



WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY

Board Meeting Package

September 15, 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 Holcomb
Treasurer	The Honorable Jeff Kinnard

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



September 7, 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, September 15, 2021 3:30 p.m., at the Lecanto Government Center Building, Room 166, 3600 Sovereign Path, Lecanto, FL 34461.**

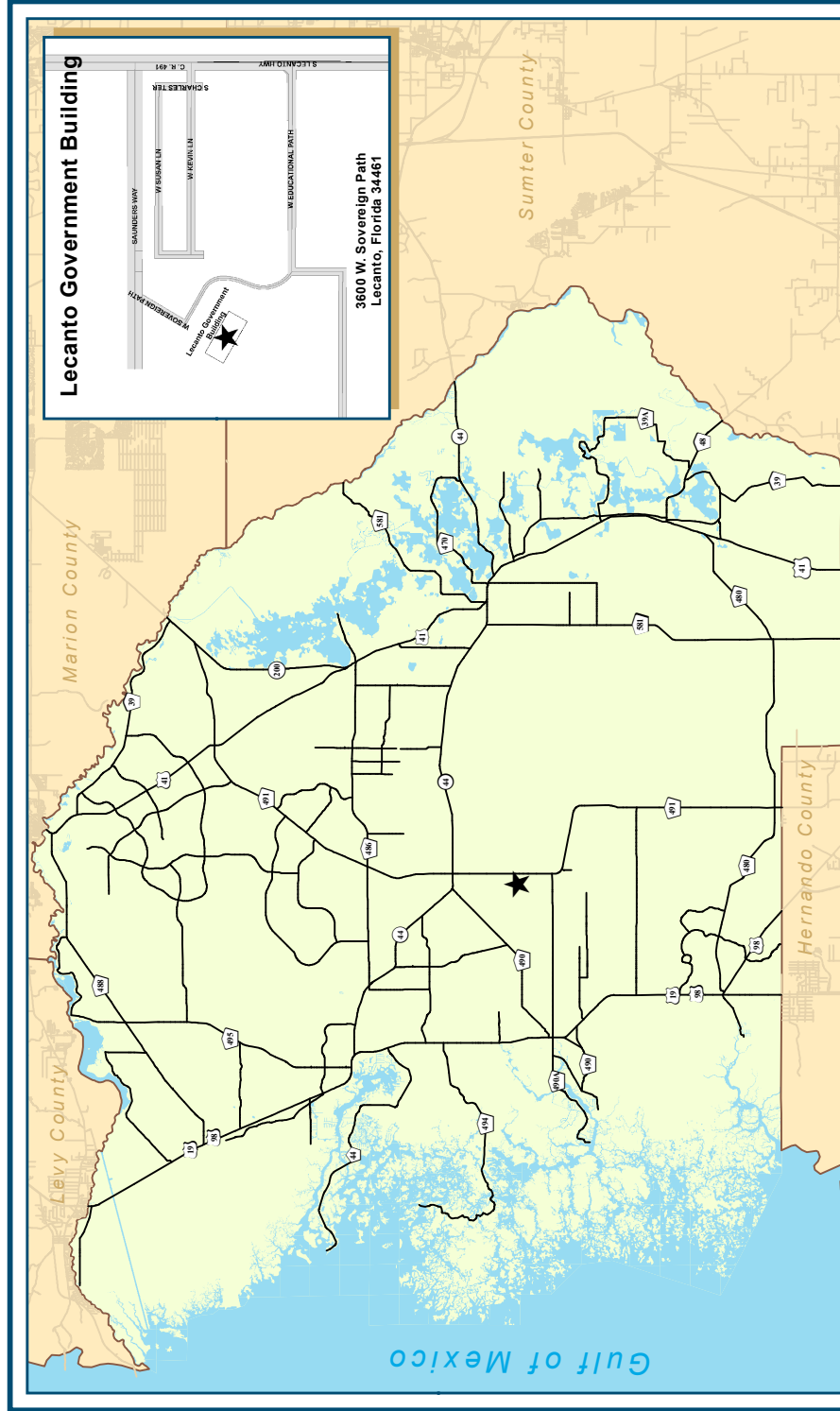
Enclosed for your review are the following items:

- Agenda
- Minutes of July 21, 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

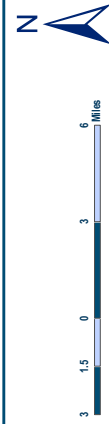
- * Copies of the Board Package are available through the Internet. Log on to www.wrwsa.org.
- On the Authority's Home Page go to the left side of the page and click on "Meetings."
 - On the slide out menu is a button for the current Board Package.
 - Click on the Board Package to download and/or print.



Office of Geographic Information Systems

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

Lecanto Government Building Locator Map



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

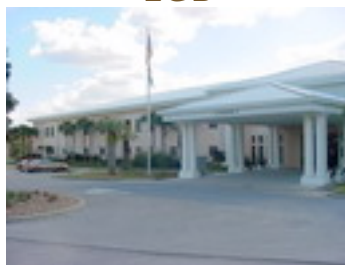
From Bushnell

- 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

**September 15, 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.

PAGE

1. **Call to Order** . . . Kathy Bryant, Chair
2. **Roll Call** . . . Suzy Folsom, WRWSA Executive Director
3. **Introductions and Announcements** . . . Suzy Folsom, WRWSA
4. **Pledge of Allegiance** . . . Led by the Board
5. **Public Comment**
6. **Consent Agenda** . . . Kathy Bryant, Chair
 - a. **Approval of Minutes** [July 21, 2021] 9
 - b. **Public Officials Liability Insurance Policy** 15
 - c. **Bills to be Paid** [August bills included; September bills provided at the meeting] 21
 - d. **Third Quarter Financial Report** 23
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7. **Charles A. Black Wellfield – Engineering Analysis and Recommended Renewal and Replacement Fund Contribution** . . . Allen Dethloff, CHA Consulting 28
8. **As-Needed Technical and Engineering Services Agreements and Work Orders** . . . Suzy Folsom, WRWSA 29
9. **SWFWMD Fiscal Year 2023-24 Cooperative Funding Requests** . . . Suzy Folsom, WRWSA 31
10. **Legislative Report** . . . Suzy Folsom, WRWSA 37
11. **Attorney’s Report** . . . Rob Batsel, WRWSA Attorney 39
12. **Executive Director’s Report** . . . Suzy Folsom, WRWSA
 - a. **Water Use Permit Demand Summary** 41
 - b. **Water Management Information System Water Use Permit Notifications** 45
 - c. **Correspondence** 47
 - d. **News Articles** 51
13. **Other Business**
14. **Next Meeting** . . . November 10, 2021; 3:30 p.m.; Lecanto Government Building, Room 166
 - *Note change in date to a week earlier due to Florida Association of Counties Legislative Conference, November 17-19, 2021.*
15. **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 July 21, 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.

1. Call to Order

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, *Chair*, Marion County Commissioner
Jeff Holcomb, *Vice Chair*, Hernando County Commissioner
Jeff Kinnard, *Treasurer*, Citrus County Commissioner
David Bailey, Brooksville City Councilor
Ken Brown, Crystal River City Councilor Holly Davis, Citrus County Commissioner
Gary Ernst, Belleview City Commissioner
Oren Miller, Sumter County Commissioner
Gary Search, Sumter County Commissioner
Dale Swain, Bushnell City Councilor

BOARD MEMBER(S) ABSENT

Craig Curry, Marion County Commissioner
Beth Narverud, Hernando County Commissioner
Michelle Stone, Marion County Commissioner

BOARD ALTERNATE(S) PRESENT

None

3. Introductions and Announcements

WRWSA STAFF PRESENT

Suzannah J. Folsom, PE, PMP, Executive Director
Robert W. Batsel, Jr., General Counsel
LuAnne Stout, Administrative Asst.

OTHERS PRESENT

Alys Brockway, Hernando County Water Res Mgr
Debra Burden, Citrus Co Water Conservation Mgr
Selma Folsom, Hillsborough County Resident
Frank Gargano, SWFWMD Govt Affairs Reg Mgr
Jody Kirkman, Marion Co Environmental Svcs Mgr
Ken Cheek, Citrus Co Water Resource Director
Joseph Quinn, SWFWMD Water Supply Project Mgr

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

5. Public Comment – There being no other members of the audience to address the Board, Chair Bryant closed public comment.

6. Consent Agenda

- a. **Approval of Minutes** – The May 19, 2021 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 June (\$20,900.57) and approval of July (\$32,900.05).
- c. **2021-2022 Regulatory Plan** – Staff recommended approval of the WRWSA’s proposed 2021-2022 Regulatory Plan and authorization for the Chair and General Counsel to sign the appropriate certifications.

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

7. Resolution 2021-03, Adoption of Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-22

Mrs. Suzannah Folsom, WRWSA Executive Director, presented this item. Included as Exhibit A to this item is the draft FY 2021-22 budget for the Board’s review. The budget has been prepared in a conservative manner to keep costs in check and enhance efficiencies for member governments. Included as Exhibit B is a description of the Authority’s FY 2021-22 work program that is supported by the proposed budget and Exhibit C is Resolution 2021-03, Adoption of Final Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget

Mr. Swain moved, seconded by Mr. Miller, to ratify action taken by the Board at its May 19, 2021 meeting to approve Resolution 2021-03 adopting the FY 2021-22 budget including budgeted expenditures in the amount of \$429,134, budgeted reserves in the amount of \$1,759,459, and a combined total amount of \$2,188,593, as presented in Exhibit A, for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2021 and ending September 30, 2022. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Water Supply and Conservation Grants Program – Approval of Awards

Mrs. Suzannah Folsom, WRWSA Executive Director, presented this item. At the Authority’s May 19, 2021 meeting, the Board set the total allocation of funds in Fiscal Year 2021-22 for the Local Government Grant Program at \$140,000. The Authority received four grant applications, one each from Citrus, Hernando, Marion and Sumter counties totaling \$136,847. Copies of the applications are included as exhibits to this item. The applications received reflect continuations of member government proven effective water conservation programs. Staff analysis of the applications indicates all of the proposed water conservation programs meet the Authority’s grant program requirements.

Representatives of each of the applicants have been invited to attend the meeting and answer any Board questions regarding their respective water conservation grant applications. Ms. Alys Brockway and Ms. Debra Burden were in attendance.

Ms. Davis moved, seconded by Mr. Brown, for approval of the Water Supply and Conservation Grants for the following counties with the amounts noted: Citrus - \$44,250, Hernando - \$48,750, Marion - \$21,847 and Sumter - \$22,000; and authorization of the Chair to sign the grant Agreements. Motion carried unanimously.

(Mr. Ernst entered the meeting at 3:40 p.m.)

9. Legislative Report

Mrs. Suzannah Folsom, Executive Director, presented this item.

a. Bill Status Summary

The 2020-2021 Legislative Regular Session began March 2 and ended 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 and the SWFWMD Board and Executive Services Manager. The exhibit included in the meeting materials is a summary of the bills that passed during the session and when the Governor approved them. Staff will continue to track the implementation of the bills

that have been approved, and give an update on their implementation at the September Board meeting.

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

b. **Senate Bill 64 Legislation**

Ms. Folsom noted that this item was presented at Mr. Kinnard's direction. Senate Bill 64 Reclaimed Water was one of the bills that passed during the 2020-2022 Legislative Session. The intent of this legislation is to eliminate non-beneficial discharges of reclaimed water to surface waters and to encourage beneficial reuse of treated wastewater.

Ms. Folsom reviewed a slide presentation to discuss more details on the legislation and the applicability to the WRWSA four-county region. In response to inquiries by Mr. Brown regarding spray fields, Mrs. Folsom provided clarifying information.

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

10. **Attorney's Report**

- a. **Executive Assistant Contract Amendment** -- Mr. Batsel, General Counsel, presented this item. He noted he has reviewed the Executive Assistant Contract and drafted a contract amendment to accommodate a three-percent raise for FY 2021-2022. This will increase the base compensation from \$37,500 to \$38,625. The amendment also allows the board to increase the base compensation in future fiscal years for cost of living, not to exceed three percent, as does the Executive Director's contract. A copy of the drafted contract amendment was included in the Board's meeting materials.

Ms. Davis moved, seconded by Mr. Miller, for approval of the approved contract amendment, as revised for scrivener's error, for Executive Assistant Contract to increase base compensation to \$38,625 for FY 2021-2022, and to authorize cost of living increases in future budget years. Motion carried unanimously.

- b. **Other** – None

11. **Executive Director's Report**

- a. **Water Use Permit Demand Summary** – Mrs. 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, comparing the last 12 months to the prior 12 months, and comparing the 12-month rolling average to the permit capacity. The graphs show that each month the pumpage is coming closer to being back in compliance.

Ms. Davis noted that Citrus County held a water restrictions workshop on July 13 which included discussion of water credits, home building permits, wellfield capacity, rate structures and Florida Friendly landscaping. Mr. Brown noted there is new water restriction technology but public perception regarding bottled water contradicts conservation. Discussion ensued.

Chair Bryant suggested Ms. Davis may want to learn more about water rate structure tiers. Mr. Kirkman addressed the County's rate tier system. Mr. Brown noted that the rates need to be set at an amount that leads to conservation. Chair Bryant recommended reviewing Marion County's comprehensive plan. Mr. Holcomb said the grants program includes ways to monitor amount of water use.

Mrs. Folsom said this type of discussion will continue due to each county experiencing growth. She noted that these are issues to discuss here. She said the water management districts' role is to make the Authority aware of what types of programs are working in other areas.

- b. **Water Management Information System Water Use Permit Notifications** – Mrs. Folsom reviewed the list of WMIS WUP notifications which is increasing in length. She noted that Citrus County will be starting the process of renewing the Charles A. Black Wellfield. They have hired one of their As-Needed Consultants and will be scheduling a pre application meeting with SWFWMD. She also reported that the Engineering Evaluation of the Charles A Black Wellfield is nearly complete, and that the County will most likely be increasing the Renewal and Replacement account deposit amount to keep up with the future wellfield and water treatment plant upkeep.
- c. **Correspondence** – Items provided in the meeting materials.
- d. **News Article(s)** – Two items provided in the meeting materials.

12. **Other Business**

- Mr. Holcomb noted possible reviewing report which had projections to 2040-2050 just to apprise Board. Mrs. Folsom noted that the updating of the Regional Water Supply Plan begins next year.

13. **Next Meeting Time and Location**

- Next Regular Board Meeting – September 15, 2021 at 3:30 p.m. at the Lecanto Government Building, Room 166.

14. **Adjournment** – Chair Bryant adjourned the meeting at 4:17 p.m.

Kathy Bryant, Chair

Suzannah J. Folsom, Executive Director

Consent Agenda

Public Officials Liability Insurance Policy

The Authority has received the Public Officials Liability Insurance Renewal information, which is included as an exhibit to this item. The renewal amount is slightly higher than the budgeted amount of \$3,000.00.

See Exhibit – Public Officials Liability Insurance Policy Renewal

Staff Recommendation:

Board approval of the Public Officials Liability Insurance renewal of \$3,098.55, and for the Executive Director to sign the Surplus Lines Disclosure and Acknowledgment form.



Amwins Brokerage of Florida, Inc.
10201 Centurion Parkway North
Suite 400
Jacksonville, FL 32256

amwins.com

August 27, 2021

Acentria
117 N Seminole Ave
Inverness, FL 34450

RE: Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority

PUBLIC OFFICIALS LIABILITY QUOTATION

Please find the attached quotation for Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority. Here is a summary of the terms and conditions:

INSURED: Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority

MAILING ADDRESS: 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Suite 228
Lecanto, FL 34461

CARRIER: Indian Harbor Insurance Company (Non-Admitted)

PROPOSED POLICY PERIOD: From 10/1/2021 to 10/1/2022
12:01 A.M. Standard Time at the Mailing Address shown above

QUOTE EXPIRATION DATE: 10/1/2021

POLICY PREMIUM:	Premium	\$2,751.00
	Fees	\$200.00
	Surplus Lines Taxes and Fees	\$147.55
	Total	\$3,098.55

MINIMUM EARNED PREMIUM: 25%



**Professional
Governmental
Underwriters, LLC**
The Authority.

25+ YEARS
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9020 Stony Point Parkway, Suite 455
P.O. Box 35471
Richmond, VA 23235
Toll Free: 800-586-6502
www.pgui.com
Fax: 804-272-7852

Public Officials Management & Employment Practices Liability

Proposed Insured: Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority
3600 West Sovereign Path, Suite 228
Lecanto, FL 34461

Application #: POL0951174-02-REN

Thank you very much for your submission. Based upon the information received and subject to the limitations outlined below, we are pleased to offer the following:

QUOTATION

Coverage: See coverage form PGU POL 2001 (04/2017) for terms, conditions and limitations

Form: Claims Made

Retro Date: 10/01/2013

Insurer Information: Indian Harbor Insurance Company
A member of the AXA XL Group of Companies
Best Rating: A XV
Surplus Lines Insurer

Filings / Taxes: PGU Not Responsible For Tax Filings

Quotation / Indication valid until: 10/1/2021

If we are offering coverage on a surplus lines basis, the agent is responsible for handling of filings unless we note otherwise on this quotation. If we have provided terms using bid specifications or an application other than ours, the quote is subject to change pending review of a completed and signed PGU application.

Public Officials Management & Employment Practices Liability

Page 2

Proposed Insured: Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority

Terms	Limits	Retentions each claim including LAE	Premium
Public Officials Management	\$1,000,000	\$5,000	\$2,751.00
Employment Practices Liability	\$1,000,000	\$10,000	Included
Policy Aggregate	\$1,000,000		
Non-Monetary Coverage - Defense Only	\$50,000	\$5,000	Included
Non-Monetary Coverage - Defense Only Aggregate	\$100,000		
Crisis Management	\$25,000	\$5,000	Included
Features/Enhancements			
Punitive Damages		See Retentions Above	Included
Personal Injury		See Retentions Above	Included
Third Party Wrongful Acts		See Retentions Above	Included
Back Pay / Front Pay		See Retentions Above	Included
Loss of Earnings		See Retentions Above	Included
Optional Increased Limits			
	2,000,000 CSL		N/A
	3,000,000 CSL		N/A
	4,000,000 CSL		N/A
	5,000,000 CSL		N/A
Premium, Fees and Taxes			
	Total Premium:		\$2,751.00
Comments:			
By purchasing this coverage, you will have the opportunity to register for our PGU Employer Resource Center that provides unlimited, specific, documented, and confidential advice from employment law attorneys. It also provides on-line training courses, including sexual harassment prevention, available for both supervisors and employees. As well as, on-line tools; a state-specific employee handbook builder, forms, posters, news, and more.			

Proposed Insured: Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority

SUBJECTIVITIES - WE MUST BE PROVIDED WITH THESE ITEMS BEFORE COVERAGE CAN BE BOUND:

Deadly Weapon Protection Insurance is available through Professional Governmental Underwriters, Inc. Please contact your underwriter if you are interested in additional information about this new product.

Reminders:

A written request is required to bind coverage.

Backdating of coverage is not allowed.

See attached Coverage Features attachment for additional information.

Limits, retentions, terms and conditions quoted do not necessarily match those requested.

This proposal contains a brief outline of coverages to be included in any policy that may be issued in the future.

This is only a summary and the Terms and Conditions of any policy will take precedence over any proposal.

Minimum Earned Premium is the GREATER of \$1,500 or 25% of annual premium.

We will not cancel flat after inception date.

Engineering Fee is non-refundable.

Applicable Forms: (Other forms may apply. Consult Underwriter for details.)

PN FL 10 09 09	Florida Notice to Policyholders
PGU POL 2000 08 19	Public Officials and Employment Practices Liability Declarations
IL MP 9104 0314 IHIC 03 14	In Witness
PGU 2002 04 17	Schedule of Policy Forms and Endorsements
PGU POL 2001 04 17	Public Officials and Employment Practices Liability Insurance Policy
PGU POL 1033 04 17	Additional Insureds - Boards, Commissions or Units
PGU 1052 (POL) 04 17	Minimum Earned Premium Upon Cancellation
PGU POL 1136 04 17	Coverage for Independent Contractors as Employees Specifically Listed or Described
XL-FLSOP 11 10	Service of Process
PN FL 03 10 15	Florida Notice to Policyholders
PN CW 01 09 15	Notice to Policyholders - Fraud Notice
PN CW 02 10 15	Notice to Policyholders - Privacy Policy
PN CW 05 09 14	Notice to Policyholders - U.S. Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control ("OFAC")

Public Officials Management & Employment Practices Liability

Coverage Features	<i>We welcome a comparison!</i>	
	<i>PGU - The Authority</i>	<i>The Others</i>
Defense in Addition to Limit	Yes, unless endorsed otherwise	
Covers D&O, E&O and EPL	X	
Sublimit for Defense for Non-Monetary claims	X	
Modified Consent to Settle Clause with only 40% co-insurance requirement for insured	X	
Business Invitee (Third Party) Liability covering Harrassment, Discrimination and Invasion of Privacy	X	
Broad definition of Loss including Back and Front Pay and Punitive Damages with a most favorable venue	X	
Broad definition of Wrongful Act including Personal Injury	X	
Broad definition of Claim including coverage for regulatory proceedings, arbitration hearings and EEOC hearings, subject to exclusions	X	
Severability of the Application for all individual insureds for all exclusions (not just personal profit and fraud exclusions)	X	
75-day free mini-tail	X	
Bi-Lateral ERP options of 1, 2 and 3 years	X	
Policy Non-Cancelable mid-term by carrier, except for non-payment of premium	X	
True Worldwide Coverage	X	
Sub-limit for Wage & Hour (FLSA)	Optional	
Sub-limit for Crisis Management	X	
PGU Employer Resource Center for employment law attorneys access and on-line tools	X	
<i>This document is intended to summarize key coverage features generally available. It does not summarize your quotation / indication. Please review the entire quotation / indication and policy form and endorsements for specific details.</i>		

Item 6.c.

Consent Agenda

Bills to be Paid

**August bills in the meeting materials;
September bills to be provided at meeting.**

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

Bills For Payment
8/18/2021

<u>Administrative Invoices</u>	<u>Invoice Number(s)</u>	<u>Invoice Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Suzannah J. Folsom, PE, Executive Director	1124	7/30/2021	\$7,712.58
Rob Batsel, General Counsel	63253	8/10/2021	\$1,069.25
C. LuAnne Stout, Admin Asst (Services)	7-Jul-21	8/2/2021	\$3,125.00
David Bailey (July Board Travel)	7/21/2021	7/21/2021	\$19.58
Kathy Bryant (July Board Travel)	7/21/2021	7/21/2021	\$36.49
Gary Ernst (July Board Travel)	7/21/2021	7/21/2021	\$36.49
Dale Swain (July Board Travel)	7/21/2021	7/21/2021	\$27.59
Karen Allen (Web Maintenance)	138	8/10/2021	\$150.00
Sun Trust Business Card Statement	8.2.2021	8/2/2021	\$411.50
Total Administrative Invoices			\$12,588.48

<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	\$7,760.00	
Work Order 2021-02 WRA	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	
Work Order 2021-01 CHA (Reiss) - CAB Wellfield	\$29,870.00	\$4,071.00	
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	\$23,086.26	\$2,760.74 (1)
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	\$45,608.47	\$9,457.37 (2)
Total Project Invoices	\$520,007.00		\$12,218.11

Total Bills to be Paid	\$24,806.59
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State Board of Administration	Transfer from SBA2 to SBA1	\$12,218.11
State Board of Administration	Transfer from SBA1 to SunTrust Bank	\$24,806.59

Notes:

(1) Marion Co. FY 19-20 Grant Funding Assistance Program

(invoice not rec'd, resubmitted July 2021)

\$2,760.74

Invoice WRWSA FY19-20 002

(2) Phase 6 (Q138) - Irrigation Audits

Jack Overdorff, ECO Land Design

\$8,507.37

Invoice 457

C. LuAnne Stout, Admin Services

\$950.00

Invoice 7-July-Q138-2021

\$9,457.37

Item 6.d.

Consent Agenda

Third Quarter Financial Report

See inserted document

Item 6.e.

Consent Agenda

Fiscal Year 2021-22 Calendar of Board Meeting Dates

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

The Authority is required to follow Chapter 189, Florida Statutes, concerning meeting notices. In response to these statutory requirements, the Authority publishes an annual calendar of meeting dates that is approved by the Board. Any changes to the meeting dates, times or locations must be published in area newspapers to notice the change from the originally published calendar. The following dates are proposed for the Fiscal Year 2021-22 meeting schedule.

Location of Meetings:	Lecanto Government Building, Room 166 3600 W. Sovereign Path Lecanto, Florida 34461
Start Time:	3:30 p.m.
Meeting Dates:	November 10, 2021 (Nov. 17-19 FAC Conf) January 19, 2022 March 16, 2022 May 18, 2022 July 20, 2022 September 21, 2022

Staff Recommendation:

Board approval of the Fiscal Year 2021-22 meeting dates as shown above.

**Charles A. Black Wellfield – Engineering Analysis and Recommended
Renewal and Replacement Fund Contribution**

Mr. Allen Dethloff, representing CHA Consulting, will present this item.

At the January 20, 2021 Board meeting, the Board approved issuance of a Work Order to Reiss Engineering (now CHA Consulting) to conduct an Engineering Evaluation of the Charles A. Black Water Supply Facilities. This evaluation is completed every five years to assess the current condition of the water treatment plant and wellfield assets, estimate future renewal and replacement activities, and recommend funding levels required to maintain the renewal and replacement fund balance between \$2 million and \$3 million as per the Water Supply Contract.

CHA Consulting worked closely with WRWSA and Citrus County staff to determine the condition of the existing assets, and project the required expenditures over the next five-year period. A site visit was conducted on March 5, 2021.

The projected expenditures for the coming five years are estimated as approximately \$1,100,000. The recommended amount for Citrus County to deposit into the Renewal and Replacement Fund is recommended to increase from \$180,000 to \$270,000 per year.

Staff Recommendation:

- (1) Acceptance of the updated Engineering Analysis Report by CHA Consulting; and
- (2) Approval of the increase of Citrus County's annual contribution from \$180,000 to \$270,000 to the Renewal and Replacement Fund for the next five-year (5-year) period.

As-Needed Technical and Engineering Services Agreements and Work Orders

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

a. Agreements

At its September 2017 meeting the Board authorized the award of contracts for General Professional Engineering/Technical Services to the following firms in alphabetical order.

Firms (listed alphabetically)	Location
Intera	Gainesville, Jacksonville, Tampa
Progressive Water Resources	Sarasota, Spring Hill
Reiss Engineering	Tampa, Winter Springs
Weber & Associates	Tampa
WRA	Tampa, Sarasota, Ft. Myers

The agreements with these firms do not authorize any work; work must be authorized through the issuance of subsequent Work Orders, which must be approved by the Board. The agreements took effect October 1, 2017 and are valid for a three-year period (through September 30, 2020) and may be extended for two (2) one (1) year periods upon mutual written agreement of both parties.

Staff recommends issuance of the following one-year extension of As-Needed General Engineering/Technical Services to the following firms:

Firms (listed alphabetically)	Location
INTERA Incorporated	Gainesville, Jacksonville, Tampa
Progressive Water Resources, a Division of RESPEC Company, LLC	Sarasota, Spring Hill
CHA Consulting, Inc (Reiss)	New York, Winter Springs
WRA, LLC	Tampa, Sarasota

b. Work Orders

The Board also authorized the issuance of work orders in September 2019 to two of these firms, Reiss Engineering and Weber and Associates. These work orders have subsequently expired. In order to provide technical and engineering support on an as-needed basis in the coming fiscal year, it is necessary for one or more new work orders to be issued.

Staff recommends issuance of work orders in the amount of \$10,000 to the following firms:

Firms (listed alphabetically)	Location
INTERA Incorporated	Gainesville, Jacksonville, Tampa
Progressive Water Resources, a Division of RESPEC Company, LLC	Sarasota, Spring Hill
WRA, LLC	Tampa, Sarasota, Ft. Myers

Staff Recommendation:

- (1) Board authorize the Executive Director to issue one-year extensions of As-Needed General Engineering/Technical Services agreements as shown above through September 30, 2022; and
- (2) Board authorize the Executive Director to issue the three work orders shown above in the amount of \$10,000 each to INTERA, PWR/RESPEC and WRA through September 30, 2022.

SWFWMD Fiscal Year 2022-23 Cooperative Funding Requests

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

The Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) has opened the application period for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-23 Cooperative Funding Initiative and applications are due by October 1, 2021. The purpose of this item is to request Board authorization to submit two cooperative funding requests to the SWFWMD, including (1) the WRWSA's Regional Water Supply Plan (RWSP) update and (2) Phase 7 of the Regional Irrigation System Audit Program.

WRWSA Regional Water Supply Plan Update

The Authority last updated its Regional Water Supply Plan in 2019. The update was co-funded by the SWFWMD. The Authority updates its Plan every five years and it is proposed by staff that this update be initiated in FY 2022-23 and that the Authority request 50% co-funding from the SWFWMD.

On August 12, 2021 Authority staff met with SWFWMD staff to discuss this potential funding request and various aspects of the plan update. In that discussion, the timing of the Authority's update in relationship to the SWFWMD's update to its own RWSP for the northern region of its jurisdiction was discussed. The SWFWMD would like to have the Authority's updated Plan complete for consideration in their next district wide Regional Water Supply Plan update in 2025. In order to accomplish this, it was suggested that the Authority initiate its update in fiscal year 2022-23.

The work effort will include updated population projections, water demand projections, evaluation of source options and potential water supply project options. The project as proposed includes development of enhanced future water conservation savings potential. The total project funding is proposed at \$350,000, and would be divided equally between the Authority and the SWFWMD.

Regional Irrigation System Audit Program Phase 7

The Authority has conducted a regional irrigation system audit program since 2011. Participating utilities have included Citrus, Hernando and Marion counties and The Villages. The program has been funded 50/50 between the Authority and SWFWMD. The Authority's share is then split 50/50 with each participating utility. Each utility identifies the level of funding at which it desires to participate. The program targets the highest use single family residential customers identified by each utility. Participation by customers is voluntary and the irrigation system audit is conducted at no cost to the customer. The program to-date has achieved significant water savings. Outdoor lawn watering continues to be the area of greatest potential savings and continued focus on water savings in outdoor use is the consensus of the local utility conservation experts.

Item 9

The Phase 7 total project budget is recommended at \$102,000. Utilities potentially participating in the proposed Phase 5 program include Citrus County (\$3,500), Hernando County (\$6,400), Marion County (\$10,500) and The Villages North Sumter County Utility Dependent District (\$1,700) and the Village Center Community Development District (\$3,400), for a total local contribution of \$25,500. The Authority would need to demonstrate to the SWFWMD the full match of \$51,000, with \$25,500 to be reimbursed by the local utilities, and the SWFWMD requested to provide matching funds in the amount of \$51,000.

As part of the application submittals, the Authority must provide a commitment to include its 50% of each project's cost in its FY 2022-23 budget. This amounts to a total of \$226,000 (\$175,000 for the RWSP Update and \$51,000 for Phase 7 of the Irrigation Audit Program) in Authority project funding. There are currently more than adequate funds available in the Authority's Water Resource Development Reserves (projected to be \$1,019,301 at the end of FY 2020-21). Funding commitment letters are included as exhibits to this item. Finally, the SWFWMD requires applicants with more than one application to rank the applications. Staff recommends the RWSP update project be ranked number one and Phase 7 of the Regional Irrigation System Audit Program be ranked second. A ranking letter is included as an exhibit in the Board's meeting materials.

See Exhibits – Ranking Letter and Funding Commitment Letters

Staff Recommendation:

- (1) Board approval of the FY 2022-23 Cooperative Funding Initiative applications, with the Regional Water Supply Plan update ranked as number one for a total amount of \$350,000 and Phase 7 of the Regional Irrigation System Audit Program ranked as second for the total amount of \$102,000. This includes a commitment to fund the Authority's portion of these projects.
- (2) The RWSP update will require the Authority's FY 2022-23 budget to include \$175,000 in matching funds. These funds would come from the Water Resource Development Reserves account. The Phase 7 Regional Irrigation System Audit project requires a commitment of \$51,000 in the FY2022-23 budget.

DRAFT

September 15, 2021

Southwest Florida Water Management District
Attn: Cooperative Funding Program Administrator
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899

Subject: Fiscal Year 2022-23 Cooperative Funding Requests Ranking
Regional Water Supply Plan Update
Phase 7 of the Regional Irrigation System Audit Program

Dear CFI Administrator:

The Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (WRWSA) is submitting two Cooperative Funding Requests for the District's consideration in its FY2022-23 Cooperative Funding Initiative. We have prioritized them as follows:

- (1) The WRWSA's Regional Water Supply Plan (RWSP) update; and
- (2) Phase 7 of the Regional Irrigation System Audit Program.

The WRWSA Board, at its September 15, 2021 meeting, approved this ranking. We greatly appreciate the District's consideration of our requests.

Sincerely,

Suzannah Folsom, PE, PMP
Executive Director

DRAFT

September 15, 2021

Southwest Florida Water Management District
Attn: Cooperative Funding Program Administrator
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899

Subject: Fiscal Year 2022-23 Cooperative Funding Request – Regional Water Supply
Plan Update Funding Commitment

Dear CFI Administrator:

The Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (WRWSA) is submitting a Cooperative Funding Request for the District's consideration in its FY2022-23 Cooperative Funding Initiative (CFI) for the update of the WRWSA's Regional Water Supply Plan (RWSP). The District requires CFI applicants to demonstrate a commitment of matching funds for each funding request. The purpose of this letter is to express the commitment of the Authority to fund its 50% share of the project costs.

Should the project be considered by the District for cooperative funding in FY2022-23, the Authority commits to include matching funds in the amount of \$175,000 in its FY2022-23 budget.

The Authority Board, at its September 15, 2021 meeting, approved this letter of funding commitment. We greatly appreciate the District's consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Suzannah Folsom, PE, PMP
Executive Director

DRAFT

September 15, 2021

Southwest Florida Water Management District
Attn: Cooperative Funding Program Administrator
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899

Subject: Fiscal Year 2022-23 Cooperative Funding Request – Phase 7 of the
Regional Irrigation System Audit Program Funding Commitment

Dear CFI Administrator:

The Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (WRWSA) is submitting a Cooperative Funding Request for the District's consideration in its FY2022-23 Cooperative Funding Initiative (CFI) for Phase 7 of the Regional Irrigation System Audit Program. The District requires CFI applicants to demonstrate a commitment of matching funds for each funding request.

The purpose of this letter is to express the commitment of the Authority to fund its 50% share of the project costs. Should the project be considered by the District for cooperative funding in FY2022-23, the Authority commits matching funds in the amount of \$51,000 of in its FY2022-23 budget.

The Authority Board, at its September 15, 2021 meeting, approved this letter of funding commitment. We greatly appreciate the District's consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Suzannah Folsom, PE, PMP
Executive Director

Legislative Report

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

The 2021-2022 Legislative Regular Session will start January 11, 2022 and run through March 11, 2022.

Staff will gather 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 and the SWFWMD Board and Executive Services Manager.

Staff will also look for look for opportunities to attend legislative delegation public hearings for the region such as the Sumter County Legislative Delegation Public Hearing on Wednesday, September 29, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

Staff Recommendation:

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

Item 11

Attorney's Report

To be provided at meeting

Item 12.a.

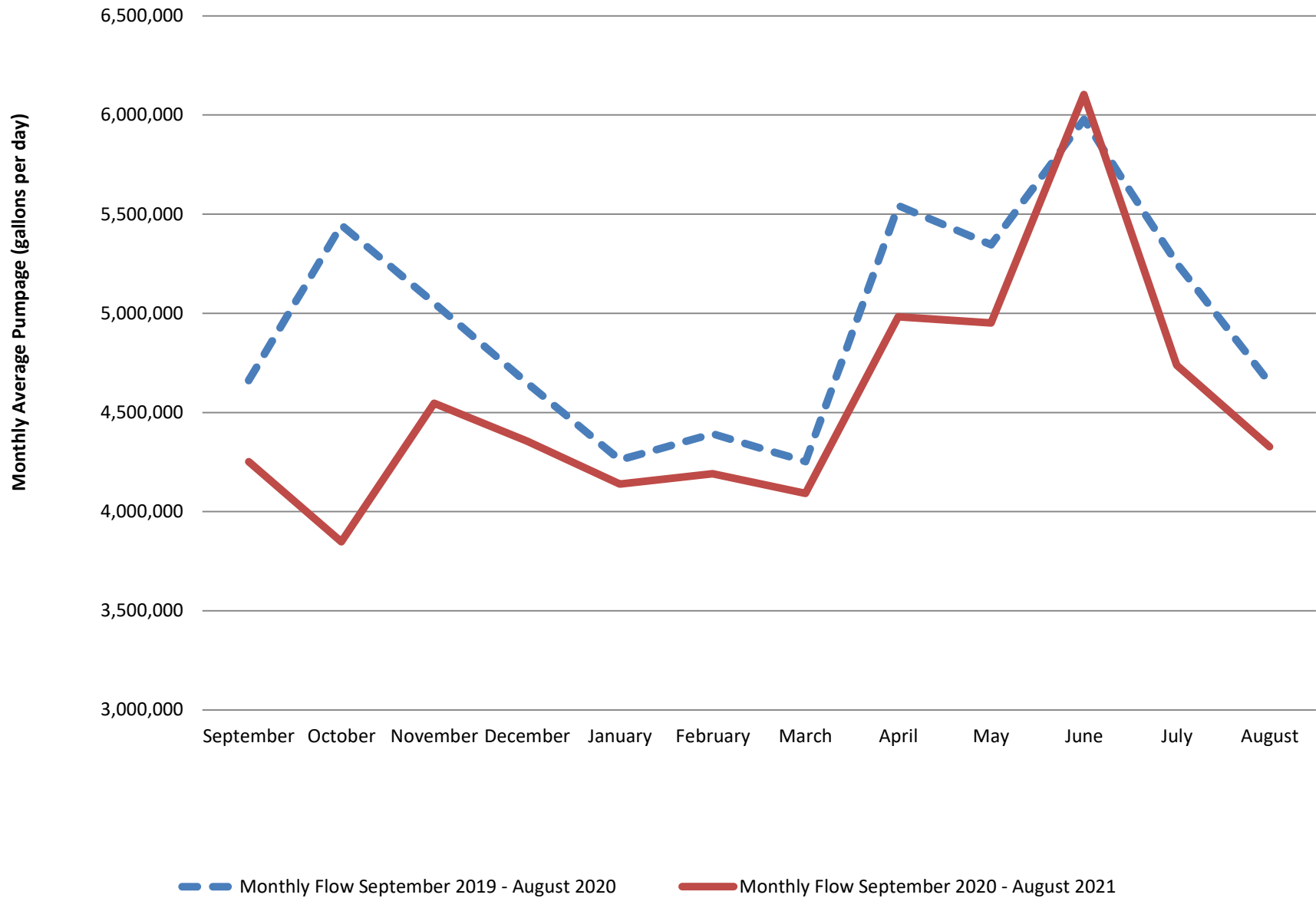
Executive Director's Report

Water Use Permit Demand Summary

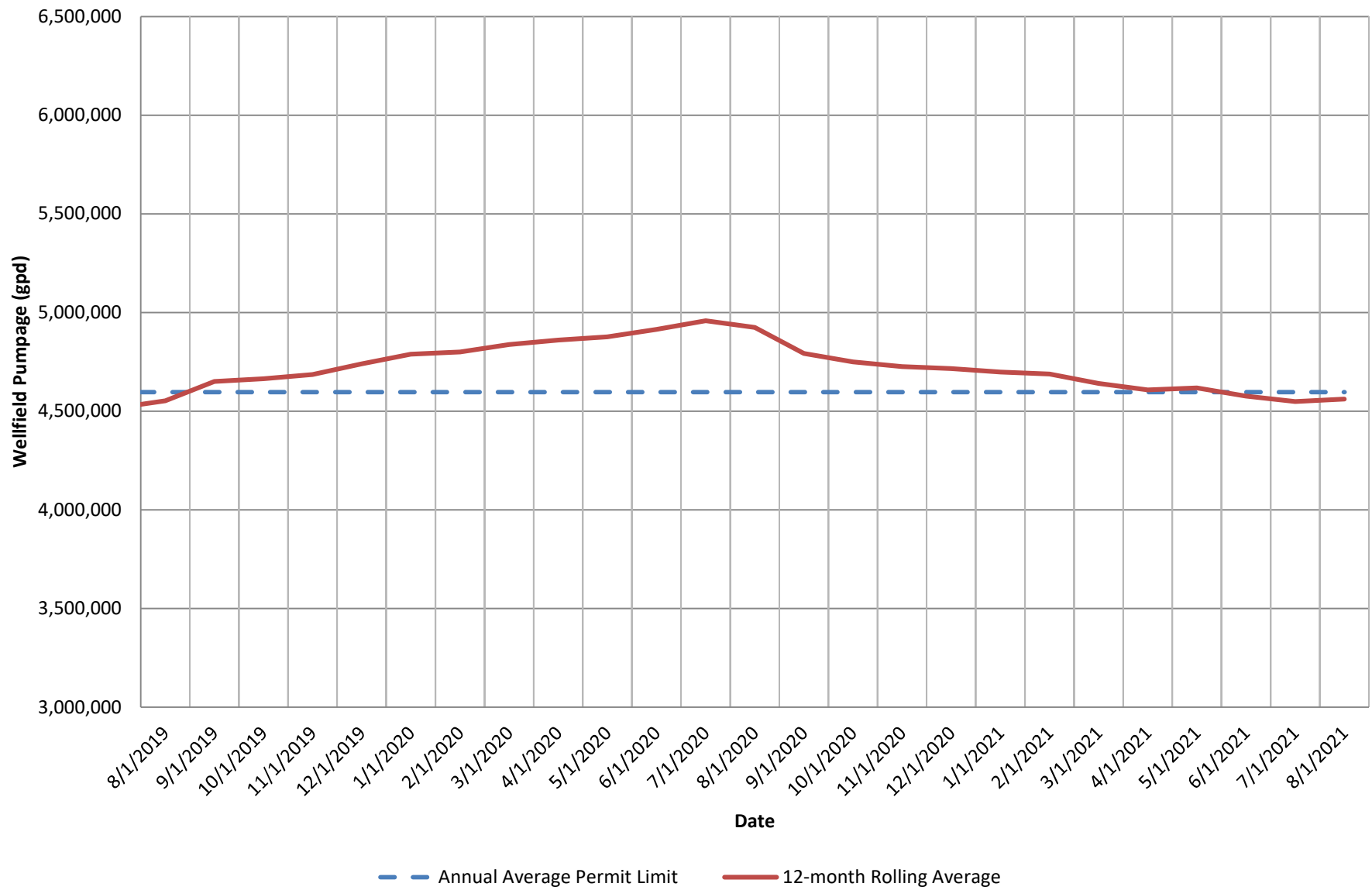
Summary of Major Water Use Permits in WRWSA Service Area

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	700,041.00	775,945.00	76.2%	740,000	5.7%
419.013	City of Inverness	5/18/1931	1,535,000	1,147,046	1,051,679	74.7%	1,120,000	-2.4%
1118.008	Floral City Water Association, Inc.	2/28/2038	395,000	324,823	341,196	82.2%	300,000	-7.6%
2842.011	Citrus County	8/25/2035	4,780,000	2,503,099	2,529,898	52.4%	2,540,000	1.5%
4153.014	Rolling Oaks Utilities, Inc.	8/20/2038	1,573,000	1,591,657	1,586,475	101.2%	1,510,000	-5.1%
4406.008	Homosassa Special Water District	2/13/2022	960,000	852,810	812,941	88.8%	760,000	-10.9%
7121.006	Citrus County - Charles A Black	3/13/2022	4,597,000	4,561,427	4,643,652	99.2%	3,710,000	-18.7%
9791.011	Citrus County - Sugarmill Woods	11/17/2025	2,435,300	2,157,380	2,154,270	88.6%	2,290,000	6.1%
11839.008	GCP Walden Wds. One & Two, LLC, c/o Sun Communities, Inc.	4/23/2039	187,900	173,832	155,989	92.5%	140,000	-19.5%
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	19,706,488	18,021,353	84.6%	18,850,000	-4.3%
7627.005	City of Brooksville	2/25/2024	2,448,000	1,290,869	1,311,846	52.7%	1,120,000	-13.2%
Marion County - SWFWMD								
1156.013	Bay Laurel Community Development District	2/23/2041	7,560,900	3,622,806	3,280,430	47.9%	2,650,000	-26.9%
2999.005	Marion Utilities, Inc. Rainbow Lakes Estates	2/27/2035	126,000	96,118	98,193	76.3%	100,000	4.0%
5643.008	Utilities, Inc. of Florida - Golden Hills	2/23/2036	188,400	146,807	146,009	77.9%	160,000	9.0%
6151.013	Marion County Utilities Consolidated WUP	9/7/2021	6,661,000	5,416,619	4,609,312	81.3%	5,130,000	-5.3%
7849.005	Marion Utilities, Inc.- Woods & Meadows	4/20/2037	149,000	127,591	126,291	85.6%	140,000	9.7%
8020.008	Association of Marion Landing Owners, Inc.	9/9/2040	179,400	126,547	134,562	70.5%	160,000	26.4%
8339.008	Florida Governmental Utility Authority- Dunellon	3/21/2035	1,117,100	1,622,636	1,114,403	145.3%	910,000	-43.9%
8481.006	Marion Utilities, Inc.- Spruce Creek	6/24/2039	834,400	838,222	714,604	100.5%	690,000	-17.7%
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	101,249	93,630	76.7%	100,000	-1.2%
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	128,057	127,325	66.0%	130,000	1.5%
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	984,353	912,777	96.3%	860,000	-12.6%
4578-7	Marion County Utilities Consolidated CUP	9/10/2023	6,440,000	5,631,409	5,667,190	87.4%	6,620,000	17.6%
50324-9	City of Ocala	8/7/2027	15,260,000	11,764,312	11,578,873	77.1%	11,460,000	-2.6%
Sumter County								
1368.008	Lake Panasoffkee Water Assoc Inc	8/22/2024	410,000	279,014	268,927	68.1%	290,000	3.9%
6519.01	City of Bushnell	3/29/2031	1,366,800	432,715	462,588	31.7%	555,000	28.3%
7185.006	City of Webster	8/29/2022	102,900	93,772	85,492	91.1%	160,000	70.6%
8135.013	City of Wildwood	3/31/2035	4,344,800	2,317,282	2,184,002	53.3%	3,950,000	70.5%
8193.005	City of Center Hill	9/10/2022	170,500	69,199	69,119	40.6%	150,000	116.8%
13005.011	Village Center Community Development District	1/23/2038	19,345,900	12,654,359	13,627,241	65.4%	24,400,000	92.8%
20597.000	City of Wildwood-Continental Country Club	6/17/2026	238,400	140,022	136,163	58.7%	210,000	50.0%
*12-month Rolling Average for most recent available data								
** 5-year Rolling Average for most recent available data								
***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 12.b.

Executive Director's Report

WMIS WUP Notifications

Summary of Recent Water Use Permit Activity in WRWSA Service Area

Water Use Permit #	Applicant/Permittee Name	Activity Type	Date	Avg GPD	Peak GPD	Use Type	Status
Citrus County							
2226.004	M & B Products, Inc./Attn: Andrea McClellan	Renewal	5/13/2021	27,450	73,900	Agricultural	In Review
7662.004	Champs Software Inc./Attn: Charlotte Duval	Renewal	7/8/2021	30,600	93,800	Landscape/ Recreation/ Industrial/ Commercial	In Review
4368.004	Citrus County School Board/Attn: Eric Stokes	Renewal	8/2/2021	87,000	321,400	Landscape/ Recreation/ Agricultural	In Review
11281.008	Metal Industries, LLC/Attn: Howard Loy	Renewal	7/2/2021	200,000	200,000	Other	Issued 8/2/2021
Hernando County							
6797.004	SA Williams Trust	Renewal	2/25/2021	325,900	1,290,200	Agricultural	Issued 8/3/2021
12203.002	Finest Farms, Inc./Attn: Blake Hunnicutt	Renewal	5/19/2021	155,100	517,400	Agricultural	Issued 7/15/2021
368.011	7406 St. Andrews Blvd., LLC/Attn: Pariksinh Singh	Letter Modification	7/12/2021	59,700	143,700	Landscape/ Recreation	Withdrawn
368.012	Golf & Country Club at the Heather, LLC	Ownership Transfer	7/9/2021	59,700	143,700	Landscape/ Recreation	Issued 7/22/2021
5789.014	Hernando Co. BOCC, Wiscon Maintenance Compound/Attn: Landis Legg	Letter Modification	7/9/2021	23,299,000	28,657,800	Public Supply	In Review
Marion County - SWFWMD							
20175.001	Circle Square Ranch Master Assoc., Inc./Attn: Gerald R. Colen	Renewal	5/19/2021	21,700	62,500	Landscape/ Recreation	In Review
20152.001	HT Ranch, LLC	Renewal	5/24/2021	217,800	806,900	Agricultural	In Review
20210.002	Roberts Quarter Horse Farm	Renewal	6/8/2021	426,380	1,340,630	Agricultural	In Review
4390.007	Barber Peanut Farm	Renewal	6/23/2021	381,400	1,378,700	Agricultural	Issued 8/26/2021
10923.002	Spruce Creek Golf, LLC/Attn: Kenneth	Modification	7/26/2021	163,600	388,700	Landscape/	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
10385.003	Long Hammock Ranch III, LLC/ Attn: Chad Hughes	Renewal	3/25/2021	90,400	498,600	Agricultural	In Review
7746.004	Cal-Maine Foods, Inc./ Attn: Adolphus Baker	Renewal	5/11/2021	61,000	92,000	Agricultural	In Review
12208.003	Div. of Forestry, Dept. of Ag. and Cons. Serv/Attn: Keith Mouse	Renewal	5/13/2021	40,600	157,700	Agricultural	In Review
8675.008	U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs / Attn: Bryan Bodner	Letter Modification	5/13/2021	817,400	2,336,100	Landscape/ Recreation	In Review
20105.003	trueBlue Growers	Ownership Transfer	6/22/2021	89,500	281,000	Agricultural	Issued 7/19/2021
20979.000	DZ Block Inc./Attn: Robert Richardson	New	7/7/2021	75,000	122,400	Industrial/ Commercial	Issued 7/21/2021
2777.005	T.P. Caruthers Jr. and Betty G. Caruthers	Letter Modification	8/18/2021	41,500	130,500	Agricultural	In Review
8211.005	Flowerwood Nursery, Inc./Attn: Glenn Ponder	Renewal	8/24/2021	574,900	1,257,200	Agricultural	In Review
10923.002	Spruce Creek Golf, LLC/Attn: Kenneth Kirkpatrick*	Modification	7/26/2021	163,600	388,700	Landscape/ Recreation	In Review
<i>*WUP #10923.002 is located within Marion and Sumter Counties</i>							

Item 12.c.

Executive Director's Report

Correspondence

Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences
UF/IFAS Extension Marion County

7620 FL-471 #2
Bushnell, FL 33513
(352) 569-6862

August 5, 2021

Ms. Kathy Bryant, Board Chair
Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority Board
Lecanto Government Building - 3600 Sovereign Path, Ste 228
Lecanto, FL 34461

Dear Ms. Bryant,

Because water is an issue that will require informed decision making in upcoming years, we are writing to invite you to attend the first **Sumter County Water School – Challenges Facing Urban Communities** to be held Thursday, October 21 and Friday, October 22, 2021, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., at the Wildwood Community Center located at 6500 Powell Road, Wildwood, FL 34785. Sumter County Water School is conducted by the UF/IFAS Extension Sumter County. It will provide decision makers and community leaders with science-based information on current and future water issues in Sumter County and nearby areas. This is a policy-neutral and fact-based program.

Sumter County Water School will feature two in-class sessions, one *field trip*, and one group discussion. The in-class sessions will cover topics related to water policies and different water conservation and protection projects. During the field trip session, you will visit different stormwater systems. You can find more details in the enclosed agenda.

Registration is \$35.00. If you cannot attend, please consider sending a representative of your staff. Register online <https://2021sumterwater.eventbrite.com>.

If you have questions about the Sumter County Water School, please call us at 352-689-4671. We hope to see you, a leader in Sumter County, at the School in October.

Sincerely,

Y. ZHUANG

Yilin Zhuang, Ph.D.
UF/IFAS Extension Central District
Mid-Florida Research and Education Center

NRSamuel

Norma Samuel, Ph.D.
UF/IFAS Extension Sumter County

2021 Sumter County Water School Challenges Facing Urban Communities

October 21 - 22, 2021, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Wildwood Community Center

6500 Powell Road, Wildwood, FL 34785

Thursday, October 21, 2021

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| 8:15 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. | Registration and Refreshments |
| 8:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m. | Opening Remarks
Scott Angle, Ph.D. Vice President for Agriculture and Natural Resources,
University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences
(UF/IFAS) |
| 8:45 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. | Florida Water Resources and Regulations
Yilin Zhuang, Ph.D., UF/IFAS Extension Central District |
| 9:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. | Stormwater Pond Management
AJ Reisinger, Ph.D., University of Florida, Soil and Water Sciences
Department |
| 10:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. | Coffee Break and Educational Displays |
| 10:45 a.m. – 11:30 p.m. | Alternative Water Sources and Conservation in The Villages
Trey Arnett, P.E., & Jamie Padgett, Arnett Environmental, LLC |
| 11:30 am – 12:45 p.m. | Lunch |
| 12:45 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. | Field Trip: Stormwater Systems in Sumter County |
| 4:30 p.m. | Adjournment On Site |

(over)

Friday, October 22, 2021

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 8:15 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. | Registration and Refreshments |
| 8:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m. | Welcome
Shirley Baker, Ph.D., Associate Program Leader for Natural Resources,
University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences
(UF/IFAS) |
| 8:45 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. | What Does Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Mean to Florida's Water?
Norma Samuel, Ph.D., UF/IFAS Extension Sumter County |
| 9:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. | Mobile Irrigation Lab and Irrigation Audit
Michelle Atkinson, Environmental Horticulture Agent, UF/IFAS
Extension Manatee County |
| 10:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. | Coffee Break and Educational Displays |
| 10:45 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. | Soil Amendments and Local Ordinances
Eban Bean, Ph.D., P.E., University of Florida, Agricultural and Biological
Engineering Department |
| 11:30 am – 1:00 p.m. | Lunch |
| 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. | Group Discussion |
| 4:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. | Closing Remarks and Graduation |
| 4:30 p.m. | Adjournment |

(end)

Item 12.d.

Executive Director's Report

News Articles

Citrus Chronicle

Battle for the Withlacoochee River

Report spotlights poor health of Lower Withlacoochee; stakeholders called to act

Buster Thompson Chronicle Reporter

July 15, 2021



Withlacoochee Aquatic Restoration Inc. (W.A.R.) president Dan Hilliard addresses a recent study to determine the health of the Withlacoochee River. The river is vital ecological resource for much of Central Florida.

After almost a decade of fundraising, research and patience, citizen advocates of the Withlacoochee River have the proof to show their waterway needs a lot of help.

“We did the investigation; it was tedious, it was expensive,” said Dan Hilliard, president of Withlacoochee Aquatic Restoration Inc. (WAR). “But it’s necessary, it’s long overdue and we got it done.”

It was in 2012 when members of WAR decided to pursue an extensive study to illustrate the health of the river’s most downstream section in between Citrus and Levy counties — the Lower Withlacoochee River.

In early July 2021, following three phases of work, Wetland Solutions Inc. published a report of its findings.



The Withlacoochee River flows from the Green Swamp northwest into the Gulf of Mexico near Inglis, pictured above.

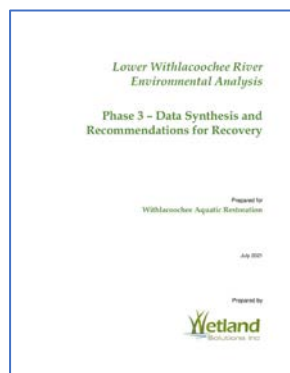
Matthew Beck Photo Editor

What the Gainesville-based company discovered was unsettling, documenting “a variety of hydrological, physical, chemical, biological and structural impairments” from 120 years of human nature.

As a result, invasive vegetation has flourished while native fisheries and other river habitats have either suffered or died off.

“There was a downturn in what we were seeing in the river,” Hilliard said, describing his residency along the lower river from 2001 to 2015. “The things we saw and appreciated ... those things were all gone, and it was the lifeblood of this community.”

To read a copy of the report, view the online version of this story at chronicleonline.com.



Wetlands Solutions Inc.

Wetland Solutions recommended several solutions for U.S. and Florida agencies and lawmakers to consider — from major reconstructions and septic-to-sewer projects, to herbicide and fertilizer regulations.

According to the company, the cost of restoring the lower river could be between \$20-150 million, depending on which strategies are taken.

“This is a matter of perspective — the price tag of trying to fix the Everglades ... is in the billions of dollars; this is beer change compared to that,” Hilliard said. “It may not cost that much, it all depends on what they decide to do, and they all have implications.”

It’s now up to WAR, its roughly 100 members and their supporters to spur action from the many stakeholders involved in managing the river.

“We have put some light on things that a lot of people, even the regulators, were not aware of,” Hilliard said, “and, at the end of the day, I think we’re going to see a positive benefit from it; the job is not over yet.”

This isn’t WAR’s first battle for the Withlacoochee River.

Founded in 1984 under the original title of Withlacoochee Area Residents, the citizen-led nonprofit helped limit mining operations at quarries within the river’s watershed.



Areas in green make up the watershed of the Withlacoochee River, which is mostly fed by the Green Swamp near Lakeland in Polk County, and drains into the Gulf of Mexico near Yankeetown.

Wetland Solutions Inc.

It also led the charge to designate the river as an Outstanding Florida Waterway, affording it special environmental protections.

WAR continues to have an interest in how minimum-flow levels are set for the river and Citrus County’s coast by the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD). For more information on WAR, visit warinonline.com.

Why focus on the Lower Withlacoochee River? It's where WAR was seeing the most damage.

"We knew, in essence, this is the sphincter of the Withlacoochee River, and water is not everything that flows downhill," Hilliard said. "This is the end, this is where the mess is."

Funding a study of the entire 157-mile Withlacoochee River, which is fed by the Green Swamp near Lakeland in northwest Polk County, would also be too expensive.

Stretching from Lake Rousseau to its mouth with the Gulf of Mexico near Yankeetown, the Lower Withlacoochee is divided by the unfinished Cross-Florida Barge Canal.



A close-up of Lake Rousseau and the Withlacoochee River -- from its confluence with the Rainbow River near Dunnellon, to its mouth with the Gulf of Mexico near Yankeetown. This area was the focus of a grassroots-funded environmental study published in July 2021. Wetland Solutions Inc.

Hilliard said Wetland Solutions gave WAR a quote in the range of \$340,000 to analyze the Lower Withlacoochee River, but its study area ranged into Lake Rousseau and as far upstream as the main river's junction with the Rainbow River near Dunnellon.

Roughly \$139,000 in donations came from WAR members, the Felburn Foundation, Yankeetown, Inglis, Duke Energy and Drummond Bank.

Scientists with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and SWFWMD also collaborated with Wetland Solutions, saving WAR over \$190,000.

For the first phase of its studies, Wetland Solutions reviewed archives of the river's environmental history.

Its second phase was spent acquiring current readings of water qualities and flows from seven monitoring sites on the river, and the third and final phase was writing the report.



A close-up of Lake Rousseau and the Lower Withlacoochee River, which is divided by the unfinished and discontinued Cross-Florida Barge Canal.

Wetland Solutions Inc.

Wetland Solutions tied its findings to human growth and influences, especially with the barge canal's partial construction in the 1960s.

Due to the canal, which was decommissioned in 1990, the Lower Withlacoochee has been starved of around 1,450 cubic feet per second (cfs) in natural water flow it needs to sustain a healthy ecosystem by flushing out harmful sediments.

Lake Rousseau feeds the first half of the lower river, which then empties into the barge canal. However, the second half of the lower river is dependent on flows from a canal bypass. Tides from the Gulf can also affect the lower river.



Wetland Solutions Inc. set up these monitoring sites on the Withlacoochee River to study water flows and quality before and after the river's confluence with the Rainbow River near Dunnellon, and downstream of Lake Rousseau.

Wetland Solutions Inc.

Downstream flows from springs upriver have also been weakened because of increased groundwater withdrawals, the report states, rising from 25 million gallons a day (MGD) in 1950 to 132 MGD in 2015.

Without a strong flows, increasing manmade pollutants from sources like septic tanks and herbicides can't funnel through, creating a pileup of toxic soup that cripples river habitats.

Citing a FDEP study, the Wetland Solutions report noted a poor ecosystem in the Lower Withlacoochee for macroinvertebrates to survive in. These tiny organisms are essential for larger river species to live on.

"What this river never gets anymore is the 3,000 to 4,000 cubic feet per seconds to scour the mud out," Hilliard said. "There's no basis for indigenous life to proliferate."

To curtail these issues, Wetland Solutions proposed alternatives for either the canal bypass to be modified or the Lower Withlacoochee River to be reconnected to help increase water flow.

Other solutions included: repairing a leak under the Inglis Dam in between Lake Rousseau and the Lower Withlacoochee; providing centralized sewage to every home in the river's watershed; establishing a fertilizer ordinance; reducing future groundwater withdrawals; drawing down Lake Rousseau and restricting herbicides.

For Hilliard and his WAR contingent, these endeavors are worth it.

"We have not conserved this river," he said. "We need to step up to the plate and start doing things differently."

Citrus Chronicle

Editorial : The water is under all of us

July 22, 2021

CONSERVATION MATTERS

THE ISSUE: *County mulls water rules.*

OUR OPINION: *Watering restriction exemption plea shortsighted.*

With 1,000 new residents daily, Florida's ballooning population will exceed the continent of Australia by 2026. Coupled with well over 100 million visitors annually, the demands on our steadily shrinking water resources make a culture of conservation essential to the state's future water supply.

Nonetheless, some property owners in the Citrus Hills community of Terra Vista apparently think otherwise.

Understandably taking pride in the appearance of their community and protective of the investment in their lush, green lawns, some Terra Vista residents recently pleaded for the county commission to lift the county's year-round, once-a-week watering restriction for their community.

Arguing that the Terra Vista developer encourages maintained lawns by providing irrigation-only wells to property owners, the community's spokespersons asked the commissioners to exempt Terra Vista's irrigation wells from the county's watering restriction.

Regrettably, their shortsighted plea struck a sympathetic note with county commissioners Jeff Kinnard and Holly Davis. Both indicated they would favor exemptions for communities that receive their irrigation water from a separate permitted well system with Kinnard noting, "It does not look like we have a water-use problem. We have a permit issue."

Really?

Water conservation is the principal means by which the water management districts accomplish their missions of public water supply and sustainment of water dependent ecosystems with its most important tool the daily gallons per capita per day permitted for counties and municipalities.

In this regard, nowhere does water conservation make a greater difference than reducing the amount of lawn watering. With the average household irrigation system

using more than 3,500 gallons of water per complete cycle, lawn watering twice a week is a hefty 28,000 gallons of water per month. As such, lawn watering typically accounts for 50% of the water consumed by Florida households.

Given the enormous demand of lawn watering on our finite public water supply and its harmful impact on our complex ecosystems that are dependent on freshwater to clean pollutants and a certain water level to function, exempting Terra Vista's irrigation wells from the county's water use restriction would be tantamount to shooting ourselves in the foot.

Foremost, it would be a step backward from the culture of conservation that has been nurtured for decades to effectively slow increases in freshwater withdrawals.

Secondly, it would give the appearance of selective enforcement and, as acknowledged by Commissioners Scott Carnahan and Ronald Kitchen Jr., likely raise a hue and cry for exemption from individual homeowners who have permitted irrigation wells.

Although Citrus County is surrounded by natural waterways, the amount of water under us is directly related to the use of water for lawns. Thus, unrestricted lawn watering, whether from a private irrigation well or public utility is a luxury, not a necessity.

County commissioners, therefore, are urged to reinforce the message that conservation matters by addressing demand as the root cause of water overuse — not the protestations of a few who only see green lawns and not the water under all of us.

Citrus Chronicle

Letter to the Editor: Fresh water is a vital, scarce resource

July 24, 2021

This issue concerning water restrictions and the availability of water in general is another example of Citrus County's reluctance to address important issues that take time to resolve.

Watering restrictions are a Band-Aid, not a long-term solution.

Water conservation can certainly serve to minimize the urgency of the matter, but is it not clear that this challenge will not go away? Is there any reason to believe that sooner or later, the proper authorities have to address this issue of a major enterprise pumping endless volumes of water from a spring in Crystal River. From what I understand, they are entirely within their rights, but that has to change. The arrangement was made under different circumstances and clearly cannot go on forever. Someone has to have the brass to bring the issue to the table more than likely in court.

How about recycled water to be used where feasible? Do we know the volume of water which could be reused for irrigation on golf courses, on home lawns, car washes, agricultural purposes? Do we know the cost of this possibility? Is it feasible? How long will it be before it's essential?

We're surrounded by water; what about desalination? They use it in Australia, I'm told. I read the population of Florida will exceed Australia in the not too distant future. Do we know the cost of this process? Is it an option?

I fully understand that most readers will be out of the picture before these two thoughts could be brought to fruition. Hey, what about the grandchildren? Someone has to look out for them. Someone has to take responsibility.

Joe Reilly / Crystal River