



**WITHLACOOCHEE
REGIONAL
WATER
SUPPLY
AUTHORITY**

Board Meeting Package

July 19, 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: July 7, 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, July 19, 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 May 17, 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.

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

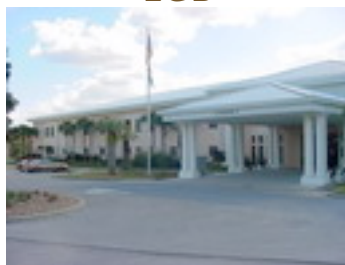
From Bushnell

- 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

**July 19, 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.

PAGE

- 1. Call to Order . . . Michelle Stone, Vice-Chair**
- 2. Roll Call . . . Richard Owen, WRWSA Executive Director**
- 3. Introductions and Announcements . . . Richard Owen, WRWSA**
- 4. Approval of Minutes . . . Michelle Stone, Vice-Chair 9**
- 5. Public Comment**
- 6. Polk Regional Water Cooperative (PRWC) Status Update . . . Gene Heath, PRWC Coordinator 15**
- 7. Charles A. Black Wellfield – Well #4 Remediation Status Update . . . Gary Loggins, Citrus County 17**
- 8. Regional Irrigation System Evaluation Project Phase 3 Final Report . . . Richard Owen, WRWSA 19**
- 9. Fiscal Year 2017-18 Grants Program Applications . . . Richard Owen, WRWSA 21**
- 10. Public Facilities Report Work Order . . . Richard Owen, WRWSA 45**
- 11. Executive Director’s Report . . . Richard Owen, WRWSA**
 - a. Bills to be Paid [June bill summary included in packet; July bills provided at the meeting] 49**
 - b. 2017-2018 Regulatory Plan 51**
 - c. Correspondence 55**
 - d. News Articles 57**
 - e. Other**
- 12. Legislative Report . . . Diane Salz, WRWSA Governmental Affairs**
- 13. Attorney’s Report . . . Larry Haag, WRWSA Attorney**
- 14. Other Business**
- 15. Next Meeting . . . Michelle Stone, Vice-Chair**
 - Consider Canceling August 16, 2017 Meeting**
 - Next Meeting: September 20, 2017; 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 4

Approval of Minutes

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

**Minutes of the Meeting
May 17, 2017**

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

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

1. Call to Order

Chairman Nicholson called the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (WRWSA) Board of Directors meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. and requested a roll call.

2. Roll Call

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

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Nick Nicholson, *Chairman*, Hernando County
Commissioner
Michelle Stone, *Vice Chairman*, Marion County
Commissioner
Stephen Printz, *Treasurer*, Sumter County
Commissioner
Al Butler, Sumter County Commissioner
Jeff Kinnard, Citrus County Commissioner
Dale Swain, Bushnell City Councilor

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Kathy Bryant, Marion County Commissioner
Scott Carnahan, Citrus County Commissioner
Steve Champion, Hernando Co. Commissioner
William Kemerer, Brooksville City Councilor
Ron Livsey, Belleview City Commissioner
Ken Brown, Crystal River City Councilor
Carl Zalak, Marion County Commissioner

ALTERNATE MEMBER(S) PRESENT

Richard Radacky, City of Brooksville Public Works

3. Introductions and Announcements

- *Introductions.* Mr. Owen recognized Authority staff present for this meeting. Audience members introduced themselves for the Board's information.
- *Announcements* – None

WRWSA STAFF PRESENT

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

LOCAL GOVERNMENT STAFF PRESENT

Alys Brockway, Hernando County Water Resources Manager
Debra Burden, Citrus County Water Conservation Manager
Kim Dinkins, Marion County Office of the County Engineer
Lois Sorensen, SWFWMD Demand Mgt. Program Manager

4. Approval of Minutes

A copy of the March 15, 2017 minutes was provided in the Board's meeting materials. Following consideration, **Mr. Printz moved to approve the minutes for the March 15, 2017 meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Swain and carried unanimously.**

5. Public Comment – No speaker cards were submitted.

6. Hydrologic Conditions Report

Ms. Lois Ann Sorensen, Demand Management Program Manager, Southwest Florida Water Management District, provided the Board with a review of recent past and projected hydrologic conditions, and the status of water shortage orders in the region. Discussion ensued regarding Tampa Bay Water desalination plant, wild fires, water restrictions, and streamflow.

This was an information item only and no action required.

7. Fiscal Year 2017-18 Budget Approval

Mr. Richard Owen, WRWSA Executive Director, presented this item. Included as Exhibits to this item were the proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2017-18 budget and the Authority's FY 2017-18 work program. Major highlights included:

- Administrative expenditures of \$214,005, up slightly from the current year by \$1,221 or 0.6%. There is no change in contracted staff compensation.
- Water Resource Development Project expenditures of \$310,020, down from the current year by \$98,480 or 24.1%, primarily due to the reduction in costs for the continuation of Phase 4 of the Irrigation Audit Program.
- Total proposed expenditures amount to \$524,025, representing a decrease from the current year in an amount of \$97,259, or 15.7%.
- Administrative Reserves at the end of the fiscal year are budgeted at \$500,377, up from the current year by \$96,690 or 24%.
- Water Resource Development Reserves at the end of the fiscal year are budgeted at \$856,528, down from the current year by \$32,239 or 3.6%.
- Combined Administrative and Water Resource Development Reserves at the end of the fiscal year total \$1,356,905, representing an increase of \$64,451 or 5%.

Mr. Owen described the revenues, expenditures and fund balances.

Mr. Owen read into the record Resolution 2017-01, Adoption of Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2017-18. Staff recommended Board approval of the resolution and final budget as presented.

Discussion ensued regarding irrigation program customer savings and local utilities participation, and publishing water savings; limited Authority staffing; support of SWFWMD best science and data available, such as for MFLs; and Authority advocacy on issues to ensure inclusion in final product.

Following consideration, **Mr. Butler moved, seconded by Ms. Stone, to approve the FY 2017-18 final budget by adoption of Resolution 2017-01, as shown in the exhibit, said budget including expenditures in the amount of \$524,025, budgeted reserves in the amount of \$1,356,905, and a combined total amount of \$1,880,930, as presented in Exhibit A. The motion carried unanimously.**

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

8. As-Needed Technical and Engineering Services Request for Qualifications

Mr. Richard Owen, WRWSA Executive Director, presented this item. At its November 2012 meeting, the Authority Board approved entering into contracts with eight firms for the purposes of as-needed technical and engineering services. The Executive Director subsequently entered into such agreements with seven firms. One firm approved by the Board did not return an executed agreement to the Authority, so only seven contracts were executed.

Work under each contract has been authorized through the issuance of a work order, with each work order being approved by the Board. These agreements were for an initial term of three years, ending in November 2015, with the ability to extend each agreement twice by a period of one year. The Board has previously approved these contract extensions and the contracts are now due to expire at the end of this fiscal year.

The purpose of this item is to obtain Board authorization to issue a Request for Qualifications for As-Needed Engineering and Technical Support Services. If approved, staff will return to the Board at its September 2017 meeting with recommendations for entering into contracts with responsive, qualified firms. As an exhibit to this item was the proposed Request for Qualifications which was included in the Board's meeting materials.

Following consideration, **Mr. Printz moved, seconded by Ms. Stone, authorize staff issuing the Request for Qualifications for as-needed technical and engineering services, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.**

9. Status Report on Phases 3 and 4 of the Irrigation Audit Program

Mr. Richard Owen, WRWSA Executive Director, presented a status report on Phases 3 and 4 of the Irrigation Audit Program. Both phases are on schedule, with Phase 3 scheduled for completion later this year. In Phase 4, the most audits performed to-date have been in Citrus County, with additional audits planned in Hernando and Marion counties and The Villages.

This was an information item only and no action required.

10. Executive Director's Report

- a. **Bills to be Paid** – Mr. Owen noted that April's bills paid were included in the Board's meeting materials and copies of May 2017 bills to be paid were provided to Board members at their seats.

Mr. Owen presented the April 2017 bills and requested Board concurrence of payment in the amount of \$18,399.13. **Mr. Butler moved to ratify payment of the April 2017 bills in the total amount of \$18,399.13. The motion was seconded by Mr. Printz and carried unanimously.**

Mr. Owen presented the May 2017 bills and requested approval of payment totaling \$33,969.57. Following consideration, **Mr. Printz moved for payment of the May 2017 bills in the amount of \$33,969.57, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kinnard and carried unanimously.**

- b. **Second Quarter Financial Report** – Mr. Owen mentioned that the Charles A. Black wellfield revenue is higher than budgeted due to high pumping at this peak time of year and addressed a question asked regarding standard language in the management letter.

Following consideration, **Mr. Printz moved, seconded by Mr. Kinnard, for the Board to accept the Second Quarter Financial Report from Purvis Gray & Company, as presented. The 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 and at their seats.
- e. **Florida Environmental Permitting Summer School** – Mr. Owen requested approval for Ms. Diane Salz to attend this annual event in Ft. Lauderdale at an estimated cost of \$1,600 for registration and travel. **Mr. Printz moved, seconded by Mr. Swain, to approve Ms. Salz's attendance at an estimated cost of \$1,600. The motion carried unanimously.**
- f. **Other**
- Mr. Owen provided an update of Authority activities to the SWFWMD Governing Board at its meeting in March.
 - Mr. Owen participated in the annual American Water Works Association best drinking water contest held at Three Sister Springs in Crystal River. He noted that the City of Wildwood won the taste contest.

- Mr. Owen said the Authority supported Hernando County's Water Guardians workshop held on May 6. Ms. Alys Brockway provided an update of the program and its activities.

11. 2017 Legislative Session Final Report

Ms. Diane Salz, WRWSA Governmental Affairs, noted that year-round advocacy is provided for legislative and executive branch initiatives on behalf of the Authority and its member governments, to protect the Authority's interests, such as state and regional water supply planning, permitting and funding programs including "local sources first," the Water Protection and Sustainability Program and subsequent water resource and supply funding programs. Each year prior to the Legislative Session, the Authority Board reviews and approves policy direction to guide its advocacy efforts. It is anticipated that the Authority will remain fully engaged in assisting the 2018 Legislature and the Executive Branch to implement and refine recent legislation that significantly revamped the state's comprehensive water policies and funding programs, as well as engage as appropriate on new legislation and policy initiatives that would affect the Authority and water supplies of our member governments.

Ms. Salz reviewed projects in the Authority's region receiving funding and congratulated Board members for their successful engagement in the legislative process; the Governor has yet to sign the budget.

This was an information item only and no action required.

12. Attorney's Report -- Mr. Larry Haag, WRWSA Attorney.

- Certification of Rules Pursuant to Section 120.695, Florida Statutes – Mr. Haag noted that Exhibit A contains the correspondence from Kenneth J. Plante, Coordinator, Joint Administrative Procedures Committee, regarding legislation passed during the 2016 legislative session and new rule certification requirements. The Authority is subject to these new statutory requirements. Exhibit B contains the Rule Certification recommended by staff. Both exhibits were included in the Board's meeting materials. Following consideration, **Mr. Butler moved, seconded by Mr. Printz, for approval of and authorization for the Chairman to execute the Certification of Rules 2017 (120.695(2) Florida Statutes), as contained in Exhibit B and as presented. The motion carried unanimously.**
- Mr. Haag commented that the Authority's mission is focused on water supply planning and development to ensure its member counties and cities have adequate water for public utilities. With the ongoing issues of MFLs and considering ground water, the Board's members wear two hats environmentally and proprietary.

13. Other Business – None

14. Next Meeting Time and Location

- **Chairman Nicholson called the question to cancel the June 21, 2017 monthly meeting. Ms. Stone moved, seconded by Mr. Printz, to cancel the meeting, and it carried unanimously.**
- The next monthly meeting is scheduled for July 19, 2017 at 3:30 p.m. at the Lecanto Government Building, Room 166.

15. Adjournment

Chairman Nicholson adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Nick Nicholson, Vice-Chairman

Richard S. Owen, Executive Director

Item 6

Polk Regional Water Cooperative Status Report

Mr. Gene Heath, PRWC Coordinator, will present this item.

This presentation is a status update of the Polk Regional Water Cooperative (PRWC) and will include why it was formed, key provisions of the interlocal agreement (who are the members, functions, etc.), what projects are being pursued, what the future holds, etc. It will also provide information about how other local governments are addressing water supply on a regional basis.

Staff Recommendation:

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

Item 7

Charles A. Black Wellfield – Well #4 Remediation Status Report

Mr. Gary Loggins, Utility Operations Manager, Citrus County, will provide the Board with an update on the remediation of well number 4 at the Charles A. Black wellfield. Funds for the remediation will come from the Authority's Renewal and Replacement fund.

Staff Recommendation:

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

Regional Irrigation System Evaluation Project Phase 3 Final Report

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

Phase 3 of the Authority's Regional Irrigation System Evaluation Program began in October 2014 as part of the Authority's ongoing water conservation initiative. Phase 3 of the Irrigation Audit Program was funded by and completed in cooperation with the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD), and Citrus, Hernando, and Marion counties. Phase 3 has been completed on time and within budget.

Staff will provide a summary of the major findings of the Phase III effort. The Phase 3 final report has been provided as a separate document accompanying the Board's meeting materials.

If approved by the Board, the Final Report will be submitted to the SWFWMD in accordance with the Cooperative Funding Agreement.

Staff Recommendation:

- 1) Accept the Regional Irrigation System Evaluation Program Phase 3 Final Report, dated July 19, 2017; and
- 2) Authorize staff to submit the Final Report to the SWFWMD.

Fiscal Year 2017-18 Grants Program Applications

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

At the Authority's March 15, 2017 meeting, the Board set the total allocation of funds in Fiscal Year 2017-18 for the Local Government Grant Program at \$130,000 and limited such grants to water conservation projects. The Authority has received three grant applications, one each from Citrus, Hernando and Marion counties. A summary of the applications is presented below while copies of the applications are included as exhibits in the Board's meeting materials.

The three applications received reflect continuations of member government proven effective water conservation programs. Staff analysis of the applications indicates these water conservation programs continue to meet the Authority's grant program requirements. It should be noted that the application from Marion County did not contain the required resolution of support and commitment of matching funds from the County Commission. Authority staff discussed this with Marion County staff and encouraged submission of the application absent this resolution, with the understanding the County staff would seek Commission approval at its July 18, 2017 regularly scheduled meeting. A copy of this resolution, if available, will be provided at the Authority Board meeting.

Representatives from Citrus, Hernando and Marion counties have been invited to attend the meeting and answer any Board questions regarding their respective water conservation grant applications.

See Exhibits – Citrus, Hernando and Marion Grant Applications.

Staff Recommendation:

- 1) Approval of the grants in the amounts shown below, and
- 2) Authorization for the Chair to execute the grant Agreements.

2017-18 WRWSA Grant Applications and Staff Recommendations

Applicant / Program	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
Citrus County	\$42,627.50	\$42,627.50
Hernando County	\$48,350.00	\$48,350.00
Marion County	\$35,245.00	\$35,245.00
Total	\$126,222.25	\$126,222.25



**Citrus County Board of County Commissioners
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**

3600 W. Sovereign Path, Suite 202

Lecanto, Florida 34461

Phone: (352) 527-7669 Fax: (352) 527-5429

www.citrusbocc.com

June 30, 2017

WCL 2017-02

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

Re: Local Government Water Supply Funding Assistance Program

Dear Mr. Owen,

Citrus County is seeking funding assistance through the FY 2017-18 WRWSA Local Government Water Supply Funding Assistance Program. Per the submittal requirements, enclosed are Citrus County's application, Resolution No. 2017-087 indicating that funds are budgeted, and a summary of project tasks and associated costs. Citrus County intends to expend all FY 2017-18 funds by September 30, 2018.

The Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority's annual grant funding allows Citrus County to offer valuable water conservation education and incentives. The Authority's continued support is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Debra R. Burden".

Debra R. Burden
Water Conservation Manager
Citrus County Department of Water Resources

Enclosures: Grant Application Form
Resolution
Copy of BOCC minutes: Approved motion
Exhibit "A" Scope of Work

Cc: Ken Cheek, Director, Department of Water Resources



WATER CONSERVATION GRANT APPLICATION FORM:

Name of applicant:

Citrus County, Florida

Provide a short description of the proposed water conservation project in the text box below:

The Citrus County water conservation program will offer its annual rebate incentive program to Citrus County Utilities customers. The rebates include WaterSense® labeled toilets, WaterSense® labeled irrigation controllers, EnergyStar™ clothes washers, and rain sensors. Additionally, the county will carry out a cooperative funding initiative project with the Southwest Florida Water Management District to install WaterSense labeled irrigation controllers at high-water use residential sites. Per the WRWSA's Regional Water Supply Plan, the county will prioritize supplying free indoor retrofit items to customers, such as WaterSense® labeled showerheads and faucet aerators. Grant funding will also cover water conservation bill inserts, educational workshops, promotional items and other programs that increase water-saving behaviors throughout the community.

List previous grants received from WRWSA in the previous 3 fiscal years and date completed:

Resolution 2016-075, \$36,875 to be completed September 2017
 Resolution 2015-067, \$36,875 completed September 2016
 Resolution 2014-059, \$40,250, completed September 2015

Attachments to application:

1. A resolution of support that includes a commitment that the grant recipient will budget and expend its matching funds as required by the grant program.
2. A summary of the project tasks (scope of services) with estimated costs by task, if applicable.
3. A time schedule for the project and expected completion date that will be inserted in the local government contract.

Return Application to: Richard S. Owen, Executive Director
 WRWSA
 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Suite 228
 Lecanto, Florida 34461

Deadline: June 30, 2017 – 5:00 p.m. EST

RESOLUTION NO. 2017 - 087

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CITRUS COUNTY, A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT WATER SUPPLY FUNDING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM APPLICATION TO THE WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY AND, COMMITTING FUNDS TO MATCH GRANT FUNDING FOR A WATER CONSERVATION AND PUBLIC OUTREACH PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, the Citrus County Board of County Commissioners (Board) recognizes and supports the County's efforts to educate its customers and the general public on the importance of water conservation; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the County's Consumptive Use Permits Nos. 7121, 9791 and 2842, the County must continue to develop, improve upon, and expand water conservation programs to reduce demands on water resources within its service areas and increase efficiency of use; and

WHEREAS, the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (Authority) provides funding assistance to local governments for projects and programs with an emphasis on water conservation; and

WHEREAS, the County's water conservation program meets the grant funding eligibility requirements of the Authority; and

WHEREAS, the County will budget and expend its matching funds as required by the grant program;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Citrus County, Florida:

Citrus County Board of County Commissioners supports the application to the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority for the FY 2017-18 Local Government Water Supply Funding Assistance program and agrees to budget funds as identified in Exhibit "A".

ATTEST:

ANGELA VICK, CLERK

CITRUS COUNTY, A POLITICAL
SUBDIVISION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA
BY: _____

SCOTT CARNAHAN, CHAIRMAN

APPROVED AS TO FORM FOR
THE RELIANCE OF CITRUS
COUNTY ONLY:

DENISE A. DYMOND LYN
COUNTY ATTORNEY

Attachment: RESOLUTION NO_drb (7252 : WRWSA FY17-18 Grant Funding Application)

Motion to approve item E3.

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Brian J. Coleman, Commissioner, District 5
SECONDER: Jimmie T. Smith, Commissioner, District 3
AYES: Carnahan, Kitchen Jr., Kinnard D.C., Smith, Coleman

E.4. Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority FY17-18 Grant Funding Application

Approve and authorize the Chairman to execute a Resolution to apply for a water conservation grant with the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority. The grant matches county funding for the water conservation program necessary to meet the Southwest Florida Water Management District's consumptive use permit requirements. WRWSA will reimburse expenses on a 50% basis, up to a maximum amount of \$50,000. Citrus County is requesting a cash match of \$42,627.50. The County match portion is funded by Citrus County Utilities' Enterprise fund.

Motion to approve item E4.

Resolution Number 2017-087

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Jimmie T. Smith, Commissioner, District 3
SECONDER: Brian J. Coleman, Commissioner, District 5
AYES: Carnahan, Kitchen Jr., Kinnard D.C., Smith, Coleman

E.5. Ratify Execution of Modification of Intergovernmental Agreement with U.S. Marshals Service

Authorize ratification of this modification is to remove the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) as rider to this Intergovernmental Agreement. And void modification 3 for the Transportation Routes to various locations ICE requested.

Motion to approve item E5.

First Vice Chairman Ronald E. Kitchen, Jr., commented on this item.

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Brian J. Coleman, Commissioner, District 5
SECONDER: Jeff Kinnard D.C., 2nd Vice Chairman District 1
AYES: Carnahan, Kitchen Jr., Kinnard D.C., Smith, Coleman

E.6. Transportation Disadvantaged Planning Grant Application 2017/2018

1. Approve and authorize the Chairman to sign the Transportation Disadvantaged Planning Grant Application 2017/2018, for \$22,474. There is no cash match.

2. Adopt and authorize the Chairman to execute a Resolution for the Transportation Disadvantaged Planning Grant Application, authorizing the Chairman to sign the grant application and agreement, amendments and modifications thereto and all other related items.

Exhibit 'A'
FY17-18 Scope of Service

Project: Monetary Incentives

Objective: Reduce water consumption by providing monetary incentive for installation of water-efficient fixtures / systems.

Tasks: Provide four rebate opportunities to Citrus County Utilities customers: irrigation controllers, toilets, rain sensors and clothes washers. The rebates are publicized via three applications sent to the utility's customers as a bill insert. Customers wishing to participate in the account credit program, install the applicable water-saving fixture, and return the application with an itemized receipt. A credit is then applied to the customers bill within 1-2 billing cycles. The CFI project involves direct marketing to high water users and contractor installation of a WaterSense labeled

	Estimated QTY	COST PER	County	WRWSA	SWFWMD	Total Cost
WaterSense® labeled irrigation controller account credit	50	\$150	\$3,750	\$3,750	n/a	\$7,500
WaterSense® labeled toilet account credit	200	\$100	\$10,000	\$10,000	n/a	\$20,000
Rain sensor replacement	75	\$50	\$1,875	\$1,875	n/a	\$3,750
Rebate application printing	3	\$910	\$1,365	\$1,365	n/a	\$2,730
SWFWMD CFI project - WaterSense® labeled irrigation controller installation	75	\$450	\$8,437.50	\$8,437.50	\$16,875	\$33,750
Subtotal:			\$25,427.50	\$25,427.50	\$16,875	\$67,730

Project: Free Faucet Aerator & Low-flow Showerhead Distribution

Objective: Reduce water consumption by providing free WaterSense labeled aerators and showerheads to customers.

Tasks: Distribute faucet aerators and showerheads to customers. Customers are able to pick up fixtures directly from the conservation office. The fixtures are also available at homeowner association offices and are distributed at events geared toward CCU customers.

	County	WRWSA	SWFWMD	Total Cost
WaterSense® labeled faucet aerators & showerheads	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	n/a	\$4,000.00
Subtotal:	\$2,000	\$2,000	n/a	\$4,000

Project: Water Conservation Education

Objective: Reduce water consumption by providing water conservation education to community youth and adults.

Task: Create and print eight newsletter bill inserts promoting water-saving behaviors.

Task: Coordinate student poster contest, toilet leak detection challenge and other youth education initiatives.

Task: Purchase and distribute promotional items such as 5-minute shower timers, pens, pencils and rain gauges.

Task: Promote water conservation awareness through community workshops and other educational opportunities.

Task: Pursue out-of-cycle funding opportunity with the Southwest Florida Water Management District for other water conservation initiative.

	Estimated QTY	COST PER	County	WRWSA	SWFWMD	Total Cost
Utility bill inserts	8	\$1,300.00	\$5,200	\$5,200	n/a	\$10,400
Youth conservation education			\$500	\$500	n/a	\$1,000
Promotional water conservation items			\$3,000	\$3,000	n/a	\$6,000
Water conservation workshops			\$2,500	\$2,500	n/a	\$5,000
t.b.d.			\$4,000	\$4,000	t.b.d.	\$8,000
Subtotal:			\$15,200	\$15,200	\$0	\$30,400
TOTAL:			\$42,627.50	\$42,627.50	\$16,875	\$102,130

Programming will begin October 1, 2017. Citrus County will expend all grant funding by September 30, 2018.



FY 2017-18

WATER CONSERVATION GRANT APPLICATION FORM

Name of applicant:

Hernando County Utilities Department

Provide a short description of the proposed water conservation project in the text box below:

Hernando County Utilities Department promotes and produces dynamic, innovative, effective water conservation, water resource protection programs. These have lead Hernando County to lower the per capita water use requirements to well below the Southwest Florida Water Management District's regulations.

Projects:

In-School education programs,
Conservation messaging campaign
Water conservation incentive programs for HCUD customers

List previous grants received from WRWSA in the previous 3 fiscal years and date completed:

FY 2013-Closed by September 30, 2014

FY 2014-Closed by September 30, 2015

FY 2015-Closed by September 30, 2016

FY 2016-Will be closed by September 30, 2017

Attachments to application:

1. A resolution of support that includes a commitment that the grant recipient will budget and expend its matching funds as required by the grant program.
2. A summary of the project tasks (scope of services) with estimated costs by task, if applicable.
3. A time schedule for the project and expected completion date that will be inserted in the local government contract.

Return Application to:

Richard S. Owen, Executive Director
WRWSA, 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Suite 228
Lecanto, Florida 34461

Deadline: June 30, 2017 -- 5:00 p.m. EST

RESOLUTION NO. 2017- 137

A RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA, SITTING AS THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE HERNANDO COUNTY WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT, SUPPORTING THE HERNANDO COUNTY UTILITIES DEPARTMENT'S "LOCAL GOVERNMENT WATER SUPPLY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM" APPLICATION TO THE WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COUNTYWIDE WATER CONSERVATION AND QUALITY PROTECTION PROGRAM; AUTHORIZING THE CHAIRMAN TO EXECUTE THE APPLICATION AND ANY RELATED DOCUMENTS THAT MAY BE REQUIRED; AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF THE UTILITIES DEPARTMENT TO DESIGNATE APPROPRIATE STAFF TO PERFORM THE TECHNICAL, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED HERewith; PROVIDING THAT THIS RESOLUTION SUPERSEDE PRIOR ACTIONS IN CONFLICT HERewith; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

WHEREAS, the Hernando County Water and Sewer District (the "District") was created by ordinance and established in all of the unincorporated area of the county; and

WHEREAS, the Hernando County Board of Commissioners (the "Board") is the Governing Board of the District; and,

WHEREAS, the Hernando County Utilities Department (the "HCUD") is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the water and wastewater facilities and infrastructure of the county; and,

WHEREAS, the Board recognized that in order to protect the water resources of unincorporated Hernando County and to properly plan for the future needs of its citizens, the establishment of a Water Conservation and Water Resource Protection Program for the County and the District is essential; and,

WHEREAS, the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) has identified water conservation as an essential planning and protection element of its water resource management program; and,

WHEREAS, the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (the "Authority") was established, of which Hernando County is a member, to provide an entity to help ensure that an adequate and safe supply of water is available for the citizens of the region and the county; and,

WHEREAS, the Authority has established the "Local Government Water Supply Funding Assistance Program" to which a member may apply for cooperative funding for water supply projects or projects relating to the development of water supply; and,

WHEREAS, the Authority has determined that the establishment and development of water conservation programs support and further the intention of the water supply development of the region; and,

WHEREAS, the HCUD has submitted an application to the Authority's funding assistance program to seek financial assistance in the development of a countywide water conservation program (the "Project") in order to provide water conservation education throughout the entire county.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA:

SECTION 1. The above recitals are incorporated herein by reference and made a part hereof.

SECTION 2. The Board of County Commissioners ("Board") hereby gives its official support for the Hernando County Utilities Department to submit an application to the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority for cooperative funding in the development of the County's water conservation program.

SECTION 3. The Board, in order to meet the terms of the financial assistance program, agrees to budget and expend on the Project an amount equal to or greater than the required fifty percent (50%) matching funds as required by the program.

SECTION 4. The Board understands and agrees that it shall expend its required matching funds prior to the Authority expending its fifty percent (50%) match for the Project.

SECTION 5. The Board hereby authorizes its Chairman to execute the referenced Application and the Board further authorizes its Chairman to execute such additional documents including, compliance assurances and related documentation required by the Authority in connection with the foregoing.

SECTION 6. The Board further authorizes HCUD, Interim Director Ricky Leach, to designate appropriate staff to perform the technical, financial and administrative activities associated herewith.

SECTION 7. In the event of any conflict between this Resolution and any prior resolution or actions of the Board, this Resolution shall supersede and control.

SECTION 8. If any section or part of this Resolution proves to be invalid, unlawful, or unconstitutional, it shall not be held to invalidate or impair the validity, force or effect of any other section or part of this Resolution.

SECTION 9. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

ADOPTED IN REGULAR SESSION THIS 27 DAY OF JUNE, 2017 IN BROOKSVILLE, FLORIDA.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA**

Attest: Marguerite Luke, D.C.
DONALD C. BARBEE, JR.
**CLERK OF COURT &
COMPTROLLER**

By: Wayne Dukes
WAYNE DUKES
CHAIRMAN



Approved for Form and
Legal Sufficiency

By: [Signature]

**CERTIFIED TO BE A TRUE COPY
DON BARBEE, JR.
CLERK OF COURTS**

BY: Carleen M. Christensen **D.C.**

THIS 28th DAY OF June 20 17

**WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY
LOCAL GOVERNMENT WATER SUPPLY FUNDING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED PROJECT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018**

**HERNANDO COUNTY UTILITIES DEPARTMENT
WATER CONSERVATION AND WATER RESOURCE PROTECTION PROGRAM**

Overview

The Hernando County Utilities Department (HCUD) is one of the first local governments in the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) to establish a conservation water rate structure. Hernando County continues to endorse Ordinance 2010-15 which is a one day per week watering schedule. Average water use in the residential sector (single-family homes) is approximately 8000-10,000 gallons a month. Hernando County Utilities Department supplies safe potable water and waste water services to nearly 83% of Hernando County. HCUD's customer accounts including, residential, commercial and industrial totals nearly 60,000 accounts. Hernando County was also one of the first local governments to implement a rain sensor rebate program for customers. We have continued these incentive-based water conservation programs including, low flow toilets, irrigation evaluation and audit programs, Florida Friendly certified landscapes, participation in Florida Friendly Landscaping programs and are planning to add rebate for high efficiency washing machine as a pilot program for this fiscal year. These programs, along with many others, show the deep commitment this utility has to the protection and conservation of Hernando County's water supply.

Information is collected from Hernando County residents and other water conservation program participants on types of programs that they believe is the most important. Using that information we put together a monthly series of water related programs. The Water Conservation Division of Hernando County Utilities Department holds monthly educational seminars. These programs collectively titled Hernando County Water Awareness Series 2017 covered a variety of water-related subjects and participation in these professionally taught programs continues to rise each year. Over half of the participants in each program were new to Hernando County. These programs were: *Florida Friendly Landscaping, Become a Water Conservation Detective, Plan it! Plant it! Landscape Design for Homeowners, Vegetable Gardens for Central Florida, Lawn and Order-Professional Turf Tips for Homeowners, El Nino & You and Hernando County's Artificial Reef Project, Preparing for the Unexpected, Emergency Management and You.* Each program was recorded and shown on Hernando County Government Broadcast and shown on Spectrum Channel 644. The series is being broadcast on our local government cable channel 644, which currently has a subscription rate of 37,000 and each program is shown once a week on WATER WEDNESDAY'S. Through the WRWSA Local Government Grant Program we support this effort. The WRWSA provided support to this group and helped facilitate this important set of educational presentations.

Our most impact oriented program was with another volunteer group, Hernando County's Groundwater Guardian Team, which has been instrumental bringing the importance of the protection of springs, groundwater quality and quantity to local officials and residents. As a requirement for this team to stay affiliated with the National Groundwater Guardian Foundation we have a series of Result Oriented Activities that are accomplished each year. The Groundwater Guardians are responsible for organizing and promoting a workshop every two years that targets local government leaders and community leaders on a variety of water related issues, best management practices and groundwater protection. That workshop, WATER YOU DOING? Protecting and Restoring Springs was held Friday, May 5, 2017. There were over 110 participants and statewide experts gave presentations for this full day workshop. This workshop was by the WRWSA, Southwest Florida Water Management District, and private corporate partners. Promotional and educational items have been and are being used to educate the residents of Hernando County.

The assistance of the WRWSA Local Government Water Supply Funding Assistance Program, all residents of Hernando County may benefit by the water conservation and water quality programs.

PURPOSE & PROPOSED INITIATIVES

Major elements of the program consist of:

- County-wide user advisory committee (Groundwater Guardian Team);
- In-school education program (Springs Coast Environmental Education Center, Gulf Coast Academy of Science and Technology)
- Conservation Messaging Campaign
- Customer and Residents Incentive Programs and education pilot project.

In order to better serve all of the citizens of Hernando County, those served by the county's utility system as well as those who use private wells or customers of the City of Brooksville, the county is applying to the WRWSA for funding assistance in the continued development and expansion of its water conservation and quality protection program. With this funding, the programs will include all water users of the county.

Groundwater Guardian Team

This group is authorized by the Hernando County Board of County Commissioners and is organized under the auspices of the National Groundwater Foundation. Members represent the major water users of Hernando County. The user groups represented are power industry, agriculture, development, manufacturing, and recreational industries as well as representatives from the school system, city and county governments, and the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) and citizens. This group has developed, in accordance with the national foundation requirements, a "Result Oriented Plan" and implemented activities to

communicate the importance of ground water protection in the community. The Team received its designation as a Groundwater Guardian Community in 2002 through 2016. The extraordinary efforts of this committee have received attention by the National Groundwater Foundation. In order to retain its designation, the Team and the community must apply its plan and submit an annual report on the progress of implementation. The Hernando County Groundwater Guardians also bring groundwater protection issues to the Planning and Zoning Commission and Board of County Commissioners. (Budget items: educational materials, travel, field trips/seminars, award ceremonies, web site upkeep, postage, meeting costs and other materials necessary to complete their Result Oriented Activities.)

Springs Coast Environmental Education Center (SCEEC)

The SWFWMD purchased Weeki Wachee Springs and the attraction property to be part of the Weeki Wachee Preserve. The District has committed approximately \$750,000 to construct an environmental education center on the property, under the condition that the Hernando County School District supply teachers, curriculum and equipment. The Hernando County Water and Sewer District (HCW&SD) Board and the Hernando County Board of County Commissioners have pledged to support this endeavor and have authorized a contribution to the Education Center. The doors of the unique learning center opened in April 2005. Initially it will serve fourth grade students of Hernando County, with plans to increase participation to through High School students. This past year the (SCEEC) hosted over 6000 Hernando County students. The Hernando County Utilities Department has specifically provided support for the development of a water resource/quality protection and water conservation module of the curriculum. By providing support to the center, the Utilities Department is allocating its resources to those skilled in working with students - teachers. In addition, creation of the curriculum module ensures that a consistent and continuing message will be embedded in the educational process. In FY 2008 we added the Gulf Coast Academy of Science and Technology to our student educational efforts. GCA is committed to providing a unique education through weekly field experiences integrated with a hands-on advanced middle school curriculum. (Budget item: Springs Coast Environmental Education Center, Gulf Coast Academy)

Water Conservation media messaging campaign:

This campaign includes radio and televised educational programming through Hernando County Government Broadcast and broadening our viewership by adding information to Bright House TV. SWFWMD continue to assist by preparing radio spots and local media campaigns. The innovative and instructional media messages broadens public awareness and heightened the acceptance of water conservation was a way of life. As a partner in the campaign we have the opportunity to “tag” each message with our own contact information. Our “tag” has both the Hernando County Utilities Department and Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority. (Budget items: commercial airtime, radio and print media)

Water Conservation (HCUD customer's only) Incentive Programs:

Through innovative conservation programs, the Hernando County Utilities Department will encourage residents to conserve our valuable water supply. Incentive programs include: Sprinkler Check Up program for high water users, continued participation with the regional irrigation evaluation and audit program. Our partners include, Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority, Southwest Florida Water Management District, Citrus and Marion Counties. Other water conservation customer incentive programs include a Rain Sensor Rebate Program (\$50.00), Low-Flow Toilet Replacement Program (\$100.00), and promotion of Florida Friendly Landscaping workshop, where customer attendees receive a "tuition" reimbursement on their water bill. Incentives also help further the promotion of Hernando County's Florida Friendly Landscaping (FFL) program. Customer rebates include a \$25 rebate for participating in the FYN rain barrel workshops and another \$25 rebate is available for certifying their landscape as a Florida Friendly Landscape. We are adding a new water conservation incentive program for FY 2017, High Efficiency Washing Machine rebates. (Budget items: water conservation incentive program features, such as low flow toilets, rain sensors, irrigation audits, Et/soil moisture sensors)

CONCLUSION

The above elements of the Hernando County Utilities Department's Water Conservation/Water Resource Program are diverse and purposefully set up that way. An effective water conservation program for a public supply utility must reach all of its customers and must strive to change behavior and attitudes towards conservation of water in order to affect reliable, long-term results. This must be accomplished through a multi-functional approach including education, outreach, and financial incentives.

IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

All of the above projects and initiatives will be ongoing throughout this fiscal year (2017/2018). Funds from the current (FY2017) WRWSA assistance program will be encumbered by September 30, 2017. This meets the requirement in order to submit funding request for 2018 fiscal year. The water conservation initiatives for 2018 will begin October 1, 2017 and conclude with all grant assistance funds being encumbered by September 30, 2018.

*These descriptions are in lieu of the required "Scope of Services" and task list. The cost of the projects correlate to the items as identified in the attached Proposed Budget.

**FY 2018 Conservation Project Budget
Hernando County Utilities Department
Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority
Funding Assistance Program**

Springs Coast Environmental Learning Center	\$4,500		
Gulf Coast Academy	\$3,500		
Water conservation/Quality Curriculum, texts, equipment		Total:	\$8000

Promotional Items & Workshops

Pencils, pens, magnets (giveaways)	\$ 6,500		
Flyers, brochures, (educational information)	\$ 11,000		
Florida Friendly Landscape Workshop, Program			
Speaker stipends, venue rental	\$ 1,200		
		Total	\$18,700

Conservation Advertising Campaign

Commercial media spots (television, radio, print)	\$ 14,000		
Hernando County Government Broadcast, Spectrum, And other televised media. (broadcast of water conservation workshops, educational video and broadcast media commercial)			
		Total	\$14,000

Water Conservation (Customer) Incentives Program:

Sprinkler Check-up Program	\$7,500		
High Efficiency Washing Machine Pilot Program	\$14,000		
Rain Sensor Rebate Program 2018	\$8,000		
Toilet Rebate Program 2018	\$18,000		
Florida Friendly Landscaping, Rain barrel workshops	\$3,000		
		Total	\$50,500

Presentation/Workshop Equipment

Projector and accessories	\$ 1500	Total	\$1,500
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Water Awareness Program-Citizen's Workshops

(materials, field trips, stipend for speakers, travel)		Total	\$ 2,000
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Groundwater Guardians

(training, materials, field trips, web site upkeep, display Awards, travel)		Total	\$ 2,000
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TOTAL PROPOSED BUDGET

Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority share	(50%)	TOTAL	\$ 96,700
		Total	\$48,350

FY 2017-18
DRAFT PROJECT GRANT AGREEMENT

WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY
LOCAL GOVERNMENT WATER CONSERVATION
FUNDING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

PROJECT GRANT AGREEMENT

This Agreement is made and entered into this ____ day _____, 2017, by and between the **WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY**, (hereinafter called the "AUTHORITY"), and _____, (hereinafter called the "GRANTEE"), in furtherance of funding assistance in the development of the "_____ WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM". In consideration of the mutual covenants contained herein and pursuant to Chapter 163, Laws of Florida, Florida Interlocal Cooperation Act of 1969, as subsequently amended, and Section 373.713(2)(i), Florida Statutes, the parties hereto agree as follows:

1. The AUTHORITY has found that the implementation of water conservation programs by a member government is the primary purpose of the project known as the "_____ WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM" (hereinafter called the "PROJECT"), and enters into this Agreement with the GRANTEE for assisting in the funding of water conservation programs more particularly described in its Application. The PROJECT application is attached hereto marked Exhibit "A" and made a part hereof.

2. The GRANTEE shall provide the AUTHORITY with a copy of the GRANTEE's contract documents executed for the PROJECT and the third party vendor providing said services in order to confirm the total project costs.

3. PROJECT FUNDING:

A. The AUTHORITY agrees to pay, on a reimbursement basis, to the GRANTEE, the sum of \$_____ of the proposed \$_____ total budget cost for the PROJECT.

B. The GRANTEE shall pay PROJECT costs prior to requesting reimbursement from the AUTHORITY. The AUTHORITY shall reimburse the GRANTEE for fifty percent (50%) of all allowable costs in each approved invoice based upon the listed tasks contained in Exhibit "A", not to exceed the sum of \$_____ as identified in paragraph 3.A. above.

C. The GRANTEE shall provide the AUTHORITY with a schedule and description of "tasks" for the PROJECT with the cost associated with each task set forth.

D. All PROJECT reimbursement requests shall include all documentation required by the AUTHORITY for proper audit review. The GRANTEE shall certify that each request for payment is appropriate and that said task or portion thereof has been completed.

E. The AUTHORITY shall, within sixty (60) days after receipt of a payment request, review the work accomplished to date under this Agreement and, if the work and payment request are in accordance with all applicable requirements, approve the request for payment.

FY 2017-18
DRAFT PROJECT GRANT AGREEMENT

4. GRANTEE shall ensure that all services procured and all purchases of goods obtained for the accomplishment of the PROJECT shall be secured in accordance with applicable State and Federal laws and in accordance with the GRANTEE's adopted procurement procedures.

5. GRANTEE shall follow all State and Federal laws relating to its established audit and accounting procedures and as they relate to said PROJECT and cost reimbursements.

6. The GRANTEE shall retain all records supporting PROJECT costs for three (3) years after the fiscal year in which the final PROJECT payment was released by the AUTHORITY or until final resolution of matters resulting from any litigation, claim or audit that started prior to the expiration of the three-year retention period. The AUTHORITY, State Auditor General, State Comptroller, and other agencies or entities with jurisdiction shall have the right to inspect and audit the GRANTEE's records for said PROJECT within the retention period.

7. This Agreement shall become effective upon execution and the GRANTEE shall complete preparation and/or construction of all PROJECT elements on or before September 30, 2018. The completion date may be extended by the AUTHORITY for good cause at the written request of the GRANTEE and must be made prior to PROJECT completion date.

8. The AUTHORITY's Executive Director for the purposes of this Agreement shall be responsible for ensuring performance of its terms and conditions and shall be responsible for recommending approval of all reimbursement requests to the AUTHORITY prior to payment. The GRANTEE's Liaison Agent, as identified in the PROJECT application, or successor, shall act on behalf of the GRANTEE relative to the provisions of this Agreement.

9. The Executive Director shall have the authority to approve budget changes within individual tasks up to a total amount not to exceed TEN PERCENT (10%) of total project costs without Board approval.

10. All monies expended by the GRANTEE for the purpose contained herein at the option of the AUTHORITY shall be subject to audit review.

11. Each party hereto agrees that it shall be solely responsible for the wrongful acts of its employees and agents. However, nothing contained herein shall constitute a waiver by either party of its sovereign immunity or the provisions of §768.28, Florida Statutes.

12. The GRANTEE shall comply with all federal, state, and local rules and regulations in developing this PROJECT. The GRANTEE acknowledges that this requirement includes compliance with all federal, state, and local health and safety rules and regulations. The GRANTEE further agrees to ensure that the GRANTEE's contract will include this provision in all subcontracts issued as a result of this Agreement.

13. The AUTHORITY reserves the right to inspect said PROJECT and any and all records related thereto at any reasonable time.

FY 2017-18
DRAFT PROJECT GRANT AGREEMENT

14. This Agreement may be unilaterally canceled by the AUTHORITY in the event the GRANTEE refuses to allow public access to all documents, papers, letters or other material made or received in conjunction with this Agreement pursuant to Chapter 119, Florida Statutes.

15. The AUTHORITY shall also have the right to demand a refund, either in whole or in part, of the funds provided to the GRANTEE for non-compliance with the terms of this Agreement if not cured within thirty (30) days of written notice thereof from the AUTHORITY. The GRANTEE, upon notification from the AUTHORITY, agrees to refund and will forthwith pay to the AUTHORITY, the amount of money demanded by the AUTHORITY. Such refund shall include interest calculated at two percent (2%) over the prevailing prime rate as reported by the Federal Reserve on the date the AUTHORITY calculates the amount of refund due. Interest shall be calculated from the date(s) of payment(s) to the GRANTEE by the AUTHORITY.

16. The employment of unauthorized aliens by a GRANTEE is considered a violation of Section 274A(e) of the Immigration and Nationality Act. If the GRANTEE knowingly employs unauthorized aliens, such violation shall be cause for unilateral cancellation of this Agreement. The GRANTEE shall be responsible for including this provision in all subcontracts with private organizations issued as a result of this Agreement.

17. No person on the grounds of race, creed, color, national origin, age, sex or marital status shall be excluded from participation in; be denied the proceeds or benefits of; or be otherwise subjected to discrimination in performance of this Agreement.

18. This Agreement strictly prohibits expenditure of these funds for the purpose of lobbying the Florida Legislature, the judicial branch, or a state agency.

19. The GRANTEE shall have an audit performed in accordance with the Rules of the Auditor General promulgated pursuant to §11.45, Florida Statutes, and have a statement prepared by an independent certified public accountant which attests that the GRANTEE has complied with the provisions of this Agreement and whether the audit results in an unqualified opinion.

20. A person or affiliate who has been placed on the convicted vendor list following a conviction for public entity crime may not perform work as a grantee, contractor, supplier, subcontractor, or consultant under a contract with any public entity, and may not transact business with any public entity in excess of the threshold amount provided in §287.017, Florida Statutes, or Category Two, for a period of thirty-six (36) months from the date of being placed on the convicted vendor list.

21. A copy of the audit and attestation as required in Paragraph 19 shall be submitted to the AUTHORITY within one (1) year from the PROJECT completion date as set forth in Paragraph 7 or as extended by the AUTHORITY.

22. This Agreement is not intended nor shall it be construed as granting any rights, privileges or interest in any third party without mutual written agreement of the parties hereto.

FY 2017-18
DRAFT PROJECT GRANT AGREEMENT

23. This Agreement represents the entire agreement of the parties. Any alterations, variations, changes, modification or waivers of provisions of this Agreement shall only be valid when they have been reduced to writing, duly executed by each of the parties hereto, and attached to the original of this Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused these presents to be duly executed on the date and year first above written.

WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER
SUPPLY AUTHORITY

By: _____
NICK NICHOLSON
Chairperson

ATTEST:

By: _____
RICHARD S. OWEN
Executive Director

_____, a political Subdivision of
the State of Florida

By: _____

Chairperson

ATTEST:

By: _____

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY

By: _____
_____ for the Grantee

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND CORRECTNESS:

By: _____
LARRY M. HAAG
Attorney for Authority



Marion County Board of County Commissioners

Office of the County Engineer

412 SE 25th Ave.
Ocala, FL 34471
Phone: 352-671-8686
Fax: 352-671-8687

June 30, 2017

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

RE: Marion County Board of County Commissioners
FY2017/18 Water Conservation Grant Application

Mr. Owen:

Enclosed for your consideration is Marion County's Water Conservation Grant Application, along with an attachment of project tasks and their time schedules. A resolution of support of our commitment to budget and expend matching funds will be presented to the Marion County Board of County Commissioners during their next regularly scheduled Board meeting on July 18, 2017. As this is an ongoing program that our Board has previously supported, it is anticipated that you will have a signed resolution prior to your July meeting for your use and full consideration of our grant application.

Marion County appreciates our ongoing relationship with the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority and the opportunity to partner with you in our efforts to protect our water resources. Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at (352) 671-8686.

Sincerely,

Tracy Straub, PE
County Engineer

Enclosures

WATER CONSERVATION GRANT APPLICATION FORM:

Name of applicant:

Marion County Board of County Commissioners

Provide a short description of the proposed water conservation project in the text box below:

The Marion County Water Resources Program plans, implements and manages comprehensive, goal-based water conservation efforts that include both county-wide initiatives, as well as aspects specific to Marion County Utility Department customers. Public education, indirect public education and direct water conservation incentives are used to promote water use efficiency initiatives including landscape and irrigation retrofits, low-flow toilet rebates, low-flow retrofit kits and various educational outreach materials. Funding from WRWSA will be used to support these initiatives.

List previous grants received from WRWSA in the previous 3 fiscal years and date completed:

2017 - \$35,245 granted, proposed completion September 30, 2017
2016 - \$35,475 granted, completed September 30, 2016
2015 - \$32,350 granted, completed September 30, 2015

Attachments to application:

1. A resolution of support that includes a commitment that the grant recipient will budget and expend its matching funds as required by the grant program.
2. A summary of the project tasks (scope of services) with estimated costs by task, if applicable.
3. A time schedule for the project and expected completion date that will be inserted in the local government contract.

Return Application to:

Richard S. Owen, Executive Director
WRWSA
3600 W. Sovereign Path, Suite 228
Lecanto, Florida 34461

Deadline: June 30, 2017 -- 5:00 p.m. EST

Program Description

The Marion County Water Resources Program plans, implements and manages comprehensive, goal-based water conservation efforts that include both county-wide initiatives, as well as aspects specific to Marion County Utility Department customers. Public education, indirect public education and direct water conservation incentives are used to promote water use efficiency initiatives including landscape and irrigation retrofits, low-flow toilet rebates, low-flow retrofit kits and various educational outreach materials. Funding from WRWSA will be used to support these initiatives.

Marion County is seeking grant funding for fiscal years 2017/18 as follows:

Landscape and Irrigation Retrofits	\$ 25,000
Low-Flow Toilet Rebates (East of I-75 only)	\$ 25,000
Low-Flow Retrofit Kits	\$ 15,000
Utility Bill Inserts on Water Use Efficiency	\$ 5,490
Total Project Costs	\$ 70,490
Grant Request at 50%	\$ 35,245

The County's funding is supported by the Marion County Board of County Commissioners, including the Marion County Utility Department, and other cooperative partners. These projects represent only a portion of the County's on-going water use efficiency efforts.

Landscape and Efficient Irrigation Retrofit Program: The purpose of this program is to demonstrate and promote efficient irrigation and landscape practices by retrofitting irrigation systems and landscapes to provide the right plant and right irrigation component in the right place. Previously, the County required a full retrofit to meet the Florida Water Star® Silver Level criteria. However, last year WRWSA approved our request to modify the program to remove the Water Star criteria. This concept allows for smaller scale corrective measures that we anticipate homeowners will be more likely to embrace – they are more cost affordable and the homeowner is more likely to see a quicker return on their investment. As this is a very hands-on program, the project has temporarily been on hold due to the staff vacancy of the Water Resources Liaison (fka Coordinator) position. Last year's funding was not used. The position is actively being advertised and the program will resume as soon as staff is brought on

board. Analysis of water use data from the previous efforts indicate an average overall home water savings of 31%.

Low-Flow Toilet Rebates (East of I-75 only): The toilet rebate program offers Marion County Utilities customers up to \$100 (or \$180 if two toilets are replaced) to replace a conventional high-volume toilet (3.5 gallons per flush or greater) with a dual flush or high-efficiency toilet (1.28 gallons per flush or less). This is an ongoing program that has been in place since October, 2011.

This grant would provide for approximately 175 toilet rebates in the Marion County Utilities service areas east of I-75. It is estimated that the replacement of these toilets will save an estimated 25.1 million gallons total over their 20 year lifespan at a cost of approximated \$1.01 per thousand gallons saved. The County is expected to have a grant with the Southwest Florida Water Management District to cooperatively fund rebates west of I-75.

Low-Flow Retrofit Kits: Low flow retrofit kits are distributed for free at the Marion County Utilities office to customers. These kits contain low-flow fixtures and devices to reduce both indoor and outdoor water use. Each kit fully installed has the potential to save 25,000 gallons of water a year.

Utility Bill Inserts on Water Use Efficiency: Billing inserts are distributed on a bimonthly basis. These inserts are used to educate citizens on water use efficiency and to promote the County's incentive based programs. Message topics include: the change back to the once a week watering schedule when not on Daylight Saving Time, how to conduct a routine check on an irrigation system, how to identify common household leaks, and other topics related to water use.

Grant Timeline

Landscape and Irrigation Retrofits

Enroll participants	10/1/2017 – 8/1/2018
Complete retrofits and issue rebates	10/1/2017 – 9/30/2018

Low-Flow Toilet Rebates

Enroll participants	9/1/2017 – 9/1/2018
Perform inspections and issue rebates	10/1/2017 – 9/30/2018

Low-Flow Retrofit Kits

Order conservation kits	10/1/2017 – 6/1/2018
Distribute and track conservation kits	10/1/2017 – 9/30/2018

Utility Bill Inserts on Water Use Efficiency

Develop and print materials	10/1/2017 – 8/15/2018
Send inserts	

Public Facilities Report Work Order

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

Florida Statutes require special districts such as the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority to file public facilities reports with each local government in which the special districts are located, and post these reports to their websites. The purpose of the facilities report is to provide local governments with information that is pertinent to developing and updating the local governments' comprehensive plans. Once an initial public facilities report has been filed with the appropriate local governments, the Authority is required to prepare and file an annual notice of any changes with the local governments.

In addition, every seven years, each independent special district, including the WRWSA, must submit a Public Facilities Updated Report to each county and/or municipality in which it is located.

Based upon the schedule provided by the Department of Economic Opportunity, Special District Online Handbook, the schedule for the WRWSA to prepare and file a Public Facilities Report starts in January 2018 for the City of Webster and extends through January 2022 for the City of Brooksville. In order to prepare the Authority's required Public Facilities report, staff solicited a proposed work order from Water Resource Associates (WRA), which is one of the consultants under contract with the Authority for As-Needed Technical and Engineering Work.

A representative of WRA will be present to answer questions from the Board. A copy of the proposed Work Order is included as an exhibit to this item in the Board's meeting materials.

See Exhibit – Work Order 2017-02

Staff Recommendation:

- 1) Approval to issue Work Order 2017-02 to Water Resource Associates to prepare the Authority's Special District Public Facilities Report, in an amount not to exceed \$9,580; and
- 2) Authorization of the Executive Director to execute the Work Order.

GENERAL ENGINEERING & TECHNICAL SERVICES

WORK ORDER NUMBER 2017-02

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

This Work Order No 2017-02 "General Support Services" is approved this ____ day of June 2017 and is incorporated by reference into the Agreement for General Professional Engineering Technical Services entered into on November 28, 2012, with subsequent amendments on February 19, 2014; September 16, 2015; and September 20, 2016, between the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (Authority or WRWSA) and Water Resource Associates, LLC (Consultant), for General Professional Engineering & Technical Services.

SCOPE OF WORK

The Consultant will produce for the Authority the "Special District Public Facilities Report". This report will serve as a template for facility reports that are due to all members of the WRWSA. The report will include all provisions required by 189.08 F.S. "Special District Public Facilities Report" (below). As a Special District the WRWSA Public Facilities Report shall include and specify the following information:

- (a) A description of existing public facilities owned or operated by the special district, and each public facility that is operated by another entity, except a local general-purpose government, through a lease or other agreement with the special district. This description shall include the current capacity of the facility, the current demands placed upon it, and its location. This information shall be required in the initial report and updated every 7 years at least 12 months before the submission date of the evaluation and appraisal notification letter of the appropriate local government required by s. 163.3191. The department shall post a schedule on its website, based on the evaluation and appraisal notification schedule prepared pursuant to s. 163.3191(5), for use by a special district to determine when its public facilities report and updates to that report are due to the local general-purpose governments in which the special district is located.
 - (b) A description of each public facility the district is building, improving, or expanding, or is currently proposing to build, improve, or expand within at least the next 7 years, including any facilities that the district is assisting another entity, except a local general-purpose government, to build, improve, or expand through a lease or other agreement with the district. For each public facility identified, the report shall describe how the district currently proposes to finance the facility.
 - (c) If the special district currently proposes to replace any facilities identified in paragraph (a) or paragraph (b) within the next 10 years, the date when such facility will be replaced.
 - (d) The anticipated time the construction, improvement, or expansion of each facility will be completed.
 - (e) The anticipated capacity of and demands on each public facility when completed. In the case of an improvement or expansion of a public facility, both the existing and anticipated capacity must be listed.
- (3) A special district proposing to build, improve, or expand a public facility which requires a certificate of need pursuant to chapter 408 shall elect to notify the appropriate local general-purpose government of its plans either in its 7-year plan or at the time the

letter of intent is filed with the Agency for Health Care Administration pursuant to s. 408.039.

(NOTE: further guidance provided by the statute):

(4) Those special districts building, improving, or expanding public facilities addressed by a development order issued to the developer pursuant to s. 380.06 may use the most recent annual report required by s. 380.06(15) and (18) and submitted by the developer, to the extent the annual report provides the information required by subsection (2).

(5) The facilities report shall be prepared and submitted within 1 year after the district's creation.

(6) For purposes of the preparation or revision of local government comprehensive plans required pursuant to s. 163.3161, a special district public facilities report may be used and relied upon by the local general-purpose government or governments within which the special district is located.

(7) Any special district that has completed the construction of its public facilities, improvements to its facilities, or its development is not required to submit a public facilities report, but must submit the information required by paragraph (2)(a).

(8) A special district plan of reclamation required pursuant to general law or special act, including, but not limited to, a plan prepared pursuant to chapter 298 which complies with the requirements of subsection (2), shall satisfy the requirement for a public facilities report. A water management and control plan adopted pursuant to s. 190.013, which complies with the requirements of subsection (2), satisfies the requirement for a public facilities report for the facilities the plan addresses.

TASKS

1. Meeting to discuss the Facility Plan with ED;
2. Data collection and review;
3. Meeting with Citrus County/SWFWMD/WRWSA to discuss data and report;
4. Report writing;
5. Report presentation to WRWSA Board; and
6. Report edits from ED and Board and finalization.

SCHEDULE

The WRWSA Special District Public Facilities Plan will be finalized by September 30, 2017. A draft of the report will be made available to the WRWSA Executive Director NLT September 4, 2017 for review and comment. Edits will be incorporated for Board mail out by September 11, 2017. The report will be presented to the Board on September 20, 2017 by the Consultant and final Board edits incorporated into the report and sent to the Executive Director NLT September 27, 2017.


COMPENSATION

Compensation for the WRWSA Special District Public Facilities Plan will be a not to exceed amount of \$ 9,580 and includes expenses.

**WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL
WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY**

WATER RESOURCE ASSOCIATES, LLC

**RICHARD OWEN DATE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



**PETER G. HUBBELL DATE 6/26/17
PRINCIPAL**

Item 11.a.

Executive Director's Report

Bills to be Paid

June 2017 provided in meeting materials.

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

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

Bills For Payment
5/17/2017

<u>Administrative Invoices</u>	<u>Invoice Number(s)</u>	<u>Invoice Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Richard S. Owen, AICP, Executive Director	2017-04	5/3/2017	\$6,824.61
Larry Haag, Attorney	33007	5/9/2017	\$453.00
Diane Salz, Governmental Affairs / Professional Fee	#043017	4/30/2017	\$3,500.00
C. LuAnne Stout, Administrative Assistant / Fee	4-Apr-2017	5/5/2017	\$3,125.00
Purvis Gray & Company / 2015-16 Yrly Audit	30378	4/26/2017	\$9,766.46
Purvis Gray & Company / 2016-17 1st & 2nd Qrtly Audits	30418 30831	4/26/2017	\$1,000.00
Karen Allen / Web Maintenance	#86	5/15/2017	\$87.50
Sun Trust Business Card Statement	5.2.2017	5/2/2017	\$228.00
Total Administrative Invoices			\$24,984.57

<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	\$23,899.35	\$600.00 (1)
FY2016-17 Water Conservation Grants Program			
Citrus County	\$36,875.00	\$36,875.00	
Hernando County	\$47,500.00	\$47,500.00	
Marion County	\$35,245.00	\$35,245.00	
Phase 3 Irrigation Program	\$3,500.00	\$0.00	
Phase 4 Irrigation Program	\$200,000.00	\$175,594.92	\$8,385.00 (2)
Total Project Invoices	\$423,120.00	\$369,114.27	\$8,985.00

Total Bills to be Paid	\$33,969.57
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State Board of Administration	Transfer from SBA2 to SBA1	\$8,985.00
State Board of Administration	Transfer from SBA1 to SunTrust Bank	\$33,969.57

Notes:

(1) WO 17-01. Water Resource Associates

\$600.00 Invoice 17-1000.2

(2) Phase 4 (N822) - Irrigation Audits

Jack Overdorff, ECO Land Design

\$8,385.00 Invoice 271

Item 11.b.

Executive Director's Report

2017-2018 Regulatory Plan

Item 11.b.

2017-2018 Regulatory Plan

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

Pursuant to Chapter 120.74, the WRWSA is required to file a regulatory plan annually by October 1st of each year. The regulatory plan must identify laws enacted or amended during the previous 12 months that affect the duties or authority of the agency, and for each such law, the agency must state whether it must adopt rules to implement the law and provide details about the proposed rulemaking schedule. If rulemaking is not necessary to implement the identified laws, the agency must provide a concise written explanation of why that is so. Regulatory plans must also include a listing of other laws the agency expects to implement by rulemaking in the coming year and it may include an update or supplement to prior regulatory plans. Finally, the regulatory plan must include certifications by the presiding officer and principal legal advisor to the agency.

As shown in proposed 2017-2018 Regulatory Plan contained in the Exhibit, no new laws were enacted during the pertinent time period that affect the duties or authority of the WRWSA. In addition, no rulemaking activities are planned for the 2017-2018 timeframe.

Upon approval by the Board, the WRWSA will submit the Authority's 2017-2018 Regulatory Plan and publish it on the Authority's website.

See Exhibit – 2017-2018 Regulatory Plan of the WRWSA

Staff Recommendation:

- 1) Approval of the WRWSA's proposed 2017-2018 Regulatory Plan; and
- 2) Authorization for the Vice Chair and General Counsel to execute the appropriate certifications.

**2017-2018 Regulatory Plan
of the
Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (WRWSA)**

A. RULEMAKING TO IMPLEMENT NEW LAWS

List laws enacted or amended during the previous 12 months which create or modify the duties or authority of the WRWSA:

None

B. OTHER RULEMAKING

List each law not otherwise listed under A., which the WRWSA expects to implement by rulemaking before July 1, 2018, except emergency rulemaking:

None

C. UPDATE OF PRIOR YEAR'S REGULATORY PLAN OF SUPPLEMENT

No update or supplement of any prior year's regulatory plan is needed.

D. CERTIFICATIONS

Certification of Chairman of WRWSA Board of Directors:

As Vice Chair of the Board of Directors, I certify that I have reviewed the WRWSA's 2017-2018 Regulatory Plan, that the WRWSA repealed all of its rules effective June 29, 2014, that no rulemaking has been conducted by the WRWSA subsequent to that repeal and further, as of July 19, 2017, that the WRWSA has no plans for rulemaking in the 2017-2018 fiscal year.

Michelle Stone, Vice-Chair
Date: July 19, 2017

Certification of the WRWSA General Counsel:

As General Counsel to the WRWSA, I certify that I have reviewed the WRWSA's 2017-2018 Regulatory Plan, that the WRWSA repealed all of its rules effective June 29, 2014, that no rulemaking has been conducted by the WRWSA subsequent to that repeal and further, as of July 19, 2017, that the WRWSA has no plans for rulemaking in the 2017-2018 fiscal year.

Larry Haag, General Counsel
Date: July 19, 2017

Item 11.c.

Executive Director's Report

Correspondence

Item 11.d.

Executive Director's Report

News Articles

Tampa Bay Times

Column: Swiftmud uses science to guide minimum flows on springs

By Brian J. Armstrong, special to the Tampa Bay Times
Wednesday, June 14, 2017 2:29pm

The Southwest Florida Water Management District's Governing Board recently approved minimum flows (or MFLs) for the Rainbow River and the Crystal River/Kings Bay systems. A minimum flow is the limit at which withdrawals will cause significant harm.

Some recent guest columns and letters to the editor have suggested the water management district arbitrarily sets these limits and offers a "blank check" to pump unlimited amounts of water out of the aquifer. In fact, MFLs are an important tool that provide additional protection for water resources by placing caps on withdrawals. MFLs do not authorize withdrawals. Anyone wanting to withdraw water must still go through the water-use permitting process. The MFL is an added protection to that process.

Our district scientists have been studying waterways for more than 30 years. We follow where the science leads without any presumption of what the outcome will be. The science and consistent approach used by district experts to set MFLs have been supported by nearly 20 independent peer review panels composed of other scientific experts.

Each of the major spring systems in our district is unique and each one is experiencing impacts from various causes. Scientific data show the impacts to water quality are unrelated to groundwater withdrawals. Water quality impacts are attributed to several factors including septic tanks, storm water and urban/residential fertilizer.

We are addressing the problems with Crystal River/Kings Bay and all of the major springs systems in our region. We have worked with a diverse group of stakeholders including local governments, state agencies, environmental organizations, public suppliers, agriculturalists and others to develop individualized plans for each spring. The plans identify the issues, causes, quantifiable objectives, helpful management actions, ongoing projects and proposed projects to help protect and restore these important water resources.

It's understandable that people are concerned about these incredibly wonderful natural systems. They need our help. But they won't get better unless we focus and attack the real causes of the problems. I encourage anyone who is interested in protecting our water resources to get informed, get involved and get engaged in protecting our springs. You can find more information about the individual spring plans and other springs data on our website at WaterMatters.org/springs.

Brian J. Armstrong is the executive director of the Southwest Florida Water Management District.