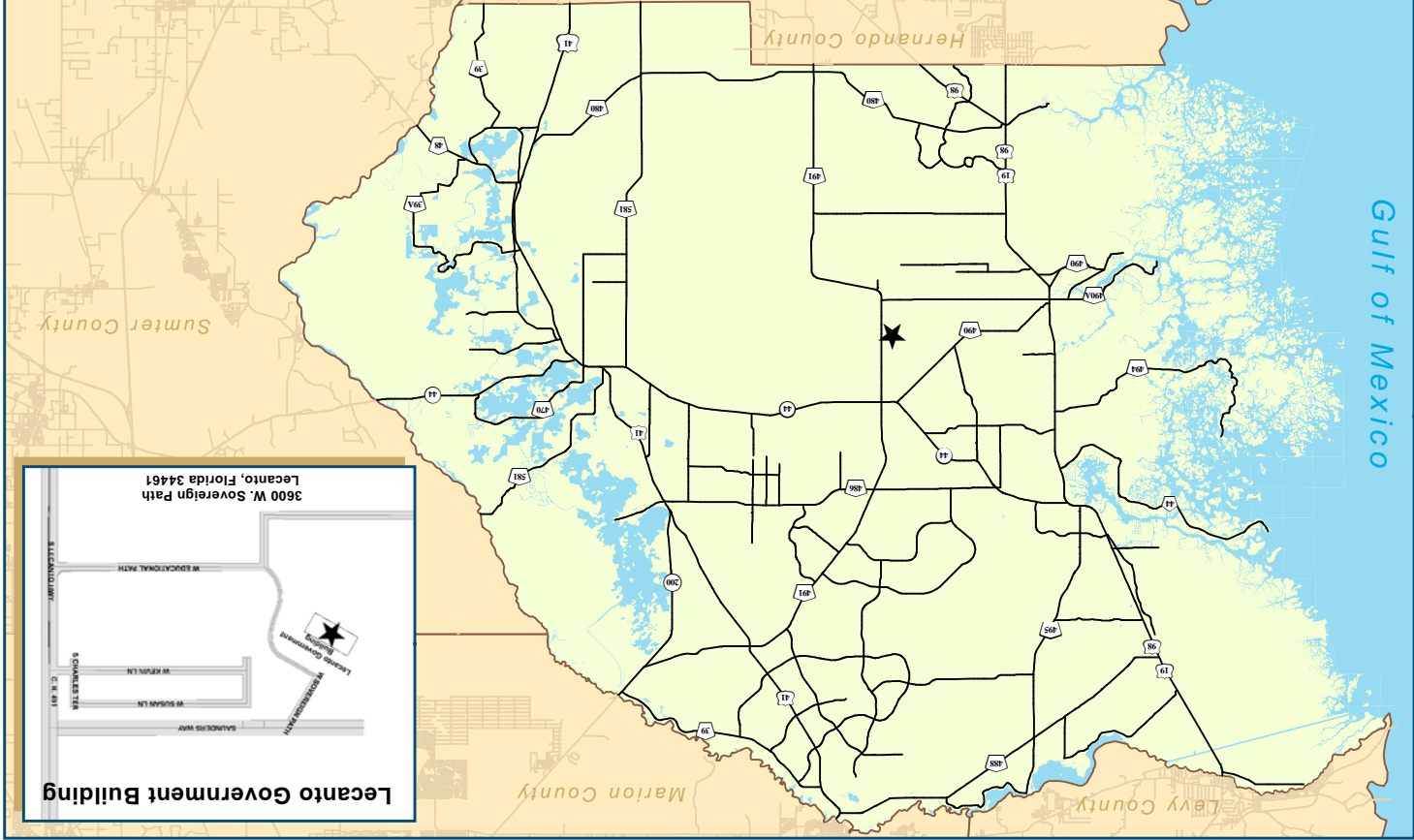
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Prepared By : R. W. Voth
Date: January 4, 2012
Source: Enterprise Geodatabase
Map Number: BV000029

Lecanto Government Building Locator Map



0 1.5 3 6
Miles



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

**March 15, 2017 -- 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.

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| 1. Call to Order . . . Nick Nicholson, Chairman | |
| 2. Roll Call . . . Richard Owen, WRWSA Executive Director | |
| 3. Introductions and Announcements . . . Richard Owen, WRWSA | |
| 4. Approval of Minutes . . . Nick Nicholson, Chairman | 9 |
| 5. Public Comment | |
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| 11. Charles A. Black Wellfield Pumpage . . . Richard Owen, WRWSA | 57 |
| 12. Charles A. Black Wellfield Well #4 Pump Replacement . . . Richard Owen, WRWSA | 59 |
| 13. Executive Director's Report . . . Richard Owen, WRWSA | |
| a. Bills to be Paid [February bill summary included in packet; March bills provided at the meeting] | 61 |
| b. First Quarter Financial Report | 63 |
| c. Water Conservation Month Resolution | 69 |
| d. Correspondence | 71 |
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| f. Other | |
| 14. Legislative Report . . . Diane Salz, WRWSA Governmental Affairs | |
| 15. Attorney's Report . . . Larry Haag, WRWSA Attorney | |
| 16. Other Business | |
| 17. Next Meeting | |
| • Consider Canceling April 19, 2017 Meeting | |
| • Next Meeting: May 17, 2017; 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 4

Approval of Minutes

DRAFT

WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Minutes of the Meeting January 18, 2017

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

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

1. Call to Order

Vice Chairman Nicholson called the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (WRWSA) Board of Directors meeting to order at 3:37 p.m. and requested a roll call.

2. Roll Call

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

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Nick Nicholson, *Vice Chairman*, Hernando County Commissioner
Scott Carnahan, Citrus County Commissioner
Steve Champion, Hernando County Commissioner
William Kemerer, Brooksville City Councilor
Stephen Printz, Sumter County Commissioner
Michelle Stone, Marion County Commissioner
Dale Swain, Bushnell City Councilor
Ken Brown, Crystal River City Councilor

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Kathy Bryant, Marion County Commissioner
Al Butler, Sumter County Commissioner
Carl Zalak, Marion County Commissioner
Ron Livsey, Belleview City Commissioner
Jeff Kinnard, Citrus County Commissioner

BOARD ALTERNATE PRESENT

Kim Dinkins, Marion County

3. Introductions and Announcements

- *Introductions.* Mr. Owen recognized Authority staff present for this meeting. Audience members introduced themselves for the Board's information.
- *Announcements.* Vice-Chairman Nicholson noted that Mr. Champion was appointed from Hernando County. Mr. Owen noted that Ms. Stone from Marion County and Mr. Printz from Sumter County have been appointed.

WRWSA STAFF PRESENT

Richard Owen, Executive Director
Larry Haag, Attorney
Diane Salz, Governmental Affairs
LuAnne Stout, Administrative Asst.

OTHERS PRESENT

Dennis Damato, Former Chair
Jack Sullivan, Former Exec. Dir.
Mark White, Purvis Gray & Co.
Katie Eno, Purvis Gray & Co.
Peter G. Hubbell, WRA
Terri Lowery, Jones Edmunds

LOCAL GOVERNMENT STAFF PRESENT

Ron Basso, SWFWMD Chief Hydrogeologist
Alys Brockway, Hernando County Water Resources Manager
Debra Burden, Citrus County Water Conservation Manager
Melissa Gulvin, SWFWMD Gov't Affairs Program Manager
Dr. Gabe Herrick, SWFWMD Senior Environmental Scientist
Gary Loggins, Citrus County Water Resources
Gordon Onderdonk, Hernando County Utilities Director
Richard Radack, City of Brooksville Public Works

4. Approval of Minutes

A copy of the November 16, 2016 minutes was provided in the Board's meeting materials. Following consideration, **Mr. Carnahan moved to approve the minutes for the November 16, 2016 meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Brown and carried unanimously.**

5. Public Comment – No speaker cards were submitted.

6. Recognition of Former Chair Dennis Damato

Vice Chairman Nicholson recognized Mr. Damato for his years of service to the WRWSA. He read into the record Resolution 2017-01, recognizing Dennis Damato as a member of the Board from January 2005 through November 2016.

Mr. Carnahan moved, seconded by Ms. Stone, to approve Resolution 2017-01, Recognizing Dennis Damato, Board Member of the WRWSA. This resolution is made a part of these minutes as if set forth in full but, for convenience, is filed in the permanent resolution files of the WRWSA. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice-Chairman Nicholson noted the many activities attributed to Mr. Damato during his service and his election as Chairman four times during his appointment. Vice-Chairman Nicholson presented Mr. Damato with a framed resolution and engraved parting gift (crystal ice bucket). Mr. Damato expressed his appreciation for being able to serve this region of Florida.

7. Election of Officers

Mr. Owen briefly reviewed the Board policy regarding elections and rotation of officers.

Mr. Kemerer nominated Mr. Nicholson for Chair, Ms. Stone for Vice-Chair, and Mr. Printz for Treasurer. Mr. Carnahan seconded the nominations. Vice-Chairman Nicholson moved that the nominations be closed. The motion nominating the new 2017 Board Officers carried unanimously.

Mr. Owen noted that the current officers serve through the month and the new officers take their positions one hour prior to the next Board meeting.

8. Crystal River / Kings Bay Minimum Flows and Levels Development

Gabe Herrick, PhD., Senior Environmental Scientist with the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD), provided an update on the development and establishment of recommended Minimum Flows and Levels (MFLs) for Crystal River / Kings Bay. Mr. Ron Basso, SWFWMD Chief Hydrogeologist, was also present to answer questions from the Board.

Using a slide presentation, Dr. Herrick reviewed the importance of MFLs and determining the point at which further withdrawals of water would cause significant harm to the water resources or ecology of the area. MFLs are important to the WRWSA and its member governments because they help to define the availability of ground and surface water for consumptive use. Groundwater withdrawals in the region can potentially have an impact on surface water bodies, such as Crystal River / Kings Bay, and the MFLs adopted by the SWFWMD will ultimately limit the amount of groundwater that can be withdrawn in the springshed. As ground water, the least expensive and most widely used source of water in the WRWSA region, becomes more limited, more expensive alternative water supplies, such as surface water or water from the lower Floridan aquifer, will need to be developed.

Discussion ensued regarding benchmarks and reductions of baseline flow, saltwater intrusion in freshwater systems, future population demands updated every five years and refined constantly, increased salinity in Crystal River, nutrient reduction.

Mr. Brown stated he wants to see no reduction in flows for this area and noted he will vote against the recommendation.

Mr. Owen said it is in the best interests of the WRWSA and its member governments to work with the water management districts to ensure the best available information and scientific expertise are used in establishing MFLs. He presented a draft letter of support to express the WRWSA's position on the establishment of the Crystal River / Kings Bay MFLs to be sent to appropriate news media (primarily the *Citrus Chronicle*). The draft exhibit was included in the Board's meeting materials. Mr. Owen noted that staff takes direction from the Board and, as a stakeholder in this issue, it is not often that a public supply entity expresses its position.

Following consideration, **Mr. Carnahan moved, seconded by Mr. Champion, that the Board authorize the Executive Director to sign the proposed letter in support of the SWFWMD's use of the best available information and scientific expertise in establishing MFLs for Crystal River/Kings Bay. The motion carried with Mr. Brown voting against the motion.**

9. Fiscal Year 2015-16 Financial Audit

Mr. Mark White, CPA, Partner with Purvis Gray & Company, LLP, presented the audit report. Also in attendance was Ms. Kathryn Eno, an auditor with Purvis Gray and Company.

Purvis Gray and Company prepared the annual audit of the Authority's financial statements for the Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2016. Mr. White reviewed the Independent Auditors' Report noting that audit was done in accordance with auditing standards general accepted in the USA and applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*. Ms. Eno reviewed the Authority's operating and project expenses. Exhibits to this item were presented in an overhead presentation and will be mailed to each Board member: (1) December 22, 2016 letter from Purvis Gray and Company, and (2) Financial Statements and Independent Auditors' Report, September 30, 2016.

Following consideration, **Mr. Carnahan moved, seconded by Mr. Champion, to approve the Financial Statements and Independent Auditors' Report for Fiscal Year 2015-16, dated September 30, 2016, as presented at the meeting; and submittal of this report to the Auditor General and to the Florida Department of Financial Services. The motion carried with Mr. Kemerer voting against the motion since he was unable to read the report prior to this meeting.**

10. Citrus County Water School

Mr. Owen noted he sits on the planning committee for the UF/IFAS Extension Service Citrus County which is hosting the Citrus County Water School, scheduled for February 9, 2017. WRWSA Executive Director Richard Owen sits on the planning committee for the event. The event's objective is to provide local decision makers and community leaders with an opportunity to discuss the county's and region's current and future water issues, along with possible solutions. This policy-neutral, fact-based event is offered free of charge. Invitees include local government representatives from throughout the WRWSA's four-county area.

Mr. Owen said it is proposed that the WRWSA sponsor a raffle of five (5) irrigation audits for attendees to help support the event. A proposal for the work from Eco-Land Design, the contractor for the WRWSA's Irrigation Audit Program, is included as an exhibit to this item. At a cost of \$290 for each audit, the Authority would incur a total cost of \$1,450 to sponsor the raffle. In the Fiscal Year 2015-16, Citrus, Hernando and Marion counties each received a WRWSA water conservation grant. However, each county billed the Authority for less than the full grant amount, leaving over \$28,000 to carry forward as revenue to the current fiscal year. These funds are more than adequate to cover the cost of this proposed irrigation audit raffle. If approved by the Board, the funds for the sponsorship would come from the General Services Contracts budget. This line item is budgeted at \$75,000 for the year, with only \$25,000 obligated by a work order to Water Resource Associates, leaving an unobligated amount of \$50,000 available.

In response to Mr. Printz's inquiry, Mr. Owen said the planning committee is using this to garner interest by the attendees to stay for the entire event to be eligible to receive a raffled audit.

Following consideration, **Mr. Brown moved, seconded by Mr. Carnaham, for the Board to authorize the WRWSA to sponsor the raffle of five (5) irrigation audits at the February 9, 2017 Citrus County Water School at a cost of \$1,450 to utilize funds in the General Services Contracts budget for this purpose; and for the Executive Director to sign the agreement with Eco Land Design to perform this work as contained in the exhibit. Motion carried unanimously.**

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

Mr. Owen noted that 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, 2016. A copy of which was included as an exhibit to this item in the Board's meeting materials.

Mr. Owen said staff has reviewed this report and met with Citrus County staff to go over the report's contents. This review determined that the deposit made into the fund, in the amount of \$182,870.00, are consistent with the contractual schedule for annual deposits. However, based upon this review with County staff, it has been determined expenditure item number 7, in the amount of \$1,361.25, is not associated with the CAB facilities and is to be credited back to the R&R account. This will result in a revised total expenditure amount of \$145,604.47. Although some of the other expenditures are not clearly addressed in the CAB Wellfield R&R fund controlling contracts, they do appear to be associated with the CAB facilities and, based upon this analysis, staff believes all other expenditures are appropriate. The revised ending balance as of September 30, 2016, is \$2,141,668.10. It is anticipated Citrus County will submit a revised Annual Report to the Authority in the near future.

Following consideration, **Mr. Carnahan moved, seconded by Mr. Printz, for the Board to accept Citrus County's annual report for the CAB R&R Fund, documenting expenditures and deposits for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, with the revisions described, including deposits in the amount of \$182,870.00, expenditures in the amount of \$145,604.47, and an ending balance of \$2,141,668.10. Motion carried unanimously.**

12. Charles A. Black Wellfield Revenues

Mr. Owen said that, in September 2016, the WRWSA and Citrus County entered a new Water Supply Contract governing the Charles A. Black (CAB) Wellfield. One of the key features of the new contract is the County will base its monthly payments upon actual water withdrawals. Under the previous contract, the County was making payments for (a) a portion of the Authority's administrative costs (\$60,000 per year) and (b) "capital repayments" (most recently in the annual amount of \$163,587). Historically, the Authority has kept these revenues in separate investment accounts with the State. The first amount has been treated as an unrestricted account while the second component has been placed in a separate account, the use of which is restricted for water resource development projects. The separation of these revenues and investments was in response to a provision in the SWFWMD/WRWSA CAB wellfield funding agreement that required the Authority to recoup the SWFWMD funds for future water resource development projects. Although the SWFWMD/WRWSA agreement expired in 1999 and its provisions are no longer binding, the Authority has continued to place the Citrus capital repayment amounts in the restricted fund.

Mr. Owen noted that, under the new contract, there are no provisions regarding administrative and capital repayment amounts. Staff is seeking direction from the Board as to whether the County's payments under the new contract should continue to be divided among the restricted and unrestricted accounts and, if so, in what amounts. Staff believes it is prudent for the Authority to continue to keep the existing investments and appropriate portions of the new CAB wellfield revenues in these separate accounts. Since there no longer exists a contractual "capital repayment schedule," it is recommended the Authority attempt to maximize the funds in the capital account while also balancing the administrative components of the budget without utilization of unrestricted reserves.

Mr. Owen said, in prior years, there were two sources of WRWSA administrative revenues including (1) the per capita payments by each member county and (2) the \$60,000 annual payment by Citrus County under the prior CAB wellfield contract. (It should be noted that Citrus County continues to make per capita payments pursuant to the WRWSA Interlocal Agreement.) Typically, these revenues were inadequate to cover all administrative expenses and the difference was made up by utilization of unrestricted reserves. For example, in the current fiscal year, the total administrative budget is \$212,784, while per capita revenues are \$147,285 and the CAB wellfield administrative payment is \$60,000, for a total administrative revenue of \$207,285, leaving \$5,499 that must come from unrestricted reserves. Under the approach recommended by staff and using the current fiscal year as an example, \$65,499 (\$60,000 + \$5,499) would have been budgeted from the Citrus wellfield payments as administrative revenues. The remaining wellfield revenue, estimated to be approximately \$218,501 (\$224,000 - \$5,499) would be budgeted in the restricted or water resource development account.

Following consideration, **Ms. Stone moved, seconded by Mr. Carnahan, for Board concurrence with the protocol regarding allocation of future Charles A. Black wellfield payments among the unrestricted and restricted accounts of the Authority. Motion carried unanimously.**

Vice-Chairman Nicholson recognized Representative Stan McClain who arrived to attend the Authority's 40th Anniversary Celebration and who is also a former member of the Board.

13. Regional Irrigation Audit Program Cooperative Funding Agreement with Marion County

Mr. Owen said Marion County has participated in each phase of the WRWSA's Regional Irrigation Audit Program, including conceptually agreeing to participate in Phase 4, which began in the current fiscal year. In the past, the County's participation was informal and no Agreement was required for their participation. However, for the Phase 4 Program, the County has requested its participation be documented in a Cooperative Funding Agreement between the Authority and the County.

The proposed Agreement is similar to the agreements entered into with The Villages for its participation in Phase 4 and included as an exhibit in the Board's meeting materials. The WRWSA Board previously approved funding for this project, including the irrigation audits scheduled in Marion County.

Following consideration, **Mr. Brown moved, seconded Mr. Printz, for the Board to approve the Cooperative Funding Agreement between the WRWSA and Marion County for the Regional Irrigation Evaluation Program, as contained in the exhibit. Motion carried unanimously.**

14. Executive Director's Report

- a. **Bills to be Paid** – Mr. Owen noted that copies of January 2017 were provided to Board members at their seats.

Mr. Owen presented the December 2016 bills and requested Board concurrence of payment for administrative invoices in the amount of \$14,712.46 and project invoices in the amount of \$500.00. **Mr. Carnahan moved to ratify payment of the December 2016 bills in the total amount of \$15,212.46. The motion was seconded by Mr. Printz and carried unanimously.**

Mr. Owen presented the January 2017 bills and requested approval of payment for administrative invoices in the amount of \$14,366.02 and project invoices in the amount of \$4,328.98, totaling \$18,695.00. Following consideration, **Mr. Carnahan moved for payment of the January 2017 bills in the amount of 18,695.00, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Brown and carried unanimously.**

b. Bank Signature Cards and Resolution – Mr. Owen said that, due to the election of new officers for the Authority, a new business account signature card is needed to provide the bank with a list of authorized signatures. The Board must also take action on a *Deposit Account Resolution and Authorization*. These documents were included as exhibits in the Board's meeting materials. **Mr. Carnahan moved, seconded Ms. Stone, for the Board to approve and authorize the Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer and Ex Officio Secretary to execute the new bank signature card the *Deposit Account Resolution and Authorization* with Sun Trust Bank. Motion carried unanimously.**

c. Correspondence – Items were included in the Board's meeting materials.

d. News Articles – News articles of interest were included in the Board's meeting materials. Mr. Owen directed Board members' attention to last two articles starting on page 83, noting an administrative challenge has been submitted to the St. Johns River Water Management District regarding the Sleepy Creek Lands (formerly called Adena) permit.

e. Other

- Mr. Owen noted that Marion County notified the Authority that Devo Engineering has declined to move forward with contract services regarding Northern District Model (see handout). No Board action was necessary.
- Mr. Owen reported Citrus County is suggesting to combine permits (includes CAB Wellfield) to SWFWMD to meet per capita requirements. He recommended the Authority not support including CAB Wellfield due to maximum quantity numbers. No Board action was necessary.

10. Legislative Report – Ms. Salz provided a brief update on activities occurring now and in the upcoming weeks. She noted that she will provide a more indepth report at the next meeting.

11. Attorney's Report – No report at this time.

12. Other Business – Mr. Owen noted the WRWSA 40th Anniversary Celebration follows adjournment of this meeting and will be held in the Citrus Cooperative Extension Office at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Brown directed Board members to news articles on pages 77 and 86. He noted that balance is needed for conserving and preserving.

13. Next Meeting Time and Location

- **Vice Chairman Nicholson called the question to cancel the February 15, 2017 monthly meeting. Mr. Carnahan moved, seconded by Mr. Brown, to cancel the December meeting. The motion carried unanimously.**
- The next monthly meeting is scheduled for March 15, 2017 at 3:30 p.m. at the Lecanto Government Building, Room 166.

14. Adjournment

Vice Chairman Nicholson adjourned the meeting at 4:47 p.m.

Nick Nicholson, Vice-Chairman

Richard S. Owen, Executive Director

Southwest Florida Water Management District Update

Mr. Brian Armstrong, Executive Director of the Southwest Florida Water Management District, will provide the Board with an update of significant activities at the District.

Staff Recommendation:

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

Rainbow River SWIM Plan Resolution

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

The Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) has completed its proposed Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) Plan for the Weeki Wachee River. At its December 14, 2016 meeting, the Springs Coast Management Committee, on which the WRWSA represents Public Supply, recommended approval of the Weeki Wachee River SWIM Plan. At its January 11, 2017 meeting, the Springs Coast Steering Committee, on which a number of member governments sit, also recommended approval of the Plan. The SWFWMD Governing Board is scheduled to consider approval of the Plan at its March 28, 2017 meeting.

This is the third SWIM plan to be created or updated under the SWFWMD Springs Coast Initiative. Both the Rainbow River and the Crystal River/Kings Bay SWIM Plans were approved by the SWFWMD Governing Board at its March 28, 2016 meeting. Prior to those approvals, the WRWSA Board approved resolutions in support of those SWIM plans. Other waterbodies with SWIM Plans under development include the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka springs and river systems. These Plans are intended to guide not only the SWFWMD's future management actions, but also those actions of the many stakeholders involved, including many of the Authority's member governments.

Resolution 17-01, A Resolution by the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (WRWSA) in Support of the Weeki Wachee River Surface Water Improvement and Management Plan, is included in the Board's meeting materials as an exhibit to this item.

See Exhibit.

Staff Recommendation:

Approve and execute Resolution 17-01, A Resolution by the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (WRWSA) in Support of the Weeki Wachee River Surface Water Improvement and Management Plan, as contained in the Exhibit.

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

WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY

RESOLUTION 2017-01

**WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS SUPPORTS THE
WEEKI WACHEE RIVER SWIM PLAN PRESENTED BY THE
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

WHEREAS, the Weeki Wachee River in western Hernando County starts at the Weeki Wachee Spring and flows approximately seven river miles to the Gulf of Mexico; and

WHEREAS, it is a first-magnitude spring system with an extensive underwater cave system and world-famous mermaids; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the need to place additional emphasis on restoration, protection, and management of the surface water resources of the State, the Florida Legislature, through the Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) Act of 1987, directed the State's water management districts to "design and implement plans and programs for the improvement and management of surface water"; and

WHEREAS, the Weeki Wachee River was named a SWIM priority water body in 2014; and

WHEREAS, the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (Authority) participated in the development of the Weeki Wachee River SWIM plan within the framework of the Springs Coast Management Committee and appropriate representatives of its member governments participated in the Steering Committee and Technical Working Group; and

WHEREAS, the primary goal of this SWIM plan is to identify and implement management actions and projects that will address the major issues the system faces and that will restore, maintain and preserve the ecological balance of the Weeki Wachee River; and

WHEREAS, we recognize that one entity alone cannot do it all, the most important element of this plan is the consensus and partnerships that came together to ensure this plan takes a much broader approach by identifying management actions and projects from a wide variety of stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, this plan is a stakeholder developed, comprehensive plan for the restoration, protection and management of the Weeki Wachee River and a living document with adaptive management at its core and as such, this plan will be revised periodically to assess overall progress in meeting the quantifiable objectives.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Authority Board of Directors that the Authority hereby expresses its support for the Weeki Wachee River SWIM plan and the Authority Board of Directors commends the diverse teams of the Springs Coast Steering Committee, and Management Committee, and Technical Working Group for the development of this plan and their commitment to the preservation of this unique treasure.

ADOPTED this fifteenth day of March 2017.

Attest:

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, WITHLACOOCHEE
REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY

Richard S. Owen, Executive Director

Nick Nicholson, Chairman

SWFWMD Cooperative Funding Policy Changes

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

The Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) is proposing changes to its Cooperative Funding Policy and has solicited input from the Authority staff. Among the various changes being proposed, most pertinent to the WRWSA are changes that address the “base supply” of alternative water supply projects.

A copy of the changes, as presented at the SWFWMD Governing Board’s January 31, 2017 meeting, are included in the Board’s meeting materials as an exhibit to this item.

Staff will review with the Board the proposed changes and will solicit any Board input for communication back to the SWFWMD.

See Exhibit

Staff Recommendation:

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

STATEMENT OF POLICY:

In accordance with Chapter 373, Florida Statutes, the Governing Board (Board) may participate and cooperate with county governments, municipalities, water supply authorities, and other interested entities in water management programs and projects of mutual benefit, provided such programs and projects are consistent with the District's statutory authority and will ensure proper development, utilization, and conservation of the water resources and ecology within the jurisdictional boundaries of the District. In addition, the Governing Board will implement the state's Water Protection and Sustainability Program through its Cooperative Funding Initiative if state funds are appropriated for this program.

POLICY GUIDELINES:

The following guidelines apply to all projects:

1. The Board will give priority consideration to those projects designed to further the implementation of the District Strategic Plan, Water Management Plan, Comprehensive Watershed Management Plans, Surface Water Improvement and Management Plans, and Regional Water Supply Plan.
2. The District is committed to supplier diversity in the performance of all contracts associated with District Cooperative Funding projects. The District requires the second party to make good faith efforts to encourage the participation of minority and women-owned business enterprises, both as prime contractors and sub-contractors, in accordance with applicable laws. Applicants will be required to document all contractors and sub-contractors who perform work in association with the project, including the amount spent and, to the extent such information is known, whether each contractor or sub-contractor was a minority owned or small business enterprise. The applicant will be required to provide the District a report of this information upon completion of the project prior to final payment, or within 30 days of the execution of any amendment of an agreement that increases project funding and prior to disbursement of any additional funds by the District.
3. The Board will consider the applicant's efforts in developing, implementing, and enforcing best water management practices, including but not limited to, conservation oriented water rate structures and irrigation, landscape and flood protection ordinances.
4. Funding may be provided to assist with the cost of data collection, research, feasibility studies, conservation and environmental education initiatives; ecosystem restoration, water resource investigation and plan development; and design, permitting and construction of capital projects. Funding is not available for operation and maintenance, payment of debtor submittal, and responses to required District permits.
5. Funding assistance will be contingent upon concurrent project action and commitment by the county, municipality, water supply authority, or other interested entity to ensure the project goals will be implemented.
6. The Board will consider funding based on the applicant's ability to demonstrate that such funding is necessary to make the project economically feasible.

SWFWMD Cooperative Funding Initiative Policy 130-4

7. The cooperating entity must demonstrate any matching funds have been appropriated, are contained within a Capital Improvement Plan, or otherwise committed to the project.
8. Any state or federal appropriations or grant monies received by a county government, a municipality, or a water supply authority for a specific project shall be first applied toward the total cost of the cooperator's proposed project. The District will typically fund up to 50 percent of the remaining project costs with a similar match from the cooperator.
9. Pursuant to the provisions of Section 288.06561, Florida Statutes, the Board may reduce or waive requirements for matching funds when requested by rural counties or municipalities, as defined by Subsection 288.0656(1) {b},
10. All applications submitted for funding consideration by the Board must be signed by a single Senior Administrator acting as a coordinator for the Cooperative Funding Initiative for the county, municipality, water supply authority, or interested entity. If an entity submits multiple applications, an overall ranking of the projects is required. Final decisions regarding the funding of project proposals are the exclusive responsibility of the Board.
11. Construction projects estimated to cost over \$5,000,000 will undergo a third party review at the completion of the 30 percent design stage. This review is to confirm the project cost, schedule, and ability of the project to meet the proposed resource benefit. Additionally, projects that cost between \$1,000,000 and \$5,000,000 that staff has determined will benefit from a third party review will also undergo such review at the completion of the 30 percent design stage. Results of the third party review will be presented to the Governing Board for approval before the project can proceed to final design.
12. Refer to District Procedure Number 13-4 for additional guidance.

The following additional guidelines apply to potable alternative water supply projects:

13. It is the express intent of the Board to utilize its incentive based funding to encourage the development of fully integrated, robust, multijurisdictional water supply systems comprised of diverse sources (i.e., groundwater, surface water, offstream reservoirs, desal, etc.), managed in a manner that takes full advantage of Florida's intense climatic cycles to ensure reliable, sustainable and drought resistant systems, which maximize the use of alternative supplies to the greatest extent practicable. Multijurisdictional means two or more water utilities or local governments that have been organized into a larger entity or have entered into an interlocal agreement or contract for the purpose of more efficiently pursuing water supply development or alternative water supply development projects pursuant to a regional water supply plan. The water supply systems of the multijurisdictional entity must be interconnected and must have a formalized operational management agreement that ensures the interconnected supplies are managed as described in the Board's intent as described herein. All operational agreements between multijurisdictional entities will be evaluated by the District and must be deemed consistent with the Board's intent as described herein.
14. Consistent with Section 373.707, Florida Statutes, the District shall prioritize funding for alternative water supply projects as follows:

SWFWMD Cooperative Funding Initiative Policy 130-4

- Highest priority - Alternative water supply projects owned, operated and controlled, or perpetually controlled by a Regional Water Supply Authority (RWSA).
- Medium priority - Alternative water supply projects that are not owned, operated and controlled, or perpetually controlled by a RWSA, but meet the definition of multijurisdictional.
- Lowest priority - Projects that do not meet the multijurisdictional criteria.

15. If a member government of a RWSA proposes a potable water supply project, it must be submitted by the RWSA to be considered for District funding.

16. Projects submitted by non-member governments within the service area of a RWSA will be considered for funding only if the non-member government has reviewed its plan with the RWSA to ensure the project is not inconsistent with the RWSA plan. An affirmative written statement from the RWSA indicating that the project is not inconsistent is required.

17. All potable alternative water supply projects will be required to identify the quantity of alternative water supply that will be made available upon completion of the project. It is the intent of the District's Governing Board that the quantity made available will be used as "base supply". The base supply will be clearly defined by the cooperator on a project-by-project basis and will include, but not be limited to, the overall alternative water supply system capacity, typically expressed in million gallons per day, the expected annual average use for the life of the project, as well as the frequency and timing of use of the available alternative water supply quantities. The base supply defined by the cooperator will be reviewed and approved by the Governing Board as a part of the Cooperative Funding Initiative project review and budgeting process. The cooperative funding agreement between the District and the cooperator will include the base supply requirements approved by the Governing Board. The Governing Board may consider adjustments to a project's base supply quantity and definition by amendment of the cooperative funding agreement.

18. In determining whether, and how much funding will be provided by the District, the District will consider the project's total cost per 1,000 gallons and the cost per gallon of water supply produced. These costs shall exclude distribution system components and will be compared to, among other things:

- a. The cost of other available potable water supply that could be purchased by the applicant from a supplier who is capable of meeting the demand.
- b. The cost to develop other viable alternative water supplies.
- c. The unitary rate or wholesale water cost of the RWSA in the area where the applicant is located. For applicants outside the area of a RWSA or within the service area of a RWSA that does not own, operate and control an alternative water supply project, cost information from other RWSAs with alternative water supplies can be used for comparison purposes.
- d. The applicant's current cost of water supply and projected cost of water supply after the project is in operation.

All cost information must be certified and adjusted to reflect present values for the current fiscal year.

19. The District will consider the applicant's conservation oriented water rate structure(s) and per capita water use as factors in its incentive based funding. Where an applicant has

SWFWMD Cooperative Funding Initiative Policy 130-4

not achieved the District per capita water use requirements as described in Chapter 40D-2, Florida Administrative Code, or where they have not adopted an effective conservation rate structure, District funding may be limited to consideration of water conservation projects only.

REFERENCES: Chapter 373, Florida Statutes
Chapter 40D-2, Florida Administrative Code

SUPERSEDES: 12/18/07, 10/24/06, 9/27/05, 9/28/04, 3/25/03, 11/01/01

Board Orientation

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

The purpose of this item is to provide Board members with an overview of the Authority, its current work program and ongoing priorities.

Staff Recommendation:

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



**WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL
WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY**

Board Briefing March 15, 2017

Richard S. Owen, AICP
WRWSA Executive Director

Outline of Presentation

- Authority Mission and Service Area
- Organization, Representation and Funding
- Statutory Powers
- Work Program

Water Supply Authorities

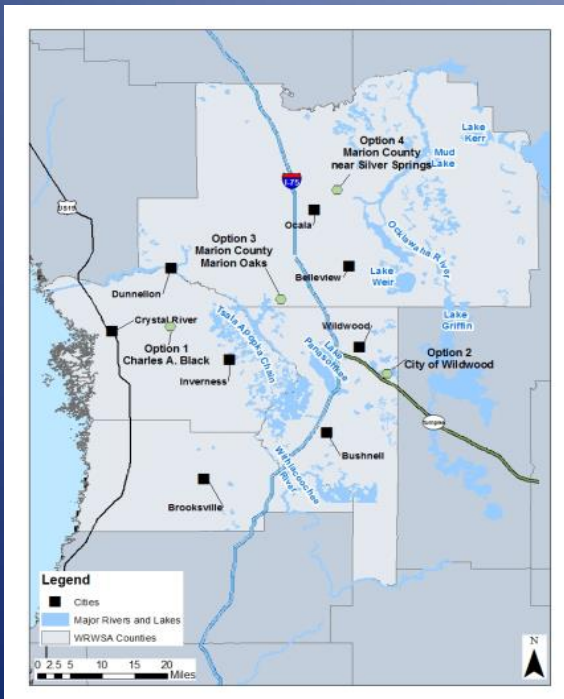
- Authorized by Chapter 373.713, Florida Statutes
- Created by Interlocal Agreement among four counties, pursuant to s. 163, F.S.

Chapter 373, F.S., Statutory Charge

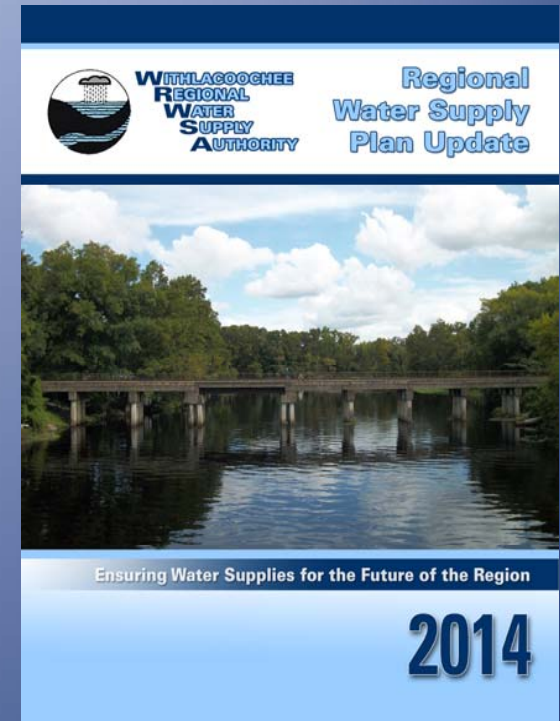
373.713(1) . . . regional water supply authorities may be created for the purpose of developing, recovering, storing, and supplying water for county or municipal purposes in such a manner as will give priority to reducing adverse environmental effects of excessive or improper withdrawals of water from concentrated areas.

Chapter 373, F.S., Statutory Charge

- Plan for future water supplies for member governments



- Locate, develop, deliver wholesale water supply to member governments as needed



WRWSA

- Originally Created in 1977
 - Concern regarding water transfers
- Interlocal Agreement Amended several times
 - Most recently updated in 2014
- Citrus, Hernando, Marion and Sumter Counties - Signatories

373.713, F.S., Powers

- Develop, recover, store and supply water for county and municipal purposes
- After approval of electors, can levy ad valorem taxes up to .5 mills
- Collect, treat, store waste water
- Exercise eminent domain
- Issue revenue bonds
- Sue and be sued
- Borrow money & incur indebtedness
- Not engage in local distribution

Other Functions

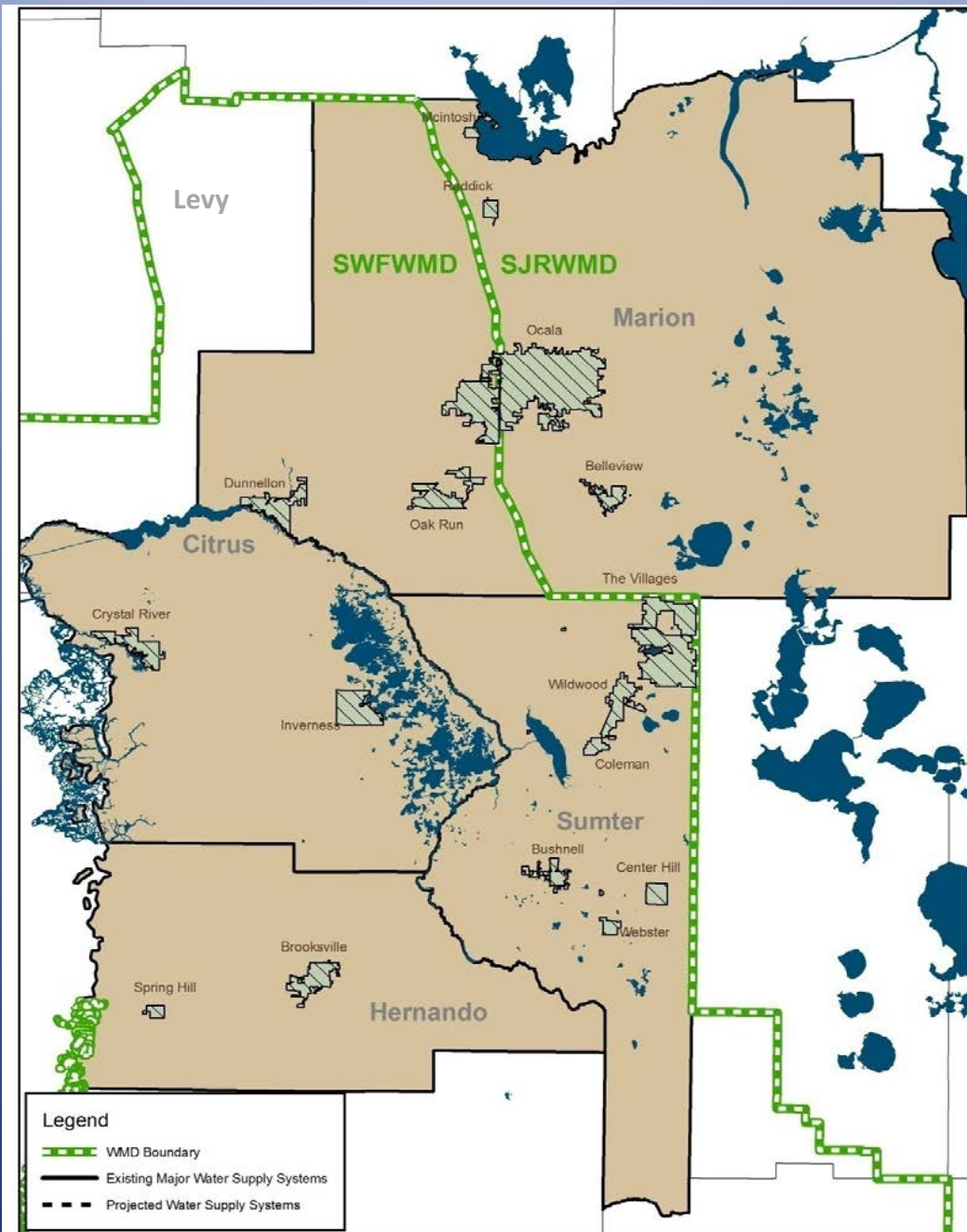
- Forum to discuss regional/state water issues
- Provide for long-range water supply planning
- Provide a presence and input to State legislative process
- Assist local governments in water supply issues

Mission Statement

- The WRWSA is a multi-county special district of the State of Florida charged with *planning for and developing* cost efficient, high quality *water supplies* for its member governments. The Authority promotes environmental stewardship through its water conservation programs and in the future will develop *alternative water sources* to augment groundwater supplies to *meet the region's long-term needs*.



Service Area



Board Representation

| County | Number of Commissioners | City Representative | Total |
|----------|-------------------------|---------------------|-------|
| Citrus | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Hernando | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Marion | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Sumter | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Total | 9 | 4 | 13 |

Funding Sources

- Local Assessments
- Charles A. Black Wellfield Revenues
- Cooperative Funding from SWFWMD and Project Partners

Local Assessments

- Provided for in Interlocal Agreement; currently 19¢ per capita
- Based on latest published BEBR population estimates
- Provides for administration of the Authority

| County | Contribution |
|----------|--------------|
| Citrus | \$26,885 |
| Hernando | \$33,596 |
| Marion | \$64,829 |
| Sumter | \$21,975 |
| Total | \$147,285 |

Charles A. Black Wellfield

- Constructed in 1988-1992
- SWFWMD grant of \$4.7 million
- New Water Supply Contract with Citrus County approved September 2016
 - Fixed payment amount to volumetric rate
 - \$0.1335 per 1,000 gallons pumped
- Projected to provide approximately \$224,000 annually

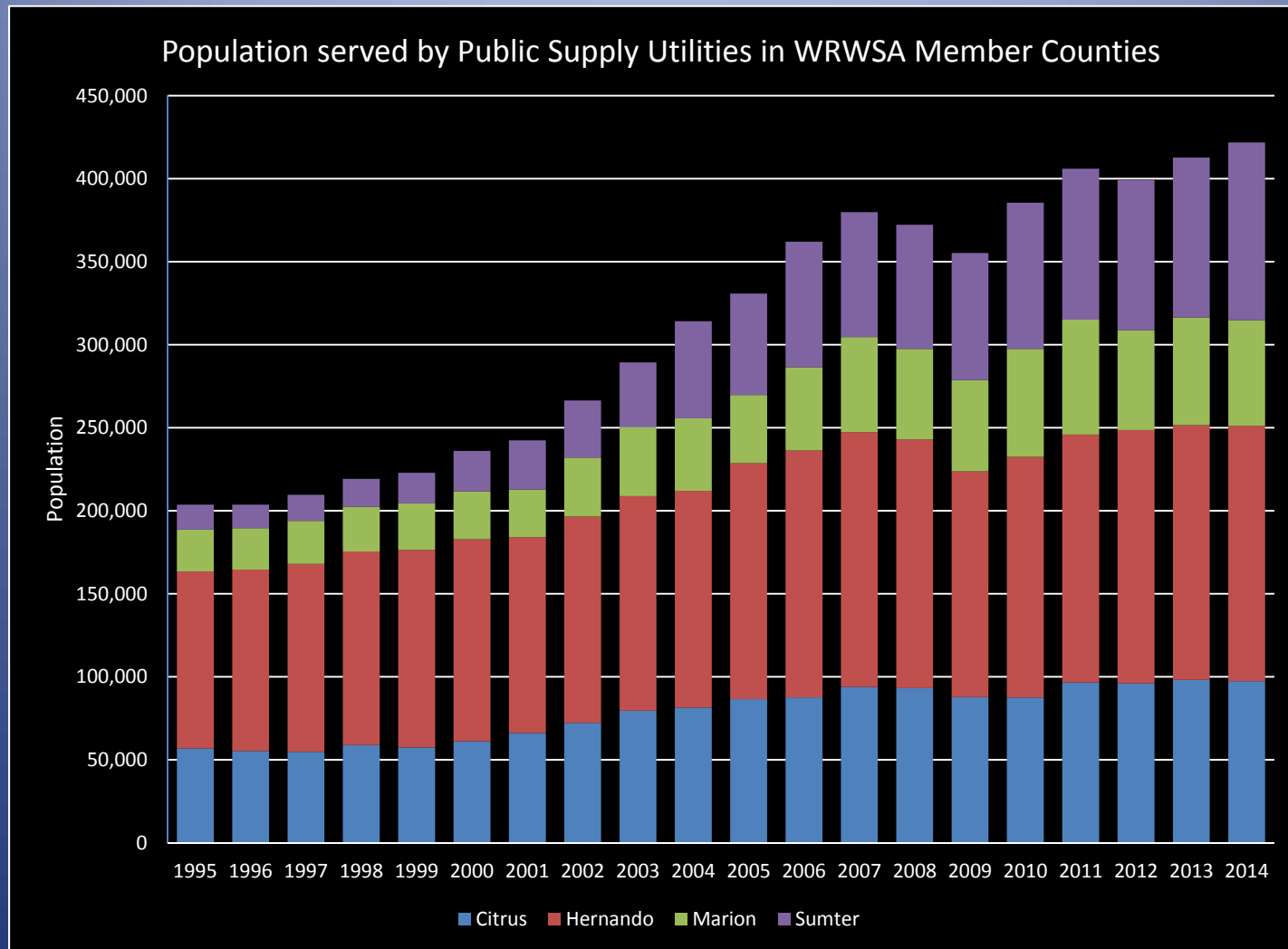


SWFWMD Cooperative Funding

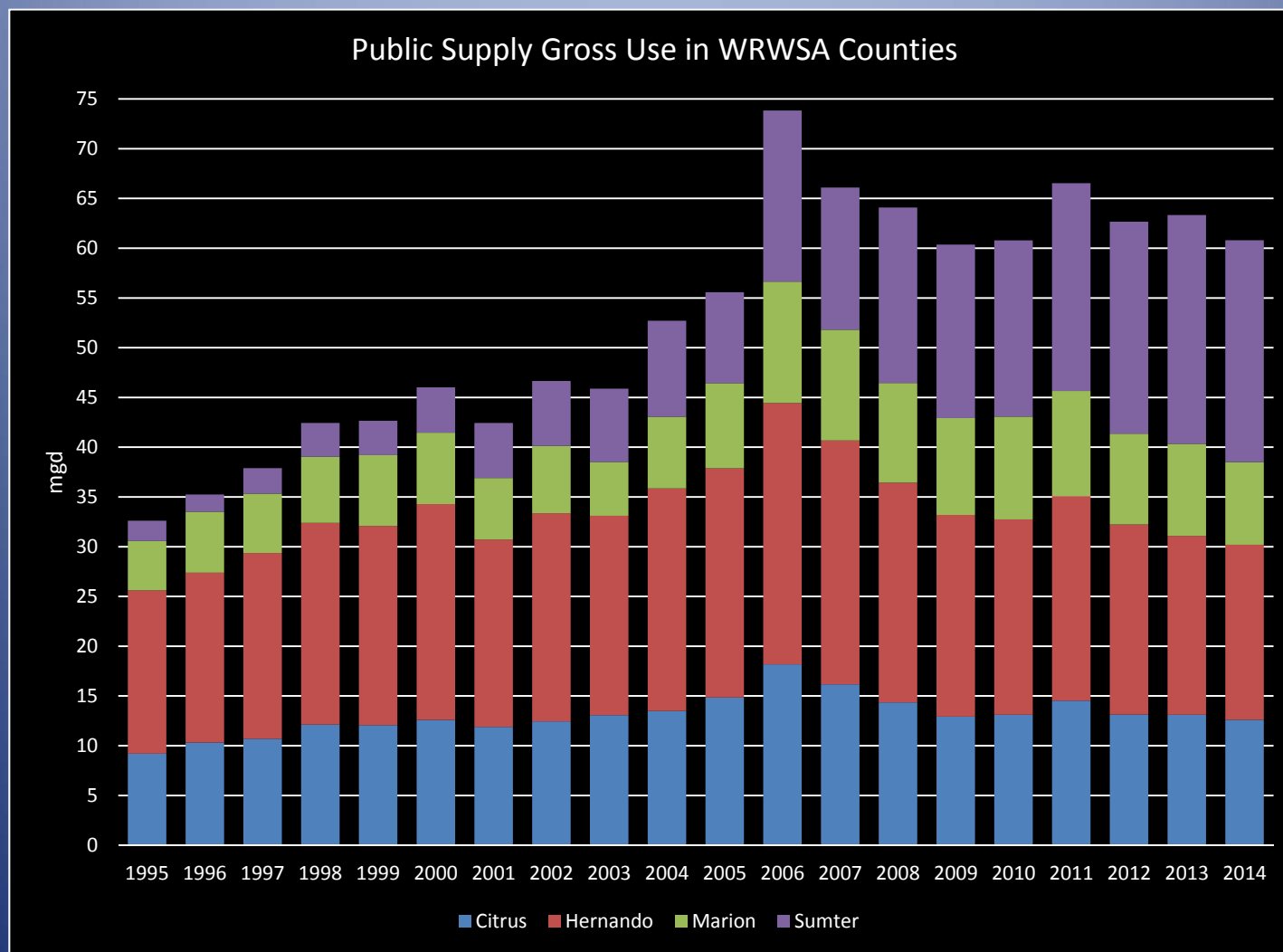
- 50% Cost Share Funding Program
- WRWSA has received funding for:
 - Wellfield Development
 - Long-Range Water Supply Plans
 - Hydrologic Investigations, Ground Water Modeling
 - Water Conservation Projects
 - \$100,000 for Phase 4 of the Irrigation System Audit Project

Water Conservation Efforts

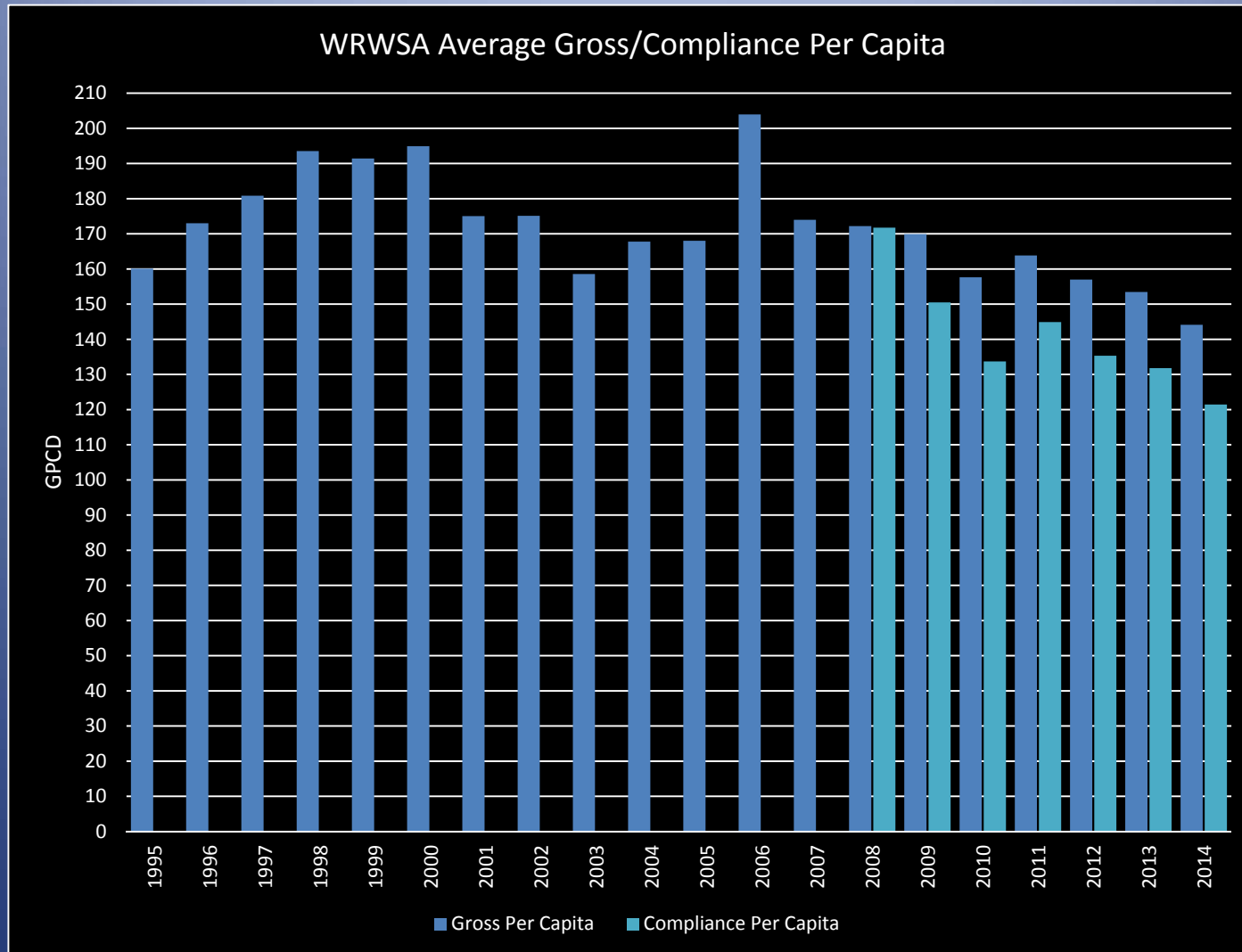
- Cooperative grants to member governments for water conservation projects.
- Co-funded Water Conservation activities in Hernando, Citrus and Marion counties and The Villages to carry out water conservation education programs.
- WRWSA and SWFWMD are co-funding a multi-year, region-wide residential irrigation audit program with Hernando, Citrus and Marion counties and The Villages.



Water Conservation Results



Water Conservation Results





**WITHLACOOCHEE
REGIONAL
WATER
SUPPLY
AUTHORITY**

Regional Water Supply Plan Update



Ensuring Water Supplies for the Future of the Region

Final
July 25, 2014

2014



**WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL
WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY**

Public Supply Demand Projections (2010-2035) (mgd)

| County | 2010 Water Demand | 2035 Water Demand | Increase in Demand |
|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Citrus | 14.7 | 20.0 | 5.3 |
| Hernando | 22.1 | 28.1 | 6.0 |
| Marion | 38.1 | 55.0 | 16.9 |
| Sumter | 20.1 | 32.9 | 12.8 |
| TOTAL | 95.0 | 136.0 | 41.0 |

Demand Projections for All Use Categories (2010-2035) (mgd)


| Use Category | 2010 Water Demand | 2035 Water Demand | Increase in Demand |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Public Supply | 95.0 | 136.0 | 41.0 |
| Domestic | 31.0 | 65.3 | 34.3 |
| Industrial Commercial | 17.7 | 22.6 | 4.8 |
| Recreational | 25.2 | 38.7 | 13.5 |
| Agriculture | 17.0 | 20.2 | 3.2 |
| TOTAL | 185.9 | 282.8 | 96.8 |


Water Source Evaluation

Potential Water Supply Availability to Meet Increased Demands (mgd)

| County | Water Conservation | Reclaimed Water | Groundwater | | Surface Water | | Seawater Desalination | Total |
|----------|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------|------------------|---------------|-----------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | | | SWFWMD | SJRWMD | Withlacoochee | Ocklawaha | | |
| Citrus | 2.8 | 1.3 | 10.7 | - | 17.8 | - | 15.0 | 47.6 |
| Hernando | 4.9 | 1.2 | 17.2 | - | - | - | - | 23.3 |
| Marion | 3.0 | 2.3 | 18.1 | 0 to 20.7 | - | 30 | - | 53.4 to 74.1 |
| Sumter | 2.3 | 0.1 | 30.3 | - | 17.8 | - | - | 50.5 |
| Total | 13.0 | 4.9 | 76.3 | 0 to 20.7 | 35.6 | 30 | 15.0 | 174.8 to 195.5 |

www.wrwsa.org






**WITHLACOOCHEE
REGIONAL
WATER
SUPPLY
AUTHORITY**

**Ensuring
Water Supplies
for the Future
of the Region**

- Home
- About Us
- Board Members
- Meetings
- Water Supply Planning
- Grant Program
- Conservation
- News Releases
- Related Links
- Archives
- Contact Us

**The Withlacoochee River:
Gateway to the Nature Coast**



**WRWSA Regional Water Supply Plan
2014 Update Completed**

The Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority Regional Water Supply Plan 2014 Update (Plan) is now available and may be viewed on this website at www.wrwsa.org/2014RWSPUpdate.htm. The Southwest Florida Water Management District (District), through its Cooperative Funding Initiative, and the WRWSA jointly funded the development of this document.

The Plan is an assessment of water demands and potential water supply sources to meet identified demands through the year 2035. Portions of the Plan will be incorporated into the District's 2015 update of the Regional Water Supply Plan for the District's Northern Planning Region.



**WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL
WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY**

Southwest Florida
Water Management District

WATERMATTERS.ORG · 1-800-423-1476



WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY

Summary:

- Continued partnership with Citrus County on the Charles A. Black Wellfield
- Regional Water Supply Planning – maximizing traditional and alternative water supplies and avoiding competition for limited groundwater supplies
- Water Conservation – meeting and surpassing the WMD's requirements
- MFLs – staying ahead of the curve with prevention strategies
- Partnering with members and the WMD's in water supply development





**WITHLACOOCHEE
REGIONAL
WATER
SUPPLY
AUTHORITY**

Questions?

www.wrwsa.org

WRWSA Local Government Grant Program

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

Since 2005, the Authority has funded an annual grants program that provides matching funds for water conservation and water supply development projects. Member governments and other utilities in the region have applied for and received cooperative grants for projects of mutual benefit. The 2017/18 grants cycle will begin with an announcement to be sent to utility directors and water conservation coordinators regarding the Authority's Local Government Grant Program. A copy of the proposed announcement is included in the Board's meeting materials as an exhibit to this item.

In order to provide for this continuing program in the upcoming 2017/18 fiscal year, and to allow staff to prepare the 2017/18 budget, staff requests the Board establish the total amount available in the fiscal year for the Program. In the recent past, the Board has established a total amount of \$130,000 and limited funding to water conservation projects. This amount would be a significant contribution toward implementing conservation in the region.

See Exhibit.

Staff Recommendation:

Board set the total allocation of funds in fiscal year 2017/18 for the Local Government Grant Program at \$130,000 and limit such grants to water conservation projects.

DRAFT

MEMORANDUM

March 1, 2017

To: Local Governments and Utility Directors in the Withlacoochee Region
From: Richard S. Owen, Executive Director, WRWSA
Re: WRWSA Funding for Water Conservation Projects

The Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (WRWSA) will accept applications for its Fiscal Year 2017-18 Local Government Grants Program starting on May 1, 2017. Applications must be received no later than June 30, 2017. This grants program is sponsored by the WRWSA to fund local water conservation projects on a matching basis. The staff will recommend to the Board that the Authority continue to accept grant applications for water conservation-related projects only. Applications and instructions will be available on the Authority web page at www.wrwsa.org by April 15, 2017. Applications will be considered by the Board at its July 19, 2017 Board meeting. Awards are scheduled to be made at the September 20, 2017 Board meeting.

If you have any questions about the grants program, please contact me at (352) 293-5955. You may also call LuAnne Stout at the Lecanto Office (352) 527-5795. If you desire to contact me by FAX, my FAX number is (352) 527-5797 and my e-mail address is "richardowen@wrwsa.org".

cc: WRWSA Board Members

Distribution List – Cities and Towns

Bruce Phillips, City of Belleview
Richard Radacky, City of Brooksville
Bruce Hickle, City of Bushnell
City of Center Hill
City of Coleman
Dave Burnell, City of Crystal River
Eddie Esch, City of Dunnellon
Eric C. Williams, City of Inverness
Town of McIntosh
Jeff Halcomb, City of Ocala
Town of Reddick
City of Webster
Gene Kornegay, City of Wildwood

Distribution List – Counties

Ken Cheek, Citrus County
Debra Burden, Citrus County Water Conservation
Gordon Onderdonk, Hernando County Utilities
Alys Brockway, Hernando County Water Conservation
Tracy Straub, Marion County
Bradley Arnold, Sumter County

Charles A. Black Wellfield Pumpage

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

Recent pumpage at the Charles A. Black wellfield has reached and, on a monthly basis, exceeded the permitted quantity (4.597 million gallons per day on an annual average basis) on its Water Use Permit issued by the Southwest Florida Water Management District. The permit is still in compliance with its permitted quantity on an average annual basis, but there is concern that if demand in its service area is not reduced, this threshold may be exceeded.

Staff will review recent pumpage, and will discuss the permit and contractual requirements.

Staff Recommendation:

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

Charles A. Black Wellfield Well #4 Pump Replacement

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

At the November 2015 meeting, the Board received a report on the need to remediate well number 7 of the Charles A. Black (CAB) wellfield. Pursuant to the Contract for Water Supply between Citrus County and the Authority, Citrus County is responsible for all operation and maintenance of the Authority's CAB wellfield. The County had been experiencing repeated problems with well number 7, one of the 7 production wells at the wellfield. The County investigated a number of options to correct this problem, including repairing the existing motor and pump, replacing the existing pump and motor with new submersible equipment, and replacing the existing submersible equipment with an in-ground pump and above-ground vertical turbine motor. The County recommended replacement of the existing submersible equipment with an above-ground vertical turbine motor. Although this was the alternative with the greatest up front cost, the long-term costs, including future down-time due to maintenance and repairs, would be minimized.

At that meeting, the Board authorized staff to issue a work order to C&D Engineering to evaluate the available options and to provide a recommendation to the Authority and Citrus County on how best to proceed. C&D Engineering confirmed the approach recommended by Citrus County, to replace the existing submersible pump and motor with a vertical lineshaft turbine pump and motor configuration. WRWSA staff informed the Board of this conclusion at its January 2016 meeting and Citrus County was authorized by staff to proceed with this option. The total cost ultimately incurred to remediate well number 7 was \$135,209.25. It was recognized at the time that this approach was setting a precedent for future pump and motor replacement.

More recently, Citrus County has been having problems with well number 4 and has informed the Authority staff of the need to proceed with a similar remediation. The anticipated costs for the replacement of well number 4 pump and motor is a not-to-exceed amount of \$85,000.

Funds for this work will come from the Authority's Renewal and Replacement Fund. This fund had a balance of \$2,141,668.10 at the end of the September 2016.

Staff Recommendation:

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

Item 13.a.

Executive Director's Report

Bills to be Paid

February 2017 provided in meeting materials.

**March 2017 to be provided at meeting
in supplemental materials.**

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

BILLS PAID
2/15/2017

| <u>Administrative Invoices</u> | <u>Invoice Number(s)</u> | <u>Invoice Date</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
|---|------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Richard S. Owen, AICP, Executive Director | 2017-01 | 2/7/2017 | \$6,834.16 |
| Larry Haag, Attorney | 32683 32684 | 2/2/2017 | \$695.00 |
| Diane Salz, Governmental Affairs / Professional Fee | #013117 | 1/31/2017 | \$3,500.00 |
| Diane Salz, Governmental Affairs / Travel | | 1/31/2017 | \$191.98 |
| C. LuAnne Stout, Administrative Assistant | 1-Jan-17 | 2/3/2017 | \$3,125.00 |
| Nick Nicholson / January Board Mtg Travel | | 1/18/2017 | \$19.58 |
| Stephen Printz / January Board Mtg Travel | | 1/18/2017 | \$27.59 |
| Karen Allen, Web Maintenance | #83 | 2/13/2017 | \$87.50 |
| Sun Trust Business Card Statement | 2.2.2017 | 2/2/2017 | \$295.54 |
| Total Administrative Invoices | | | \$14,776.35 |

| <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 | \$50,000.00 | |
| Work Order 17-01. Water Resource Associates | \$25,000.00 | \$24,499.35 | |
| FY2016-17 Water Conservation Grants Program | | | |
| Citrus County | \$36,875.00 | | |
| Hernando County | \$47,500.00 | | |
| Marion County | \$35,245.00 | | |
| Phase 3 Irrigation Program | \$3,500.00 | \$300.00 | \$1,200.00 (1) |
| Phase 4 Irrigation Program | \$200,000.00 | \$191,436.64 | \$4,735.03 (2) |
| Northern District Grndwtr Flow Model Ext (PO 2016-01) | \$12,500.00 | \$12,500.00 | |
| Total Project Invoices | \$435,620.00 | \$278,735.99 | \$5,935.03 |

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| Total Bills to be Paid | \$20,711.38 |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------|
| State Board of Administration | Transfer from SBA2 to SBA1 | \$5,935.03 |
| State Board of Administration | Transfer from SBA1 to SunTrust Bank | \$20,711.38 |

Notes:

(1) Phase 3 (N640) - Irrigation Audit Reinspections

| | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Jack Overdorff, ECO Land Design | \$300.00 | Invoice 248 |
| | \$900.00 | Invoice 252 |
| | <u>\$1,200.00</u> | |

(2) Phase 4 (N822) - Irrigation Audits

| | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Jack Overdorff, ECO Land Design | \$4,470.43 | Invoice 251 |
| Postage - CCU & The Villages | \$264.60 | Paid via cash (L. Stout) |
| | <u>\$4,735.03</u> | |

Item 13.b.

Executive Director's Report

First Quarter Financial Report

To The Governing Board
Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority
Ocala, Florida

Management is responsible for the accompanying financial statements of the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (the Authority), an Independent Special District, as of and for the three months ended December 31, 2016 in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We performed a compilation engagement in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services promulgated by the Accounting and Review Services Committee of the AICPA. We did not audit or review the financial statements nor were we required to perform any procedures to verify the accuracy or completeness of the information provided by management. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion, a conclusion, nor provide any assurance on these financial statements.

Management has elected to omit substantially all of the disclosures and the statement of cash flows as required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. If the omitted disclosures and the statement of cash flows were included in the financial statements, they might influence the user's conclusions about the Authority's financial position, results of operations, and cash flows. Accordingly, these financial statements are not designed for those who are not informed about such matters.

Supplementary Information

The budgetary comparison information is not a required part of the basic financial statements but is supplementary information. The supplementary information has been compiled from information that is the representation of management. This information was subject to our compilation engagement, however, we have not audited or reviewed the supplementary information, and, accordingly, we do not express an opinion, a conclusion, nor provide any form of assurance on such information.



February 28, 2017
Ocala, Florida

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

Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority
STATEMENT OF NET POSITION

As of December 31, 2016

ASSETS

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Cash in Bank - SunTrust | \$ 1,901.46 |
| Cash in Bank - SBA1 | 572,107.15 |
| Cash - SBA2/Citrus Rev | 955,740.46 |
| Prepaid Expense | <u>170.64</u> |
| Total Current Assets | 1,529,919.71 |
| PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENTS | |
| Equipment | 3,728.84 |
| Accum Deprec - Equipment | (2,494.49) |
| Citrus Co. Wellfield | 4,895,231.21 |
| Accum Deprec - Wellfield | <u>(3,916,188.03)</u> |
| Total Property and Equipment | <u>980,277.53</u> |
| TOTAL ASSETS | <u>\$ 2,510,197.24</u> |

LIABILITIES AND NET POSITION

| | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| CURRENT LIABILITIES | |
| A/P Special Projects | \$ 4,328.98 |
| Acct Payable - General | <u>14,208.52</u> |
| Total Current Liabilities | 18,537.50 |
| NET POSITION | |
| Net Assets | 2,489,336.11 |
| Net Income | <u>2,323.63</u> |
| Total Net Position | <u>2,491,659.74</u> |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET POSITION | <u>\$ 2,510,197.24</u> |

Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority
Statement of Revenue and Expenses
For the Period Ended December 31, 2016

| | <u>3 months ended</u> <u>December 31, 2016</u> | <u>%</u> |
|---------------------------------|---|-----------------|
| REVENUE | | |
| Citrus Co. Assessments | \$ 6,721.25 | 6.99 % |
| Hernando Co. Assessments | 8,399.00 | 8.74 % |
| Sumter Co. Assessments | 5,493.75 | 5.72 % |
| Marion County Assessment | 16,207.25 | 16.86 % |
| Interest Income - SBA Accounts | 3,393.86 | 3.53 % |
| Citrus Co Facilities Recovery | 40,896.75 | 42.55 % |
| Citrus County Wlfld Admin Recov | <u>15,000.00</u> | <u>15.61 %</u> |
| Total Revenue | 96,111.86 | 100.00 % |
| OPERATING EXPENSES | | |
| Consulting Admin Asst | 9,375.00 | 9.75 % |
| Executive Director Richard Owen | 20,000.01 | 20.81 % |
| Advertising | 416.20 | 0.43 % |
| Bank Charges | 15.00 | 0.02 % |
| Lecanto Rent | 2,047.68 | 2.13 % |
| Registration/Dues | 533.00 | 0.55 % |
| Legal - Monthly Meeting | 500.00 | 0.52 % |
| Legal - Other Services | 265.00 | 0.28 % |
| Liability Insurance | 2,410.04 | 2.51 % |
| Office Supplies | 233.86 | 0.24 % |
| Printing & Reproduction | 249.85 | 0.26 % |
| Postage | 94.00 | 0.10 % |
| Publications/Software | 19.50 | 0.02 % |
| State Fees/Assessments | 175.00 | 0.18 % |
| Web Page/Internet Services | 262.50 | 0.27 % |
| Telephone | 362.91 | 0.38 % |
| Travel | 317.20 | 0.33 % |
| Legislative Consultant | 10,500.00 | 10.92 % |
| FY15 Local Govt Water Cons Proj | 40,182.50 | 41.81 % |
| General Services Acct | 500.65 | 0.52 % |
| Phase 3 Irrigation Audit Progra | 1,500.00 | 1.56 % |
| Phase 4 Irrigation Program | <u>3,828.33</u> | <u>3.98 %</u> |
| Total Operating Expenses | 93,788.23 | 97.58 % |
| Net Income (Loss) | \$ 2,323.63 | 2.42 % |

ACCOMPANYING SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority
BUDGET TO ACTUAL
For the Period Ended December 31, 2016

| | <u>3 months ended</u> <u>December 31,</u> <u>2016 Actual</u> | <u>3 months ended</u> <u>December 31, 2016</u> <u>Budget</u> | <u>Variance</u> <u>Over/(Under)</u> <u>Budget</u> | <u>Annual</u> <u>Budget</u> | <u>Variance</u> |
|--|--|--|---|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| REVENUE | | | | | |
| Citrus Co. Assessments | \$ 6,721.25 | \$ 6,721.25 | \$ - | \$ 26,885.00 | \$ 20,163.75 |
| Hernando Co. Assessments | 8,399.00 | 8,399.00 | - | 33,596.00 | 25,197.00 |
| Sumter Co. Assessments | 5,493.75 | 5,493.75 | - | 21,975.00 | 16,481.25 |
| Marion County Assessment | 16,207.25 | 16,207.25 | - | 64,829.00 | 48,621.75 |
| Interest Income | 3,393.86 | - | 3,393.86 | - | - |
| Citrus Co Facilities Recovery | 40,896.75 | 40,896.75 | - | 163,587.00 | 122,690.25 |
| Citrus County Wlfld Admin Recov | 15,000.00 | 15,000.00 | 0.00 | 60,000.00 | 45,000.00 |
| Total Revenue | 96,111.86 | 130,655.50 | (34,543.64) | 522,622.00 | 391,966.50 |
| OPERATING EXPENSES | | | | | |
| Consulting Admin Asst | 9,375.00 | 9,375.00 | - | 37,500.00 | 28,125.00 |
| Executive Director Richard Owen | 20,000.01 | 20,000.00 | 0.01 | 80,000.00 | 60,000.00 |
| Advertising | 416.20 | 250.00 | 166.20 | 1,000.00 | 750.00 |
| Bank Charges | 15.00 | - | 15.00 | - | - |
| Lecanto Rent | 2,047.68 | 512.00 | 1,535.68 | 2,048.00 | 1,536.00 |
| Registration/Dues | 533.00 | 475.00 | 58.00 | 1,900.00 | 1,425.00 |
| Legal - Monthly Meeting | 500.00 | 1,250.00 | (750.00) | 5,000.00 | 3,750.00 |
| Legal - Other Services | 265.00 | 3,000.00 | (2,735.00) | 12,000.00 | 9,000.00 |
| Liability Insurance | 2,410.04 | 625.00 | 1,785.04 | 2,500.00 | 1,875.00 |
| Office Supplies | 233.86 | 200.00 | 33.86 | 800.00 | 600.00 |
| Printing & Reproduction | 249.85 | 500.00 | (250.15) | 2,000.00 | 1,500.00 |
| Postage | 94.00 | 200.00 | (106.00) | 800.00 | 600.00 |
| Publications/Software | 19.50 | 50.00 | (30.50) | 200.00 | 150.00 |
| State Fees/Assessments | 175.00 | 43.75 | 131.25 | 175.00 | 131.25 |
| Web Page/Internet Services | 262.50 | 500.00 | (237.50) | 2,000.00 | 1,500.00 |
| Telephone | 362.91 | 275.00 | 87.91 | 1,100.00 | 825.00 |
| Travel | 317.20 | 2,250.00 | (1,932.80) | 9,000.00 | 6,750.00 |
| Legislative Consultant | 10,500.00 | 10,500.00 | - | 42,000.00 | 31,500.00 |
| General Services Acct | 500.65 | 18,750.00 | (18,249.35) | 75,000.00 | 56,250.00 |
| FY15 LGG Water Conservation Proj | 40,182.50 | 32,500.00 | 7,682.50 | 130,000.00 | 97,500.00 |
| Phase 3 Irrigation Audit Progra | 1,500.00 | 875.00 | 625.00 | 3,500.00 | 2,625.00 |
| Phase 4 Irrigation Program | 3,828.33 | 50,000.00 | (46,171.67) | 200,000.00 | 150,000.00 |
| Total Operating Expenses | 93,788.23 | 105,321.00 | (15,361.10) | 621,284.00 | 465,963.00 |
| Increase (Decrease) in Net Position | 2,323.63 | 25,334.50 | (19,182.54) | (98,662.00) | (73,996.50) |

Water Conservation Month Resolution

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

The purpose of this item is to request the Board execute a resolution declaring April 2017 as “Water Conservation Month.” Declaring April as “Water Conservation Month” has historically been used by the Authority as a means to focus the public’s attention on the need for and benefits of conservation and to highlight the resources available to help them.

Since 1998, the state of Florida, water management districts, local governments, and water-related organizations such as the Florida Section of the American Water Works Association, have declared April as “Water Conservation Month.” April is typically the time of year when water demands increase due to generally hot and dry conditions. The concept of “Water Conservation Month” was developed by the Florida Water Wise Council, which has since evolved into the Water Efficiency Division of the Florida Section of the American Water Works Association. The Florida Water Wise Council board encouraged its members to declare “Water Conservation Month” within their own agencies and worked with Florida’s Commissioner of Agriculture to have the state make a similar declaration. Declaring April as “Water Conservation Month” will further the Authority’s and its member governments’ water conservation efforts.

The resolution for the Board’s consideration is provided in the meeting materials as an exhibit.

See Exhibit.

Staff Recommendation:

Approve and execute Resolution 2017-02 declaring April 2017 as “Water Conservation Month.”

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

WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY

RESOLUTION 2017-02

**WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
DESIGNATES APRIL 2017 AS
WATER CONSERVATION MONTH**

WHEREAS, water is a basic and essential need of every living creature; and

WHEREAS, the State of Florida, the Southwest Florida Water Management District and the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority designate April as water conservation month; and

WHEREAS, the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority urges every consumer and each citizen and business to become more aware of the need to save water, and to take appropriate measures to conserve and protect this vital natural resource by practicing water-saving measures; and

WHEREAS, the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority Board of Directors supports and encourages water conservation measures within the Withlacoochee Region; and

WHEREAS, the support of April 2017 as Florida's Water Conservation Month reinforces conservation messages and efforts put forth by the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority Board of Directors hereby proclaims April 2017 as WATER CONSERVATION MONTH in the Withlacoochee Region.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chair and Secretary of the Board of Directors are hereby authorized to affix their signatures to the Resolution on behalf of the Board.

PASSED and ADOPTED in Lecanto, Citrus County, Florida on this fifteenth day of March 2017.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, WITHLACOOCHEE
REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY

Attest:

BY Nick Nicholson, Chairman

Richard S. Owen, Executive Director

Item 13.d.

Executive Director's Report

Correspondence



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

20 NORTH MAIN STREET ♦ ROOM 263 ♦ BROOKSVILLE, FLORIDA 34601
P 352.754.4002 ♦ F 352.754.4477 ♦ W www.HernandoCounty.us

RECEIVED FEB 23 2017

February 16, 2017

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

RE: Hernando County Appointed Representatives to the WRWSA Board

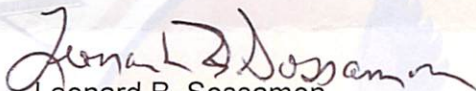
Dear Mr. Owen:

Please be advised that at its regular meeting held on January 24, 2017, the Hernando County Board of County Commissioners appointed Commissioner Nicholas "Nick" Nicholson and Commissioner Steve Champion to serve on the WRWSA Board for the year 2017.

Please forward all meeting notices and agenda information to Commissioner Nick Nicholson and Commissioner Steve Champion, Hernando County Board of County Commissioners, 20 North Main Street, Room 263, Brooksville, FL 34601, email NNicholson@hernandocounty.us and SChampion@hernandocounty.us. Additionally, please include Donna Holdrege, Administrative Assistant III, on meeting notices and information in order to assist Commissioner Nicholson and Commissioner Champion with their calendars. Ms. Holdrege's contact information is email DHoldrege@hernandocounty.us, telephone number (352) 540-6249.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,


Leonard B. Sossamon
County Administrator



January 25, 2017

Mr. Mike Arnold, Editor
Citrus County Chronicle
1624 N. Meadowcrest Blvd.
Crystal River, Florida 34429

Subject: SWFWMD's proposed Minimum Flows and Levels for Crystal River/Kings Bay is an important component of ensuring a sustainable water supply that both protects the water resources which make Florida special while also meeting the water needs of its residents.

Dear Mr. Arnold:

The Withlacoochee River Regional Water Supply Authority (WRWSA) is a multi-county water supply planning and development organization. It is comprised of Citrus, Hernando, Marion and Sumter counties and the municipalities within these counties. The WRWSA is statutorily authorized with "developing, recovering, storing, and supplying water for county or municipal purposes in such a manner as will give priority to reducing adverse environmental effects of excessive or improper withdrawals of water from concentrated areas" (373.713(1), Florida Statutes).

Minimum flows and levels (MFLs) are important to the WRWSA, its member governments and other regulated water users in the region because they help to define the availability of ground and surface water for consumptive use. They are one of the tools used by the water management districts in managing and protecting water and related natural resources. The MFL ultimately adopted by the SWFWMD for Crystal River/Kings Bay will limit the amount of ground water that can be withdrawn in the springshed. As ground water, the least expensive and most widely used source of water in the WRWSA region and in Florida, becomes more limited, more expensive alternative water supplies, such as surface water or water from the lower Floridan aquifer, will need to be developed to meet growing water needs. It is therefore critically important the water management districts utilize the best available information and scientific expertise in establishing MFLs.

We believe the SWFWMD is best equipped to establish these MFLs, specifically including the proposed MFLs for Crystal River/Kings Bay. The District has created an establishment process that uses the best available science; subjects the proposals to peer review by independent scientists; makes proposals available to stakeholders, including the public, local, state, and federal agencies/governments for review and comment, and allows multiple opportunities for the public and other stakeholders to give input prior to a decision being made by the District Governing Board.

We all want to preserve, protect and where necessary restore our water and related natural resources of the region. The springs coast is blessed with an abundance of water-related natural resources and those in the public organizations charged with serving the citizenry of the area are all keenly interested in ensuring the long-term integrity of these resources. We

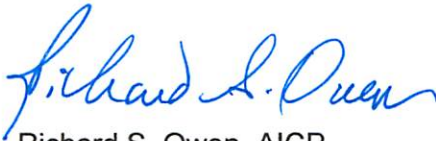
want to ensure the decisions made by the water management districts are fact-based, use the best available data and scientific analytical tools, and are conducted in an open, inclusive decision-making process. We believe the SWFWMD is exemplary in following these principles as it implements its statutory responsibility to set MFLs, including those for Crystal River/Kings Bay.

The District's proposed MFLs for Crystal River/Kings Bay protects 88% of the natural flow, allowing for up to a 12% flow reduction due to water withdrawals. Current impacts of groundwater withdrawals are estimated to reduce spring flow by only 1% to 2%. The proposed minimum flow is, therefore, being met and is also projected to be met for the next 20 years and beyond based on water demand projections. The proposed minimum flow also preserves enough warm water during cold months for several times the current number of manatees that use Kings Bay as a warm water refuge.

Efforts to protect and restore Crystal River/Kings Bay must continue to focus on the real culprits of the negative changes that have been observed. These include nitrate contamination of our ground and surface waters, and physical alterations to our water and related natural systems. Other contributing factors that we have less of an ability to control within our region, such as climate change, sea level rise and changes in long-term rainfall patterns, must be and are included in the analysis and an adaptive management approach must be taken.

The WRWSA incorporates the District's latest science, including its adopted MFLs, into our long-range water supply planning and decision making. We help to implement water conservation activities among our members, to help ensure water use is as efficient as possible and to help put off the costs of developing new water supplies to meet growing demands.

Sincerely,



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



January 25, 2017

Mr. Ron Basso
Chief Hydrogeologist
Southwest Florida Water Management District
7601 US Hwy 301
Tampa, Florida 33637-6759

Dear Mr. Basso:

I am writing to thank you for attending the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority Board of Directors January 18, 2017 meeting and participating in the Kings Bay / Crystal River Minimum Flows and Levels presentation. The presentation was both informative and engaging.

I know our Board members appreciate your sharing your expertise on this important topic. Board members asked a number of questions and your answers were very responsive.

Again, thank you for your time and effort.

Sincerely,

Richard S. Owen, AICP
Executive Director

cc: WRWSA Board of Directors



January 25, 2017

Mr. Gabe Herrick
Senior Environmental Scientist
Southwest Florida Water Management District
7601 US Hwy 301
Tampa, Florida 33637-6759

Dear Mr. Herrick:

I am writing to thank you for your Kings Bay / Crystal River Minimum Flows and Levels presentation to the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority Board of Directors at their January 18, 2017 meeting. The presentation was both informative and engaging. You did an excellent job putting this important endeavor into perspective for the Board.

I know our Board members appreciate your sharing your expertise on this important topic. Board members asked a number of questions and your answers were very responsive.

Again, thank you for your time and effort.

Sincerely,

Richard S. Owen, AICP
Executive Director

cc: WRWSA Board of Directors



February 6, 2017

The Honorable Stan McClain
Florida House of Representatives
District 23
315 Southeast 25th Avenue
Ocala, Florida 34471-2689

Dear Representative McClain:

On behalf of the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority, I wish to thank you for participating in the Authority's 40th anniversary celebration. We are honored that you could take time from your very busy schedule to attend this event. Thank you for presenting a most compelling speech underscoring the benefits of working collaboratively together to ensure a reliable drinking water source for the region and to promote the protection of our natural resources.

We are most grateful for your work on the Authority's board of directors over the years, and look forward to working with you in your role as state Legislator. We would be pleased to assist you in any way.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Nick Nicholson
Hernando County Board of County Commissioners
Chair, Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority

cc: WRWSA Board of Directors



February 6, 2017

The Honorable Wilton Simpson
The Florida Senate (District 10)
4076 Commercial Way
Spring Hill, Florida 34606

Dear Senator Simpson:

On behalf of the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority, I wish to thank you for the proclamation of support you commissioned in honor of the Authority's 40th anniversary celebration. We are honored by your show of support for the Authority, and sorry that you personally could not attend the event.

At the event, Rep. Stan McClain, Southwest Florida Water Management District Governing Board Member Mark Taylor, and other community leaders underscored the benefits of working collaboratively together to ensure a reliable drinking water source for the region and to promote the protection of our natural resources.

We are most grateful for your leadership, and look forward to working with you in years to come. Please let us know how we may assist you.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Nick Nicholson
Hernando County Board of County Commissioners
Chair, Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority

cc: WRWSA Board of Directors



January 25, 2017

Mr. Jack Sullivan
1107 Shalimar Drive
Tallahassee, Florida 32312

Dear Mr. Sullivan: *Jack*

I am writing to thank you for participating in the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority's 40th Anniversary Celebration held on January 18, 2017. It was great seeing you at the event. I appreciate your coming all the way from Tallahassee; I know it was a long drive for you.

The thoughts you shared were excellent. You really hit the high points of the Authority history. It's amazing how far the Authority has come. So much of this progress is attributable to your leadership. I greatly appreciate all the support you have given me as I have assumed the executive director position.

Again, thank you!

Sincerely,

Richard S. Owen, AICP
Executive Director

cc: WRWSA Board of Directors



January 25, 2017

Mr. Larry Haag
Haag, Friedrich & Williams, PA
452 Pleasant Grove Road
Inverness, Florida 34452

Dear Mr. Haag:

I am writing to thank you for your sponsorship of the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority's 40th Anniversary Celebration held on January 18, 2017. It was great having you and Jeanette at the event and having a brief opportunity to talk. I appreciate your continued support of the Authority.

Again, thank you for your sponsorship and for coming to the event.

Sincerely,

Richard S. Owen, AICP
Executive Director

cc: WRWSA Board of Directors



January 25, 2017

Mr. Mark White
Purvis Gray and Company
2347 SE 17th Street
Ocala, Florida 34471

Dear Mr. White:

I am writing to thank you for Purvis Gray and Company's sponsorship of the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority's 40th Anniversary Celebration held on January 18, 2017. It was great having you at the event, and I appreciate your continued support of the Authority.

Again, thank you for your sponsorship.

Sincerely,

Richard S. Owen, AICP
Executive Director

cc: WRWSA Board of Directors



January 25, 2017

Mr. Gregg Jones
Cardno
3905 Crescent Park Drive
Riverview, Florida 33578

Dear Mr. Jones:

Gregg

I am writing to thank you for Cardno's sponsorship of the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority's 40th Anniversary Celebration held on January 18, 2017. It was great seeing you at the event. I appreciate your continued support of the Authority.

Again, thank you for your sponsorship and for coming to the event.

Sincerely,

Richard S. Owen, AICP
Executive Director

cc: WRWSA Board of Directors



January 25, 2017

Ms. Terri Lowery
Jones Edmunds & Associates, Inc.
730 NE Waldo Road
Gainesville, Florida 32641

Dear Ms. Lowery: *Terri*

I am writing to thank you for Jones Edmunds' sponsorship of the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority's 40th Anniversary Celebration held on January 18, 2017. It was great seeing you at the event. I appreciate your continued support of the Authority.

Again, thank you for your sponsorship and for coming to the event.

Sincerely,

Richard S. Owen, AICP
Executive Director

cc: WRWSA Board of Directors



January 25, 2017

Mr. Peter G. Hubbell
Water Resource Associates, Inc.
4260 West Linebaugh Avenue
Tampa, Florida 33624

Dear Mr. Hubbell: *Pete*

I am writing to thank you for Water Resource Associate's sponsorship of the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority's 40th Anniversary Celebration held on January 18, 2017. It was great seeing you at the event. I appreciate your continued support of the Authority.

Again, thank you for your sponsorship and coming to the event.

Sincerely,

Richard S. Owen, AICP
Executive Director

cc: WRWSA Board of Directors



January 25, 2017

Ms. BJ Jarvis, Director
County Extension Office Services
3650 West Sovereign Path, Suite 1
Lecanto, Florida 34461

Dear Ms. Jarvis: *BT*

I am writing to thank you for allowing us to use the Citrus County Extension Service facilities for the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority's 40th Anniversary Celebration held on January 18, 2017. The facilities worked out great. I'm sorry you could not make the event, but I certainly understand how scheduling conflicts develop.

Again, thank you!

Sincerely,

Richard S. Owen, AICP
Executive Director

cc: WRWSA Board of Directors

Item 13.e.

Executive Director's Report

News Articles

Water management districts to consider North Florida Regional Water Supply

Jan 14, 2017

ALACHUA — The governing boards of the St. Johns River and Suwannee River water management districts are meeting Tuesday to jointly consider the North Florida Regional Water Supply Plan.

The plan looks at the sustainability of water supplies 20 years into the future and identifies potential future water supply sources. The boards' consideration of the plan is the culmination of a four-year public process that included 36 Stakeholder Advisory Committee meetings, more than 50 other stakeholder meetings and two public workshops.

The meeting is scheduled for 11 a.m. at Alachua City Hall, 15100 N.W. 142 Terrace in Alachua.

The meeting is open to the public and will include opportunity for public comment.

The draft plan represents the first joint planning effort between the St. Johns River and Suwannee River water management districts. The plan constitutes an evaluation of how much water is needed in year 2035 and whether the traditional sources of fresh groundwater can meet the future water demand while protecting the water resources and related natural systems, such as springs and wetlands.

Where traditional sources are not adequate, the plan identifies more than 200 million gallons per day (mgd) of water conservation, water resource development and water supply development project options to meet the 2035 projected increase in demand of 117 mgd.

The final draft plan can be viewed at <http://northfloridawater.com/watersupplyplan/draft.html>.

The Suwannee River Water Management District's headquarters are in Live Oak and serves 15 surrounding north-central Florida Counties.

The St. Johns River Water Management District, based in Palatka, serves 18 northeast and east-central Florida Counties and also has service centers in Maitland, Jacksonville and Palm Bay.

Water district best suited to set minimum flows, levels

Richard S. Owen, guest column, 1/29/17

Saturday, January 28, 2017 at 5:48 pm (Updated: January 28, 6:02 pm)

The Withlacoochee River Regional Water Supply Authority (WRWSA) is a multi-county water supply planning and development organization. It is comprised of Citrus, Hernando, Marion and Sumter counties and the municipalities within these counties. The WRWSA is statutorily authorized with “developing, recovering, storing, and supplying water for county or municipal purposes in such a manner as will give priority to reducing adverse environmental effects of excessive or improper withdrawals of water from concentrated areas” (373.713(1), Florida Statutes).



Richard S. Owen is the executive director for the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority.

Minimum flows and levels (MFLs) are important to the WRWSA, its member governments and other regulated water users in the region because they help to define the availability of ground and surface water for consumptive use. They are one of the tools used by the water management districts in managing and protecting water and related natural resources.

The MFL ultimately adopted by the SWFWMD for Crystal River/King's Bay will limit the amount of ground water that can be withdrawn in the springshed. As ground water, the least expensive and most widely used source of water in the WRWSA region and in Florida, becomes more limited, more expensive alternative water supplies, such as surface water or water from the lower Floridan aquifer, will need to be developed to meet growing water needs. It is therefore critically important the water management districts utilize the best available information and scientific expertise in establishing MFLs.

We believe the SWFWMD is best equipped to establish these MFLs, specifically including the proposed MFLs for Crystal River/King's Bay. The district has created an establishment process that uses the best available science; subjects the proposals to peer review by independent scientists; makes proposals available to stakeholders, including the public, local, state and federal agencies/governments for review and comment, and allows multiple opportunities for the public and other stakeholders to give input prior to a decision being made by the district governing board.

We all want to preserve, protect and where necessary restore our water and related natural resources of the region. The springs coast is blessed with an abundance of water-related natural resources and those in the public organizations charged with serving the citizenry of the area are all keenly interested in ensuring the long-term integrity of these resources. We want to ensure the decisions made by the

water management districts are fact-based, use the best available data and scientific analytical tools, and are conducted in an open, inclusive decision-making process.

We believe the SWFWMD is exemplary in following these principles as it implements its statutory responsibility to set MFLs, including those for Crystal River/King's Bay.

The district's proposed MFLs for Crystal River/King's Bay protects 88 percent of the natural flow, allowing for up to a 12 percent flow reduction due to water withdrawals. Current impacts of groundwater withdrawals are estimated to reduce spring flow by only 1 percent to 2 percent. The proposed minimum flow is, therefore, being met and is also projected to be met for the next 20 years and beyond based on water demand projections. The proposed minimum flow also preserves enough warm water during cold months for several times the current number of manatees that use King's Bay as a warm water refuge.

Efforts to protect and restore Crystal River/King's Bay must continue to focus on the real culprits of the negative changes that have been observed. These include nitrate contamination of our ground and surface waters, and physical alterations to our water and related natural systems.

Other contributing factors that we have less of an ability to control within our region, such as climate change, sea level rise and changes in long-term rainfall patterns, must be and are included in the analysis and an adaptive management approach must be taken.

The WRWSA incorporates the district's latest science, including its adopted MFLs, into our long-range water supply planning and decision making. We help to implement water conservation activities among our members, to help ensure water use is as efficient as possible and to help put off the costs of developing new water supplies to meet growing demands.

Richard S. Owen is the executive director for the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority.

District Declares Phase I Water Shortage Order in Portions of Lake, Marion and Sumter Counties

02/28/2017 12:00 AM EST

In Marion County, order is limited to the city of Dunellon and the area encompassed by The Villages.

The Southwest Florida Water Management District's (District) Governing Board voted today to declare a Phase I Water Shortage effective March 10 for portions of Lake, Marion and Sumter counties. Due to an Interagency Agreement with the St. Johns River Water Management District, this order in Marion County would be limited to the city of Dunellon and the area encompassed by The Villages.

The District monitors regional drought indicators. Currently, groundwater levels in Lake County are extremely abnormal and levels in Marion and Sumter counties are classified as severely abnormal. In addition, short- and long-term flows of the Withlacoochee River and 12-month and 24-month rainfall levels in all three counties are severely abnormal.

Phase I water shortage order does not change allowable watering schedules from current year-round conservation measures. The primary purpose for a Phase I water shortage is to alert the public in a specified area that additional watering restrictions could be forthcoming. The order also requires local utilities to review and implement procedures for enforcing year-round water conservation measures and water shortage restrictions, including reporting enforcement activity to the District.

For additional information on the Phase I water shortage and year-round conservation measures, please visit WaterMatters.org/Restrictions.

Phase 1 Water Shortage declared in Villages

A pond has gone dry at the intersection of Stillwater Trail and Maybank Loop in The Villages.

By Staff Report
March 1, 2017

The Southwest Florida Water Management District has declared a Phase 1 Water Shortage effective March 10 for portions of Lake, Marion and Sumter counties. Due to an Interagency Agreement with the St. Johns River Water Management District, this order in Marion County would be limited to the city of Dunnellon and the area encompassed by The Villages.

The District monitors regional drought indicators. Currently, groundwater levels in Lake County are extremely abnormal and levels in Marion and Sumter counties are classified as severely abnormal.

In addition, short- and long-term flows of the Withlacoochee River and 12-month and 24-month rainfall levels in all three counties are severely abnormal.

Phase 1 water shortage order does not change allowable watering schedules from current year-round conservation measures. The primary purpose for a Phase 1 water shortage is to alert the public in a specified area that additional watering restrictions could be forthcoming. The order also requires local utilities to review and implement procedures for enforcing year-round water conservation measures and water shortage restrictions, including reporting enforcement activity to the District.

For additional information on the Phase 1 water shortage and year-round conservation measures, visit WaterMatters.org/Restrictions.

Protesters seek to protect the Rainbow River

The Southwest Florida Water Management District held a workshop to discuss setting the Rainbow River's minimum-flow level at 5 percent. Protestors want no allowable reduction.

By Austin L. Miller

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Thursday's late-day protest in Dunnellon drew more than 300 people. It packed City Hall and stretched out the door.

Its message was clear: Do not take water from the Rainbow River.

They spoke at a public workshop conducted by the Southwest Florida Water Management District (Swiftmud), which met to discuss — and seek public input on — minimum-flow recommendations for the beloved, spring-fed Rainbow River.

Inside the auditorium, Swiftmud officials said, contrary to popular opinion, they want to protect the Rainbow River and other water bodies. The officials at the workshop — including a scientist and a hydrogeologist — took turns providing data and attempting to reassure the audience that they mean no harm.

By state law, Swiftmud is required to adopt new minimum-flow levels by July 1, and, based on its research, has recommended 5 percent for the Rainbow River. In other words, Swiftmud contends, there should be no more than a 5 percent flow reduction to maintain the river's health. Swiftmud officials said the agency is working to protect the river and not harm it.

Based on Swiftmud studies, "the recommended minimum flow for the Rainbow River System is an allowable 5 percent flow reduction or equivalently, the maintenance of the natural flow," according to a draft of the water management's detailed recommendation.

The crowd, however, was vocal about wanting no allowable water reductions. Their concerns, as one said, are observational evidence, not scientific evidence.

"The nitrates are higher than ever," said Burt Eno, a longtime river advocate.

Dennis L. Jones, who served in the Florida legislature for more than three decades and now lives in Dunnellon, said Swiftmud is "going down the wrong way." There are serious problems with the river that need to be addressed, he said.

Swiftmud officials said they applaud the people who attended the meeting, as it showed they care about their community and the river. They said the data they collect is reviewed by independent scientists. They said pumping from one water basin does not affect another, and they provided data to prove their point.

Connie Bryant, who was among the protesters, told the Star-Banner she doesn't want the state taking the water from the Rainbow River because the water would be sold to prop up new construction or water-bottling companies.

"We don't want them to draw any water from the river," she said.

Protestor Sandra Marraffino believes that water removed from the river will be sent to other communities, and the studies presented by Swiftmud are flawed and outdated. Instead of taking water from the river, Marraffino said she would like to see a recovery plan for the river and other water bodies. To accomplish that, she wants to see local politicians work together to preserve the water bodies.

Many at the meeting said they plan to attend the Governor's Board meeting on March 28.

Located in Dunnellon, the Rainbow River flows 5.7 miles south from the headsprings before joining the Withlacoochee River, which flows into the Gulf of Mexico. It is a first-magnitude spring system and the fourth largest spring-fed river in Florida. The headwaters are located within Rainbow River State Park and are designated by Florida Statute as an Outstanding Florida Spring.

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Editorial: Swiftmud fails Rainbow eye test

Quit lowering the water policy bar and the level of our water bodies and start using common sense.

Lowering the bar seems to be the standard in setting Florida water policy. The latest case in point came last week when officials for the Southwest Florida Water Management District held a public meeting in Dunnellon to discuss their new report on setting minimum flows and levels (MFLs) for the beloved Rainbow River. Their stunning finding? The river can withstand a 5 percent reduction — that is, pumping — from its current level.

It was an astounding and confounding recommendation. Swiftmud itself has officially designated the river "impaired" because of long-term decreases in water flow and increases in nitrate and other pollution. Forget about scientific tests — most of which confirm the river is in deep trouble — showing nitrate levels at six times the governmental standard or that the district's own independent peer review panel says the river is already at or below the MFL, the point at which "significant" environmental harm occurs to the river's ecosystem. It simply doesn't pass the eye test. Wetlands and their fauna are struggling to survive. Algae is blanketing the spring floor and riverbed. The water level keeps going down.

This is a river that is deemed such a treasure that it has been designated an Outstanding Florida Water and a National Natural Landmark. This is a river on which Floridians have played and lived and whose crystal clear waters have bolstered the local economy for generations. This is a river that now is impaired, and our state water managers are telling us it is OK to remove 5 percent more water to help quench the thirst of growth and development.

We understand that Florida's five water management districts have conflicting missions. On one hand, the public expects them to protect the quality and quantity of our water supply and our springs, rivers and lakes. On the other hand, politicians and business interests expect them to ensure that water is available for new development and industry whenever it is demanded, which is always.

The problem is, at some point, these competing challenges collide and something has to give. And when those who want the water want it to be cheap and easily available — now — and those interests happen to control both the purse strings and the levers of power, we end up with inexplicable policy decisions like allowing for a drawdown of 5 percent of the impaired and, we would say, imperiled Rainbow River.

The overflow crowd at Dunnellon City Hall last Thursday included scientists, veteran environmentalists and former public policy makers, and they were having none of the Swiftmud message. To try and quell the hostile crowd, the water district officials tried assuring the citizens that they were there to protect the river. The crowd did not buy it — understandably.

We have no doubt that, as the MFL report states, Swiftmud met the letter of the law in reaching its conclusion. But if water managers seriously believe they are protecting the Rainbow by allowing for its flow to be lowered even more, then we give a nod to Mr. Bumble in Dickens' "Oliver Twist," who said, "If the law supposes that, the law is a ass — a idiot."

Quit lowering the water policy bar and the level of our water bodies and start using common sense. The Rainbow and other springs and rivers in our region are slowly but steadily drying up. All water officials have to do is open their eyes. It is really that simple.

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