



WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY

Board Meeting Package

March 17, 2021
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 March 2021

Office	Board Members
Acting Chair	The Honorable Kathy Bryant
Vice Chair	The Honorable Jeff Kinnard
Treasurer	The Honorable Jeff Holcomb

Jurisdiction	Board Members
Citrus County	The Honorable Holly Davis
	The Honorable Jeff Kinnard
Hernando County	The Honorable Jeff Holcomb
	The Honorable Eliza-BETH Narverud
Marion County	The Honorable Kathy Bryant
	The Honorable Michelle Stone
	The Honorable Craig Curry
Sumter County	The Honorable Oren Miller
	The Honorable Gary Search
City of Belleview	The Honorable Gary Ernst
City of Brooksville	The Honorable David Bailey
City of Bushnell	The Honorable Dale Swain
City of Crystal River	The Honorable Ken Brown

Meeting Dates

The schedule of meetings for the 2020-2021 fiscal year are as follows:

November 18, 2020
January 20, 2021
March 17, 2021

May 19, 2021
July 21, 2021
September 15, 2021



March 8, 2021

MEMORANDUM

To: Water Supply Authority Board of Directors and Interested Parties

From: Suzannah J. Folsom, Executive Director

Subject: Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority Board of Directors Meeting

The Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority will hold a regular business meeting on **Wednesday, March 17, 2021 3:30 p.m., at the Lecanto Government Center Building, Room 166, 3600 Sovereign Path, Lecanto, FL 34461.**

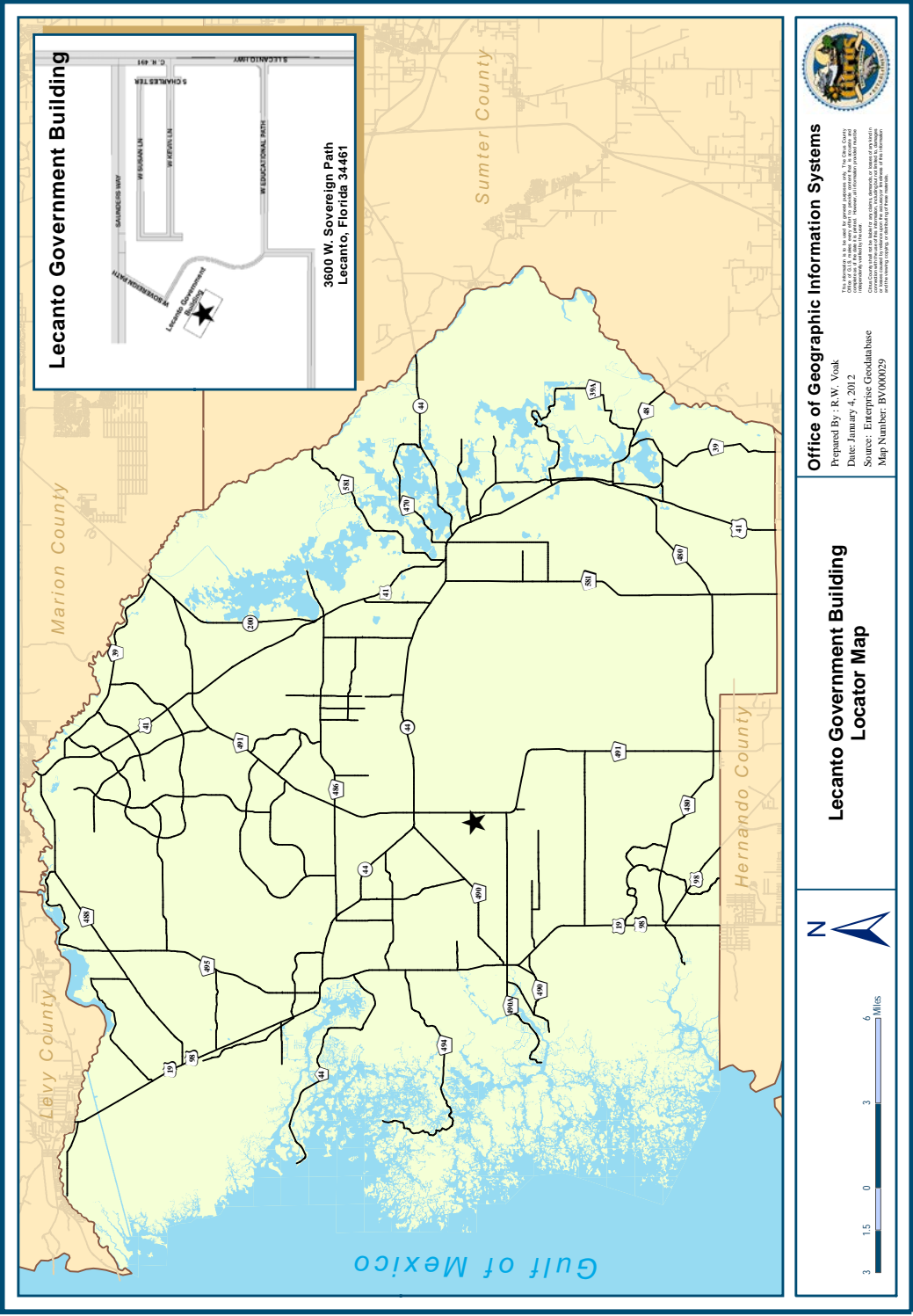
Enclosed for your review are the following items:

- Agenda
- Minutes of January 20, 2021
- Board Package*

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

Enclosures

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



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

From Brooksville:

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

From Ocala

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

From Bushnell

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

From Wildwood

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

LGB



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

A G E N D A

**March 17, 2021 -- 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.

1. **Call to Order** . . . Kathy Bryant, Chair
2. **Roll Call** . . . Suzy Folsom, WRWSA Executive Director
3. **Pledge of Allegiance** . . . Led by the Board
4. **Additions/Deletions to the Agenda** . . . Suzy Folsom, WRWSA
5. **Public Comment**
6. **Consent Agenda** . . . Kathy Bryant, Chair
 - a. **Approval of Minutes** [January 20, 2021] 9
 - b. **Bills to be Paid** [February bills included; March bills provided at the meeting] 17
 - c. **Water Conservation Month Resolution** 19
 - d. **Springs Protection Awareness Month Resolution** 21
7. **Fiscal Year 2019-20 Financial Audit** . . . Mark White, Purvis Gray & Company 23
8. **Establishment of Proposed Fiscal Year 2021-22 Budget Components** . . . Suzy Folsom, WRWSA
 - a. **Grant Funding Amount and Guidelines** 25
 - b. **FY 2021-22 Per Capita Rate** 27
9. **H2OSAV Presentation** . . . Nick Taylor, UF IFAS 29
10. **Water Management Information System Water Use Permit Notifications** . . . Frank Gargano, SWFWMD 31
11. **Legislative Report** . . . Suzy Folsom, WRWSA 33
12. **Attorney's Report** . . . Rob Batsel, WRWSA Attorney 35
13. **Executive Director's Report** . . . Suzy Folsom, WRWSA
 - a. **Water Use Permit Demand Summary** 37
 - b. **Correspondence** 41
 - c. **News Articles** 51
 - d. **Other**
14. **Other Business**
15. **Next Meeting** . . . May 19, 2021; 3:30 p.m.; Lecanto Government Building, Room 166
16. **Adjournment**

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

Item 6.a.

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes

DRAFT

WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Minutes of the Meeting January 20, 2021

TIME: 3:31 p.m.
PLACE: Lecanto Government Building
ADDRESS: 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Room 280, Lecanto, Florida 34461

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

Due to Federal COVID-19 guidelines and State of Florida Executive Order 20-193 not being extended, this meeting will be held in person. As per Florida Statutes 122-525(4), at least one-third of the voting members must be physically present to have a quorum; however, a teleconferencing option is available.

1. Call to Order

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

2. Roll Call

Ms. Suzannah Folsom, WRWSA Executive Director, called the roll and a quorum was declared present.

BOARD MEMBER PRESENT

Kathy Bryant, *Acting Chair/Treasurer*, Marion County Commissioner
David Bailey, Brooksville City Councilor
Ken Brown, Crystal River City Councilor
Holly Davis, Citrus County Commissioner
Jeff Holcomb, Hernando County Commissioner
Jeff Kinnard, Citrus County Commissioner
Oren Miller, Sumter County Commissioner
Dale Swain, Bushnell City Councilor

BOARD MEMBERS VIA TELECONFERENCE

Gary Ernst, Belleview City Commissioner
Michelle Stone, Marion County Commissioner

BOARD MEMBER(S) ABSENT

Craig Curry, Marion County Commissioner
Gary Search, Sumter County Commissioner
Beth Narverud, Hernando County Commissioner

3. Introductions and Announcements

Acting Chair Bryant welcomed newly appointed members to the Board.

WRWSA STAFF PRESENT

Suzannah J. Folsom, PE, PMP, Executive Director
Robert Batsel, General Counsel, Gilligan, Gooding, Batsel, Anderson & Phelan, P.A.
LuAnne Stout, Administrative Asst.

OTHERS PRESENT

Danny Brooks, Brooksville Interim Utilities Director
Frank Gargano, SWFWMD Govt Affairs Reg Mgr

OTHERS VIA TELECONFERENCE

Alys Brockway, Hernando County Water Res Mgr
Debra Burden, Citrus Co Water Conservation
Michon Fabio, Marion County Water Res Liaison
Jody Kirkman, Marion Co Environmental Svcs Mgr

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

5. Public Comment – Acting Chair Bryant opened public comment.

Mr. Michael Weirich, representing the TOO FAR Lake Restoration Committee, addressed the Board to provide a history to Item 8 and to speak in favor of the project.

Mr. Kinnard requested that Item 8 be considered at this time.

8. Request from the Board of County Commissioners of Citrus County, Florida Supporting the Proposed Lake Restoration Project from TOO FAR Lake Restoration Committee

Mr. Kinnard noted that, on December 15, 2020, the Board of County Commissioners of Citrus County adopted to support the TOO FAR Lake Restoration Committee Project.

In 2007, the Citrus/Hernando Waterway Restoration Council requested \$4 million from the State Legislature for the Tsala Apopka Chain of Lakes to improve fisheries habitat and recreational user access by controlling aquatic vegetation, reducing floating tussocks, and removing accumulated bottom sediments. A diagnostic survey was funded by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission in 2008 to obtain information to calculate the quantity of bottom sediment, calculate the area and volume of generalized vegetation, and analyze selected physical and chemical properties of sediments from the 15 lakes located within the chain and categorize the vegetation in the 15 lakes.

Recognizing the need to place emphasis on restoration and management the TOO FAR Restoration Committee used the information from the study to prioritize specific lakes and locations within the Tsala Apopka system for tussock harvesting and dredging projects which includes improving fisheries habitat, and improve recreational user access. The first part of the project would include the outflow canal clean out area which includes the five lakes in Inverness. The site will be harvested and a track hoe will be used to remove vegetation and muck.

An important element of this plan is the support of the Board of County Commissioners along with partnerships in this project with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD), the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the United States Army Corp of Engineers.

Mr. Frank Gargano, representing the SWFWMD, noted that he has been part of discussions with TOO FAR and noted that the SWFWMD does not fund dredging projects. He said that the FWC has jurisdiction.

Staff recommended the Board support the Proposed Lake Restoration Project from TOO FAR Lake Restoration Committee.

Following consideration, **Mr. Brown moved, seconded by Mr. Kinnard, to approve support of the Proposed Lake Restoration Project from TOO FAR Lake Restoration Committee. Motion carried unanimously.**

At Mr. Brown's suggestion, a sentence will be added to the drafted letter as to the mission support of this project. In addition to SWFWMD, letters will also be sent to Representative Ralph Massullo and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

There being no other members of the audience to address the Board, Acting Chair Bryant closed public comment.

At this time, consideration returned to the published agenda.

6. Consent Agenda

- a. **Approval of Minutes** – The November 18, 2020 draft minutes were provided in the Board's meeting materials and recommended for approval as presented.
- b. **Bills to be Paid** – Staff recommended ratification of bills for December (\$38,222.75) and approval of January (\$12,824.64).

Mr. Kinnard moved, seconded by Mr. Holcomb, to approve Consent Agenda Items 6.a. and 6.b. as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Election of Board Officers

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

Marion County Commissioner Kathy Bryant is currently the Acting Board Chair; Previous Board Chair Stephen Printz was not re-elected as a Sumter County Commissioner in November, and previous Board Vice-Chair Commissioner Carnahan is no longer representing Citrus County on this Board.

The natural succession would have Commissioner Bryant move into the Chair position, a Hernando County Commissioner nominated in the Vice Chair Position, and Sumter County Commissioner in the Treasurer Position.

Mr. Holcomb moved to nominate Ms. Bryant to serve as the Board's Chair. Mr. Kinnard seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mr. Kinnard then moved to nominate Mr. Holcomb to serve as the Board's Vice Chair. Acting Chair Bryant amended the nomination to also have Mr. Kinnard as the Board's Treasurer, and seconded the motion; it carried unanimously.

The new officers will take their respective seats 24 hours before the March 17 Board meeting.

9. Charles A. Black Wellfield

a. Renewal and Replacement Fund Annual Report

Ms. Folsom, WRWSA Executive Director, will presented this item. Citrus County has submitted to the Authority the annual report for the Charles A. Black (CAB) Wellfield Renewal and Replacement (R&R) Fund, documenting deposits and expenditures for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, the first two pages of which are included as an exhibit to this item in the Board's meeting materials.

This annual report is required by the Water Supply Contract between the WRWSA and Citrus County. Staff has reviewed this report, and has found that the report is consistent with the pertinent Contract requirements, which state in part:

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

The R&R Fund was credited with \$180,000 in deposits from Citrus County and \$18,095.63 in interest revenue. Expenditures for totaled \$19,186.89 for SCADA telemetry upgrades, replacement of a high service pump, gopher tortoise relocation and roofing repairs. The R&R Fund balance increased from \$1,652,843.28 to \$1,831,752.02.

Mr. Kinnard moved, seconded by Mr. Miller, 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, 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

b. Engineering Analysis

Ms. Folsom, WRWSA Executive Director, presented this item. The Water Supply Contract with Citrus County requires that an engineering analysis be completed of the infrastructure at the Charles A. Black Wellfield and Treatment Plants every five years. The most recent report was completed in September 2016 at a cost of \$28,590. The evaluation will examine the condition and useful life of the water supply facilities, and project expenditures for Renewal and Replacement (R&R) for the coming five-year time period. The analysis will also include the recommended amount that Citrus County should deposit monthly to maintain the R&R fund balance between \$2 million and \$3 million dollars, per the requirements of the Water Supply Contract.

The Authority has a number of consultants currently under contract to perform work on an as-needed basis. Authority staff requested a proposal from Reiss Engineering, to update and re-evaluate the previous work conducted in 2016. Staff has identified a not-to-exceed amount of \$29,870 for this work. Funds are available in the current budget in the General Services Contract line item. The proposal by Reiss Engineering and proposed Work Order are attached to this Board item and included in the Board's meeting materials.

Staff recommended approval of the Work Order to Reiss Engineering to conduct an Engineering Evaluation of the Charles A. Black Water Supply Facilities for an amount not to exceed \$29,870.

Mr. Swain moved, seconded Ms. Davis, for the Board to approve the Work Order to Reiss Engineering to conduct an Engineering Evaluation of the Charles A. Black Water Supply Facilities for an amount not to exceed \$29,870. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Legislative Report

Ms. Folsom, Executive Director, reviewed the draft WRWSA 2021 legislative issues noting items being tracked for the upcoming year. She briefly reviewed the Senate Bill 712, Drinking Water Standards.

This item was provided for information only and no Board action was required.

11. Attorney's Report

Mr. Batsel, General Counsel, welcomed new members and noted that he is available should an orientation be requested about the Authority and its history.

He noted that the Governor has rescinded the COVID executive order allowing attendance by phone to count toward meeting a quorum requirement. Members of the Board should attend in person unless there is an extreme circumstance. Participating via phone will continue to be an option for those Board Members that have extreme circumstances; however, their attendance will not count toward a quorum.

In response to Mr. Brown's question, Mr. Batsel agreed that you participate on the phone but not vote. He noted there are no concerns for today's meeting.

12. Executive Director's Report

- a. **Phase 5 and Phase 6 Irrigation System Evaluation Programs Status** – Ms. Folsom provided a status report of the two phases: Phase 5 is complete, and Phase 6 is underway.
- b. **H2OSAV Program by UF IFAS** – Ms. Folsom said the H2OSAV is an online GIS tool that uses an archive of multi-year, utility territory datasets that merge water meter, conservation program and property appraiser data for evaluating water consumption patterns and the effectiveness of individual water conservation programs.

H2OSAV also serves as a repository of measured and verified conservation program water savings that extend over multi-year timeframes, allowing for more tangible, direct comparisons of retrofit programs, construction practices and land development policies focused on water conservation. The program is part of the Program for Resource Efficient Communities (PREC) and within the Center for Land Use Efficiency (CLUE) as part of UF/IFAS Extension. H2OSAV is sponsored by the Florida Legislature in coordination with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), with additional support from the member utilities and their Water Management Districts who often provide cost-share assistance. Member Utilities include:

- Gainesville Regional Utilities (GRU), Alachua County
- Central Florida Water Initiative
- Sarasota County Utilities
- St. Johns County Utilities
- Tampa Bay Water

WRWSA is not currently a Member of H2OSAV. It would be very beneficial purchase membership to utilize this tool to help with the irrigation evaluation program. Specifically, it would be very helpful in selecting the target high use residential properties for our outreach, and to analyze the lower water usage after the irrigation evaluations are complete. Membership would include a setup fee and an annual subscription. It would also require the member utilities to submit their monthly billing data for analysis. This information would NOT be available to the public.

Ms. Folsom said she will (1) have a representative from the H2OSAV program to present at the March Board meeting; (2) determine interest from the Irrigation Evaluation Program cooperators; and (3) prepare budget and implementation plan proposal for the FY 2021-2022 Budget.

- c. **Water Use Permit Demand Summary** – Ms. Folsom said that a summary and two graphs were included in the Board's meeting materials regarding Charles A. Black Wellfield pumpage showing the permit has been exceeded. She noted that Citrus County went to once-a-week water restrictions in June which has reduced pumpage flows from the wellfield.
- d. **Correspondence** – Items provided in the meeting materials.
- e. **News Article(s)** – Two articles were included in the meeting materials, one giving more background on the TOO FAR Restoration, and one on the Lead and Copper Rule regulations
- f. **Other** – None

13. Other Business

- In response to Mr. Swain's question about flooding in the St. Johns River presented at the November Board meeting, staff will forward information.

- In response to Mr. Brown's concerns about not being notified about new water use permit applications pending within their jurisdiction, Mr. Frank Gargano (SWFWMD) said there is a permit noticing system for residents to be alerted when a permit application has been applied received. SWFWMD staff will come before the Board to review the system.
- Acting Chair Bryant welcomed new members and noted they will learn a great deal about water.

14. Next Meeting Time and Location

- Next Regular Board Meeting – March 17, 2021 at 3:30 p.m. at the Lecanto Government Building, Room 166.

15. Adjournment – Acting Chair Carnahan adjourned the meeting at 4:21 p.m.

Kathy Bryant, Chair

Suzannah J. Folsom, Executive Director

Item 6.b.

Consent Agenda

Bills to be Paid

**February bills in the meeting materials;
March bills to be provided at meeting.**

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

2/25/2021

<u>Administrative Invoices</u>	<u>Invoice Number(s)</u>	<u>Invoice Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Suzannah J. Folsom, PE, Executive Director	1081	2/2/2021	\$7,172.02
Rob Batsel, General Counsel	61831	1/31/2021	\$423.00
C. LuAnne Stout, Admin Asst (Services)	1-Jan-21	2/1/2021	\$3,125.00
Kathy Bryant (January Board Travel)	Travel Voucher	1/20/2021	\$35.49
Dale Swain (January Board Travel)	Travel Voucher	1/20/2021	\$27.59
Karen Allen (Web Maintenance)	132	2/1/2021	\$100.00
Citrus Co BoCC (Office Lease)	RLEX000867	2/1/2021	\$2,047.68
Sun Trust Business Card Statement	2.2.2021	2/2/2021	\$435.74
Total Administrative Invoices			\$13,366.52

<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	\$75,000.00	
Work Order 2021-01 INTERA Incorporated	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	
Work Order 2021-02 WRA	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	
FY19-20 Water Conservation Grants Program			
Citrus County	\$45,998.50	\$4,854.14	
Hernando County	\$48,350.00	\$23,192.61	
Marion County	\$33,095.00	\$26,896.20	\$627.49 (1)
Crystal River	\$9,090.00	\$8,889.24	\$200.76 (2)
FY20-21 Water Conservation Grants Program			
Citrus County	\$45,650.00	\$45,650.00	
Hernando County	\$48,350.00	\$48,350.00	
Marion County	\$25,847.00	\$25,847.00	
Crystal River	\$9,090.00	\$9,090.00	
Phase 5 Irrigation Program	\$145,000.00	\$30,981.27	
Phase 6 Irrigation Program	\$121,200.00	\$106,275.57	\$12,694.43 (3)
Total Project Invoices	\$649,670.50		\$13,522.68

Total Bills to be Paid	\$26,889.20
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State Board of Administration	Transfer from SBA2 to SBA1	\$13,522.68
State Board of Administration	Transfer from SBA1 to SunTrust Bank	\$26,889.20

Notes:

(1) Marion Co Water Conservation Grant	\$627.49	Invoice FY19-20 003
(2) City of Crystal River Water Conservation Grant	\$200.76	Invoice FY19-20
(3) Phase 6 (Q138) - Irrigation Audits		
Jack Overdorff, ECO Land Design	\$11,444.43	Invoice 430
C. LuAnne Stout, Admin Services	\$1,250.00	Invoice 1-Jan-Q138-2021
	<u>\$12,694.43</u>	

Item 6.c.

Water Conservation Month Resolution

Ms. Suzy Folsom, Executive Director, will present this item.

The purpose of this item is to request the Board execute a resolution declaring April 2021 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. 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 authorize the Chair to sign Resolution No. 2021-01 declaring April 2021 as “Water Conservation Month.”

WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY

RESOLUTION 2021-01

WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**DESIGNATES APRIL 2021 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 2021 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 2021 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 seventeenth day of March 2021.

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

Attest:

BY Kathy Bryant, Chair

Suzannah J. Folsom, Secretary

Springs Protection Awareness Month Resolution

Ms. Suzy Folsom, WRWSA Executive Director, will present this item.

The purpose of this item is to request the Board execute a resolution declaring April 2021 as “Springs Protection Awareness Month.” Declaring April as Spring Protection Awareness Month will allow the Authority to focus the public’s attention on protecting, maintaining and restoring where necessary the natural springs within the region. These springs are essential to the environment, economy, citizens and visitors of the region. By adopting the proposed Springs Protection Awareness Month Resolution, the Authority will demonstrate its commitment to environmental stewardship, including supporting efforts to conserve and restore the ecological balance of these spring systems.

The Authority encourages its members to continue and enhance where appropriate local efforts to protect our springs and to support the Southwest Florida Water Management District and the St. Johns River Water Management District in their efforts to conserve and protect our local springs.

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

See Exhibit

Staff Recommendation:

Approve and authorize the Chair to sign Resolution 2021-02 declaring April 2021 as “Springs Protection Awareness Month.”

WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-02

**WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
PROCLAIMS APRIL 2021 AS
“SPRINGS PROTECTION AWARENESS MONTH”**

WHEREAS, Florida’s springs are essential to the environment, economy, residents and visitors of the state; and

WHEREAS, there are five first-magnitude spring groups within the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (WRWSA) that collectively discharge more than one billion gallons of water per day; and

WHEREAS, these groups are important not only for their ecological value but also for their economic impact on the communities that call these areas home; and

WHEREAS, the WRWSA, in partnership with the various stakeholders, is committed to helping to conserve and restore the ecological balance of these spring systems, thereby supporting regional economies and quality of life.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority hereby proclaims the month of April 2021 as “SPRINGS PROTECTION AWARENESS MONTH.”

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority shall continue to contribute to an adaptive management strategy to protect the region’s springs through restoration, planning, communication and education, monitoring, research and development, regulation, conservation, and land acquisition and management.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board Chair and Secretary 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 seventeenth day of March 2021.

**WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER
SUPPLY AUTHORITY**

Attest:

By: _____
Kathy Bryant, Chair

Suzannah J. Folsom, Secretary

Fiscal Year 2019-20 Financial Audit

Mr. Mark White, Partner with Purvis Gray & Company, LLP, will present this item.

Purvis Gray and Company has prepared the annual audit of the Authority's financial statements for the Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2020.

Included as an exhibit in the Board's meeting materials is the Authority's financial position provided to Purvis Gray & Company.

See the following exhibits which are included as separate documents:

- A. March 1, 2021 letter from Purvis Gray and Company;
- B. Financial Statements and Independent Auditors' Report for Fiscal Year 2019-20.

Staff Recommendation:

Board approval of the Financial Statements and Independent Auditors' Report for Fiscal Year 2019-20, dated March 1, 2021, as presented at the meeting and submittal of this report to the Auditor General and to the Florida Department of Financial Services.

Establishment of Proposed FY 2021-22 Budget Components

Mr. Suzy Folsom, Executive Director, will present this item.

a. Grant Funding Amount and Guidelines

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 2021-22 grants cycle will begin with an announcement to be sent to utility directors and water conservation coordinators in the region regarding the Authority's Local Government Grant Program. A copy of the proposed announcement is included as an exhibit to this item.

For the current fiscal year 2020-21 budget, the Board increased the grant funding budget amount by \$10,000 to \$140,000, and clarified on the forms and website that the grant funds could be available for Water Supply and Conservation Projects. In order to provide for this continuing program in the upcoming 2021-22 fiscal year and to allow staff to prepare the 2021-22 budget, staff requests the same amount for the Grant Program.

See Exhibit

Staff Recommendation:

The Board set the total allocation of funds in fiscal year 2021-22 budget for the Local Government Grant Program at \$140,000 for water supply and conservation projects.

DRAFT

May __, 2021

MEMORANDUM

To: Local Governments and Utility Directors in the Withlacoochee Region

From: Suzannah J. Folsom, Executive Director, WRWSA

Subject: WRWSA Funding for Water Conservation and Supply Projects

The Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (WRWSA) will accept applications for its Fiscal Year 2020-21 Local Government Water Conservation Grants Program starting on May 1, 2021. Applications must be received no later than June 30, 2021. 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 5, 2021. Applications will be considered by the Board at its July 21, 2021 Board meeting. Awards are scheduled to be made at the September 15, 2021 Board meeting.

If you have any questions about the grants program, please contact me at (352) 527-5956. 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 "sfolsom@wrwsa.org".

cc: WRWSA Board Members

Distribution List:

Bruce Phillips, Belleview	Alys Brockway, Hernando Co. Water Conservation
Jon Dowler, Brooksville	Eric C. Williams, Inverness
Bruce Hickle, Bushnell	Angel Roussel, Marion County
Sue Taylor, City of Center Hill	Michon Fabio, Marion County
Ken Cheek, Citrus County	Town of McIntosh
Debra Burden, Citrus Co. Water Conservation	Sean Lanier, Ocala
Milton Hill, City of Coleman	Town of Reddick
Dave Burnell, Crystal River	Bradley Arnold, Sumter County
Eddie Esch, Dunnellon	City of Webster
Gordon Onderdonk, Hernando County	Jason McHugh, Wildwood

Item 8.b.

Establishment of Proposed FY 2021-22 Budget Components

Mr. Suzy Folsom, Executive Director, will present this item.

b. FY 2021-22 Per Capita Rate

Each year the Authority Board must approve a per capita rate for each of the member counties. The current rate of \$0.19 per capita has been in effect for eleven years, since the 2009-10 fiscal year. The per capita rate is applied to the latest county population estimates prepared by the Bureau of Economic and Business Research, which prepare the State's official population estimates.

In the coming fiscal year, a per capita rate of \$0.19 will generate a total revenue of \$161,716, an increase of \$4,934 or approximately 3.1% from the current fiscal year.

County	BEBR Population (April1, 2020)	FY 2021-2022 Assessment
Citrus	149,383	\$28,383
Hernando	192,186	\$36,546
Marion	368,135	\$69,946
Sumter	141,422	\$26,871
Total	851,126	\$161,716

Staff Recommendation:

Board approval of no change in the per capita rate of \$0.19 for preparation of the Fiscal Year 2021-22 Budget.

H₂OSAV Program by UF IFAS

Mr. Nick Taylor from IFAS will give a presentation on this item.

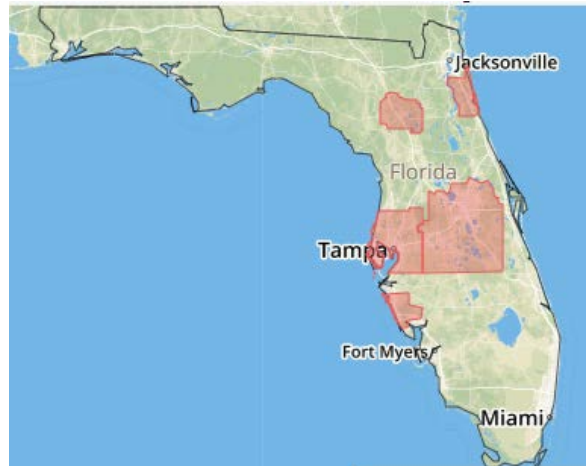
H₂OSAV is an online GIS tool that uses an archive of multi-year, utility territory datasets that merge water meter, conservation program and property appraiser data for evaluating water consumption patterns and the effectiveness of individual water conservation programs.

H₂OSAV also serves as a repository of measured and verified conservation program water savings that extend over multi-year timeframes, allowing for more tangible, direct comparisons of retrofit programs, construction practices and land development policies focused on water conservation.

The program is part of the Program for Resource Efficient Communities (PREC) and within the Center for Land Use Efficiency (CLUE) as part of UF/IFAS Extension.

H₂OSAV is sponsored by the Florida Legislature in coordination with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), with additional support from the member utilities and their Water Management Districts who often provide cost-share assistance. Member Utilities include:

- Gainesville Regional Utilities (GRU), Alachua County
- Central Florida Water Initiative
- Sarasota County Utilities
- St. Johns County Utilities
- Tampa Bay Water



WRWSA is not currently a Member of H₂OSAV. It would be very beneficial purchase membership to utilize this tool to help with the irrigation evaluation program. Specifically, it would be very helpful in selecting the target high use residential properties for our outreach, and to analyze the lower water usage after the irrigation evaluations are complete.

Membership would include a setup fee and an annual subscription. It would also require the member utilities to submit their monthly billing data for analysis. This information would NOT be available to the public.

Staff Recommendation:

Include cost for participation in the H₂OSAV program in the FY 2021-2022 Budget.

Item 10

Water Management Information System Water Use Permit Notifications

Mrs. Suzannah Folsom, WRWSA Executive Director, and Mr. Frank Gargano, SWFWMD Government Affairs Regional Manager, will present this item.

In the January 2021 WRWSA Board meeting City Council Member Ken Brown from Crystal River requested instruction for the Board Members on how to get notifications from the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) for Water Use Permit (WUP) activity.

On February 5, 2021, Suzannah Folsom received instruction from Frank Gargano, Governmental Affairs Coordinator at SWFWMD, on how to set up the notifications for WUP Renewals and new applications from the WMIS system for the four counties that are in the WRWSA service area. The following table summarizes the WUP notifications received since February 5.

Water Use Permit #	Applicant/ Permittee Name	Activity Type	Date Submitted	Avg GPD	Peak GPD	Use Type	Status
Hernando County							
6797.004	SA Williams Trust	Renewal	2/25/2021	325,900	1,290,200	Agricultural	In review
Sumter County							
11856.003	Brassboys Enterprises (c/o Clark H Smith) Miona Lake Golf Course	Renewal	2/25/2021	22,900	257,900	Landscape/ Recreation	In review
12162.002	Allen Lipps	Renewal	2/18/2021	12,300	77,640	Agricultural	In review

Mr. Gargano will give a demonstration to the Board on how to sign up for permit notifications from the WMIS system.

Staff Recommendation:

This item is for information only and no action is required. This update will be added to the Executive Director's board report for each future meeting agenda packet.

Legislative Report

Mrs. Suzannah Folsom, Executive Director, will present this item.

The 2020-2021 Legislative Regular Session is scheduled to begin March 2 and end April 30. Staff has gathered information on relevant bills that related to conservation and water supply from the 1000 Friends of Florida, and the Florida Engineering Society's Conservation and Environmental Quality Committee. The attached exhibit is a summary of the bills and their status. Staff will continue to track the status of these bills, and report on their status at the May Board Meeting.

See Exhibit

Staff Recommendation:

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

Summary of Florida State Legislative Bills that ***WRWSA is Tracking*** during Session

March 2, 2021

Bill Title	Significance	Bill	Status
WMDs Purchase of Commodities	Authorized the Water Management Districts to use contracts of other specified entities to purchase commodities and contractual services i.e. piggybacking of contracts	SB 952 - Burgess HB 169 - Maggard	In Committees
Reclaimed Water	Classification of potable reuse as Alternative Water Supply for Funding. Requirement for utilities to submit a plan to FDEP to eliminate non-beneficial surface water discharge within 5 years.	SB 64 - Albritton HB 263 - Maggard	In Committees
Regional Planning Councils	Transfer the role of regional planning from regional councils to local governments	SB 62 - Bradley	In Committees
M-CORES	Bills related to M-CORES	SB 100 – Harell SB 1364 Brodeur HB 729 Gregory SB 1590 - Ausley HB 6059 - Shoaf SB 1030 - Polsky HB 763 – Diamond	In Committees

Item 12

Attorney's Report

To be provided at meeting

Item 13.a.

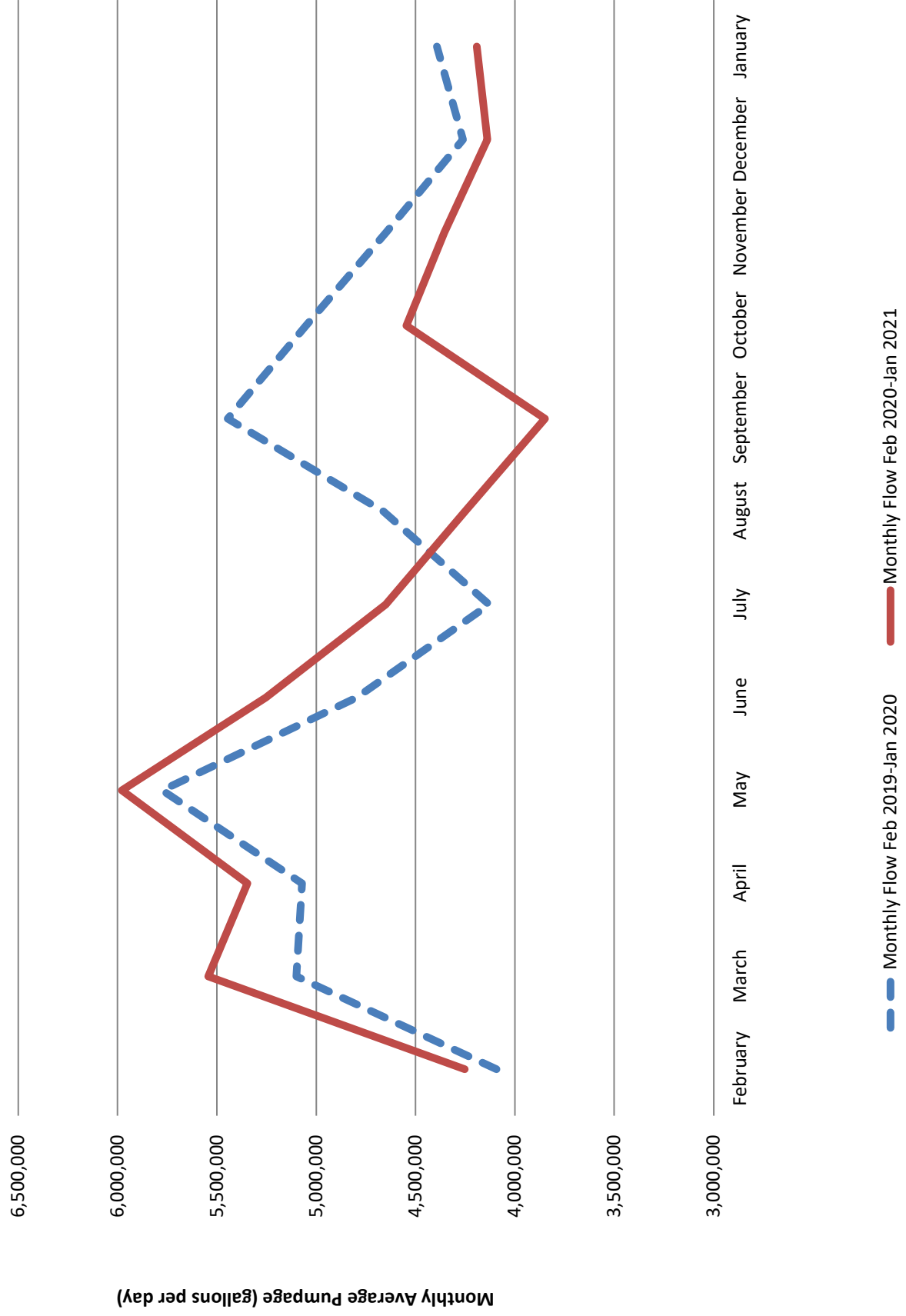
Executive Director's Report

Water Use Permit Demand Summary

Summary of Major Water Use Permits in WRWSA Service Area

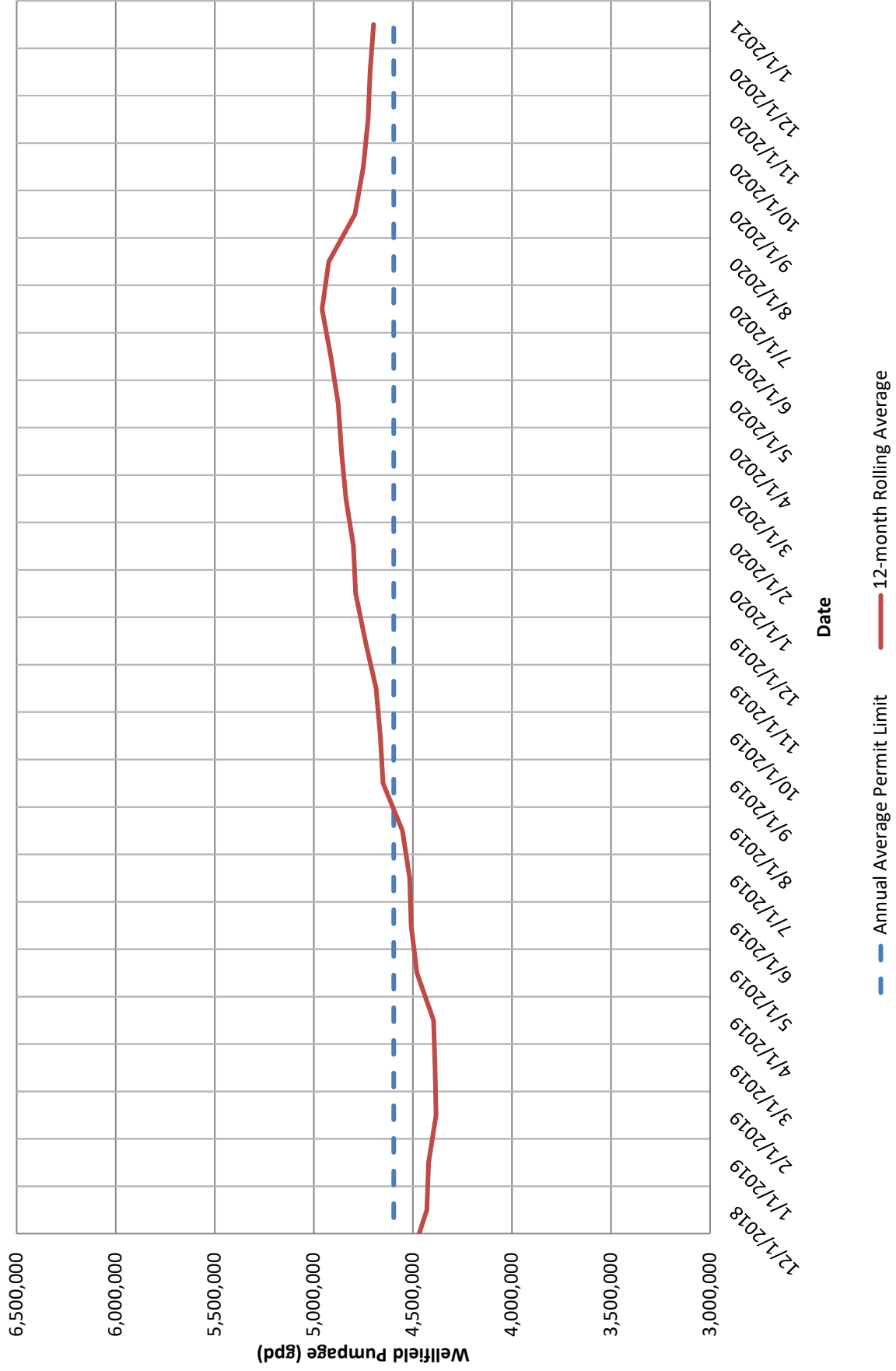
Water Use Permit #	Applicant/Permittee Name	Permit Expiration Date	Permitted Average GPD	Actual 12-Month Rolling Average GPD*	Actual 5-Year Rolling Average GPD**	Actual Use / Permit Capacity	WRWSA RWSP Projection for 2020 GPD	RWSP Accuracy for 2020 +/-
Citrus County								
207.007	City of Crystal River	3/27/2032	919,000	717,486.44	787,800.90	78.1%	740,000	3.1%
419.012	City of Inverness	1/25/2021	1,535,000	1,125,932	1,040,130	73.4%	1,120,000	-0.5%
1118.008	Floral City Water Association, Inc.	2/28/2038	395,000	331,220	342,236	83.9%	300,000	-9.4%
2842.011	Citrus County	8/25/2035	4,780,000	2,591,246	2,511,394	54.2%	2,540,000	-2.0%
4153.014	Rolling Oaks Utilities, Inc.	8/20/2038	1,573,000	1,587,303	1,569,506	100.9%	1,510,000	-4.9%
4406.008	Homosassa Special Water District	2/13/2022	960,000	822,008	800,022	85.6%	760,000	-7.5%
7121.006	Citrus County - Charles A Black	3/13/2022	4,597,000	4,698,915	4,639,479	102.2%	3,710,000	-21.0%
9791.011	Citrus County - Sugarmill Woods	11/17/2025	2,435,300	2,175,599	2,169,302	89.3%	2,290,000	5.3%
11839.008	GCP Walden Wds. One & Two, LLC, c/o Sun Communities, Inc.	4/23/2039	187,900	173,744	152,819	92.5%	140,000	-19.4%
20230.000	Ozello Water Association, Inc.	1/12/2022	509,000	N/A**	N/A	N/A	450,000	N/A
Hernando County								
5789.013	Hernando Co. BOCC, Wiscon Maintenance Compound/Attn: Landis Legg	8/26/2035	23,299,000	18,527,798	17,768,776	79.5%	18,850,000	1.7%
7627.005	City of Brooksville	2/25/2024	2,448,000	1,290,645	1,302,431	52.7%	1,120,000	-13.2%
Marion County - SWFWMD								
1156.012	Bay Laurel Community Development District	10/28/2021	2,555,000	3,630,082	3,197,727	142.1%	2,650,000	-27.0%
2999.005	Marion Utilities, Inc. Rainbow Lakes Estates	2/27/2035	126,000	98,719	98,858	78.3%	100,000	1.3%
5643.008	Utilities, Inc. of Florida - Golden Hills	2/23/2036	188,400	145,189	149,314	77.1%	160,000	10.2%
6151.013	Marion County Utilities Consolidated WUP	9/7/2021	6,661,000	5,309,694	5,070,705	79.7%	5,130,000	-3.4%
7849.005	Marion Utilities, Inc.- Woods & Meadows	4/20/2037	149,000	128,051	125,779	85.9%	140,000	9.3%
8020.008	Association of Marion Landing Owners, Inc.	9/9/2040	179,400	127,600	137,738	71.1%	160,000	25.4%
8339.008	Florida Governmental Utility Authority-Dunellon	3/21/2035	1,117,100	1,481,681	1,058,282	132.6%	910,000	-38.6%
8481.006	Marion Utilities, Inc.- Spruce Creek	6/24/2039	834,400	794,139	686,151	95.2%	690,000	-13.1%
Marion County - SJRWMD								
2993-10	Sunshine Utilities of Central Fla Inc - South Marion Regional Water System	12/17/2021	151,000	152,092	158,859	100.7%	230,000	51.2%
2995-6	Tradewinds Utilities Inc	2/27/2035	132,000	101,937	93,578	77.2%	100,000	-1.9%
3016-3	Ocala East Villas Inc	9/4/2021	126,491	94,437	94,626	74.7%	100,000	5.9%
3021-5	Rolling Greens Communities	9/13/2025	610,000	486,251	358,131	79.7%	350,000	-28.0%
3043-7	Florida Governmental Utility Authority - Ocala Oaks	1/6/2040	194,000	157,230	128,387	81.0%	170,000	8.1%
3094-4	Marion Utilities Inc - Fore Acres	3/1/2021	145,000	106,137	102,308	73.2%	110,000	3.6%
3101-5	Marion Utilities Inc - Greenfields/Indian Pines	8/13/2021	194,000	128,404	126,966	66.2%	130,000	1.2%
3130-2	Sunshine Utilities - Sunray Estates	8/23/2020	229,000	118,377	140,268	51.7%	150,000	26.7%
3137-5	City of Belleview	10/11/2036	1,022,000	903,751	888,975	88.4%	860,000	-4.8%
4578-7	Marion County Utilities Consolidated CUP	9/10/2023	6,440,000	5,812,378	5,623,689	90.3%	6,620,000	13.9%
50324-9	City of Ocala	8/7/2027	15,260,000	11,659,111	11,474,403	76.4%	11,460,000	-1.7%
Sumter County								
1368.008	Lake Panasoffkee Water Assoc Inc	8/22/2024	410,000	280,760	264,525	68.5%	290,000	3.3%
6519.01	City of Bushnell	3/29/2031	1,366,800	436,986	464,641	32.0%	555,000	27.0%
7185.006	City of Webster (last report July 2020)	8/29/2022	102,900	81,172	82,124	78.9%	160,000	97.1%
8135.013	City of Wildwood	3/31/2035	4,344,800	2,245,369	2,153,451	51.7%	3,950,000	75.9%
8193.005	City of Center Hill	9/10/2022	170,500	71,082	68,883	41.7%	150,000	111.0%
13005.011	Village Center Community Development District	1/23/2038	19,345,900	13,510,740	13,936,803	69.8%	24,400,000	80.6%
20597.000	City of Wildwood-Continental Country Club	6/17/2026	238,400	146,178	N/A	61.3%	210,000	43.7%
*12-month Rolling Average from February 2020 - January 2021								
** 5-year Rolling Average from February 2016 - January 2021								
***No flow data was available for Ozello Water Association								

Total Charles A. Black Wellfield Pumpage



Charles A. Black Wellfield

12-Month Rolling Average Wellfield Pumpage



Item 13.b.

Executive Director's Report

Correspondence



January 21, 2021

Ms. Alys Brockway
Water Resource Manager
Hernando County Utilities
15365 Cortez Boulevard
Brooksville, Florida 34613

Subject: WRWSA FY 2019-20 Water Conservation Grant

Dear Alys:

The purpose of this letter is to confirm that the Hernando County Utilities Department has met the conditions of the FY 2019-20 Local Government Water Conservation Funding Assistance Program Project Grant Agreement. The WRWSA Board, at its January 20, 2021 meeting, approved payment to Hernando County in the amount of \$25,157.39.

Should you have any questions or wish to discuss this matter, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Suzannah J. Folsom, PE, PMP
Executive Director



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Employer

Southwest Florida Water Management District

2379 Broad Street, Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899

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

WaterMatters.org

JAN 27 2021

Bartow Office

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

Sarasota Office

78 Sarasota Center Boulevard
Sarasota, Florida 34240-9770
(941) 377-3722 or
1-800-320-3503 (FL only)

Tampa Office

7601 U.S. 301 North (Fort King Highway)
Tampa, Florida 33637-6759
(813) 985-7481 or
1-800-836-0797 (FL only)

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Joel Schleicher

Vice Chair, Charlotte, Sarasota

Rebecca Smith

Secretary, Hillsborough, Pinellas

James G. Murphy

Treasurer, Polk

Ed Armstrong

Pinellas

Ashley Bell Barnett

Polk

Jack Blspham

Manatee

Roger Germann

Hillsborough

John Mitten

Hernando, Marion

Seth Weightman

Pasco

Michelle Williamson

Hillsborough

Brian J. Armstrong, P.G.

Executive Director

January 22, 2021

Suzannah Folsom

Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority

3600 W.Sovereign Path, Ste#228

Lecanto, FL 34461

Subject: Letter of Appreciation

Dear Suzannah:

The Southwest Florida Water Management District (District) wishes to express its gratitude for your participation as a member of the Public Supply Advisory Committee. As you know, the District's mission is to protect water resources, minimize flood risks and ensure the public's water needs are met. Since it was established in 1995, the advisory committees have provided valuable technical and professional input on District programs, activities and related issues that has helped to ensure the District meets its responsibilities in an effective, efficient and inclusive manner, recognizing the interests of all the key stakeholders.

Your efforts have furthered the collaboration between the District and the constituencies you represent. These public/private partnerships serve as an education extension by helping to disseminate information and by advising and assisting the District in its outreach programs.

On behalf of the District, I would like to thank you for your significant commitment and thoughtful participation to help protect Florida's water resources.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Armstrong, P.G.

Executive Director

Southwest Florida Water Management District



FEB 4 2021

123 NW Highway 19
Crystal River, FL 34428
352-795-4216 P
352-795-6245 F
www.crystalriverfl.org

January 28, 2021

Suzannah J. Folsom, Executive Director
Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority
Lecanto Government Building
3600 W. Sovereign Path, Suite 228
Lecanto, FL 34461

Re: Appointed Representative to the WRWSA Board

Dear Ms. Folsom,

During the Crystal River City Council meeting held on December 14, 2020, City Council voted to approve 2021 Council member Committee Assignments, which appointed Council member Ken Brown to represent the City of Crystal River on the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (WRWSA) Board.

Please accept this letter as confirmation that Council member Brown will serve as the City of Crystal River's representative on the WRWSA Board during the 2021 calendar year.

Sincerely,

Mia Fink, CMC
City Clerk, Crystal River

Re: WRWSA

Eric Williams <ewilliams@Inverness.gov>

Wed 1/20/2021 4:58 PM

To: kfrink@crystalriverfl.org <kfrink@crystalriverfl.org>

Cc: lstout wrwsa.org <lstout@wrwsa.org>

 1 attachments (4 KB)

image001.jpg;

Ken,

This is our understanding and please allow this email to serve as our affirmation therein.

Thanks. Eric.

Many Thanks,

Eric C. Williams, GISP

City Manager

City of Inverness

ewilliams@inverness-fl.gov

(352)726-2611 Ext. 1011

DISCLAIMER: If any records contained in this email are inaccessible due to disability, please contact the City of Inverness in order to identify a reasonable accommodation for accessibility.

From: Ken Frink <KFrink@crystalriverfl.org>

Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 at 12:53 PM

To: Eric Williams <ewilliams@Inverness.gov>

Cc: "'lstout wrwsa.org'" <lstout@wrwsa.org>

Subject: WRWSA

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Hi Eric,

At the request of one of my council members, This is to confirm that the City of Crystal River (Council Member Ken Brown) will represent our 2 Cities on the WRWSA for 2021, starting with the January 20, 2021 meeting. Please confirm.

Thanks

Ken

Ken Frink, P.E.

City Manager
City of Crystal River
123 NW Hwy 19
Crystal River, FL 34428
352-795-4216 Ext. 301
kfrink@crystalriverfl.org<mailto:kfrink@crystalriverfl.org>

[Description: crlogo-adj1.bmp]

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Jack Blispham

Manatee

Roger Germann

Hillsborough

John Mitten

Hernando, Marion

Seth Weightman

Pasco

Michelle Williamson

Hillsborough

Brian J. Armstrong, P.G.

Executive Director

February 23, 2021

Ms. Kathy Bryant, Acting Chair
Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority
3600 West Sovereign Path, Suite 228
Lecanto, Florida 34461

Subject: Supporting the Proposed Lake Restoration Project

Dear Chair Bryant:

Thank you for your January 20, 2021 letter expressing the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (WRWSA) Board of Directors' support of TOO FAR Water and Natural Resources Foundation, Inc.'s proposed lake restoration project.

The Southwest Florida Water Management District (District) and TOO FAR have developed an excellent relationship over the years. This includes a strong partnership between TOO FAR members and District staff to help educate the public on how the Tsala Apopka Chain of Lakes function and their overall importance to the region's water resources. It is through this relationship District staff are aware of TOO FAR's history with and continued interest in this project.

While the District appreciates TOO FAR and its members' interest in improving the fisheries habitat and recreational use of the Tsala Apopka Chain of Lakes, the project being proposed is not a regional approach to water supply planning and development consistent with the priorities and objectives for the District's Northern Planning Region, as set by the District's Strategic Plan. Also, the proposed project is a dredging project, a type of project the District does not normally fund.

The District encourages TOO FAR to continue to work with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) to resume all previous efforts placed toward this project and seek any agency support the FWC can offer. In addition, the District recommends TOO FAR seek regulatory guidance from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the District.

Sincerely,

Jennette Seachrist, P.E.
Resource Management Director

cc: WRWSA Board of Directors
Brian Armstrong, SWFWMD
Michael Molligan, SWFWMD
Mark Fulkerson, SWFWMD
Mark Hammer, TOO FAR Foundation
Mike Weirich, TOO FAR Lake Restoration Committee Chair
Larry Hartman, TOO FAR President

Kelly Rice, SWFWMD Governing Board Chair
Amanda Rice, SWFWMD
Cara Martin, SWFWMD
Frank Gargano, SWFWMD



January 20, 2021

The Honorable Ralph Massullo, Jr.
Florida House of Representatives
4067 North Lecanto Highway
Beverly Hills, Florida 34465-3551

Subject: Supporting the Proposed Lake Restoration Project

Dear Representative Massullo:

In 2007, the Citrus/Hernando Waterway Restoration Council requested \$4 million from the State Legislature for the Tsala Apopka Chain of Lakes to improve fisheries habitat and recreational user access by controlling aquatic vegetation, reducing floating tussocks, and removing accumulated bottom sediments.

A diagnostic survey was funded by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission in 2008 to obtain information to calculate the quantity of bottom sediment, calculate the area and volume of generalized vegetation, and analyze selected physical and chemical properties of sediments from the 15 lakes located within the chain and categorize the vegetation in the 15 lakes.

An important element of this plan is the support of the Citrus County Board of County Commissioners along with partnerships with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the Southwest Florida Water Management District, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the United States Army Corp of Engineers.

This lake restoration project will result in improved water quality and storage capacity within the lake, which is directly connected to the Withlacoochee River – a primary source that WRWSA has identified for future regional supply.

This letter is to express the WRWSA Board of Directors' support of the Proposed Lake Restoration Project from TOO FAR Lake Restoration Committee. Please contact Mr. Michael D. Weirich, Chair of the TOO FAR Water and Natural Resources Foundation, Inc., at 352-503-9080 for more information.

Sincerely,

Kathy Bryant
Acting Chair, WRWSA Board of Directors
Marion County Board of County Commissioners

cc: WRWSA Board of Directors
Mark Hammer, TOO FAR Foundation



January 20, 2021

Mr. Kelly S. Rice, Chair, Governing Board
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, Florida 34609-6899

Subject: Supporting the Proposed Lake Restoration Project

Dear Mr. Rice:

In 2007, the Citrus/Hernando Waterway Restoration Council requested \$4 million from the State Legislature for the Tsala Apopka Chain of Lakes to improve fisheries habitat and recreational user access by controlling aquatic vegetation, reducing floating tussocks, and removing accumulated bottom sediments.

A diagnostic survey was funded by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission in 2008 to obtain information to calculate the quantity of bottom sediment, calculate the area and volume of generalized vegetation, and analyze selected physical and chemical properties of sediments from the 15 lakes located within the chain and categorize the vegetation in the 15 lakes.

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Sincerely,

Kathy Bryant
Acting Chair, WRWSA Board of Directors
Marion County Board of County Commissioners

cc: WRWSA Board of Directors
Mark Hammer, TOO FAR Foundation



January 20, 2021

Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Attn: Chris Wynn, North Central Regional Director
3377 East U.S. Highway 90
Lake City, Florida 32055-8795

Subject: Supporting the Proposed Lake Restoration Project

Dear Mr. Wynn:

In 2007, the Citrus/Hernando Waterway Restoration Council requested \$4 million from the State Legislature for the Tsala Apopka Chain of Lakes to improve fisheries habitat and recreational user access by controlling aquatic vegetation, reducing floating tussocks, and removing accumulated bottom sediments.

A diagnostic survey was funded by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission in 2008 to obtain information to calculate the quantity of bottom sediment, calculate the area and volume of generalized vegetation, and analyze selected physical and chemical properties of sediments from the 15 lakes located within the chain and categorize the vegetation in the 15 lakes.

An important element of this plan is the support of the Citrus County Board of County Commissioners along with partnerships with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the Southwest Florida Water Management District, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the United States Army Corp of Engineers.

This lake restoration project will result in improved water quality and storage capacity within the lake, which is directly connected to the Withlacoochee River – a primary source that WRWSA has identified for future regional supply.

This letter is to express the WRWSA Board of Directors' support of the Proposed Lake Restoration Project from TOO FAR Lake Restoration Committee. Please contact Mr. Michael D. Weirich, Chair of the TOO FAR Water and Natural Resources Foundation, Inc., at 352-503-9080 for more information.

Sincerely,

Kathy Bryant
Acting Chair, WRWSA Board of Directors
Marion County Board of County Commissioners

cc: WRWSA Board of Directors
Mark Hammer, TOO FAR Foundation

Item 13.c.

Executive Director's Report

News Articles

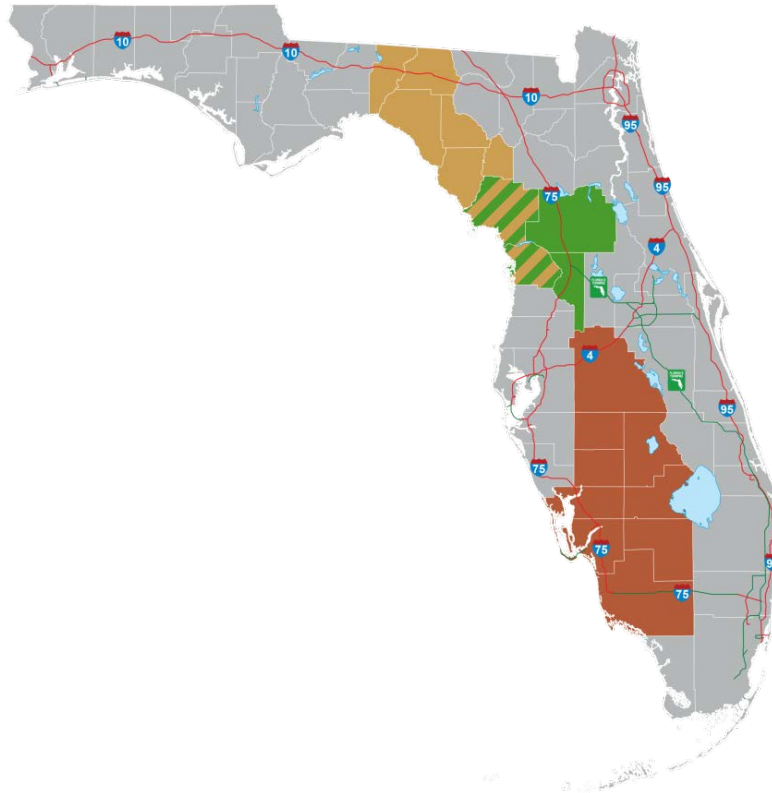
After Bad Reviews, Toll Road Plans Again Before Florida Legislators

WFSU | By [Steve Bousquet](#)

Published January 17, 2021

For much of the past year, state transportation officials heard strong opposition to plans for three major new toll roads in Florida. But the controversial projects aren't dead. They were back before the Legislature just last week.

Thousands of Floridians criticized the planned roads at dozens of task force meetings held over the past year. As a result, the task forces sent a report to the Legislature in November with no consensus on whether they should be built. But the Department of Transportation is forging ahead with the next step — environmental and economic studies.



A map of major Florida highways with highlighted sections showing where new or extended toll roads would be.

Two Democratic senators, Lori Berman of Boynton Beach and Randolph Bracy of Orlando, pressed DOT Secretary Kevin Thibault on how much public opposition the state received. But Thibault would go no further than to say a great many people “had concerns.”

“Clearly a large portion or a very significant portion...had concerns about the rural nature that they lived in or were familiar with or had been there before because they may have camped there before and were trying to protect that,” he said.

A coalition of environmental groups oppose the roads for multiple reasons. They cite the potential for more sprawl, pollution from more traffic and the impact on sea level rise. In addition, critics say the highways could threaten rivers and wetlands and the state’s endangered and shrinking panther population.

“The Florida budget does protect our priorities as a state and right now those priorities should be making sure Floridians are healthy and able to get back to work and school safety, said Jonathan Webber with Florida Conservation Voters, an environmental advocacy group.

“Throughout the 18-month task force process it was abundantly clear this was not a priority of the public either,” Webber said.

One of the three roads would extend the Suncoast Parkway from Citrus County north into Jefferson County. That county’s commission voted last month voted 4-1 to oppose the road plan.

The toll roads were a priority of the previous Senate president, Bill Galvano. But now he’s out of office and the state faces a deficit of more than \$5 billion over the next two years because of the pandemic. Tens of millions of dollars have already been spent on the road plans, but the Legislature has the power to pull the plug on the roads at any time and opponents plan to keep the pressure on lawmakers.

Septic-to-sewer project moving forward

Michael D. Bates Citrus Chronicle reporter

Feb 21, 2021

Efforts are moving forward to remove pollution-causing septic systems on local waterways and replace them with a more environmentally friendly central sewer.

Citrus County Wastewater Treatment Feasibility Analysis members met virtually last week to discuss the most cost-effective options for septic-to-sewer conversions in two watersheds identified by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) as being areas of most concern: Crystal River/Kings Bay and Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Springs.



Pictured is the Halls River Bridge in Homosassa Springs. The Halls River empties into the Homosassa River in the few miles between Homosassa Springs and the Gulf of Mexico. Discussions are underway to reduce pollution along the river via the conversion of septic tanks to sewer.

The FDEP's Basin Management Action Plans (BMAPs) determined those two springs have been affected by increased nitrogen levels and require additional protections to ensure their conservation and restoration.

The FDEP said septic tanks contribute up to 42% of the current nitrogen pollution in the district's springs, which can cause algae growth detrimental to aquatic plants and wildlife.

The FDEP is footing the bill for a wastewater feasibility study that will determine which pollution reduction or remediation method is most effective.



The Homosassa River is lined by homes on both sides of the river. The fragile ecosystem is protected but some feel more protections are necessary.

Matthew Beck Photo Editor

In spots where it would not make economic sense to install a sewer, the report would recommend homeowners upgrade their existing septic system to a more advanced one. Grants would likely be available for that purpose.

"We're looking at the impact of septic systems and where it's most cost-effective to provide sewer," said Ken Cheek, director of water resources for Citrus County. "If it's not feasible to take septic systems offline, then we would do higher-level treatment to the (existing) septic systems."

Ken Cheek, director of water resources for Citrus County, who gave a presentation at last week's meeting, said the report is about 90% completed. The purpose of the meeting was to solicit input from homeowners affected by the septic-to-sewer initiative.

Cheek said the group heard from 10-15 people, mostly homeowners during the virtual meeting.

"Conversion to sewers is not a complete answer to the environmental issues but it is a good start, especially at the headsprings of a first magnitude spring," Homosassa resident Don Hiers wrote in an email to the Chronicle.

Cheek said the next steps will be to:

- Finalize the project segment, project phase, and overall projects costs.
- Post a second online public questionnaire.
- Hold a second public meeting
- Develop a funding and financing plan based on the project cost information in the report
- Present the final report to county commissioners for approval.

The next virtual meeting of the Citrus County Wastewater Treatment Feasibility Analysis will be in March, at a time and date to be determined.