



**WITHLACOOCHEE
REGIONAL
WATER
SUPPLY
AUTHORITY**

Board Meeting Package

April 16, 2014
3:30 p.m.

Meeting Location:

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

**MEMORANDUM**

To: Water Supply Authority Board of Directors and Interested Parties

From: Richard S. Owen, Executive Director

Date: April 3, 2014

Subject: Monthly Meeting of the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority

The next meeting of the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority will be on **Wednesday, April 16, 2014, 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 February 19, 2014 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 side out menu is a button for the current Board Package. Click on the Board Package to download and print the Board Package.

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

AGENDA

**LECANTO GOVERNMENT BUILDING
3600 W. SOVEREIGN PATH, ROOM 166, LECANTO, FLORIDA 34461
April 16, 2014 @ 3:30 p.m.**

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

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Introductions and Announcements
4. Approval of Minutes
5. Public Comment
6. RWSP Update . . . Gregg Jones, Cardno ENTRIX
7. 2012-2013 Fiscal Year Audit . . . Mark White, Purvis Gray & Company
8. Water Conservation Month Resolution . . . Richard S. Owen, WRWSA
9. Springs Protection Awareness Month Resolution . . . Richard S. Owen, WRWSA
10. Fiscal Year 2014-15 Budget Development . . . Richard S. Owen, WRWSA
11. Executive Director's Report . . . Richard S. Owen, WRWSA
 - a. Bills to be Paid [April bills provided in hand-out]
 - b. Bank Resolution and Signature Card
 - c. Credit Card Billing Cycle
 - d. Fiscal Year 2013-14 1st Quarter Financial Report
 - e. Status Report on the Proposed Wildwood/Marion County/WRWSA Water Supply MOU
 - f. Report on the Tampa Bay Water Desalination Facility Tour
 - g. Correspondence
 - h. News Articles
 - i. Other
12. Legislative Update . . . Diane Salz, Governmental Affairs Consultant
13. Attorney's Report . . . Larry Haag, WRWSA Attorney
 - a. Repeal of WRWSA Rules
14. Other Business
15. Next Meeting Time and Location . . . May 21, 2014 3:30 p.m., Lecanto Government Building, Room 166, 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Lecanto, Florida 34461
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.
Minutes**

**WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
February 19, 2014**

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

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

1. Call to Order

Chairman James Adkins called the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (WRWSA) meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. and asked for a roll call.

2. Roll Call

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

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jim Adkins, *Chairman*, Hernando County Commissioner
Rebecca Bays, Citrus County Commissioner
Ken Brown, Crystal River City Councilor
Dennis Damato, Citrus County Commissioner
Gary Ernst, Belleview City Councilor
Don Hahnfeldt, Sumter County Commissioner
Joseph Johnston, Brooksville City Councilor
Dale Swain, Bushnell City Councilor

MEMBERS ABSENT

Scott Adams, Citrus County Commissioner
Kathy Bryant, Marion County Commissioner
Al Butler, *Vice-Chairman*, Sumter County Commissioner
Wayne Dukes, Hernando County Commissioner
Stan McClain, *Treasurer*, Marion County Commissioner
Nick Nicholson, Hernando County Commissioner
David Russell, Hernando County Commissioner
Carl Zalak, Marion County Commissioner

3. Introductions and Announcements

Members of the audience introduced themselves.

STAFF PRESENT

Richard Owen, WRWSA Executive Director
Larry Haag, WRWSA Attorney
Nancy Smith, WRWSA Administrative Assistant

OTHERS PRESENT

Ron Basso, SWFWMD
Alys Brockway, Hernando County Utilities
Paul Duchesneau, Citrus County Utilities
Jay Hoecker, SWFWMD

Gregg Jones, Cardno ENTRIX
Flip Mellinger, Marion County Utilities
Ross Morton, SWFWMD
Richard Radacky, City of Brooksville
Chris Zajac, SWFWMD

There were two announcements.

- Mr. Owen announced that Mark White, Purvis Gray & Company, could not be here today for the presentation of the FY 2012-2013 Audit Report. He recommended that Item 9 be deleted from the agenda and rescheduled for next month. A copy of the Audit report was provided to each member today, with the remainder to be mailed in advance of the next meeting.

There was concurrence by the Board to delete Item 9 from the agenda and reschedule for March 19, 2014.

- Mr. Brown announced that the City of Crystal River received the letter from the WRWSA regarding the Revised and Restated Interlocal Agreement, including the option of appointing an alternate to the WRWSA. The City Council appointed Andy Houston, City Manager, as the alternate.

4. Ceremony to Honor Dennis Damato for Serving as Board Chairman

Mr. Adkins presented a plaque to Mr. Damato in appreciation for his service to the WRWSA as Chairman from January 2012 to January 2014. Recognition was given for the activities and projects that took place during his chairmanship.

5. Approval of Minutes of January 15, 2014 Meeting

A copy of the minutes was provided in the Board packet for review.

Following consideration, a motion was made by Mr. Brown to approve the minutes for the January 15, 2014 meeting. Mr. Hahnfeldt seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

6. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

7. Northern District Model Expansion . . . Ron Basso, SWFWMD

Mr. Basso, Senior Professional Geologist, presented an overview of the Northern District Model Expansion, Phase I. The goal of this project was to prepare a single groundwater flow model for Marion County, which was completed in December 2013. Marion County, SJRWMD, SWFWMD and the WRWSA cooperatively funded the model. Exploratory and existing wells were used to provide the data for this model. The model will be used by both water management districts for projects in Marion County as well as a major tool for setting MFLs within the area.

The model is used to learn how groundwater extractions and rainfall interact to affect the groundwater system as well as the future impact of other groundwater withdrawals. Mr. Basso showed slides of the geologic and hydrologic layers and described how withdrawals in the lower aquifer may impact the upper aquifer and surface conditions. Mr. Basso responded to a number of Board questions.

This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required.

8. Regional Water Supply Plan Update

a. Status Report . . . Gregg Jones, Cardno ENTRIX

Mr. Jones reported on progress made in drafting the *Regional Water Supply Plan Update* (RWSP) from January 15, 2014 through February 15, 2014. The progress on the RWSP is closely related to the Northern District Model Expansion and the hydrogeology of the lower Floridan Aquifer that was presented by Mr. Basso. He showed the Board members core samples from wells to explain the transmissivity of water through the aquifers. The University of Florida EZ Guide staff has prepared a draft report that will be used to determine how much of the water demands through 2035 can be met through water conservation methods.

Mr. Owen stated that the first draft of the RWSP is currently scheduled for March 31, 2014. Because of difficulties with receiving the data from the EZ Guide model and the timeline for the Northern District Groundwater Model, the first draft of RWSP will need to be delayed until May 1, 2014. A letter to this effect will be sent to SWFWMD. There is no change to the final deadline for the project and no change in cost.

This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required.

b. Additional Work Order . . . Richard Owen, WRWSA

Mr. Owen stated that Cardno ENTRIX has attended various meetings with local governments and utilities, the water management districts, and others to ensure that the RWSP reflects the most accurate information available and that the member governments and others have sufficient opportunities to provide input to the update process. Mr. Owen requested that the WRWSA Board approve Work Order #14-02, in an amount not to exceed \$18,000, for additional meeting attendance that may be required of Cardno ENTRIX, and to authorize the transfer of \$18,000 from the Water Supply Development Reserves for this purpose.

Following consideration, a motion was made by Mr. Damato to approve Work Order #14-02, in an amount not to exceed \$18,000 for the purpose of attending additional meetings as requested by the WRWSA, and to authorize transfer of these funds from the Water Supply Development Reserves for this purpose. Mr. Brown seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

9. 2012 – 2013 Fiscal Year Audit . . . Mark White, Purvis Gray & Company

This item was deleted from the agenda and will be rescheduled for the next meeting.

10. Pilot Irrigation System Evaluation Final Report . . . Nancy H. Smith, WRWSA

Ms. Smith reported on the completion of the Pilot Irrigation System Evaluation program that was conducted between 2011 and 2014 for single-family residential customers. Each of the member counties participated in this program that was funded cooperatively with the SWFWMD, and administered by the WRWSA. The program achieved significant water savings in the one year following the initial irrigation system inspection.

Mr. Owen stated that the WRWSA is currently administering Phase 2 of the Regional Irrigation System Evaluation Program, which is also a cooperatively funded project with the District and the member utilities of Citrus, Hernando, Marion, and the Villages of Sumter County. He advised the Board that staff will request an additional four months for irrigation system inspections, for follow-up inspections, and for completion of the final report. There will be no change in cost and no change in the final program deadline for Phase 2.

11. Executive Director's Report ... Richard S. Owen, Executive Director

a. Bills to be Paid

Mr. Owen presented the February bills to the Board, available in a handout, and requested approval for payment of bills totaling \$66,757.09.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. Damato to approve payment of the February 2014 bills of \$66,757.09. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bays and carried unanimously.**

b. As-Needed Engineering and Technical Services Work Order

In 2012, the Board approved contracts with eight firms for as-needed General Professional Engineering/Technical Services that may be needed within a period of three to five years. Mr. Owen requested a work order with Water Resource Associates to assist with professional engineering and technical services, including support for proposed revisions to the Charles A. Black wellfield agreement with Citrus County. The 2013-14 budget includes \$75,000 for as-needed services; of these funds, one work order has been issued to Jones Edmunds in the amount of \$10,000, leaving \$65,000. Staff recommends that the Board approve Work Order #14-03, to Water Resource Associates, for \$35,000, with a termination date of September 30, 2015.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. Damato to approve Work Order #14-03 with Water Resource Associates to assist with as-needed engineering/technical support services, in an amount of \$35,000, with a termination date of September 30, 2015. The motion was seconded by Mr. Brown and carried unanimously.**

c. Correspondence

Recent correspondence was provided in the Board's packet. Mr. Owen directed attention to the letter sent to the member local governments summarizing the recent adoption of the Revised and Restated Interlocal Agreement. This letter notified the members that each commission or council may appoint alternates and that Citrus and Hernando counties each have two commission seats on the WRWSA Board.

This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required.

d. News Articles

This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required.

e. Other

- *Proposed Memorandum of Understanding.* The proposed Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Wildwood and Marion County for use of Lower Floridan wells is scheduled to be heard by Wildwood on February 24 and by Marion County on March 4. Mr. Owen stated that he will attend these meetings and, with their approvals, will schedule time on the WRWSA agenda for March 19. No action is needed at this time.
- *Tour of Tampa Bay Water facilities.* Mr. Owen will contact Tampa Bay Water to determine how to arrange a tour of the desalination plant or the reservoir. After establishing some potential dates, Mr. Owen will contact the Board members to determine availability and attendance.

- *Public Advisory Committee of the SWFWMD.* Mr. Owen attended a recent meeting of the Public Advisory Committee where presentations were made by staff. There were some excellent presentations made on sinkholes and on aquifer storage and recovery (ASR). If there were interest from the Board, Mr. Owen would request that District staff make these presentations to the WRWSA. There was general agreement by the Board to hear these presentations on sinkholes first and ASR second.
- *Basin Board Funds.* At the previous WRWSA, there were questions regarding the amount of funds remaining in the Coastal Rivers and Withlacoochee River basin boards. These basin boards were established at the inception of the District. When these boards were eliminated a few years ago, there were funds remaining from the ad valorem taxes collected by these boards. These funds were used almost exclusively to fund cooperative projects. The Coastal Rivers Basin has about \$52,000 remaining and the Withlacoochee River Basin has approximately \$641,000 remaining. It is expected that these funds will be completely expended in the FY 2015 funding requests. Future cooperative funding will come exclusively from district-wide levies.
- *SWFWMD Board Vacancy.* There continues to be a vacancy on the SWFWMD Governing Board for the area of the District representing Citrus and Sumter counties and those portions of Lake and Levy counties that are within the SWFWMD. We hope that this appointment will occur so that there will be a representative on the governing board from our region.

12. Legislative Report . . . Diane Salz, Governmental Affairs Liaison

Ms. Salz reported on recent activities leading up to the March legislative session. As this is the last interim committee week prior to the legislative session beginning March 4, Ms. Salz made her report via conference call from Tallahassee. She presented significant 2014 legislative session dates and included February 21, 2014 as the date that local governments must submit water funding applications. The legislative updates included several proposed legislative items, including proposed springs protection legislation sponsored by Senator Simmons that has not been filed yet.

This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required.

13. Attorney's Report . . . Larry Haag, WRWSA Attorney

Mr. Haag suggested that particular attention be given to the proposed bills (SB 0718) relating to public meetings and (HB 0435) relating to municipal bonds as these bills progress through the legislative session. Ms. Salz stated that there has been no companion bill filed for either of these bills and neither has been heard in committee. She will do some research and determine whether there is any serious intent to take action on these bills this legislative session.

Mr. Haag stated that he had presented to Mr. Owen an item for the March 19, 2014 Board meeting on the repeal of the rules.

14. Other Business

There was no other business.

15. Next Meeting Time and Location . . .

The next meeting is scheduled for March 19, 2014, 3:30 p.m., at the Lecanto Government Building, Room 166, 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Lecanto, Florida 34461.

16. Adjournment

Chairman Adkins announced there was no further business or discussion to come before the WRWSA and adjourned the meeting at 5:33 p.m.

James E. Adkins, Chairman

Richard S. Owen, Executive Director

Item 6.
RWSP Update

2020

Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority

Water Supply Plan Update

Progress Report #13 (March 2014)

Cardno ENTRIX

3905 Crescent Park Drive
Riverview, FL 33578
USA

Phone 813 664 4500
Toll-free 800 368 7511
Fax 813 664 0440
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www.cardnoentrix.com

1) Task 2. Availability of Ground- and Surface Water

- a) Completed first draft of impact modeling of proposed wellfields using the Northern District model.
- b) Presented first draft to SWFWMD staff for their review and comment
- c) Working to obtain information from utilities on proposed wellfield configurations. This will allow us to develop cost estimates for the required infrastructure.

2) Task 3. Conservation and Reclaimed Water Strategies

- a) Completed draft of the water conservation potential of utilities in the WRWSA region using the University of Florida's EZ Guide model.
- b) Worked with the SWFWMD to complete a draft of the analysis of the availability of reclaimed water through 2035 in the WRWSA area.
- c) Worked with the SWFWMD to complete a draft of reclaimed water project options.

3) Task 4. Development of Final Report

- a) Completed drafts of Chapter 1 (Introduction)
- b) Completed draft of Chapter 2 (Resource Protection Criteria)
- c) Completed draft of Chapter 3 (Population and Water Demand Projections).
- d) Completed approximately 80 percent of Chapter 4 (Evaluation of Water Supply Sources).
- e) Completed approximately 60 percent of Chapter 5 (Evaluation of Water Supply Project Options). Extensive update of seawater desalination and Withlacoochee River options mostly complete.

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- f) Completed approximately 30 percent of Chapter 6 (WRWSA Regional Water Supply Framework).
- g) Completed approximately 10 percent of Chapter 7 (Recommendations).

Item 7.
2012-13 FY Audit

Item 7. FY 2012-2013 Annual Audit . . . Mark White, Purvis Gray and Company

Purvis Gray and Company has conducted the annual audit of the Authority's financial statements for the Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2013. The audit report has been previously provided to the Board and will be summarized by Mr. Mark White, CPA, Partner with Purvis Gray & Company, LLP.

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends the Board approve the Financial Statements and Independent Auditors' Report for Fiscal Year 2012-13 as presented at the meeting.

Item 8.
Water Conservation
Resolution

Item 8. Water Conservation Month Proclamation . . . Richard S. Owen, Executive Director

Purpose

To request the Governing Board execute a resolution declaring April 2014 as "Water Conservation Month." Declaring April as "Water Conservation Month" has historically been used by the Authority as a means to focus the public's attention on the need for and benefits of conservation and to highlight the resources available to help them.

Background/History

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

The resolution for the Board's consideration is provided as an exhibit.

Staff Recommendation: Approve and execute Resolution No. 2014-01 declaring April 2014 as "Water Conservation Month."

RESOLUTION 2014-01

A RESOLUTION OF THE WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS DESIGNATING APRIL AS WATER CONSERVATION MONTH.

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

WHEREAS, the State of Florida, the Southwest Florida Water Management District, the St. Johns River Water Management District and the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority designate April as water conservation month, and we urge every consumer to become more aware of the need to save water and to take appropriate measures to conserve and protect this vital natural resource; and

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

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS HEREBY PROCLAIMS APRIL 2014, AS WATER CONSERVATION MONTH IN THE WITHLACOOCHEE REGION.

ADOPTED in Regular Session this 16th day of April 2014, A.D.

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

James E. Adkins, Chairman

Attest:

Richard S. Owen, Executive Director

Item 9.
Springs Protection Month
Resolution

Item 9. Springs Protection Awareness Month . . . Richard S. Owen, WRWSA

A resolution providing for the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority Board of Directors to designate April as "Springs Protection Awareness Month." During the 2014 Legislative Session, Senator Charlie Dean and Representative Liz Porter have sponsored a joint statewide proclamation underscoring the importance of springs to Florida's economic health and environmental well-being.

Staff Recommendation: Staff requests approval by the Board of Directors to execute a resolution declaring April 2014 as "Springs Protection Awareness Month," and to recognize the Authority's commitment to environmental stewardship by supporting efforts to conserve and restore the ecological balance of the seven first magnitude springs systems in the region, thereby supporting regional economies and quality of life.

RESOLUTION 2014 - 02

A RESOLUTION OF THE WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS DESIGNATING APRIL AS SPRINGS PROTECTION MONTH

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

WHEREAS, there are more than 150 documented springs as well as thousands of undocumented springs and seeps in the Southwest Florida Water Management District; and

WHEREAS, there are seven first magnitude spring groups within the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority's area that discharge more than 64.6 million gallons of water per day per group; and

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

WHEREAS, the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority is committed to environmental stewardship including supporting efforts to conserve and restore the ecological balance of these spring systems, thereby supporting regional economies and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority shall encourage its members to become more aware of the need to protect our local springs and to support the Southwest Florida Water Management District in its restoration efforts and appropriate measures to conserve and protect our local springs, a vital natural resource.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY AS FOLLOWS:

The Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority hereby proclaims April 2014, as **SPRINGS PROTECTION AWARENESS MONTH** in the Withlacoochee Region.

ADOPTED in Regular Session this 16th day of April 2014, A.D.

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

James E. Adkins, Chairman

Attest:

Richard S. Owen, Executive Director

Item 10.
Fiscal Year 2014-15
Budget Development

Item 10. Fiscal Year 2014-15 Budget Development . . . Richard S. Owen, Executive Director

Pursuant to the WRWSA's Revised and Restated Interlocal Agreement, the Authority's annual budget, including the proposed per capita rate and amount of revenue from each county, must be provided to each county by June 1 of each year. In order to meet this deadline, it is necessary to start the budget process with the Board at the April meeting. Two items must be addressed this month in order for staff to prepare the budget for the Board's consideration at the May 21, 2014 meeting. These include (1) setting the per capita appropriation rate and (2) establishing the amount of funding for the local government grants program.

Per Capita Appropriation Rate

Staff recommends the per capita assessment in the coming year remain the same as in the current year at \$0.19 per capita. Included as an exhibit to this item is a table showing the most recent population estimates for each county published by the Bureau of Economic and Business Research at the University of Florida, and the revenue for Fiscal Year (FY) 2014-15 associated with the recommended per capita assessment of \$0.19 per capita. With the Board's concurrence, total per capita revenue will be \$143,343, representing a minor increase of 1.0% over the current year revenue. It is anticipated this amount, when combined with the other Authority revenue sources and strategic use of reserves, will be adequate to fund the essential programs of the Authority in the coming year.

Local Government Grant Funding for Fiscal Year 2014-15

Water conservation continues to be one of the most substantive areas for the WRWSA to assist its member governments and other public supply utilities in the region. The water management districts continue to emphasize conservation in their planning, regulatory and financial incentive programs as a means to make limited fresh groundwater supplies help meet growing demands. Staff recommends the WRWSA continue its successful water conservation grants program in the coming fiscal year. An announcement has been sent to utility directors and water conservation coordinators in the region regarding the Authority's Local Government Grant Program, a copy of which is included as an exhibit to this item. In order to provide for this continuing program in the upcoming FY 2014-15, staff requests the Board establish the total amount available in the fiscal year for the program. In the recent past, the Board has established a total amount of \$130,000.

Next Steps

With the direction received at the April Board meeting, staff will prepare the proposed FY 2014-15 budget for the Board's consideration at the May meeting. Action at the May meeting will enable staff to provide the budget, including the per capita rate and associated revenues, to the member counties by the June 1st deadline.

Staff Recommendations: There are two staff recommendations:

- (1) Staff recommends the Board establish the FY 2014-15 per capita assessment at \$0.19, the same as the current fiscal year; and
- (2) Staff recommends the Board set the Local Government Grant Program funding at \$130,000 for the FY 2014-15 and limit such grants to water conservation projects.

Fiscal Year 2014-15 Proposed Per Capita Rate, Revenue and Change from Current Year

	Population Estimates			Per Capita Rate	Revenue			
	4/1/13 Population Estimate	4/1/12 Population Estimate	2012 - 2013 Population Difference		Fiscal Year 2014-15	Fiscal Year 2013-14	FY 14 to FY 15 \$ Change	FY 14 to FY 15 % Change
Citrus	140,519	140,761	-242	\$ 0.19	\$26,699	\$26,745	-\$46	-0.2%
Hernando	173,808	173,104	704	\$ 0.19	\$33,024	\$32,890	\$134	0.4%
Marion	335,008	332,989	2,019	\$ 0.19	\$63,652	\$63,268	\$384	0.6%
Sumter	105,104	100,198	4,906	\$ 0.19	\$19,970	\$19,038	\$932	4.9%
Total	754,439	747,052	7,387	\$ 0.19	\$143,343	\$141,940	\$1,403	1.0%

**MEMORANDUM**

March 31, 2014

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

This memorandum is to inform you that the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority will accept applications for its Fiscal Year 2014-15 Local Government Grants Program starting on May 1, 2014. Applications must be received no later than June 30, 2014. This grants program is sponsored by the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority to fund local water supply projects on a matching basis. The staff will recommend to the Board that the Authority continue to accept grant applications for water conservation-related projects only. Applications and instructions are available on the Authority web page at www.wrwsa.org. Applications will be considered by the Board at its July and August Board meetings as necessary. Awards will be made no later than at the September Board meeting.

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

Distribution List

Dennis Monroe, Belleview
Richard Radacky, Brooksville
Bruce Hickie, Bushnell
City of Center Hill
Ken Cheek, Citrus County
Debra Burden, Citrus County Water Conservation
Coordinator
City of Coleman
Andy Houston, Crystal River
Eddie Esch, Dunnellon
Susan Goebel-Canning, P.E., Hernando County
Alys Brockway, Hernando County Water
Conservation Coordinator

Katie Cottrell, Inverness
Flip Mellinger, Marion County
Tracy Straub, Marion County Engineer
Town of McIntosh
Jeff Halcomb, Ocala
Town of Reddick
Bradley Arnold, Sumter County
City of Webster
Bruce Phillips, Wildwood

cc: WRWSA Board Members ✓

Item 11.a. Bills to be Paid

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

Bills For Payment
3/19/14

<u>Administrative Invoices</u>	<u>Invoice Number</u>	<u>Invoice Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Richard S. Owen, AICP	2014-02	3/5/14	\$ 7,339.79
1 Stop Prints of Citrus County	14-00246	2/18/14	\$ 26.88
James Adkins	Bd. Mtg. Travel	2/19/14	\$ 19.58
Gary Ernst	Bd. Mtg. Travel	2/19/14	\$ 36.49
Don Hahnfeldt	Bd. Mtg. Travel	2/19/14	\$ 27.59
Joseph Johnston	Bd. Mtg. Travel	2/19/14	\$ 19.58
Dale Swain	Bd. Mtg. Travel	2/19/14	\$ 27.59
Karen Allen	#0048	3/9/14	\$ 75.00
Haag, Haag and Friedrich	29161-29162	3/6/14	\$ 660.24
Purvis Gray & Co	18754	3/8/14	\$ 8,370.00
Diane Salz - Monthly Contract fee	22814	2/28/14	\$ 3,500.00
Diane Salz, Expenses	Postage	2/3/14	\$ 12.08
Nancy Smith, Administrative Assistant	2014-02	3/1/14	\$ 3,162.42
Sun Trust Business Card Statement	February	2/25/14	\$ 157.12
Total Administrative Invoices			\$ 23,434.36

<u>Water Supply Studies and Facilities</u>	<u>Total Contract</u>	<u>Balance Remaining</u>	<u>Current Invoice</u>
General Services Contract	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	
Work Order 13-01. Jones Edmunds	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 9,383.75	\$ -
Work Order 14-03. Water Resource Associates	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
FY13-14 Local Government Water Supply Projects			
Citrus Water Conservation Pgm	\$ 40,250.00	\$ 40,250.00	\$ -
Hernando Water Conservation Pgm	\$ 48,400.00	\$ 48,400.00	\$ -
Marion Water Conservation Pgm	\$ 38,600.00	\$ 38,600.00	\$ -
Update of Regional Water Supply Plan (2012-2013)	\$ 119,980.00	\$ 38,937.86	\$ 4,169.55
Work Order 14-02. RWSP Additional Meetings	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 18,000.00	\$ -
FY13 Marion Water Conservation Pgm (closed)	\$ 34,900.00	\$ 26,154.96	\$ -
Pilot Irrigation Audit Pgm Completion (closed)	\$ 6,800.00	\$ 1,300.00	\$ -
Phase 2 Irrigation Program (2013-2015)	\$ 105,170.00	\$ 88,945.00	\$ 6,225.00
Purvis Gray Rate Analysis (CAB WSF)	\$ 8,588.00	\$ 8,588.00	\$ -
Northern District Model Expansion (2012-13)	\$ 37,500.00	\$ -	\$ -
Project Invoice Totals	\$ 533,188.00	\$ 383,559.57	\$ 11,394.55

TOTAL BILLS TO BE PAID	\$ 34,828.91
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State Board of Administration	Transfer from SBA2 to SBA1	\$ 11,394.55
State Board of Administration	Transfer from SBA1 to SunTrust Bank	\$ 34,829.00

Item. 11.b.
Bank Resolution and
Signature Card

Item 11.b. Bank Resolution and Signature Card

Following the selection of new officers for the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority, a new business account signature card is needed to provide the bank with a list of authorized signatures. The Board must also take action on a "Deposit Account Resolution and Authorization for Business Entities". (See attached documents)

The officers of the Authority are those whose names and signatures will appear on the Account Signature Card:

James E. Adkins, Chairman

Al Butler, Vice-Chairman

Stan McClain, Treasurer

Richard S. Owen, Secretary

A copy of the approved minutes from the January 15, 2014 meeting have been provided to Sun Trust Bank.

Staff Recommendation: Approve the list of authorized signatures and approve and execute the Deposit Account Resolution and Authorization for Business Entities.



Business Account Signature Card

Region Number 036		Account Number [REDACTED]	
Account Title WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY			
Organization Type PF State/Local		Tax ID Number [REDACTED]	
Authorized Signature(s)			
Name/Title		Signature	
1. RICHARD S OWEN Secretary			
2. JAMES E ADKINS Chairman			
3. AL BUTLER <i>Vice</i> Chairman			
4. STAN MCCLAIN Treasurer			
5.			
6.			

Date Opened 06/28/1999	Date Revised 03/28/2014	Reason
Cost Center Number 1341130	Officer Number 018350	ID
Work Phone Number	Prepared By Lavonne M Pitts	Maintenance Type <input type="checkbox"/> New <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Replacement <input type="checkbox"/> Change

SunTrust Bank ("Bank")

It is agreed that all transactions between the Bank and the entity listed in the above Account Title ("Depositor") shall be governed by the rules and regulations for this account and the above signed as the authorized agent(s) of the Depositor hereby acknowledge(s) receipt of such rules and regulations and the funds availability policy. The Depositor also acknowledges the funds availability policy has been explained.

Check Appropriate Box

- ☐ Individual / Sole Proprietor ☐ C Corporation ☐ S Corporation ☐ Partnership ☐ Trust/Estate
☐ Limited Liability Company

Enter the tax classification (C=C corporation, S=S corporation, P=partnership) _____

☒ Other (See Instructions.) *Special District of the State of Florida*

☐ Exempt Payee Exempt payee code (if any) _____ Exemption from FATCA* reporting code (if any) N/A

Certification—Under penalties of perjury, I, as authorized agent of the Depositor certify that:

1. [REDACTED] is the correct taxpayer identification number for the Depositor (or the Depositor is waiting for a number to be issued), and
2. The Depositor is not subject to backup withholding because: (a) the Depositor is exempt from backup withholding, or (b) the Depositor has not been notified by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) that it is subject to backup withholding as a result of a failure to report all interest or dividends, or (c) the IRS has notified the Depositor that it is no longer subject to backup withholding, and
3. The depositor is a U.S. citizen or other U.S. person (defined in the instructions), and
4. The FATCA* reporting code(s) entered on this form (if any) indicating that I am exempt from FATCA* reporting is correct.

Certification Instructions. You must cross out item 2 above if the depositor has been notified by the IRS that the depositor is currently subject to backup withholding because the depositor has failed to report all interest and dividends on the depositor's tax return.

Signature of U.S. Person _____

Date _____

- Locations with DCOR scanning software submit with cover sheet via local scanner
- Locations without DCOR scanning software send to Output Review, FL-Orlando-7021

*FATCA = Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act



Deposit Account Resolution and Authorization for Business Entities

I. Business Entity Account Information

Name	Business Type	
Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply	PF State/Local	
Governed By	Taxpayer ID Number	Date Resolution and Authorization Adopted
		03/28/2014
Account Number(s)		

The undersigned in Section IX or X hereby certify to SunTrust Bank ("Bank") that the above named Business Entity is organized and existing under the laws of the State of Florida and has been registered in the manner prescribed by law and is currently in full compliance with all requirements relating to its organization and continued existence under applicable law.

These resolutions and authorizations apply to the above referenced deposit account(s) (hereinafter "Account") currently open with the Bank and any additional Accounts opened in the future in the name of the Business Entity. For purposes of this resolution and authorization, Accounts will include any certificates of deposit in the name of the Business Entity. These resolutions and authorizations shall remain in full force and effect until written notice in a form acceptable to the Bank of their rescission or modification certified by the appropriate authorized individual(s) applicable to the Business Entity has been received by Bank and the Bank has had a reasonable time to act on said change. Receipt of such notice shall not affect any action taken by Bank prior thereto and Bank shall be held harmless from any claims, demands, expenses, loss, or damage resulting from, or growing out of, honoring the acts or instructions of any individual so certified or authorized in these resolutions to sign by delegation of authority in accordance herewith or refusing to honor any signature not so certified or authorized.

- II. **Authority to sign, act, give instructions, access information, use Bank's services, perform transactions, enter into agreements and delegate authority on behalf of Business Entity.** Resolved, that Bank be and is hereby designated a depository for the Business Entity; that any one of the individuals or entities named in Section III below is an "Authorized Signer" and is authorized to act, give instructions, access information, use Bank's services, and perform transactions on behalf of Business Entity with respect to any Accounts of Business Entity with Bank or services provided to Business Entity by the Bank, to enter into on behalf of the Business Entity any of Bank's agreements including checking, savings, certificates of deposit, wire or electronic funds transfer, night deposit, cash management, or other treasury management services agreements and to delegate to any other individual or entity his or her authority to act, give instructions, access information, use Bank's services, perform transactions, and enter into agreements on behalf of the Business Entity, including agreements that delegate his or her authority to other individuals or entities with respect to the Business Entity's Accounts or Bank's services; that the Business Entity shall be bound by the terms and conditions of all such agreements and Bank's Rules and Regulations for Deposit Accounts related thereto, all as now existing or as amended from time to time; and that any Authorized Signer named in Section III, is authorized on behalf of this Business Entity to sign and to endorse for deposit, negotiation or collection, any and all checks, drafts, certificates of deposit, savings certificates, items or other instruments or written orders for the payment of money payable by or to the order of this Business Entity. Signatures and endorsements, if any, may be in writing, by stamp, or otherwise affixed, with or without designation or signature of the person so endorsing, it being understood that all prior endorsements on such items are guaranteed by this Business Entity, regardless of the lack of an express guarantee in the endorsement of this Business Entity.

Further Resolved, Bank is hereby directed to honor, pay and charge to the Accounts of this Business Entity, without inquiry as to the circumstances of the issuance or application of the proceeds of, any checks, drafts, items or other written orders on any of this Business Entity's Accounts with Bank, whether payable to, endorsed or negotiated by or for the credit of any person signing the same or any other of the Authorized Signers named in Section III when signed by any of the Authorized Signers named in Section III.

- III. **Officers/Owner/General Partners/Members/Managers/Governors authorized to act, give instructions, access information, use Bank's services, perform transactions, enter into agreements, and delegate authority on behalf of the Business Entity**

The full name, title, and signature of each person authorized to act, give instructions, access information, use Bank's services, perform transactions, enter into agreements, and delegate his or her authority on behalf of the Business Entity as described in the resolutions set forth in this document is immediately below. [Instruction: If the General Partner, Member or Manager is also an entity (e.g., a corporation, LLC, or partnership), the name of the entity is entered in the column headed "Name", applicable title of General Partner, Member or Manager is entered in the column headed "Title", and the name of the individual signing on behalf of that entity and individual's title or position are entered in the column headed "Signature" and the individual signs directly underneath his/her name and title. The individual must provide a resolution on that entity reflecting the individual's authority.]

User ID UFLP111 Account Number

Name	Title	Signature
RICHARD S OWEN	Secretary	
JAMES E ADKINS	Chairman	
AL BUTLER	Vice Chairman	
STAN MCCLAIN	Treasurer	

- IV. **Facsimile Signatures** (Complete this section only if machine or facsimile stamped signatures are to be used on items.) Further Resolved, that Bank is hereby requested, authorized and directed to honor any check, draft, item or other written order on any of this Business Entity's Accounts with Bank when bearing or purporting to bear the following authorized machine or facsimile signature of any of the above named individuals whose signatures are reproduced below, regardless of by whom or by what means the actual or purported machine or facsimile signatures may have been affixed. The Business Entity shall indemnify and hold the Bank harmless from any and all claims, expenses, losses, damages and costs, including attorneys' fees, resulting from, or growing out of the Bank's honoring the facsimile signature of any of the following individuals, its refusal to honor any facsimile signature of an individual not named below, or resulting from the unauthorized use of the instrument used to provide the facsimile signatures by persons other than authorized individuals.

Name of Authorized Signer Listed in Section III	Machine/Facsimile Stamped Signature of Authorized Signer
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- V. **Additional Signatories on Business Entity's Accounts.** Further resolved, the following individual(s) are authorized as additional signatories only to sign and to endorse for deposit or collection any checks, drafts, or other instruments or written orders for the payment of money payable to the order of the Business Entity and to sign checks, drafts, items or other written orders, and initiate wire or funds transfers and execute Bank's Funds Transfer Authorization wire request and disclosure form on any of the Business Entity's Accounts with Bank. [Instruction: If an additional signatory is not authorized to sign on all Accounts, specify the Account Number applicable to the signatory as indicated below.] **Refer to the Signature Card(s) on the Account(s) for signatures of the Additional Signatories.**

Additional Signatory's Name	Position with Entity	Specific Deposit Account Number(s) Applicable to Signatory (Complete only if signatory is <u>not</u> authorized on all accounts)
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- VI. **Qualification Certification for Public Fund, Organization, Political Organization, Homeowners and Condominium Owners Association or Corporation Not Operated for Profit to earn interest on a checking account (NOW Account)**

Mark this section with an "X" only if Business Entity is eligible to earn interest on a checking account.

☐ I/We further certify that the above named Business Entity is eligible to earn interest on a checking account (referred to as a Negotiable Order of Withdrawal or NOW Account) in compliance with Regulation D of the Federal Reserve Act (12CFR 204) as a Public Fund or a Non-Profit Organization that is operated primarily for Religious, Philanthropic, Charitable, Educational, Political or other similar purposes under one of the following sections: Organization – Section 501 (C) (3) through (13), and (19) of the Internal Revenue Code (26 USC (IRC 1954) 501 (C) (3) – (13) and (19). Political Organization – Section 527 of the Internal Revenue Code (26 USC (IRC 1954) 527). Homeowners and Condominium Owners Associations – Section 528 of the Internal Revenue Code (26 USC (IRC 1954) 528).

- VII. **Power to Act.** The undersigned certifies that there are no limits to the undersigned's powers to adopt this Authorization and to attest that the resolutions stated herein are accurate and that this Deposit Account Resolution and Authorization is in conformity with the provisions of the organizational instruments, which include the Business Entity's charter, bylaws, operating agreement, partnership agreement, shareholders' agreement or similar agreements by which the Business Entity or the undersigned party may be bound and does not violate the provisions thereof.

- VIII. **Prior Acts.** All previous acts of or on behalf of the Business Entity as provided for above are hereby approved and ratified.

- IX. **Certification—Corporation or Professional Corporation.** I, the undersigned, hereby certify to Bank that the above is a true copy of resolutions and authorizations of said Business Entity and that such resolutions and authorizations are in full force and effect and have not been amended or rescinded.

User ID UFLP111

Account Number [REDACTED]

In witness whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed the seal of the Corporation this 28th of March, 2014.

(Affix Seal here, if available)

Authorized Signature

Name and Title of President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary or Other Officer as designated in the Corporation's Bylaws

- X. **Certification—Limited Liability Company, Partnership, Public Fund, Sole Proprietorship, Unincorporated Organization or Association, or Other Entity.** I/We, the undersigned, hereby certify to Bank that the above is a true copy of resolutions and authorizations of said Business Entity and that such resolutions are in full force and effect and have not been amended or rescinded. [Instruction: If the General Partner, Member or Manager is also an entity (e.g., a corporation, LLC, or partnership), the name of the entity and the word "By" are entered in the column headed "Signature"; the individual signing on behalf of that entity signs directly below the name of the entity; and the name of the individual and individual's title or position are entered in the column headed "Title". The individual must provide a resolution on that entity reflecting the individual's authority.]

Name and Title

Signature

Date

Name and Title	Signature	Date

Signature Requirement instructions

The following signatures are required to complete and certify the Deposit Account Resolution and Authorization to be correct:

- **Corporations:** Corporate Officers authorized to act on behalf of the corporation named in Section III should include the **President and Secretary** and any other applicable corporate officers, such as Vice President or Treasurer. The **President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, or other corporate officer as designated in the bylaws of the corporation** is required to **certify** the Deposit Account Resolution and Authorization under Section IX.
- **Limited Liability Companies:** Section III and X require the signatures of all members/managers/board members, unless the Operating Agreement authorizes one or more members/managers/board members to conduct banking business, in which case the signatures of all such authorized members/managers/board members are sufficient.
- **Public Fund Entities:** Section III requires the signatures of individuals authorized to sign on behalf of the Public Fund Entity as designated by the governing unit, e.g., Board of County Commissioners, Mayor, Secretary of State, etc. The individual(s) authorized to represent the governing unit is required to certify the Deposit Account Resolution and Authorization under Section X.
- **Partnerships:** Section III and X require the signatures of all General Partners, unless the Partnership Agreement designates one or more partners to conduct banking business and perform banking transactions. In such cases, the designated general partner(s) are named in Section III as the **General Partners** authorized to act on behalf of the entity and these same General Partners will certify the Deposit Account Resolution and Authorization under Section X.
- **Sole Proprietorships:** Section III and X require the signature of the proprietor (owner) or in the case of a spousal proprietorship, the signatures of the husband and wife who own the Business Entity.
- **Unincorporated Organizations or Associations:** Section III requires the signatures of the **Officers or Positions** designated in the Organization or Association's bylaws or charter as authorized to act on behalf of the organization or association. The **President or Secretary** of the organization or association (or other individual designated to do so) is required to certify the Deposit Account Resolution and Authorization under Section X.

Bank Use Only

Bank Number 0175	Cost Center Number 1341130	Cost Center Name WEST INVERNESS OFFICE	
Prepared By Lavonne M Pitts		Phone Number (352)637-1466	Date 03/28/2014
Account Number(s)			
Verification Method			

User ID UFLP111

Account Number

Item. 11.c.
Credit Card Billing Cycle

Item 11.c. Credit Card Billing Cycle

Beginning in January 2014, the new WRWSA credit card was used to purchase office supplies, computer programs, and to secure its online webpage and email accounts. In February, the credit card bill was due to be paid on Feb. 19, the same day as the WRWSA meeting at which payment would be approved. The payment was made to Sun Trust Bank on February 20, 2014, by telephone, and no late fees or charges were incurred. At that time, we requested an adjustment to the billing cycle so that the due date for charges occurs on the 27th of each month. This should enable the Authority to meet Board approval requirements for payment and to meet the card payment due date without additional fees or charges.

However, it may be necessary in the future for staff to pay a WRWSA monthly credit card bill prior to a Board meeting in order to avoid late fees or interest charges. Staff would then seek Board concurrence with such payment at the next Board meeting. Staff requires Board authorization to make such payments when necessary prior to Board approval.

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends the Board authorize staff to pay the monthly WRWSA credit card bill on a timely basis in order to avoid any late fees or interest charges, including when necessary prior to Board approval. Under such circumstances, staff must seek Board concurrence with such payment at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting.

Item. 11.d.
FY 2014 1st Quarter
Financial Report

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' COMPILATION REPORT

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

We have compiled the accompanying financial statements of the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (the Authority), an Independent Special District, as of and for the three months ended December 31, 2013. We have not audited or reviewed the accompanying financial statements and, accordingly, do not express an opinion or provide any assurance about whether the financial statements are in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

The management of the Authority is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America and for designing, implementing, and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements.

Our responsibility is to conduct the compilation in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services issued by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. The objective of a compilation is to assist the management of the Authority in presenting financial information in the form of financial statements without undertaking to obtain or provide any assurance that there are no material modifications that should be made to the financial statements.

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

The budgetary comparison information is not a required part of the basic financial statements but is supplementary information. The supplementary information has been compiled from information that is the representation of management. We have not audited or reviewed the supplementary information and accordingly, we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the supplementary information.

Purvis, Gray and Company

April 1, 2014
Tallahassee, Florida

Certified Public Accountants

443 East College Avenue • Tallahassee, Florida 32301 • (850) 224-7144 • FAX (850) 224-1762

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

Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority
Statement of Net Position
As of December 31, 2013

Assets

Current Assets	
Cash in Bank - SunTrust	\$ 1,634.83
Cash in Bank - SBA1	536,440.85
SBA1-B	3,254.22
Cash - SBA2/Citrus Rev	929,883.87
SBA2-B	8,325.18
Accounts Receivable - SWFWMD	12,782.26
A/R - Villages	1,680.85
Prepaid Expense	<u>170.64</u>
Total Current Assets	1,494,172.70
Property and Equipment	
Equipment	3,728.84
Accum Deprec - Equipment	(1,673.40)
Citrus Co. Wellfield	4,895,231.21
Accum Deprec - Wellfield	<u>(3,426,664.92)</u>
Total Property and Equipment	1,470,621.73
Total Assets	<u>\$ 2,964,794.43</u>

Liabilities and Net Position

Current Liabilities	
A/P Special Projects	\$ 38,720.44
Acct Payable - General	14,906.23
Retainage Payable	<u>6,232.89</u>
Total Current Liabilities	59,859.56
Total Liabilities	59,859.56
Net Position	
Net Assets - Unrestricted	2,952,066.41
Net Income (Loss)	<u>(47,131.54)</u>
Total Net Position	<u>2,904,934.87</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Position	<u>\$ 2,964,794.43</u>

See Accompanying Independent Accountants' Compilation Report

Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority
Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position
For the 3 Months Ended December 31, 2013

	3 Months Ended December 31, 2013	%
Revenue		
Citrus Co. Assessments	\$ 6,686.15	7.23 %
Hernando Co. Assessments	8,222.44	8.90 %
Sumter Co. Assessments	4,759.41	5.15 %
Marion County Assessment	15,816.98	17.11 %
Interest Income - SBA Accounts	636.46	0.69 %
Unrealized Gain/Loss on SBA	403.64	0.44 %
Citrus Co Facilities Recovery	40,896.75	44.25 %
Citrus County Wflld Admin Recov	15,000.00	0.44 %
Total Revenue	92,421.83	100.00 %
Operating Expenses		
Consulting Admin Asst	9,375.00	10.14 %
Executive Director Richard Owen	20,000.01	21.64 %
Advertising	62.89	0.07 %
Bank Charges	15.00	0.02 %
Lecanto Rent	2,047.68	2.22 %
Registration/Dues	285.00	0.31 %
Legal - Monthly Meeting	1,000.00	1.08 %
Legal - Other Services	1,073.92	1.16 %
Liability Insurance	1,634.78	1.77 %
Office Supplies	98.00	0.11 %
Printing & Reproduction	380.54	0.41 %
Postage	129.76	0.14 %
State Fees/Assessments	175.00	0.19 %
Web Page/Internet Services	150.00	0.16 %
Telephone	231.12	0.25 %
Travel	2,346.66	2.54 %
Legislative Consultant	10,500.00	11.36 %
FY11 Irr Audit Pmts Overdorf	1,300.00	1.41 %
FY11 Pmt Irr Audit Admin-Smith	4,200.00	4.54 %
12-13 Update Reg Master Plan	70,858.14	76.67 %
Phase 2 Irrigation Auditor	13,323.62	14.42 %
FY14 General Services Acct	366.25	0.00 %
Total Operating Expenses	139,553.37	151.00 %
Increase (Decrease) in Net Position	\$ (47,131.54)	(51.00)%

See Accompanying Independent Accountants' Compilation Report

ACCOMPANYING SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority
BUDGET TO ACTUAL
For the Period Ended December 31, 2013

	<u>December 31, 2013</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>December 31, 2013</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u> <u>Remaining</u>
Revenue					
Citrus Co. Assessments	\$ 6,686.15	\$ 6,686.25	\$ (0.10)	\$ 26,745.00	\$ 20,058.85
Hernando Co. Assessments	8,222.44	8,222.49	(0.05)	32,890.00	24,667.56
Sumter Co. Assessments	4,759.41	4,759.50	(0.09)	19,038.00	14,278.59
Marion County Assessment	15,816.98	15,816.99	(0.01)	63,268.00	47,451.02
Interest Income - SBA Accounts	636.46	0.00	636.46	0.00	(636.46)
Unrealized Gain/Loss on SBA	403.64	0.00	403.64	0.00	(403.64)
Citrus Co Facilities Recovery	40,896.75	40,896.75	0.00	163,587.00	122,690.25
Citrus County Wlfd Admin Recov	15,000.00	15,000.00	0.00	60,000.00	45,000.00
SWFWMD Match Pii Irri Audit Pgm	0.00	549.99	(549.99)	2,200.00	2,200.00
Phase 2 SWFWMD MatchRegIrrAudit	0.00	13,146.27	(13,146.27)	52,585.00	52,585.00
LG Match Phase 2 Irr Audit Pgm	0.00	1,643.25	(1,643.25)	6,573.00	6,573.00
2012 SWFWMD Match MP Update	0.00	14,997.48	(14,997.48)	59,990.00	59,990.00
Villages Match Funds Pilot Pgm	0.00	50.01	(50.01)	200.00	200.00
Total Revenue	92,421.83	121,768.98	(29,347.15)	487,076.00	394,654.17
Operating Expenses					
Consulting Admin Asst	9,375.00	9,375.00	0.00	37,500.00	28,125.00
Executive Director Richard Owen	20,000.01	19,999.98	0.03	80,000.00	59,999.99
Advertising	62.89	375.00	(312.11)	1,500.00	1,437.11
Bank Charges	15.00	0.00	15.00	0.00	(15.00)
Lecanto Rent	2,047.68	511.98	1,535.70	2,048.00	0.32
Registration/Dues	285.00	499.98	(214.98)	2,000.00	1,715.00
Legal - Monthly Meeting	1,000.00	1,500.00	(500.00)	6,000.00	5,000.00
Legal - Other Services	1,073.92	3,499.98	(2,426.06)	14,000.00	12,926.08
Liability Insurance	1,634.78	525.00	1,109.78	2,100.00	465.22
Office Supplies	98.00	375.00	(277.00)	1,500.00	1,402.00
Printing & Reproduction	380.54	562.50	(181.96)	2,250.00	1,869.46
Postage	129.76	199.98	(70.22)	800.00	670.24
Audit	0.00	2,216.25	(2,216.25)	8,865.00	8,865.00
Bookkeeping/Financial Asst.	0.00	499.98	(499.98)	2,000.00	2,000.00
Publications/Software	0.00	49.98	(49.98)	200.00	200.00
State Fees/Assessments	175.00	43.74	131.26	175.00	0.00
Web Page/Internet Services	150.00	624.99	(474.99)	2,500.00	2,350.00
Telephone	231.12	375.00	(143.88)	1,500.00	1,268.88
Travel	2,346.66	2,499.99	(153.33)	10,000.00	7,653.34
Contingency Funds	0.00	468.00	(468.00)	1,872.00	1,872.00
Legislative Consultant	10,500.00	10,500.00	0.00	42,000.00	31,500.00
FY11 Irri Audit Pmts Overdorf	1,300.00	0.00	1,300.00	0.00	(1,300.00)
FY11 Pmt Irri Audit Admin-Smith	4,200.00	0.00	4,200.00	0.00	(4,200.00)
FY12 Purvis Gray Rate Analysis	0.00	2,146.98	(2,146.98)	8,588.00	8,588.00
12-13 Update Reg Master Plan	70,858.14	29,994.99	40,863.15	119,980.00	49,121.86
Phase 2 Irrigation Auditor	13,323.62	26,292.48	(12,968.86)	105,170.00	91,846.38
Pilot Irrig Aud Pgm Completion	0.00	1,699.98	(1,699.98)	6,800.00	6,800.00
FY14 General Services Acct	366.25	18,750.00	(18,383.75)	75,000.00	74,633.75
FY14 LGG Water Conservation Pgm	0.00	32,500.02	(32,500.02)	130,000.00	130,000.00
Total Operating Expenses	139,553.37	166,086.78	(26,533.41)	664,348.00	524,794.63
Net Income (Loss)	(47,131.54)	(44,317.80)	(2,813.74)	(177,272.00)	(130,140.46)

See Accompanying Independent Accountants' Compilation Report

Item. 11.g.
Correspondence



Marion County
Board of County Commissioners

Growth Services ♦ Planning & Zoning

2710 E. Silver Springs Blvd.
Ocala, FL 34470
Phone: 352-438-2600
Fax: 352-438-2601

April 1, 2014

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

RE: Marion County Appointment of Board Alternates

Mr. Owen:

Thank you for your letter dated January 24, 2014, from the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (WRWSA) regarding the recently approved revised and restated interlocal agreement creating the WRWSA. A new provision within the agreement allows for the appointment of Board alternates by each respective county commission. The letter requested the County act accordingly in response to the new provisions within the interlocal agreement.

The Marion County Board of County Commissioners at their March 4, 2014 meeting approved the appointment of three WRWSA Board alternates (listed below).

Commissioner Earl Arnett: District 5
Commissioner David Moore: District 1
Flip Mellinger, Director, Marion County Utilities

Enclosed, you will find the action summary from the March 4, 2014 County Commission meeting highlighting the appointment of Board alternates to serve in the absence of the primary designated representative.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

Justin Ryan
Strategic Resources Project Manager

"Meeting Needs by Exceeding Expectations"



Marion County
Board of County Commissioners

Growth Services ♦ Planning & Zoning

2710 E. Silver Springs Blvd.
Ocala, FL 34470
Phone: 352-438-2600
Fax: 352-438-2601

Cc:

Dr. Lee A. Niblock, CM
County Administrator
Mounir Bouyounes, P.E.,
PWACA/County Engineer
Tracy Straub, P.E.

Flip Mellinger, Director
Marion County Utilities
Gregory K. Stubbs, AICP
Growth Services Director

"Meeting Needs by Exceeding Expectations"

www.marioncountyfl.org

City of Brooksville
Office of the City Clerk

Phone: (352) 540-3853
Fax: (352) 544-5424



RECEIVED MAR 10 2014

March 5, 2014

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

Dear Mr. Owen:

In response to your letter dated January 24, 2014, please be advised that City Council, on Monday, March 3, 2014, approved appointment of Richard Radacky, Director of Public Works, as Alternate Board Member to the WRWSA Board.

Please contact me should you need anything further.

Sincerely,

Janice L. Peters,
City Clerk

cc: Richard Radacky, Director of Public Works

117 E. Joe P. Strickland, Jr. Ave
Post Office Box 115
Bushnell, FL 33513-0115



RECEIVED MAR 12 2014

Administration Offices
Phone: (352) 793-2591
Fax: (352) 793-2711
www.cityofbushnellfl.com

CITY OF BUSHNELL, FLORIDA

March 7, 2014

"Committed to the Quality of Life"

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

Subject: Appointment of Board Alternate – City of Bushnell

Dear Mr. Owen,

Our City Council has appointed me as the alternate to Mr. Dale Swain, City Councilman, effective March 3, 2014. Please let me know if you require any other documentation or information in this regard.

Sincerely,

Bruce J. Hickle
City Manager
City of Bushnell

cc: Dale Swain, City Councilman



February 20, 2014

Jay Hoecker, Water Supply Specialist
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, FL 34604-6899

RE: Request extension of milestones for Irrigation System Evaluation Program (N491), Phase 2 and Regional Water Supply Plan Update, N438

Dear Jay,

The WRWSA has two Cooperative Funding projects underway during fiscal year 2013-2014. These are the Irrigation System Evaluation Program (N491), Phase 2 and the Regional Water Supply Plan Update (N438). Richard Owen is the Authority's project manager for the Regional Water Supply Plan Update and Nancy H. Smith is the project manager for the Irrigation System Evaluation program. We are requesting extensions to each of these projects, as presented below.

Phase 2, N491, Agreement #13C00000031

Because we have completed only 20% of our anticipated target evaluations in 75% of the one-year allotted for on-site irrigation evaluations, we are requesting a four-month extension of the ending deadlines for milestones. This still provides for program completion prior to the agreement expiration date of December 31, 2015. No change in funding is requested.

N491 Irrigation Evaluation Timeline

<i>Milestone</i>	<i>Current End Dates</i>	<i>Requested End Dates</i>
Irrigation Evaluations	April 30, 2014	<i>September 30, 2014</i>
Savings Analysis	May 1, 2015	<i>September 30, 2015</i>
Final Report Due	August 1, 2015	<i>November 30, 2015</i>
Agreement Expiration Date	December 31, 2015	<i>No change</i>

Regional Water Supply Plan Update, N438, Contract # 13C00000062

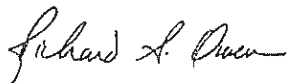
The District, in a letter dated November 22, 2013, authorized extensions to the project schedule. Several tasks have created the necessity to request additional changes to the schedule. Two tasks in particular, including estimating the conservation savings potential and the modeling of potential new groundwater withdrawals, are causing delays in progress. Regarding the conservation efforts, I have spoken with Jim Heaney at the University of Florida, and anticipate receiving the next product from them by the end of January. Once received, our consultant must evaluate the sufficiency of this product for the Plan update, extrapolate the results to other utilities, and then interpret and write up the results. Regarding the groundwater modeling, the District just recently provided the recently expanded Northern District Model to our consultant. In addition, the District agreed to provide model runs incorporating conservation and reuse (separately and combined) and to provide the results in approximately one week from our January 23, 2014 meeting. Our consultants must then take the revised model to evaluate wellfield impacts to MFL waterbodies. To ensure adequate time to complete these and other remaining tasks, we request that the delivery date for the draft RWSP be revised to May 1, 2014. There is no change to the final report, agreement expiration date, or cost to the District.

N438 RWSP

<i>Project Schedule</i>	<i>Current End Dates</i>	<i>Requested End Dates</i>
Delivery of Draft RWSP Update Report	March 31, 2014	<i>May 1, 2014</i>
Final Report	July 1, 2014	<i>No change</i>
Agreement Expiration Date	August 15, 2014	<i>No change</i>

I request approval of these timeline extensions.

Sincerely,



Richard S. Owen, AICP
WRWSA Executive Director

RSO/nhs



February 20, 2014

Mr. Jim Gross, Technical Program Manager
Regulatory, Engineering and Environmental Services
St. Johns River Water Management District
4049 Reid Street
Palatka, FL 32177

Dear Mr. Gross:

The Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (WRWSA) represents a four county area including Citrus, Hernando, Marion and Sumter counties. Our board is comprised of local elected officials representing these counties and municipalities within these counties. We have reviewed the SJRWMD's Draft Water Supply Plan 2013 and believe the draft Plan is an excellent planning document that contributes to better understanding the availability of water resources within the SJRWMD to meet growing water demands. We offer the following comments for your consideration.

The Executive Summary and perhaps conclusions section could benefit by a summary of the demand projections and groundwater availability determinations, such as the following table provides.

Region	Increase in Total Demands	2035 Total Demands	Demands Exceed Available GW
1	130	493	74
2	53	212	64
3	136	465	115
4	-5	162	3
Districtwide	314	1,332	256

This type of summary helps to put the magnitude of water supply development needs within each region into perspective.

We focused most of our review on Region 2, which encompasses that portion of Marion County within the SJRWMD. We note that on page 3-8, Springs, it states in part "MFLs are currently being Established for Silver Springs/Silver River and current analyses indicate that they will be below MFLs in 2035." The WRWSA would like to be engaged with the SJRWMD as these MFLs are developed, including any associated recovery or prevention strategies.

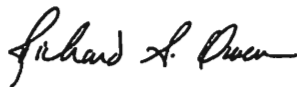
On pages 6-3 and 4, the Plan describes several ongoing coordination efforts regarding various groundwater modeling efforts, such as that associated with the Central Florida Water Initiative. The SJRWMD, in cooperation with the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD), Marion County and the WRWSA, recently completed phase 1 of the Northern District Model Expansion project. The purpose of this project was to expand a groundwater model to encompass all of Marion County.

Both the SJRWMD and SWFWMD have indicated their commitment to utilize this model for determination of groundwater availability in the region. The SJRWMD is currently moving forward with Phase 2 of this project to expand the model to the east coast. The SJRWMD has continued to provide the opportunity for input by its partners (Marion County, SWFWMD and the WRWSA) in Phase 2 and we look forward to continuing our coordination efforts in this regard. We recommend the Plan include a description of this work to-date and ongoing efforts. The Plan, specifically in Chapter 8, Region 2 Analysis and Results, should express the goal of continuing to ensure consistency among the Districts in determining groundwater availability in this part of the state. This inter-district consistency effort should also be mentioned in Chapter 12, the Action Plan.

Finally, it is our understanding this model has not been used to-date by the SJRWMD in developing MFLs in the region, including MFLs proposed for Silver Springs/Silver River. We recommend this model, considered now to be the most up-to-date groundwater model for the region, be utilized for establishing MFLs for waterbodies within its domain. If this cannot be accomplished within the SJRWMD's time frame for completing this Plan, we recommend the Plan include an action item that the model will be utilized as MFLs are further developed and revised and, if deemed necessary, recovery and/or prevention strategies are developed.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment. We appreciate the positive working relationship that the SJRWMD has extended to the WRWSA and look forward to working together within our shared areas of responsibility.

Sincerely,



Richard S. Owen
Executive Director

cc: WRWSA Board
Flip Mellinger

RSO/nhs

Item. 11.h.
News Articles

Subject: Fwd: DEP RECOGNIZES APRIL AS WATER CONSERVATION MONTH
From: Diane Salz <disalz@yahoo.com>
Date: Tue, Apr 01, 2014 3:19 pm
To: "Anderson, Richard" <randerson@regionalwater.org>
Cc: Nancy Smith <nsmith@wrwsa.org>

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Florida Department of Environmental Protection" <FloridaDEP@public.govdelivery.com>
Date: April 1, 2014 at 2:59:35 PM EDT
To: disalz@yahoo.com
Subject: DEP RECOGNIZES APRIL AS WATER CONSERVATION MONTH
Reply-To: FloridaDEP@public.govdelivery.com



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 1, 2014

CONTACT: DEP Press Office, 850.245.2112, DEPNews@dep.state.fl.us

DEP RECOGNIZES APRIL AS WATER CONSERVATION MONTH

~The Department recognizes April as a time for Floridians to implement water conservation strategies~

TALLAHASSEE – The Florida Department of Environmental Protection recognizes April as Water Conservation Month. This is a time when residents and visitors are encouraged to learn about ways to save water and help protect one of Florida's most important resources.

"April serves as a time to emphasize how important it is for residents and visitors of Florida to conserve water," said Drew Bartlett, Deputy Secretary of Water Policy and Ecosystem Restoration. "Water restoration is an ongoing priority of the state and this month serves as a time for residents to implement strategies to help the state work towards our goals."

Ongoing statewide efforts show that water conservation strategies are working. Florida remains one of the most water-efficient states in the nation. In 2012, Florida used more than 725 million gallons of reclaimed water every day to conserve freshwater and replenish rivers, streams, lakes and aquifers. Florida used reclaimed water to irrigate 321,340 residences, 548 golf courses, 961 parks and 328 schools according to 2012 data. As a result, Florida is a national leader in water reuse and the only state that collects reuse data annually.

Since most areas of Florida continue to struggle with drought conditions, water conservation is critical. Water conservation is the least costly and easiest plan to preserving our natural resources. Floridians can participate this process by implementing one or more of these 10 simple tips. These tips can help lower monthly water bills while helping to save hundreds of gallons of water.

Indoor Tips:

- Turn off running water while brushing teeth
- Fix household leaks promptly
- Cut time spent in the shower to five minutes
- Soak pots and pans rather than running water while scraping them clean
- Avoid using running water to thaw food

Outdoor tips:

- Water lawn 1-2 times a week
- Water plants early in the morning or in the late evening to reduce evaporation and ineffective watering due to wind
- Use broom to clean driveways, patios and sidewalks
- Plant drought resistant shrubs, trees and plants
- Use a rain barrel to collect water to use for plants and gardens

For facts and information about water conservation throughout April, follow [@FLDEPNews](#) on Twitter. Share your tips for conserving water by using [#DEPConserveWater](#).

About the Florida Department of Environmental Protection

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection is the state's principal environmental agency, created to protect, conserve and manage Florida's environment and natural resources. The Department enforces federal and state environmental laws, protects Florida's air and water quality, cleans up pollution, regulates solid waste management, promotes pollution prevention and acquires environmentally-sensitive lands for preservation. The agency also maintains a statewide system of parks, trails and aquatic preserves. To view the Department's website log on to www.dep.state.fl.us.

<http://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/FLDEP/bulletins/ae1bf9>



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Springs bill passes with most opponents taking the polite role
Bruce Ritchie, 03/31/2014 - 06:34 PM

LobbyTools: The Current

While environmentalists expressed support of a Senate springs bill on Monday, a representative of the **Florida Home Builders Association** stayed in the audience, huddling with representatives of developers and utilities groups.

SB 1576 cleared its second committee stop with no opposing votes. But that doesn't mean that powerful groups at the Capitol are OK with the legislation.

They're just being polite.

"I've made my point in committee," said **Keith Hetrick**, lobbyist and counsel for the Florida Home Builders Association. "I've talked to (Senate) staff. They nod their heads. These same versions keep coming out."

Springs across the state have turned green from algae, fueled by nitrogen in groundwater flowing to springs. Sources of nitrogen can include sewage treatment plant spray fields, septic tanks, livestock farms, fertilizer and dirty stormwater runoff.

SB 1576 would require the setting of minimum flows for springs and require remediation plans that could involve hooking up homes on septic tanks to sewer systems.

The bill also provides an estimated \$365.8 million towards springs projects and sewer hookups. The revenue previously was estimated at \$378 million by Senate staff and likely will be adjusted to match actual appropriations of less than \$100 million now in the House and Senate proposed spending plans.

The bill is drawing public opposition from some property rights advocates and septic tank owners who say it would allow for the creation of responsible management entities to take over operations of septic tanks.

The Florida Home Builders Association opposes the bill because it in effect has a moratorium on new septic systems in "outstanding" springs areas with high nitrogen levels where sewer is not available, Hetrick said.

Representatives of the **Florida Chamber of Commerce** and **Associated Industries of Florida** did get up to speak, saying only that they were working with senators to improve the bill.

Leticia Adams, the chamber's director of infrastructure and governance policy, said after the meeting that springs need immediate funding. She said her group is somewhere between supportive and opposed to the bill but thinks legislation may need to wait another year.

"It needs some more involvement from the agency and from other stakeholders," she said.

On the other hand, environmentalists say the problem has gone on too long.

"The bottom line is this legislation provides a timeline for getting the work done," said **Jake Varn**, a lawyer who is helping write the bill. "It provides the funding. And it identifies the sources of the (nitrogen) problem."

He added, "This is not a one-size-fits-all."

And **Sen. David Simmons**, R-Altamonte Springs and one of five Senate chairmen backing the bill, said the bill doesn't require utilities to take over septic tanks or do any of the things that opponents claim. He said the bill only requires remediation studies of septic tanks.

Sen. Bill Montford, D-Tallahassee and chairman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, said after the meeting he doesn't think opposition will stop the bill from passing both the House and Senate. He also is one of the five chairmen supporting the push for a springs bill.

"What I hear are a lot of concerns," he said. "And there is nothing with that. I would hope there are concerns because to adequately and rightly address this issue we're going to make a lot of people uncomfortable."

The bill passed his committee by a 5-0 vote and has one more committee stop. A similar House bill, **HB 1313**, has not been heard in its first committee.

Reporter Bruce Ritchie can be reached at britchie@thefloridacurrent.com.

Subject: Fwd: Springs Protection Awareness Month
From: Diane Salz <disalz@yahoo.com>
Date: Tue, Mar 11, 2014 5:02 pm
To: Nancy Smith <nsmith@wrwsa.org>

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Water News <waternews@sjrwmd.com>
Date: March 11, 2014 at 4:56:55 PM EDT
To: disalz@yahoo.com
Subject: Springs Protection Awareness Month
Reply-To: waternews@sjrwmd.com

Email not displaying correctly? [Click to view online.](#)

St. Johns River Water Management District

Water News

News, meetings
and notices

March 11, 2014

Springs Protection Awareness Month proclamation adopted

Demonstrating a continuing commitment to long-term springs protection, the St. Johns River Water Management District's Governing Board on March 11 approved a proclamation designating April as Springs Protection Awareness Month. The designation is expected to help increase awareness about the importance of Florida's springs and encourage residents and stakeholders to participate in enhancing the quality and flow of springs.

Sen. Charles Dean has proposed a resolution to the Florida Legislature declaring April as Springs Protection Awareness Month. Water management districts across the state are joining him in recognizing the importance of increasing public awareness about the value of springs.

The District has been working with other agencies for many years through various programs to increase knowledge and understanding about the region's springs, while also working to protect springs systems. The District launched a [Springs Protection Initiative](#) in 2012 that combines science, projects, planning and regulatory programs to reduce nitrate loading and protect spring flows.

Connect with us



Upcoming meetings

For a listing of upcoming meeting dates, times and locations, visit:

- [Governing Board meetings and agendas](#)
- [Other District meetings and notices](#)

Contacts

District staff contacts for:

- [Local governments](#)
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The Initiative brings together science, District regulatory programs, projects and outreach in a focused approach to achieve springs protection. Currently, nine springs protection projects are under way in the Silver Springs, Wekiwa Spring and Volusia Blue Spring systems.

"Nearly \$47 million has been committed this fiscal year to springs cost-share projects within the St. Johns District," said Casey Fitzgerald, director of the Springs Protection Initiative. "By adopting this proclamation, the District Governing Board expresses its commitment to conserve and restore the ecological balance of the springs' systems, which also supports Floridians' quality of life and our regional economy."

The District is actively pursuing additional springs protection projects for a new round of cost-share funding, to which the District has dedicated \$13 million in its preliminary budget for the fiscal year that begins Oct. 1, 2014. Gov. Scott has recommended \$55 million for springs protection and restoration in his fiscal year 2014-2015 proposed budget.

About us

The St. Johns River Water Management District is a regional agency of the state of Florida whose mission is to protect and ensure the sustainable use of water resources. The District is responsible for managing groundwater and surface water resources in all or part of 18 counties in northeast and east-central Florida.

floridaswater.com

St. Johns River Water Management District
P.O. Box 1429 • Palatka, FL 32178-1429

(800) 725-5922

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Subject: Permitting bill gets substantial changes in Senate but still faces environmental opposition

From: Diane Salz <salz.govconsultant@gmail.com>

Date: Thu, Mar 27, 2014 2:04 pm

To: WRWSA <richardowen@wrwsa.org>

Cc: "<nsmith@wrwsa.org>" <nsmith@wrwsa.org>

The Florida Current

Permitting bill gets substantial changes in Senate but still faces environmental opposition
Bruce Ritchie, 03/26/2014 - 04:10 PM

An environmental regulation bill facing environmental opposition was amended on Wednesday to remove several objectionable provisions before passing its first Senate committee.

Also, a bill that would extend the date of a ban on the land application of septic tank waste passed its first committee stop.

SB 1464 is the companion to **HB 703** by Rep. **Jimmy Patronis**, R-Panama City. This is the fourth year in a row he has pushed a wide-ranging bill that would roll back environmental regulations.

Patronis told a meeting of more than 28 lobbyists on Monday that several controversial sections were being removed.

More were taken out Wednesday in amendments offered by members of the **Senate Committee on Environmental Preservation and Conservation**.

A section that excluded certain drainage districts from regulation by local government was taken out. A representative of the **Ranger Drainage District** had indicated that the language arose from a permitting dispute between the district and Orange County.

Sen. Thad Altman, R-Melbourne, said the issue was controversial and had been vetted in 2013 when **HB 999** by Patronis had similar language stripped from it in the Senate. A Ranger Drainage District representative indicated his opposition.

Sen. Jack Latvala, R-St. Petersburg, offered another amendment that removed Section 1 of the bill which would have prevented counties from enforcing against farms those springs or wetland regulations that were modified or readopted since 2003.

He hinted that the bill may not get voted out of the committee without the amendment. That likely resulted in time running out for the bill in its next three committee stops.

"I'm a little uncomfortable with telling counties they can't adopt wetlands regulations they may have made in the past 10 or 11 years," he said.

Environmental groups continued to voice their objection to the bill. They announced Monday they were asking Patronis and **Sen. Wilton Simpson**, R-Trilby and sponsor of the Senate bill, to drop the legislation.

After the meeting, **Sierra Club Florida** lobbyist **David Cullen** said that the bill was improved but there still were problems with the bill, including Section 5 allowing 30-year water use permits for larger developments in a designated "rural area of critical economic concern."

"There's not much to like in it," Cullen said.

SB 1160, delaying by one year a 2015 ban on the spreading of septic tank waste by one year, was amended and passed despite environmental opposition. The bill, which would have delayed the ban until 2020 before it was amended, also requires a study of alternatives due by Feb. 1, 2015.

Sen. Greg Evers, R-Baker and bill sponsor, said the ban could increase the cost of a septic tank pump-out from \$200 to \$250 to more than \$900 in his Okaloosa County. Septic tank maintenance firms said they would be required to haul the waste to sewage treatment plants that are willing to take it.

SB 830 dealing with carryout shopping bags by **Sen. Dwight Bullard**, D-Cutler Bay, was not heard by the committee. The bill lifts a statewide ban on local bag ordinances in 2010 legislation that required a study. **SB 830** also would provide uniform standards for the adoption of local bag regulations. The bill has three committee stops.

Reporter Bruce Ritchie can be reached at [britchie@thefloridacurrent.com](mailto:britchier@thefloridacurrent.com).

Subject: Florida Current: Bill would delay ban on land spreading of septic tanks waste by two years

From: Diane Salz <salz.govconsultant@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Mar 24, 2014 11:02 am

To: WRWSA <richardowen@wrwsa.org>

Cc: "<nsmith@wrwsa.org>" <nsmith@wrwsa.org>

Bill would delay ban on land spreading of septic tanks waste by two years
Bruce Ritchie, 03/18/2014 - 05:38 PM

A House committee approved a bill on Tuesday that delays a prohibition on the land spreading of septic tank waste, which was required in 2010 springs legislation.

About 100,000 septic tanks are pumped out each year resulting in 100 million gallons of septic tank waste, called septage. There are 92 regulated sites which receive the waste including farms that use it as fertilizer, according to the **Florida Department of Health**.

SB 550 in 2010 banned the land application effective beginning on Jan. 1, 2016. This year, **HB 1113** by **Rep. Katie Edwards**, D-Sunrise, as filed would have pushed back the ban by four years.

Her late-filed strike-all amendment on Tuesday would reduce the delay to two years and provide for a study of the options for waste disposal by March 1, 2015.

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The study will identify "the most cost-effective and environmentally-friendly ways to move forward as we both protect our environment and make sure homeowners have a cost-effective and environmentally-friendly means to dispose of septage from their septic tanks," Edwards said.

SB 550 in 2010 was bill touted as a springs protection measure by supporters. It included a statewide inspection requirement for septic tanks and the land application ban beginning in 2016.

The inspection requirement was repealed in 2012 following a backlash by legislators in North Florida and rural homeowners. But the ban on land application of septage remained.

Some owners of businesses that maintain septic tanks said Tuesday that the ban would force them to take the waste to landfills or wastewater treatment plants if the practice is banned. They said the longer travel would raise costs for homeowners who may choose not to maintain their septic tanks.

"We certainly we believe in looking at all the options," said Monitor ["Water Quality"](#) and 100+ policy issues with Legislative IQ or LobbyTools. [Login](#) or [request a demo](#). **Roxanne Groover**, executive director of the **Florida Onsite Wastewater Association**. "We just don't want this one option taken off the table."

Environmental group representatives said they support the study but they do not support delaying the ban.

Rep. Clovis Watson, D-Gainesville, said he opposed the extension. "I would be more amenable to us looking at a report in 2016 and making a decision as to an extension," he said.

Rep. Elizabeth Porter, R-Lake City, said no one can accuse her of not being a protector of springs but she said there was no scientific evidence that the waste is causing pollution in waterways.

"I can't vote against this amendment until someone shows me there is a danger in postponing it," she said.

HB 1113 has two more committee stops. The Senate companion, **SB 1160**, hasn't been heard in the first of its three committee stops.

Subject: Patronis outlines changes to permitting bill as it comes up in Senate this week

From: Diane Salz <salz.govconsultant@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, Mar 25, 2014 2:13 pm

To: WRWSA <richardowen@wrwsa.org>

Cc: "<nsmith@wrwsa.org>" <nsmith@wrwsa.org>

LobbyTools

Patronis outlines changes to permitting bill as it comes up in Senate this week
Bruce Ritchie, 03/24/2014 - 07:27 PM

Rep. Jimmy Patronis meets with a room full of lobbyists and a three reporters to discuss his environmental permitting bill, HB 703. Photo by Bruce Ritchie.

HB 703, the wide-ranging environmental permitting bill sponsored by **Rep. Jimmy Patronis**, will be amended in the Senate this week and will differ as the House bill moves forward in the coming weeks, Patronis told lobbyists on Monday.

The Senate companion bill, **SB 1464**, is scheduled to get its first hearing on Wednesday before the **Senate Committee on Environmental Preservation and Conservation**.

Twenty-eight lobbyists and three reporters crammed into a room with Patronis, with more listening from the hallway, as he went over expected changes in the Senate version of the bill.

Patronis said the House bill would remain unchanged in its next committee stop, which Patronis said will not be held this week.

Mary Jean Yon of Audubon Florida opened comments from the audience by saying that environmental groups now are asking legislators to drop the bills.

"To me the bill, it demonstrates this insatiable appetite to for just continuing to kind of eat away at the regulatory protections that guide Florida at the state and local level," she said.

She added, that after four straight years of such bills from Patronis, "We're just fed up."

Patronis responded that Audubon had been consistent in its opposition to his legislation.

"I appreciate that," he said. "But your consistency also leads to changes in the bill that I'm willing to make today."

"In saying that if you want me to leave the bill as is I will be happy to and not take any of your considerations in place," he said.

Patronis said there will be clarifying language for Section 1, which prohibits counties from enforcing wetlands, springs or stormwater ordinances that have been enacted or modified since July 1, 2003. Local governments and environmentalists strongly oppose that law change.

Representatives of **1000 Friends of Florida** and the **League of Women Voters** said the existing bill language conflicts with **SB 1576**, a comprehensive springs protection bill that passed its first committee stop last week. The House version of the bill, HB 1313, hasn't been heard in a committee.

"I don't know that there will be springs legislation this year," Patronis responded. "I just haven't seen any support."

Among the other changes is language has been dropped that would provide 50-year consumptive permits for landowners who participate in water storage programs, Patronis said.

He said proposal for 30-year permits for developments of regional impact remains in the bill, despite opposition from environmentalists.

A section dealing with prohibiting local governments from rescinding development approval because lands continue to be classified as agriculture for tax purposes also was being dropped, Patronis said.

Gary K. Hunter Jr., an attorney representing the **Association of Florida Community Developers** and agricultural interests, said Patronis is making the effort to listen to concerns and make changes in the legislation.

"If you look at all the sections that remain in the bill, they are not a legislative poke in the eye on any issue," he said. "It is really an advancement of policy issues that is intended to facilitate continued renewed economic growth while being respectful of environmental interests and local governments."

Subject: Reclaimed water bills better for environmentalists

From: Diane Salz <salz.govconsultant@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Mar 24, 2014 8:52 am

To: WRWSA <richardowen@wrwsa.org>

Cc: "<nsmith@wrwsa.org>" <nsmith@wrwsa.org>

'Reclaimed' water bills better for environmentalists after a single word is removed
Bruce Ritchie, 03/21/2014 - 02:52 PM

Sometimes one word makes all the difference.

Bills that would require a study on expanding the use of treated wastewater are heading to the House and Senate floors with environmental groups having dropped their concerns — largely because one word was taken out and replaced with a comma.

"I think they (environmental groups) were supportive of the bill, they just had some language they wanted to add to it," **Rep. Lake Ray**, R-Jacksonville and sponsor of **HB 601**, said Friday.

HB 601 on Friday passed the **House State Affairs Committee**, its final committee stop, by a unanimous vote. **SB 536** on Thursday passed the **Senate Committee on Environmental Preservation and Conservation**, also its final stop.

Florida in 2012 used 725 million gallons per day of treated wastewater — also called "reclaimed water." That's more than is used any other state, according to the **Florida Department of Environmental Protection**, but it's still less than half of Florida's total wastewater flow.

Supporters of the bills say expanding the use of reclaimed water would relieve pressure on groundwater supplies and help avoid the need for pumping water from rivers. But some environmentalists initially suspected the bills represented a water grab by utilities.

Rather than just defining reclaimed water as the reuse of treated wastewater, the bills as filed called for a study of the expansion of the "beneficial use of reclaimed water, including stormwater and excess surface water, in this state."

Audubon Florida and **Sierra Club Florida** representatives said they supported the study and the use of treated wastewater. But they also were concerned that the bill language broadened the definition of reclaimed water to include stormwater and flood waters, which they said are needed to replenish the environment.

Ray told the **House Agriculture and Natural Resources Subcommittee** earlier this month that he didn't realize the wording would trigger concerns.

The House and Senate bills were amended this week to take out the word "including" and add a comma — and that relieved most concerns

The bills now call for a study of on the expansion of "the beneficial use of reclaimed water, stormwater, and excess surface water in this state." That comma separated stormwater and excess surface water from reclaimed water in the study.

The bills were amended further to add language requested by environmental groups, including **Clean Water Action**, to provide for two public hearings.

And the bills now call for studying the efficient use of reclaimed water, resolving concerns about possibly wasting treated wastewater.

"Twenty to 30 percent of our water could be reused," Ray said Friday. "And that means 20 to 30 percent less is coming from our streams and aquifers."

The bills are supported by **Associated Industries of Florida**, the **Florida Chamber of Commerce**, the **Florida League of Cities** and the **Florida Association of Counties**. The study report is due to the governor, House speaker and Senate president by Dec. 1, 2015.

Reporter Bruce Ritchie can be reached at [britchie@thefloridacurrent.com](mailto:britchier@thefloridacurrent.com).

Subject: Fwd: Senate springs proposal still not ready for action
From: Diane Salz <salz.govconsultant@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Mar 14, 2014 8:58 am
To: WRWSA <richardowen@wrwsa.org>
Cc: "<nsmith@wrwsa.org>" <nsmith@wrwsa.org>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Diane Salz <salz.govconsultant@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Mar 14, 2014 at 8:56 AM
Subject: Senate springs proposal still not ready for action
To: Diane Salz <disalz@yahoo.com>

SENATE SPRINGS PROPOSAL STILL NOT READY FOR ACTION

March 13, 2014

The behind-the-scenes filtering continues on a \$378.8 million measure aimed at restoring and protecting Florida's natural springs. Sen. Charlie Dean, R-Inverness, temporarily postponed the proposal (SB 1576) from making its first appearance of the legislative session Thursday in the Senate Environmental Preservation and Conservation Committee. Influential business groups have opposed the measure. "We had hoped today we would have our bill coming out in a more finalized version," said Dean, chairman of the committee. "But as of the last week or 10 days of working in this area, we still feel that there are improvements that need to be made, and we have not tied the last of the issues together." The wide-ranging proposal, which Dean and a group of senators have been working on for months, was introduced Feb. 28. Gov. Rick Scott has requested \$55 million in the 2014-15 state budget for springs protection, up from \$10 million in the current year. Meanwhile, House Speaker Will Weatherford, R-Wesley Chapel, has said water-policy issues may have to wait until the 2015 session, when Rep. Steve Crisafulli, R-Merritt Island, and Sen. Andy Gardiner, R-Orlando, take over the leadership of their respective chambers. Crisafulli and Gardiner have said they want to make water a priority. The springs proposal would require local governments within the state's most-prominent springs zones to enact ordinances on fertilizer use. Also, it would require wastewater treatment plants to reduce the amount of nitrogen released in treated water and agricultural operations to follow "best-management practices." The proposal also would require state and local governments to cover the costs of connecting residential properties to sewer systems where older septic systems are determined to be impacting area waters.

Subject: Draft Springs Bill would Ban New Dairy Farms and Stockyards Around Springs

From: Diane Salz <salz.govconsultant@gmail.com>

Date: Thu, Mar 13, 2014 8:41 pm

To: WRWSA <richardowen@wrwsa.org>

Cc: "<nsmith@wrwsa.org>" <nsmith@wrwsa.org>

Draft springs bill would ban new dairy farms and stockyards around springs

Bruce Ritchie, 03/13/2014 - 04:03 PM

New stockyards, dairy farms and slaughter operations would be banned from areas around major springs under a new draft version of comprehensive springs legislation.

And **Sierra Club Florida** says the legislation could prohibit local governments from adopting stricter fertilizer ordinances than provided by the state.

Springs across the state have become choked with weeds and algae from high levels of nitrogen in groundwater, according to scientists. Nitrogen sources include farms, fertilizer, dirty stormwater runoff, septic tanks and sewage treatment plants.

SB 1516 by **Sen. Charlie Dean**, R-Inverness, would require septic tanks to be improved or hook up to central sewer in areas with springs with high nitrogen or phosphorus levels. The bill would target actions towards 38 designated "outstanding" springs.

It was scheduled to receive its first vote on Thursday before the **Senate Committee on Environmental Preservation and Conservation**, which Dean chairs. But he asked for the bill to be temporarily postponed to receive comments on draft new bill language.

"We still feel there are improvements that need to be made and we have not tied the last of the issues together," he said. The bill as filed has support from four other Senate committee chairmen.

The draft language appears to pick up on comments made by **Eric Draper**, executive director of **Audubon Florida**, during a Nov. 20 committee workshop. He suggested that "concentrated animal feeding operations" and slaughterhouses along with the land application of sewage treatment plant waste be listed as prohibited uses in the springs areas.

A 2012 permit request by [Adena Springs Ranch](#) in Marion County to pump 5.3 million gallons per day for 30,000 cattle and a slaughterhouse sparked **opposition from environmentalists**.

Dairy farms along the Suwannee River also have been criticized by environmentalists for contributing slime in springs despite millions of dollars spent by agencies and farmers to prevent manure from seeping into groundwater.

Draper said Thursday the intent was not to target existing operations in any area.

"The senators put that (draft) language in," he said. "It's not our goal to target anyone; it's to curtail within springsheds a practice that's known to discharge pollution into their aquifers."

Sam Ard, director of governmental affairs with the **Florida Cattlemen's Association**, said the bill language raises questions and concerns about whether modifications of existing cattle operations would be affected by the law change.

"We think that any regulatory uncertainty will have a negative effect on existing operations," he said.

Sierra Club Florida lobbyist **David Cullen** said he is concerned that new language in Section 9 of the draft bill would pre-empt local governments from having stronger ordinances than a state model ordinance regulating fertilizer use. Environmentalists and the landscaping industry and its business allies have battled over this issue in the Legislature for at least the past five years.

The draft bill says "the department shall adopt rules to implement this paragraph that establish reasonable minimum standards for local governments to implement and that reflect advancements or improvements regarding nutrient load reductions."

The draft language "retains some good stuff but it has inserted a residential fertilizer preemption," Cullen said.

"We are decidedly not happy about that," he said. An aide to the senator responded the intent of the draft language was not to establish a pre-emption on local fertilizer ordinances.

Subject: Fwd: Ocala Star Banner: getting water right requires getting politics right

From: Diane Salz <salz.govconsultant@gmail.com>

Date: Sun, Mar 09, 2014 7:39 pm

To: WRWSA <richardowen@wrwsa.org>

Cc: "<nsmith@wrwsa.org>" <nsmith@wrwsa.org>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Diane Salz <salz.govconsultant@gmail.com>

Date: Sun, Mar 9, 2014 at 7:39 PM

Subject: Ocala Star Banner: getting water right requires getting politics right

To: Diane Salz <disalz@yahoo.com>

OTHER VOICES

Getting water right requires getting politics right

By Gary W. Kuhl

Special to the Star-Banner

Published: Sunday, March 9, 2014 at 6:30 a.m.

Last Modified: Friday, March 7, 2014 at 4:39 p.m.

Just when it was starting to feel like the governor and the Florida Legislature might be trying to head in the right direction and "get the water right," things look like they are headed south again.

Gov. Rick Scott recently suggested putting money in the state's budget to assist with Everglades management and improvement in water routing to minimize the disastrous impacts seen this past summer in the Indian River Lagoon — putridly polluted runoff waters released into the lagoon from Lake Okeechobee apparently killed hundreds of dolphins, pelicans and manatees over this past year. Even though Scott's proposed budget amount for the Everglades is a pittance compared to what is needed, it seemed like a positive start.

State monies were recently spent with great fanfare to clean up some of the state's springheads, too, including Silver Springs in Ocala. It is well known that it is going to take serious action upstream of these springheads to stop the nutrient and water consumption problems, but again, these springhead cleanup projects seemed to be a good start.

There seemed to be a few other good signs of recognition by elected state officials of our water problems and, hence, potential problems for Florida's future.

But not so fast. Enter Pam Bondi — Florida's attorney general, who surely receives direction from Gov. Scott — joining some 20 other state attorneys general with formal letters supporting a lawsuit by the American Farm Bureau Federation filed against the feds and the state of Maryland for (gasp!) cleaning up Chesapeake Bay. She, Bondi, claims her only desire here is to stop federal overreach, i.e., to stop a cooperative environmental cleanup program between six states, the District of Columbia and, yes, the federal government.

How does her action make any sense? It's embarrassing. When's the last time you ate an oyster or crab harvested from Chesapeake Bay? That bay is a mess — kind of like Indian River Lagoon.

Then right behind Bondi comes Panhandle Rep. Jimmy Patronis with proposed legislation (HB 703) to eliminate or severely limit Florida counties and municipalities from managing and regulating their own local development and projects impacting our environment. Remember, the Florida Legislature two years ago dismantled Florida's growth management laws and the state department responsible therefore. The reason given was, gosh, the local county and city governments could handle all that stuff. Is there a pattern here?

Is there a decided approach to dismantle the substance of 40 some years of environmental consciousness promulgated by bipartisan Florida governors and legislators? Looks like no one will be overseeing development or long-term planning in Florida,

a state that has now has almost 19 million residents and millions more annual visitors.

Guess who supports this bill, HB 703? Is it the same folks who are suing Maryland because they are trying to clean up their own Chesapeake Bay through planning and, yes, regulation of farming and development practices? Over the long haul, fair and well thought-out regulations are job savers, not job killers.

And finally, along comes Speaker of the House Will Weatherford, who proclaims he is "punting the water stuff" to next year's legislative session. He acknowledges that Florida's water issues are real and have been a long time in the making and will take a long time to solve. It is very hard to understand how a responsible leader could make such an ill-considered statement for non-action. It is a problem. It will take a long time to solve it. So, let's put it off another year?

Kudos to State Sen. Charlie Dean, along with four other Florida senators, who have drafted a proposed bill aimed at protecting and enhancing Florida's dying springs, and really, our fresh groundwater resources for drinking, irrigation and industry use. Dean cited the proposed bill as long overdue and the "right thing to do" for our state. These five state senators and their proposed bill need our strong support through citizen letters and phone calls to elected officials, such as our governor and other state senators and representatives.

Dean, along with getting his proposed bill passed, will need to fight to quash HB 703. Patronis' bill opens the door to the old days in Florida — totally unmanaged growth along with an apparent path to privatization of our water resources. Guess who is already strongly lobbying against Dean's bill? You got it — lobbyists for agricultural and development interests.

Don't get me wrong, I like agriculture, chambers of commerce and homebuilder folks — many of us have relatives and good friends in these groups. I like Rep. Patronis; several of us met with him this past summer to express our concerns about his bill that passed last year, further weakening water management districts in Florida. I like jobs being created here in Florida and good pay for employees.

However, if we mess up what brings people and businesses to our beautiful and unique state, we can kiss it all goodbye. Selling or polluting our natural resources to the highest bidder to get re-elected as governor or attorney general or legislator is dead wrong.

Maybe many have never seen a Florida spring in the wild, and maybe some could care less about "the environment," but we taxpayers will pay the bill to try to fix the mess if our water is not properly managed

Help Sen. Dean get his bill passed and kill HB 703.

Gary W. Kuhl is a former Citrus County administrator and former executive director of the Southwest Florida Water Management District.

Subject: Fwd: challenge to federal judge's ruling on NNC
From: Diane Salz <salz.govconsultant@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Mar 07, 2014 9:34 am
To: WRWSA <richardowen@wrwsa.org>
Cc: "<nsmith@wrwsa.org>" <nsmith@wrwsa.org>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Diane Salz <salz.govconsultant@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Mar 7, 2014 at 9:34 AM
Subject: challenge to federal judge's ruling on NNC
To: Diane Salz <disalz@yahoo.com>

Environmental groups to challenge federal judge's ruling allowing state water quality rules
Bruce Ritchie, 03/06/2014 - 05:22 PM

Environmental groups on Thursday filed a notice in federal court that they are appealing a federal judge's order in January siding with Florida and the U.S. **Environmental Protection Agency** on their agreement in 2013 allowing the state to set pollution standards in waterways.

The appeal may prevent the **Florida Department of Environmental Protection** from moving forward with state rules approved by the federal court and the federal EPA, DEP spokesman **Patrick Gillespie** said.

The Legislature in 2013 passed **SB 1808** ratifying an agreement between DEP and the federal EPA calling for the state to move forward in implementing rules once federal water quality standards were withdrawn.

The appeal on Thursday was filed in the **11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals** in Atlanta on behalf of the **Florida Wildlife Federation**, the **Conservancy of Southwest Florida**, the **Environmental Confederation of Southwest Florida**, **St. John's Riverkeeper** and the **Sierra Club**.

Earthjustice attorney **David Guest** said the groups are challenging Florida's "polluter-friendly" rules.

"The (federal) **Clean Water Act** is supposed to mean clean water," Guest said. "That's not happening here in Florida, and that's why we're going to court."

"The evidence is all around us – dead manatees, dead dolphins, polluted drinking water and green slime breaking out on our springs, rivers, lakes and bays," he said.

DEP Secretary Herschel T. Vinyard Jr. said Thursday that he was "deeply disappointed" by the appeal, which he said likely will prevent the department from implementing the most comprehensive water quality standards in the nation.

"The department, along with Floridians, are very concerned about excess nutrients that are causing algal blooms found in many of our springs, lakes and estuaries," he said. "I am confident that the appeals court will side with previous federal and state court recommendations and the state, federal and local scientists who have made it their life's work to improve Florida's water quality and quantity."

On Thursday Guest told *The Florida Current* that the appeal does not prevent the state or federal EPA from taking action.

On Jan. 7, **U.S. District Judge Robert Hinkle** said setting pollution limits for streams in Florida "had proven elusive" but DEP and the federal EPA now agree that a new approach meets the requirement of the federal **Clean Water Act**.

He said a 2009 consent decree requiring EPA to set those numeric nutrient criteria did not affect the rights of industry groups to challenge the outcome. And he said the requested change does not affect the same rights of environmental groups.

"Now, as then, the **Clean Water Act** depends in part on honest administrative enforcement of duly adopted standards," Hinkle wrote. "At least as shown by this record, FDEP's new standards have been duly adopted."

Subject: Citrus County Chronicle: it's time to stop kicking the water bottle

From: Diane Salz <salz.govconsultant@gmail.com>

Date: Thu, Mar 06, 2014 9:27 am

To: WRWSA <richardowen@wrwsa.org>

Cc: "<nsmith@wrwsa.org>" <nsmith@wrwsa.org>

It's time to stop kicking the water bottle

THE ISSUE: Water advocates may have to put hopes on hold.

OUR OPINION: Our senator thinks not, and we hope not.

Will Weatherford may have a House, but Charlie Dean says he's got two-thirds of a movement.

Rep. Weatherford, the speaker of Florida's lower chamber, told the News Service of Florida in February that while he's aware of the push in the state Senate to reform water policy, "when it comes to water ... the long-term, 20-year plans will likely come in the next session."

Instead, Weatherford said, the House would focus its energies on a concurrent Senate effort backed by Stuart Sen. Joe Negron — chair of the Senate's appropriations committee — seeking to clean up Lake Okeechobee and damage caused downstream by discharges from the swelled landmark.

That's not soon enough for Sen. Dean and a group of senators who have filed broad springs legislation, or for environmental advocates who say Florida's waters are only sessions from spoliation.

Dean, speaking to the Chronicle editorial board last week, said he began meeting last year with four fellow senators — David Simmons, Wilton Simpson, Bill Montford and Alan Hays — to discuss a long-term plan "for the future of water," to be inclusive enough to satisfy the demands of stakeholders ranging from environmentalists to business interests and tourists. Over the course of the intervening year, he said, a plethora of policymakers and officials were brought into the conversation and allies were made not just in the governor's office, but in his chair.

On Feb. 28, Dean and Montford introduced the fruit of that yearlong effort to reshape water policy and protect Florida's springs, SB 1576.

The bill takes some of the bold steps environmentalists have called for the Legislature to take for years, but have watched it balk at, including identification and removal or repair of leaking septic systems — funded mostly or entirely by the state — and establishment and enforcement of quality-based minimum flows and levels for springs.

Most importantly, though, it would do something at a time when legislative leaders think there's still time to do nothing.

Dean doesn't think Weatherford's opposition to water policy reform will have much effect on his bills, because "if you take the governor and the five other senators, that's two-thirds of a movement."

We hope two-thirds is enough.

Subject: Ocala Star Banner: Water Issue Looming...

From: Diane Salz <salz.govconsultant@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, Mar 04, 2014 12:04 pm

To: WRWSA <richardowen@wrwsa.org>

Cc: "<nsmith@wrwsa.org>" <nsmith@wrwsa.org>

Water issue looming as legislative session starts Tuesday

By [Fred Hiers](#)

Staff writer

Published: Monday, March 3, 2014 at 3:30 p.m.

Environmentalists and Florida lawmakers who want tougher policies to protect the state's springs, rivers and groundwater remain hopeful for progress this legislative session, despite some warnings that this may not be their year.

Some Florida state senators are crafting a comprehensive package expected to address water quality problems with many Florida lakes, springs and the aquifer. The legislation will include tougher regulation of wastewater treatment plants and farm fertilizer application, provide for the replacement of thousands of leaking septic tanks, and devote as much as \$400 million per year in real estate taxes to clean up water.

Sen. Charlie Dean, R-Inverness, whose district includes part of Marion County, is among a handful of lawmakers crafting the springs protection legislation.

The holdup, if there is one, might come from the House. Speaker Will Weatherford recently told The News Service of Florida that while he is "sensitive" to water legislation being formulated, the issue is too widespread for handling during one legislative session; instead, he will focus on issues "we can control."

"I think we'll tackle a lot of the funding issues this year," said Weatherford, R-Wesley Chapel. "I think there is an opportunity for us to address some of the policy issues, but water is so broad, you have water quality, you have water quantity, water infrastructure and how we move water resources."

Weatherford has deferred water policy issues to Rep. Steve Crisafulli, R-Merritt Island, who is slated to be speaker in 2015.

Senate President Don Gaetz told the Tampa Tribune that his scheduled successor, Andy Gardiner, R-Orlando, as well as Crisafulli, have already "staked out" environmental issues, and he doesn't want to infringe on that arrangement.

Despite those rumblings, Dean predicts some measure of new water policy legislation will succeed this year.

"It just wouldn't make sense to keep ignoring what we brought to the forefront and everyone has been asking for," Dean said.

He added: "I have been in the Legislature a long time, and one thing you have is compromise available to you. I think we can come together (on springs protection). I would be the most disappointed person if we walk away from this with nothing. I just know there's a way to get this done."

Sen. Wilton Simpson, R-Trilby, one of the architects of the Senate's springs protection proposal, said he wasn't troubled by Weatherford's stance, according to the News Service of Florida.

"I think we've got an ambitious agenda in the Senate, but I think we are on the right track," Simpson said. "It will take a few years to fully ramp up and be able to spend a \$150, \$200, \$300 million a year. But at least with the path known, our agencies — DEP, the water basin boards — can start planning for these projects."

Ryan Smart, with the Florida Conservation Coalition, said there is still time for the House to craft something. To do nothing in the House, he said, would be wrong.

"We're in a crisis mode right now. I don't think the springs can wait until next year," Smart said.

The alternative is for the Legislature to keep funding individual projects, he said, but that would not be as beneficial without a larger policy change.

"You're just cleaning up the damage that you've already done," he said.

But that approach appears to be what Crisafulli has in mind. He told the Associated Press that "most of what we're looking at right now is project-related, not policy-related."

One example: determining ways to reduce the amount of water released from Lake Okechobee into sensitive ecosystems west

One example: determining ways to reduce the amount of water released from Lake Okeechobee into sensitive ecosystems west and east of the lake.

Another: a cleanup of the Indian River Lagoon, which suffers from high nutrient levels, failing area septic tanks and invasive vegetation.

He also wants to focus on finding ways to store more water north of Lake Okeechobee, which would alleviate pressure on the lake's aging dike and reduce the amount of water released into sensitive ecosystems.

Last year, water levels in the 730-acre lake rose to dangerous levels during a series of heavy rains. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers released large amounts of water, and its contaminants, into the Indian River Lagoon, which some environmentalists say detrimentally affected the area's delicate ecosystems.

Smart said the proposals are good, but a piecemeal approach could end up distracting from the need for broader water policy.

Other than the springs protection legislation and plans for Indian River and Lake Okeechobee, Smart does not see much other significant environmental legislation on the near political horizon.

Eustis Whitfield is a senior environmental adviser with the Dawson & Associates law firm in Washington and was environmental adviser to four Florida governors. Whitfield also thinks the Indian River and Lake Okeechobee proposals are good but need to be part of a larger environmental policy.

"Florida is a very big state. To concentrate only on one part of it is not broad-minded enough," Whitfield said.

Whitfield said he hopes public pressure will be enough to force the House to move toward more sweeping legislation.

"When the people speak loud enough ... and often enough the political system listens. That's the hope we have," Whitfield said.

Whitfield said Weatherford's announcement to push off any springs protection legislation until next year is bad news.

"That was one of the last things we wanted to hear," Whitfield said. "But we can't go home and say, 'Oh well, we'll see you next year.'"

Meanwhile, there are a few subplots that could influence how lawmakers shape water legislation this year. Some examples:

Voters will decide in a November referendum whether to invest some existing taxes paid on real estate transactions into water and springs programs.

Some suggest the money could be used to fund the proposed springs protection legislation. Others think the two issues should be separate.

Lawmakers backing springs protection legislation are trying to broaden their support base by limiting the financial burden on municipalities. The changes would mean local governments would not be required to implement the legislation unless there is state money to pay for it.

Gov. Rick Scott has proposed \$55 million for the springs in the coming year, a \$45 million increase from last year. It is likely that Silver Springs would benefit from that money.

But, again, Whitfield and others fear that such piece-by-piece funding encourages the selection of individual water projects rather than a comprehensive and broad approach to fixing Florida's water problems.

Plan for springs protection uncertain, but big first step

March 2, 2014

Written by: [Jennifer Portman](#), Democrat senior writer

It's still only in draft form, but a bipartisan effort by five state senators to craft Florida's first comprehensive springs protection bill already has emerged as one of the most closely watched measures for the upcoming session.

Hailed by environmentalists as long overdue and condemned by industry and local government groups for adding needless and burdensome regulations, the draft plan would establish firm timelines for action and provide nearly \$380 million a year for projects to restore and protect Florida's biggest springs.

"The time has come for us to say that our springs must be protected, not only for ourselves, but for our children and our children's children," primary drafter Sen. David Simmons, R-Altamonte Springs, said at a recent two-hour workshop on the bill. "Something has to be done and done now."

The proposal calls for state regulators to establish protection and management zones around Florida's 33 first-magnitude springs and five others, develop basin management action plans for those watersheds and set minimum-flow levels for protected springs. All waste water systems in the zones would be required to adhere to strict limits on the amount of spring-polluting nitrates that could be discharged into the basin. In addition to residential fertilizer ordinances and the adoption of agricultural best management practices, homes on lots within those zones with more than one bedroom per acre also would be required to hook up to central sewer systems if available, or install advanced septic systems — all at no cost to the homeowner.

Funding for wastewater and other needed improvements would come by tapping 20 percent of documentary stamp tax fees collected by the state. The Acquisition and Restoration Council, which currently ranks projects eligible for funding under the Florida

Draft Springs Legislation

Sponsors have until noon Tuesday to file a bill to be considered by the Legislature this session, and may go right up to the deadline. The most recently released draft would create spring protection zones for 38 of Florida's primary springs, along with restoration and minimum flow requirements, as well as other protections aimed at healing the state's ailing freshwater springs.

Players to watch

State Sen. David Simmons, R-Altamonte Springs, chair of the Senate's banking and insurance committee, has taken the lead in drafting the proposed spring bill. Other key senate supporters and committee chairmen are: Sen. Bill Montford, D-Tallahassee; Sen. Charlie Dean, R-Inverness; Sen. Wilton Simpson, R-Tribly; and Sen. Alan Hays, R-Umatilla.

Forecast

Top leaders in the Senate and House say comprehensive water policy bills, such as the one being drafted to address springs, likely won't be passed this year. Next session's legislative leaders have both said water will be a top priority issue. Watch for money to be allocated for individual springs restoration projects. Gov. Scott has recommended \$55 million be dedicated to help fund such projects.

Forever land buying program, would evaluate and recommend which springs-related projects should be funded. Money would be allotted to “the worst first,” sponsors said.

“We know we don’t have enough funding to do everything,” Simmons said. “This is a major step, but it is only the first step.”

The effort comes as an improved state financial picture and accompanying real estate rebound has made available more money for such programs. At the same time, environmental calamities statewide fueled the success of a constitutional ballot initiative that if approved by voters in November would earmark up to \$10 billion in state doc stamp revenue over 20 years for conservation land purchases.

Simmons and the other members of what Senate President Don Gaetz calls the “Gang of Five” — including Sen. Bill Montford, D-Tallahassee, and Sen. Charlie Dean, R-Inverness, and two other Republican committee chairmen — have repeatedly said the springs draft legislation is not perfect, calling it “a work in progress.” The lawmakers have solicited input from environmental and industry groups in an effort to fashion a palatable bill, but have stressed inaction is not an option.

“We want to identify what is doable,” Dean said at the workshop. “I’d rather be guilty of doing something than doing nothing.”

In an apparent effort to appease local government interests, Simmons last week said he’s penned a new draft of the bill he called “Plan B,” which has not yet been made public, that eliminates a controversial provision requiring municipalities to meet the new wastewater standards even if state funding was not available. Simmons said in the new version, local governments denied funding for projects needed to meet the new requirements would not be held to the tougher standards. Cost-sharing plans would be emphasized, he said.

“I believe you are going to find every local government wholeheartedly supporting this legislation,” he said. “Rather than using the stick and the carrot, we are going to use the carrot alone.”

News of the new draft was greeted by some opponents last week with cautious optimism.

“It sounds very much that Plan B is something we are looking forward to working with you on,” said Ryan Matthews with the Florida League of Cities.

Concerns about the proposal, however, go beyond unfunded mandates. A letter sent last month to the senators and signed by 22 industry and government groups, including the Associated Industries of Florida, the Florida Chamber of Commerce and the Florida Farm Bureau, outlined a host of problems with the draft. They contend Florida’s existing regulatory rules and tools — if fully funded and properly implemented — are adequate to address the springs’ water quality and quantity problems.

But Simmons and other supporters of the plan disagree. They point out that laws authorizing the state's regulatory agencies to act have been on the books for decades and things haven't been done. The proposal, they say, provides two missing ingredients: a measurable time frame for meeting standards and goals and a dedicated funding source.

"There are things that have been sitting around for 30 years that people just keep talking about," Simmons said. "What's the problem with setting forward definable time frames to get the job done? Nothing."

Bob Knight, director of Florida Springs Institute, said the condition of Florida's springs already is dire. His recent research shows 20 percent of the state's groundwater has a nitrate level above what is considered tolerable for springs. Spring flow has decreased by 30 percent. Signature springs around the state are in sharp decline.

"We've gone way past the point of harm on these springs," he told the senators at last week's workshop. "They have been getting bad for 30 years. Fifteen years ago the Florida Springs Initiative and DEP wrote a report that told exactly how to fix those problems and that report was never finalized or followed through on because these are difficult issues."

Knight called the proposal now being considered a "bold effort," and called on lawmakers to not water it down.

"Drastic measures need to be taken," Knight told the *Democrat*. "This (draft proposal) is amazing in terms of its current scope, but as it gets watered down it's one more sign of retreat. I hope it won't be."

Presuming an actual bill is filed — the deadline is by noon on Tuesday — the likelihood of its final passage is in doubt. While the support of the Senate quintet improves its chance of proceeding in that chamber, there currently is no companion bill in the House and legislative leaders have indicated the measure won't get final approval this year.

"I think we'll tee up some policy, but I think the really big, meaty, holistic policy initiatives when it comes to water and reform and water quality issues and the long-term, 20-year plans and initiatives will probably come in the next session," House Speaker Will Weatherford told reporters.

Speaker-designate Steve Crisafulli, R-Merritt Island, and incoming Senate President Andy Gardiner, R-Orlando, have both said water issues will be among their top priorities when they assume the top leadership positions next year.

"Those two guys are going to spend a lot of time and effort on this. And it's such a complex issue that it really is deserving of time and serious thought before you try to change policy," Weatherford added. "What you don't want to do is throw a bunch of money at a water program or a plan that hasn't been proven to make a difference."

Gaetz said he couldn't comment on a bill still being drafted, but that the senators and their House counterparts should have the opportunity to make a reasoned proposal.

"It isn't just about the money, it's about the competing interests," he said. "This may take two or three or four or five sessions to do well and do right."

Proponents of the measure, however, say the time to act is now.

"There is going to be a lot of activity this session. I hope that we make it clear, we can't wait another year," said Rob Williams, counsel for the Center for Earth Jurisprudence.

"The springs are like the Everglades for North Florida. If the Senate comes back with a good bill, maybe the Speaker will change his mind."

Charles Pattison, president of 1000 Friends of Florida, said he expects to see money to be allocated for individual springs projects. Gov. Rick Scott has recommended \$55 million be spent this year for springs restoration — but is not getting his hopes up for big water policy changes this year.

Still, he's encouraged by the senators' effort for springs.

"That's the first I've ever seen anything like that happen," Pattison said. "Maybe it's too much to expect a major bill like Simmons' bill, but you have to start somewhere."

Subject: Plan would seek to better protect springs
From: Diane Salz <salz.govconsultant@gmail.com>
Date: Sat, Mar 01, 2014 7:50 am
To: WRWSA <richardowen@wrwsa.org>
Cc: "<nsmith@wrwsa.org>" <nsmith@wrwsa.org>

PLAN WOULD SEEK TO BETTER PROTECT SPRINGS

February 28, 2014

After weeks of work with other lawmakers, Sen. Charlie Dean, R-Inverness, filed a wide-ranging proposal Friday that could lead to increased protections for Florida's natural springs. The 38-page proposal (SB 1576) calls, in part, for designating "Outstanding Florida" springs, including what are known as "historic first magnitude" springs. The Department of Environmental Protection would be required by July 1, 2015, to map out spring-protection and management zones for those specially designated springs. Also, water-management districts would have to establish minimum flows and minimum water levels for those springs. Dean has been part of a group of senators who have focused on springs protection recently. "Springs are a unique part of this state's scenic beauty, deserving the highest level of protection under ... the state Constitution," the bill says. "Springs provide critical habitat for plants and animals, including many endangered or threatened species. They provide immeasurable natural, recreational, economic and inherent value."

Feb 25, 4:00 PM EST

Fla. lawmakers to talk water funding, not policy

By JENNIFER KAY Associated Press

OKEECHOBEE, Fla. (AP) -- In the marshes along the western edge of Florida's largest freshwater lake, the water is clear, wading birds burst into the sky ahead of an approaching airboat, and there's no sign of the turmoil that elevated water levels caused last summer.

The political waters in Tallahassee, though, are roiling over Lake Okeechobee and other hydrological woes, from Florida's Big Bend to the state's signature springs to a treasured estuary along the Atlantic.

Residents, lawmakers and environmental advocates want the state to do more to better manage its water resources. However, the speaker of the House has said no major change to Florida's water policies is likely to come out of the legislative session that begins March 4.

Rep. Will Weatherford, R-Wesley Chapel, told reporters earlier this month that any water issues that come up this year will deal with funding, while policy initiatives and long-term water management plans likely will be deferred until next year. His office declined comment last week on those statements and referred questions about water issues to the legislator expected to take over as speaker in 2015, House Majority Leader Steve Crisafulli, R-Merritt Island.

"Most of what we're looking at right now is project-related, not policy-related," Crisafulli said.

The projects up for discussion include a cleanup in the Indian River Lagoon and finding ways to store more water north of Lake Okeechobee, which would alleviate pressure on the lake's decrepit dike and reduce the amount of water released into sensitive ecosystems west and east of the lake, Crisafulli said.

Last year, water levels in the lake rose to dangerous levels during a very rainy wet season, prompting the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which controls the dike and locks around the 730-square-mile lake, to release large amounts of fresh water into the Indian River Lagoon and the Caloosahatchee River. The excess water and the pollution it carried were blamed for steep declines in the health of those ecosystems.

Residents on either side of the lake loudly called for the water to stop; corps officials said they were working to do so while managing the risks that high water levels pose to the earthen dike, parts of which date back to the 1930s. It got so contentious that Republican Gov. Rick Scott added the lake's federal management to his list of complaints against President Barack Obama's administration.

State senators investigating the problems have recommended shifting control of how and when water is released from the lake from the corps to the state, which would require congressional action. The Senate select committee led by Sen. Joe Negron, R-Stuart, also recommends \$220 million in state funding to improve water quality and expand storage reservoirs around the lake.

In November, voters will consider a conservation amendment that could set aside \$10 billion in state funds over 20 years for land and water conservation. Some lawmakers, Republican and Democrat, say it's better to wait and see whether that amendment passes before devoting major resources to water cleanup and management.

Waiting doesn't sit well with everyone, though.

"What we know is that during this legislative session or any other legislative session, if we do not make the elected officials do what we demand, then they won't," said Cris Costello, a regional organizer for the Sierra Club, which has signed onto a statewide campaign that aims to build public demand for better water quality and resource management. "They will take the easy way out and remain in status quo mode."

It's unclear how the House would receive bipartisan legislation that would set a firm timeframe for cleaning up Florida's most polluted springs, identify the septic tanks and other sources of that pollution and establish an ongoing funding source for those projects. Sen. Wilton Simpson, R-Trilby, is one of five lawmakers now working on the bill in the Senate.

Scott wants to spend \$55 million in the coming year to restore and protect Florida's long-suffering springs. "I think we're looking for more money than that this year to get started," Simpson said.

Scott also has pledged \$130 million in the upcoming budget for Everglades projects, including restoration of the Kissimmee River that drains into South Florida's wetlands, construction of a storm-water treatment plant for Martin and St. Lucie counties and reconstruction of the Tamiami Trail to allow water to freely flow south.

Environmental groups have criticized state officials for slashing funding for conservation purchases as well as Florida's invocation of states' rights in joining a friend-of-the-court brief challenging a cleanup plan for the Chesapeake Bay. Also missing from this year's water proposals, they say, is any discussion of stopping water pollution at its source: farms, septic tanks and wastewater treatment plants.

"Do we need money for cleanup and restoration? Yes, but in order for those projects to work you have to stop the source of the pollution," Costello said. She called Scott's budget proposals "a political ploy in an election season to make it look like he's doing something."

Audubon Florida officials point to Lake Okeechobee as an example of what happens when pollution isn't addressed at the source. It's the focus of competing interests: Environmentalists want to preserve its resources; the corps uses it for flood control; the

state wants it for South Florida's water supply; and the agriculture industry views it as a reservoir. Repeated costly cleanups have been needed in and around the lake because water hasn't been stored or cleaned elsewhere. Meanwhile, pollution continues to flow into the watersheds in quantities that exceed standards the state set for the lake.

"With all the repeated high-water and low-water problems on the lake, and the estuary dumps, and all the pollution, and all the water shortages - you know, we're going to have to spend a lot of money to fix it. If we don't, this is going to be our life, and it's going to get nothing but worse with more and more people (moving to Florida)," said Paul Gray, science coordinator for Audubon Florida's Lake Okeechobee program. "If this isn't important to people - this is going to be our life, really? It's going to be this bad?"

Follow Jennifer Kay on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/jnkay> .

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GAETZ: 2013 SPRINGS FUNDING WAS A START

Florida's deteriorating natural springs will see a boost in funding from the state, but probably not close to the \$378.8 million outlined in an ambitious Senate restoration plan, Senate President Don Gaetz said Friday.

Last week, House Speaker Will Weatherford, R-Wesley Chapel, also said he doesn't expect any major statewide policy changes regarding the springs until next year, when two new leaders take over the chambers. "You've got the speaker-designate Steve Crisafulli and president-designate Andy Gardiner who have both said water issues and springs issues will be a hallmark of their time as presiding officers," Gaetz, R-Niceville, said. "I don't think Will Weatherford or I should say, after we just heard our successors give compelling speeches about what they want to do, 'Let's, quick, park on their dime.' I think that's inappropriate."

Gov. Rick Scott has proposed \$55 million for the upcoming year. Gaetz called the \$10 million the Legislature approved for springs in 2013, up from zero funding the year before, "a start."

This year, a bipartisan group of senators are advancing a plan to require local governments within the state's most-prominent springs zones to enact ordinances on fertilizer use, make wastewater treatment plants reduce the amount of nitrogen released in treated water and require agricultural operations to follow "best-management practices." The proposal also would require state and local governments to cover the cost of connecting residential properties to sewer systems where older septic systems are impacting area waters.

Source: News Service of Florida

IN OUR OPINION

Editorial: A horrible bill

Published: Tuesday, February 25, 2014 at 6:30 a.m.

Back in 2011, when Gov. Rick Scott and his Republican legislative colleagues recklessly decided Florida's growth planning and permitting process needed streamlining, one of their core arguments was that city and county governments had matured enough to handle the tedious and technical work involved. So when the Community Development Act gutted a quarter-century of state-driven growth management process and progress, it not only affirmed but elevated the importance of home rule on growth matters.

Now comes state Rep. Jimmy Patronis, R-Panama City, with arguably the worst bill of the 2014 legislative session. Patronis' bill, HB 703, would effectively strip local governments of much of the growth management powers bequeathed to them in 2011 with the dismantling of the Department of Community Affairs, which once held sway over most big growth-related decisions in the state.

HB 703 is not only an affront to home rule and community-based growth management but is an assault on water supply protection and local growth decision making but, arguably, would allow some large landholders to privatize big chunks of Florida's water supply.

The list of offensive parts of HB 703 is long and inexplicable, but here are some of the key components that should have every Floridian riled up:

- It retroactively prohibits the enforcement of any local ordinances regarding springs, wetlands and stormwater approved after July 2003.
- It bans local government boards from requiring a super-majority vote, rather than a simple majority, to amend comprehensive plans and land-use actions.
- Would make it illegal for local governments from rescinding comp plan amendments that permit more intensive development of agricultural lands, whether or not the landowner has met the conditions required for the change.
- Would allow Developments of Regional Impact to receive a 30-year consumptive use water permit, which now are only granted to governments and public utilities.
- Agriculture — which uses 40 percent of our groundwater and is the largest consumer of water in the state — would be exempt from taking part in the water supply planning process.

-- Large landowners who participate in water storage programs could receive 50-year water use permits and would be allowed to sell that water to governments and utilities, clearly the first step toward privatizing what is clearly a public resource.

Of course, Big Ag, Big Sugar and Big Business are enthusiastically backing Petronis' bill. Meanwhile, groups like the Florida Conservation Coalition, the Sierra Club and Florida Audubon are aggressively opposing it.

The Martin County Conservation Alliance maybe summed this bill up best: It's "anti-river, anti-home rule and anti-planning."

It probably speaks volumes that with a week to go before the Legislature convenes, there is no Senate companion to HB 703. But that does not mean it cannot become law. If the House passes it — and, sadly, this seems right up that chamber's alley — it could be snuck into another, larger bill that is sure to pass.

Please contact our legislators and ask them to oppose HB 703. It is a bad bill that would be bad for Florida's water, growth management and, indeed, its future.

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Subject: Fwd: The Tampa Tribune: Finding New Water for FL
From: Diane Salz <salz.govconsultant@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Feb 24, 2014 10:57 am
To: WRWSA <richardowen@wrwsa.org>
Cc: "<nsmith@wrwsa.org>" <nsmith@wrwsa.org>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Diane Salz <salz.govconsultant@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Feb 24, 2014 at 10:57 AM
Subject: The Tampa Tribune: Finding New Water for FL
To: Diane Salz <disalz@yahoo.com>

Finding 'new' water for Florida

BY MARK FARRELL

Special to The Tampa Tribune

Published: February 21, 2014

With Senate Bill 536, the Florida Legislature is starting a process to quantify and recognize the important role of recycling our water supply in the overall management of our water resources.

Audubon has some concerns about this study including excess surface water and stormwater, but the fact is that we need to know how much water we have, how much we can expect and what sources it comes from.

Florida leads the nation in the amount of reclaimed water produced, but we could do so much more. As much as we are using we are also sending too much usable water to tide. In other words, we are throwing it away.

Today our reclaimed water is used primarily for irrigation, both agriculture and landscaping. We also have a few rehydration projects, where reclaimed water is used to rehydrate wetlands or other natural bodies.

This proposed study, due in December 2015, will help us understand how much reclaimed water we have, how it can be used and what needs to be done to help educate the public that treated right, water is just water. The water management districts have done much to encourage water recycling, but more can be done to increase the efficient use of this precious resource.

And they are sources of water that will help us ensure that we do not overuse our traditional ground or surface water. Because, however we decide to use those resources — including recycling our reclaimed water into drinking water — we still have to be mindful of the need to protect natural systems and public health. All of these sources are limited and all need to be used wisely. Although we have not come to the end of our resources, we can look to California to see the many ways that reclaimed water — they call it "purified" — has been applied to create desperately needed drinking water supplies.

California has been recycling its water supply for years and gained widespread acceptance. Even with this efficient use of water, they are still subject to the hardships of periodic drought, as is Florida.

In order to decide what we want to do, we need to know what we have. This study will help define our reclaimed resource. It will not tell us how to use it.

Mark Farrell, PE, is a former assistant executive director of the Southwest Florida Water Management District and principal at WRA Engineering. He is the president of WaterReuseFL.

Subject: Fwd: The Tampa Tribune: Let's begin to solve FL's water challenges
Date: Monday, February 24, 2014 10:53:07 AM Eastern Standard Time
From: Diane Salz
To: WRWSA
CC:

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Diane Salz <salz.govconsultant@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Feb 24, 2014 at 10:52 AM
Subject: The Tampa Tribune: Let's begin to solve FL's water challenges
To: Diane Salz <disalz@yahoo.com>

Let's begin to solve Florida's water challenges

Published: February 22, 2014

With Florida projected to become the third most-populous state, the need for future water supplies has been receiving a lot of media attention lately. The discussions have ranged from lawsuits filed against neighboring states for limiting the flow of water down the Apalachicola River, to finding critical funding to address the water quantity and quality needs for America's Everglades. Additionally, another hot water topic making the news is developing long-term solutions to halt the more than 4 billion gallons of polluted water flushed daily from Lake Okeechobee into the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee rivers and estuaries.

Although our state's leaders are stepping up and have brought these issues to the forefront, we must continue to make water policy a top priority in Florida and not wait for another environmental catastrophe before we take action.

This past session, funding for important environmental initiatives improved, and those of us in the environmental community remain optimistic that these commitments to the environment will continue. However, Florida has been lacking in its comprehensive water policy for years.

I do not think it has been out of malice or negligence, but simply because solving Florida's water problem is complex and has not been an exciting front-page issue that gets everyone's attention. Now that is changing. With the Lake Okeechobee crisis at the forefront, people are starting to fear that clean drinking water, swimming in our springs and at our beaches, or that commercial and recreational fisheries may be threatened. Those are real consequences of not taking all the necessary steps to protect our water supply and finding long-term solutions to the harmful discharges plaguing our state's river systems and threatening our economy.

There isn't a silver bullet to the water quantity and quality problems facing the state. It took decades to get to where we are now, and it will take many years to recover. We must be aggressive in our actions and provide the necessary resources to truly make a difference to ensure we don't have continued water crises in Florida.

We can accomplish this goal by focusing on solutions both short-term and long-term that will benefit the people and wildlife of Florida. Solutions such as wetland restoration on agricultural lands by using the USDA's federal Wetland Reserve Program, dispersed water management/storage, completion of the Herbert Hoover Dike rehabilitation, water conservation and water farming will go a long way toward addressing the crisis in South Florida. Similar programs, in addition to smart growth and regional water supply planning, will significantly improve the water crisis in Central and North Florida.

Some of the solutions are tried and true, others are innovative and new, like the dispersed water management program that recognizes that water can be stored on private or public land and the land, leased from private landowners, can assist in water farming and storage.

The state's water management districts must have the funding and the willingness to move forward with creative solutions, while we are in a period of above-average rainfall. It takes time to implement these solutions, so taking appropriate actions now will protect Florida's water supply, our economy and our environment.

Let's stay out of crisis mode for water policy and our future.

Shelly Lakly, Ph. D, is the Florida state director of The Nature Conservancy.

Subject: The Future of FL's Springs...

Date: Saturday, February 22, 2014 1:02:16 PM Eastern Standard Time

From: Diane Salz

To: WRWSA

CC:

Gainesville Sun

A former governor, a scientist and an attorney who represents big water users managed to agree on a few things about protection of Florida springs at an environmental law conference Friday — for one, they agreed that water will be a much more valuable commodity in the future.

Overall, the future of Florida water as presented by former Gov. Kenneth H. “Buddy” MacKay, Robert Knight of the Howard T. Odum Florida Springs Institute and attorney Wayne Flowers is full of competing interests, water grabs and bleak choices.

“Our ability to deal with this issue would mark a turning point in Florida politics,” said MacKay. “Everybody sees the end in sight. There is a big run on consumptive-use permits. People are trying to get a vested right (to water). I think it’s an outrage.”

The discussion was titled “Thirsty Agriculture, Thirsty Springs: Who Gets to Drink from the CUP?” and was part of the 20th annual Public Interest Environmental Conference at the University of Florida College of Law Friday.

It comes as increasing public pressure is being put on lawmakers to protect Florida’s springs and the groundwater aquifer that supplies them from the problems of less water and greater pollution.

Several bills have been introduced in the Legislature, and they are already drawing criticism from Associated Industries of Florida, the Florida Fertilizer and Agrichemical Association and the Florida Chamber of Commerce.

While Friday’s discussion intended to focus on agriculture as a major user of water, it broadened to other users including municipal utilities that are seeking consumptive-use permits of 20 or more years to draw large amounts of water from the aquifer to keep growing.

Historically, Florida springs pumped out 10 to 11 billion gallons of water a day. That is down to about 7 billion gallons a day now, Knight said. A primary reason for the drop is increased pumping of the aquifer.

“During that period rainfall is variable but essentially steady ... but spring flows are down 32 percent on average,” Knight said. “The springs are harmed. The question is, what can we do about it, and what is the role of (consumptive-use permits)?”

Flowers, an attorney with the Jacksonville firm of Lewis, Longman & Walker, represents utilities, farmers and other major water users.

The percentage of overall water use by agriculture has remained stable or declined since 1975. Water use by farmers produces cheap food, Flowers said, adding that agriculture is second only to tourism as a driver of Florida’s economy.

Flowers said a primary issue is competing water users — public utilities vs. agriculture and utilities against each other for larger allocations of water for future growth.

Tough choices will have to be made based on the benefits the competing uses would provide to the public.

“We need to begin thinking about reallocation. Maybe the question should not be ‘must we deny this application because of the additional impacts it would cause?’ but ‘Should we reallocate from other uses to enable a use to occur?’ ” Flowers said. “The water management districts have been very reluctant to employ the authority they have

to declare applications to be competing and to go through this reallocation process.”

MacKay was elected lieutenant governor on the Democratic ticket with Lawton Chiles in 1990. He lost a bid for the top office in 1998 to Republican Jeb Bush, but served briefly when Chiles died in December 1998.

During his time as lieutenant governor, MacKay worked on various water issues. Most notable was the sucking of water from Pasco County by Hillsborough and Pinellas counties in their competition for growth.

MacKay said parallels exist between that situation and the current effort to protect springs.

“I have seen this movie before. I know the plot and some of the players are even the same. You have a Senate committee and Associated Industries of Florida,” MacKay said. “You know something important is about to happen with this committee because AIF is leading the group who are now saying: A. We have enough government already, B. We’re not using the tools we already have (p.s. because we won’t let you) and C. We’re going to kick your fanny politically if you try to do anything.”

Subject: draft springs legislation: plan B

From: Diane Salz <salz.govconsultant@gmail.com>

Date: Fri, Feb 21, 2014 9:10 am

To: WRWSA <richardowen@wrwsa.org>

Cc: "<nsmith@wrwsa.org>" <nsmith@wrwsa.org>

The Florida Current

Senator says 'Plan B' is ready for critics of draft springs legislation
Bruce Ritchie, 02/20/2014 - 01:28 PM

Sen. David Simmons told a Senate workshop on Thursday that he has a new draft springs bill that will take out a section that has raised concerns for cities, counties and business groups.

The **Senate Committee on Environmental Preservation and Conservation** held a two-hour workshop on a draft springs bill that would require septic tanks to be upgraded or hooked to sewers near springs with elevated nitrogen levels.

The bill, which would provide an estimated \$378 million from documentary stamp tax revenue, has support from environmental groups. But the **Florida League of Cities** and other groups have raised concerns that municipal utilities could get stuck with the cost if state funding is reduced in the future.

Simmons, R-Altamonte Springs and one of five Senate committee chairmen supporting the draft legislation, told the workshop audience that he has "Plan B" legislation ready to file that will take out a section that requires compliance with advanced treatment standards if cities and counties can't get funding.

The goal "is to ensure that local governments are not forced to do something where they don't have funding," Simmons said. "So that question has been answered by our Plan B."

Representatives of **Associated Industries of Florida**, the **Florida Chamber of Commerce** and the **Florida League of Cities** said it sounded like their concerns were being addressed.

"It sounds very much like Plan B is something we're going to be interested in working with you with," said **Ryan Matthews**, representing the Florida League of Cities. He said cities are concerned about having a reliable source of funding for improving wastewater treatment.

Simmons referred questions about the alternative draft legislation to committee staff. **Pepper Uchino**, committee staff director, said no alternative legislation had been written but he expects there to be legislation by a March 4 deadline for filing bills.

Former Department of Environmental Regulation Secretary **Jake Varn**, an attorney who has been involved in drafting the legislation, said separate zones may need to be established based on severity of threats to springs.

And he said some potential sources of nitrogen contamination in groundwater should be allowed variances if they can show they are not affecting springs.

"It should not be a one-size-fits-all approach," he said.

Asked whether the legislation is needed, **Drew Bartlett** of the **Florida Department of Environmental Protection** said the legislation recognizes the programs that being used now to develop springs cleanup plans.

"The funding is a critical piece," Bartlett said. DEP already has a process for reviewing request for funding and ranking them.

Groups raising concerns at the workshop included the **Florida Association of Home Builders**, the **Florida Onsite Wastewater Association** and the **Coalition for Property Rights**.

Environmental groups expressing support included **Audubon Florida**, **1000 Friends of Florida**, the **Florida Wildlife Federation**, **The Nature Conservancy**, **Sierra Club Florida** and the **Florida Conservation Coalition**.

Robert L. Knight, director of the **Howard T. Odum Florida Springs Institute** in Gainesville, thanked senators for what he said is the "bold effort" towards springs protection that is represented by the draft legislation.

"I hope you won't water this down with anything that's going to make it less strong than it is," he said. "This draft bill provides a very strong foundation for the future."

Reporter Bruce Ritchie can be reached at britchie@thefloridacurrent.com

Subject: Approach on springs bill moves from stick to carrot
From: Diane Salz <salz.govconsultant@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Feb 21, 2014 9:04 am
To: WRWSA <richardowen@wrwsa.org>
Cc: "<nsmith@wrwsa.org>" <nsmith@wrwsa.org>

Approach on Florida springs bill moves from 'stick' to 'carrot'

•

By Jim Turner, News Service of Florida

5:48 p.m. EST, February 20, 2014

TALLAHASSEE — A \$378.8 million measure to restore and protect Florida's natural springs is being revised to make it more appealing to local governments.

The measure being pushed by a bipartisan group of senators — and opposed by influential business groups — will be stripped of language that would have required local governments to help pay for work needed to improve the quality of water in springs restoration projects.

Instead, the local governments will be encouraged to participate, as refusal to contribute will result in further delays to long-sought springs projects.

Sen. [David Simmons](#), R-[Altamonte Springs](#), one of the architects of the measure, said the new language will say that a local government would only have to contribute based on their civic responsibility. The initial language in the draft of the bill was more of a "stick" that required local governments to pay for work identified by the state but not covered by the state, he said.

"We will use the carrot approach," Simmons said of the desire for local governments to help pay for restoration efforts.

Ryan Matthews, a lobbyist for the Florida League of Cities, said the change may ease local government objections to the springs proposal. "I think local government is always fearful they're going to get beaten with that stick," Matthews said.

Simmons has teamed on the proposal with Sens. [Charlie Dean](#), R-Inverness, [Alan Hays](#), R-Umatilla, Wilton Simpson, R-Trilby, and [Bill Montford](#), D-Tallahassee, who are each from regions with large numbers of springs.

The proposal requires local governments within the state's most-prominent springs zones to enact ordinances on fertilizer use; wastewater treatment plants to reduce the amount of nitrogen released in treated water; and farms and ranches to follow "best-management practices." Also, there is ban on new wastewater disposal systems, onsite sewage treatment systems and hazardous waste facilities within the springs zones.

The bill is expected to be introduced early next month.

Subject: Senate Looks to Make Springs Plan Easier to Swallow

From: Diane Salz <salz.govconsultant@gmail.com>

Date: Thu, Feb 20, 2014 5:45 pm

To: WRWSA <richardowen@wrwsa.org>

Cc: "<nsmith@wrwsa.org>" <nsmith@wrwsa.org>

SENATE LOOKS TO MAKE SPRINGS PLAN EASIER TO SWALLOW

By JIM TURNER
THE NEWS SERVICE OF FLORIDA

THE CAPITAL, TALLAHASSEE, February 20, 2014 A \$378.8 million measure to restore and protect Florida's natural springs is being revised to make it more appetizing for local governments.

The bill is expected to be formally introduced in the Senate by the first week of March.

The ambitious measure being pushed by a bipartisan group of senators --- and opposed by influential business groups --- will be stripped of language that would have required local governments to help fund work needed to improve the quality of water in springs-shed restoration projects.

Instead, the local governments will be encouraged to participate, as refusal to contribute will result in further delays to long-sought springs projects.

Sen. David Simmons, R-Altamonte Springs, one of the architects of the springs measure, said the new language will say that a local government would only have to contribute based on their civic responsibility.

The initial language in the draft of the bill was more of a "stick" that required local governments to pay for work identified by the state but not covered by the state, he said.

"We will use the carrot approach and of course the idea of moral suasion to do the right thing," Simmons said of the desire for local governments to help pay for restoration efforts.

Ryan Matthews, a lobbyist for the Florida League of Cities, said the change may ease local governments' objections to the springs proposal.

"I think local government is always fearful they're going to get beaten with that stick," Matthews said.

Simmons has teamed on the proposal with Sens. Charlie Dean, R-Inverness, Alan Hays, R-Umatilla, Wilton Simpson, R-Trilby, and Bill Montford, D-Tallahassee, who are each from regions with large numbers of springs.

The proposal requires local governments within the state's most-prominent springs zones to enact ordinances on fertilizer use; wastewater treatment plants to reduce the amount of nitrogen released in treated water; and agricultural operations to follow "best-management practices."

Also, there would be a ban in those springs zones on new wastewater disposal systems, onsite sewage treatment systems and hazardous waste facilities, while water-management districts would face new rules on issuing use permits for drawing water from springs and aquifers.

The proposal also would require the state and local governments to cover the cost of connecting residential properties to sewer systems where older septic systems are determined to be impacting area waters.

A septic-tank measure to protect springs was approved by lawmakers in 2010, but was repealed two years later after opponents argued the law would result in increased expenses for impacted homeowners.

"This is a blueprint for the future, it really is," Simmons said. "It's how to deal with every one of the water projects collaboratively and collectively for the whole state."

The draft of the springs legislation has the state Department of Environmental Protection-staffed Acquisition and Restoration Council ranking the conditions of the state's natural springs, from worst to best. The council would also determine the work needed to improve each spring-shed, estimate the required funding and recommend how much the state would be willing to pay

for the work using documentary-stamp tax revenues.

The doc stamps are fees already paid when real estate is sold.

The measure proposes setting aside about 20 percent of the money raised annually through the doc stamps for any work on the springs.

Simmons is confident that the proposal will get legislative support, although he expects the funding amount will not be as high as desired.

Gov. Rick Scott has proposed \$55 million next year for springs, a \$45 million increase from the current year.

Meanwhile, the overall proposal could be in for a fight as the House may not tackle new water-related policies during the legislative session that starts March 4. House Speaker Will Weatherford, R-Wesley Chapel, is deferring water issues to Rep. Steve Crisafulli, R-Merritt Island, who has said he wants to make water a priority when he becomes speaker after this fall's elections.

Lobbyists for some of the state's leading business groups said they supported the intent of the measure, but continue to have reservations. Last month, nearly two dozen business groups, including the Association of Florida Community Developers, the Florida Fertilizer and Agrichemical Association and the Florida Chamber of Commerce, wrote a letter indicating opposition to the plan.

They say the state should follow existing regulations regarding restoration efforts, while noting that water conditions should improve when new state-based water quality standards are allowed to be implemented from an agreement between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

Sen. Jack Latvala, R-Clearwater, called the bill "light" on business impacts, and his impression is that the business groups' stance is that "regardless of whether you're part of the problem or not, you shouldn't have to pay for it, the state should have to pay for it."

David Childs, lobbying for the Florida Chamber of Commerce, replied that there are already provisions in law that require polluters to pay for the cleanup.

"When you fly out of town you'll fly out over one of the most advanced wastewater treatment plants that the city of Tallahassee paid for. If you're driving down I-75, you'll pass a major project involving the city of Gainesville and others to restore Paynes Prairie," Childs said. "There are plenty of examples where those that are responsible for issues have ponied up and have done good projects that are going to benefit the environment."

Subject: Water Rally Draws 200...

From: Diane Salz <salz.govconsultant@gmail.com>

Date: Wed, Feb 19, 2014 4:40 pm

To: WRWSA <richardowen@wrwsa.org>

Cc: "<nsmith@wrwsa.org>" <nsmith@wrwsa.org>

Water rally draws 200 while speakers promote issue as bipartisan
Bruce Ritchie, 02/18/2014 - 04:04 PM



Rep. Heather Fitzenhagen, R-Fort Myers, speaks to a clean water rally on the steps of the historic Capitol on Tuesday. She said that all Floridians want clean water. Photo by Bruce Ritchie.

A rally for clean water at the Capitol drew more than 200 people on Tuesday while legislators speaking at the event described water as a bipartisan issue.

However, a House subcommittee chairman on Tuesday maintained that the Legislature has been dealing with water quality issues in recent years even as water is being described as a major issue for this legislative session, which starts March 4.

Some legislators expect an increased focus on water in the coming session. On Thursday, the **Senate Committee on Environmental Preservation and Conservation** holds a workshop on draft springs legislation.

With dying manatees and dolphins in the Indian River Lagoon and slime covering Florida's springs last year, groups began collecting signatures for a "clean water declaration" to send a message to state leaders and the nation, **Frank Jackalone, Sierra Club** state field director, told the rally on the steps of the historic Capitol.

"Our declaration is not just for Florida," Jackalone said. "It is a declaration that is meant to be heard all over the country."

Rep. Alan Williams, D-Tallahassee, drew cheers at the rally when he said, "Let this be the year that protecting our waters in Florida is cool again."

Rep. Heather Fitzenhagen, R-Fort Myers, said she was one of the first to sign the declaration. Jackalone said she was the only Republican legislator to sign it.

"This is not a partisan issue, it's a bipartisan issue," Fitzenhagen said. "All Floridians want clean water."

Later in the day, after a meeting of the **House Agriculture and Natural Resources Subcommittee**, **Rep. Matt Caldwell**, R-Lehigh Acres and subcommittee chairman, said nobody is going to dispute that clean water is needed for agriculture, people and the environment.

"You have seen, I think, a very robust commitment from this Legislature over the past two decades to develop a policy framework to stop the environmental degradation," he said.

He cited state establishment of waterway pollution limits and cleanup plans, called "basin management action plans." Environmentalists fault the **Florida Department of Environmental Protection** for weak pollution limits and cleanup plans that take too long while DEP says the plans weren't even developed for springs until 2012.

Draft Senate springs legislation would require homes in areas with springs that have high nitrogen levels to be hooked up to sewage treatment plants at no cost to the landowner. Caldwell said that proposal along with the nearly \$380 million a year would go toward hookups represents a "pretty big price tag."

"To go around and tell everyone they have to come off their septic system sounds like an easy fix but it is politically difficult," he said.

During the rally, former **Department of Community Affairs Secretary Tom Pelham** quoted [Article II, Section 7](#) of the **Florida Constitution** saying the state's policy to "conserve and protect its natural resources and scenic beauty."

And the Legislature, he said, is required by the Constitution to pass laws to protect those resources.

"The time to act is now," he said. "Delay will only make the situation worse and the solutions more costly."

Item 12.
Legislative Update

Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority
Legislative Issues Update
March 28, 2014

Administrative Procedures Act – A multitude of bills are moving forward to revise requirements for agency rulemaking including: reporting deadlines; annual reviews; preparation of regulatory plans; among other things: HB 1355, HB 975 HB 7001, SB 600, SB 1626, SB 1706, and SB 1708 (see 3/28 WRWSA Bill Tracking Report). It is anticipated that the Authority will complete repealing its outdated agency rules before these changes would become effective on July 1, 2014.

Budget – Both the House and Senate are debating and amending their respective budgets before full passage in each Chamber will occur. Differences will be negotiated during budget conferences within the next 2 to 3 weeks, after conferees have been appointed. The Senate has allocated \$42 million for water projects and \$30 million for springs protection and restoration, while the House has allocated \$100.5 million for water projects and \$50 million for springs.

Confirmations -- The Senate Environmental Preservation Committee has recommended the confirmation of the following water management district governing board members and executive director--**SWFWMD**: Carlos Beruff (Manatee); David Dunbar (Pinellas); Michael Moran (Sarasota); Robert Beltran (Executive Director). **SJRWMD**: Fred Roberts (Ocala); Maryam Ghyabi (Ormond Beach); Doug Burnett (St. Augustine). The Senate Ethics & Elections Committee will consider the confirmation of these candidates on 3/31. A vacancy remains (representing Citrus, Sumter, Levy, Lake counties) on the SWFWMD governing board, leaving only one governing board member in the northern planning region responsible for recommending cooperative funding proposals for the region (Tommy Bronson--Hernando, Marion counties). In the past, a Board member from the central region participated in reviewing northern region applications (Randy Maggard--Pasco County).

Environmental Permitting – SB 1464 (R-Simpson) and HB 703 (R-Patronis) would revise numerous environmental permitting requirements including: authorizing water use permits for up to 30 years for larger developments and up to 50 years for landowners who participate in water storage programs; extending "right to farm" provisions in current state law to prohibit enforcement of local springs and wetlands regulations that also have been modified or readopted since 2003. SB 1464 has been substantially revised to address many local government concerns and will next be considered by the Senate Community Affairs Committee. HB 703 will be considered by the House Subcommittee on Agriculture & Natural Resource Appropriations on 3/31.

Public Meetings -- SB 718 (R-Legg) and HB 985 (R-Santiago) would revise requirements for public meetings to include a description of each matter to be considered at such meeting and to prohibit a board from acting upon a matter not included in the notice. SB 718 is in the Senate Government Oversight & Accountability Committee, while HB 985 is in the House Government Operations Subcommittee.

Reclaimed Water -- HB 601 (R-Ray) and SB 536 (R-Simpson) would require the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS), Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), and the water management districts to conduct a study on expanding the beneficial use of reclaimed water. SB 536 was revised to include additional public participation and is now on the special order calendar for 4/3; it is expected that HB 601 will be revised to match SB 536 on the House floor.

Septage – HB 1113 (R-Edwards) and SB 1160 (R-Evers) would delay the effective date of an existing prohibition against land application of septage from onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems; and would direct DEP, in consultation with various entities and individuals, to examine potential options for safe and appropriate disposal or reuse of septage and submit report to Governor and Legislature. HB 1113 will be considered by the House Agriculture & Natural Resource Appropriations Subcommittee on 3/31. SB 1160 will be considered by the Senate Health Policy Committee.

Springs Protection – SB 1576 (R-Dean) would provide a dedicated funding source for springs protection and restoration but also would mandate certain fertilizer, wastewater treatment, and on-site sewage treatment and disposal systems, as well as prohibit certain activities within springs protection and management zones. SB 1576 will be considered by the Senate Agriculture Committee on 3/31. House companion, HB 1313 (R-Brodeur) has not been considered in any committee.

Water & Wastewater Public Utilities – HB 813 (R-Mayfield) and SB 1248 (R-Latvala) would prohibit a county from providing water or sewer services in unincorporated areas covered by an agreement with a municipality; would provide that powers of a municipality do not apply to unincorporated areas of a county without a county's express consent; and would limit the amount of water and sewer utility rates, fees, charges, and surcharges that a municipality may charge consumers outside of municipality's boundaries or ratepayers in unincorporated areas of a county. HB 813 was temporarily postponed in the House Energy & Utilities Subcommittee, and SB 1248 has not been considered in any committee.

Subject: 3/28 WRWSA Bill Tracking Report
From: Diane Salz <disalz@yahoo.com>
Date: Thu, Mar 27, 2014 9:44 pm
To: Richard Owen <richardowen@wrwsa.org>
Cc: "nsmith@wrwsa.org" <nsmith@wrwsa.org>

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Diane Salz <noreply@lobbytools.com>
Date: March 27, 2014 at 9:33:45 PM EDT
To: disalz@yahoo.com
Subject: 3/28 WRWSA Bill Tracking

FYI.

2014 Bills (42)

Num	Title	Sponsor	
HB 0049 (S: 0076)	Relating to Springs Revival Act Springs Revival Act: Requires water management districts to identify certain springs, develop certain plans, & submit certain reports; authorizes districts to adopt rules & issue orders. Effective Date: July 1, 2014 09/10/13 HOUSE Filed 10/07/13 HOUSE Referred to Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee; Rulemaking Oversight & Repeal Subcommittee; State Affairs Committee 10/07/13 HOUSE Now in Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee	Stewart	10/07/13
SB 0076 (S: 0049)	Relating to Springs Revival Act Springs Revival Act; Requiring water management districts to identify certain springs, develop certain plans, and submit certain reports to the Governor and the Legislature; authorizing the districts to adopt rules and issue orders, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2014 08/13/13 SENATE Filed 08/27/13 SENATE Referred to Environmental Preservation and Conservation; Community Affairs; Appropriations; Rules	Soto	08/27/13
SB 0272 (S: 1321)	Relating to Water Utilities Water Utilities; Authorizing the Florida Public Service Commission to revoke a certificate of authorization upon receipt of a petition; requiring the commission to consider the quality of water service when fixing rates; requiring the utility to meet with its customers to discuss the costs and benefits of plausible solutions if the commission finds that the utility has failed to meet certain quality of water standards; prohibiting a customer from petitioning the commission to revoke the certificate of authorization of a utility under certain circumstances; authorizing the commission to prescribe penalties for certain failures of the utility, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2014 10/15/13 SENATE Filed 11/04/13 SENATE Referred to Communications, Energy, and Public Utilities; Community Affairs 01/06/14 SENATE On Committee agenda - Communications, Energy, and Public Utilities, 01/14/14, 10:00 am, 301 S 01/14/14 SENATE Favorable with CS by Communications, Energy, and Public Utilities; 8 Yeas, 0 Nays 01/15/14 SENATE Committee Substitute Text (C1) Filed 01/21/14 SENATE Now in Community Affairs 01/27/14 SENATE On Committee agenda - Community Affairs, 02/04/14, 2:00 pm, 301 S 02/04/14 SENATE Favorable with CS by Community Affairs; 6 Yeas, 0 Nays 02/06/14 SENATE Committee Substitute Text (C2) Filed 02/11/14 SENATE Reference to Appropriations added; Remaining reference: Appropriations 02/11/14 SENATE Now in Appropriations 03/10/14 SENATE On Committee agenda - Appropriations, 03/13/14, 1:00 pm, 412 K 03/13/14 SENATE Favorable with CS by Appropriations; 18 Yeas, 0 Nays 03/17/14 SENATE Committee Substitute Text (C3) Filed 03/18/14 SENATE Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading	Simpson	03/18/14
SB 0312 (C: 0207 0121 0575)	Relating to Agriculture Agriculture; Providing that participation in certain dispersed water storage programs does not change a land's agricultural classification for assessment purposes; redefining the term "agricultural production" to include storage; expanding the exemption for certain farm equipment from the sales and use tax imposed under ch. 212, F.S., to include repairs of such	Simpson	03/12/14

equipment and trailers that are used for certain purposes, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2014
 10/22/13 SENATE Filed
 11/07/13 SENATE Referred to Agriculture; Community Affairs; Appropriations Subcommittee on Finance and Tax; Appropriations
 12/02/13 SENATE On Committee agenda - Agriculture, 12/09/13, 4:00 pm, 301 Se
 12/09/13 SENATE Favorable by Agriculture; 6 Yeas, 0 Nays
 12/10/13 SENATE Now in Community Affairs
 12/19/13 SENATE On Committee agenda - Community Affairs, 01/08/14, 4:00 pm, 301 S
 01/08/14 SENATE Favorable with CS by Community Affairs; 9 Yeas, 0 Nays
 01/09/14 SENATE Committee Substitute Text (C1) Filed
 01/13/14 SENATE Now in Appropriations Subcommittee on Finance and Tax
 03/05/14 Bill to be Discussed During the Office of EDR's Revenue Estimating Impact Conference, 03/07/14, 9:00 am, 117 K (No Votes Will Be Taken)
 03/12/14 Bill to be Discussed During the Office of EDR's Revenue Estimating Impact Conference, 03/14/14, 9:00 am, 117 K (No Votes Will Be Taken)

HB 0357	Relating to Water and Wastewater Utility Systems	Santiago	03/27/14
(S: 0229 1050)	<p>Water and Wastewater Utility Systems: Requires certain review of private activity bond allocations; exempts from regulation certain resellers of water services; establishing criteria for determining the quality of water and wastewater services provided by a utility; establishes procedure for determining whether utility meets certain water standards; authorizes commission to adopt rules & create a utility reserve fund; provides for automatic increase or decrease of approved rates; revises provisions relating to rate case expenses; provides for certain loans, grants, & deposits to for-profit privately owned or investor-owned systems. Effective Date: July 1, 2014</p> <p>12/03/13 HOUSE Filed 12/16/13 HOUSE Referred to Energy & Utilities Subcommittee; Finance & Tax Subcommittee; Regulatory Affairs Committee 12/16/13 HOUSE Now in Energy & Utilities Subcommittee 01/28/14 HOUSE On Committee agenda - Energy and Utilities Subcommittee, 02/05/14, 9:30 am, 212 K 02/05/14 HOUSE Favorable by Energy and Utilities Subcommittee; 11 Yeas, 2 Nays 02/06/14 HOUSE Now in Finance & Tax Subcommittee 02/06/14 HOUSE Bill to be Discussed During the Office of EDR's Revenue Estimating Impact Conference, 02/7/14, 9:00 am, 117 K (No Votes Will Be Taken) 02/12/14 Bill to be Discussed During the Office of EDR's Revenue Estimating Impact Conference, 02/14/14, 9:30 am, 117 K (No Votes Will Be Taken) 03/11/14 HOUSE On Committee agenda - Finance & Tax Subcommittee, 03/13/14, 2:00 pm, 17 H 03/13/14 HOUSE Favorable with CS by Finance & Tax Subcommittee; 15 Yeas, 3 Nays 03/18/14 HOUSE Committee Substitute Text (C1) Filed 03/20/14 HOUSE Now in Regulatory Affairs Committee 03/25/14 HOUSE On Committee agenda - Regulatory Affairs Committee, 03/27/14, 1:30 pm, 404 H 03/27/14 HOUSE Favorable by Regulatory Affairs Committee; 17 Yeas, 1 Nay 03/27/14 HOUSE Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading</p>		
SB 0382	Relating to Springs Protection Awareness Month	Dean	11/06/13
(S: 9041)	<p>Springs Protection Awareness Month; Recognizing April 2014 as "Springs Protection Awareness Month" in Florida, etc. 11/06/13 SENATE Filed</p>		
HB 0435	Relating to Municipal Bonds	Trujillo	01/08/14
(I: 1169)	<p>Municipal Bonds: Requires approval by referendum for issuance of certain municipal bonds; provides ballot requirements for certain municipal bond referenda. Effective Date: July 1, 2014</p> <p>12/17/13 HOUSE Filed 01/08/14 HOUSE Referred to Local & Federal Affairs Committee; Ethics & Elections Subcommittee; Finance & Tax Subcommittee 01/08/14 HOUSE Now in Local & Federal Affairs Committee</p>		
SB 0536	Relating to Reclaimed Water	Simpson	03/26/14
(S: 0601)	<p>Reclaimed Water; Requiring the Department of Environmental Protection to conduct a study in coordination with the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the water management districts on the expansion of the beneficial use of reclaimed water and to submit a report based upon such study; providing requirements for the report; requiring the departments to provide the public an opportunity for input and for public comment, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2014</p> <p>12/16/13 SENATE Filed 12/18/13 SENATE Referred to Agriculture; Environmental Preservation and Conservation 02/03/14 SENATE On Committee agenda - Agriculture, 02/10/14, 4:00 pm, 301 S 02/04/14 SENATE Meeting Cancelled - Agriculture, 02/10/14, 4:00 pm, 301 S 02/10/14 SENATE On Committee agenda - Agriculture, 02/17/14, 4:00 pm, 301 S 02/17/14 SENATE Favorable with CS by Agriculture; 6 Yeas, 0 Nays 02/18/14 SENATE Committee Substitute Text (C1) Filed 02/19/14 SENATE Now in Environmental Preservation and Conservation 03/17/14 SENATE On Committee agenda - Environmental Preservation and Conservation, 03/20/14, 8:00 am, 110 S 03/20/14 SENATE Favorable with CS by Environmental Preservation and Conservation; 9 Yeas, 0 Nays 03/20/14 SENATE Placed on Special Order Calendar, 03/26/14 - If Received 03/21/14 SENATE Committee Substitute Text (C2) Filed 03/21/14 SENATE Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading 03/21/14 SENATE Placed on Special Order Calendar, 03/26/14 03/26/14 SENATE Temporarily Postponed on Second Reading 03/26/14 SENATE Retained on Special Order Calendar, 04/03/14</p>		

HB 0575	Relating to Agriculture	Albritton	03/12/14
(C: 0121 0207 0312)	<p>Agriculture: Authorizes property appraiser to grant agricultural classification for land under certain circumstances; provides that participation in certain dispersed water storage programs does not change land's agricultural classification for assessment purposes unless land is diverted to nonagricultural use; revises definition of term "agricultural production to include storage of raw products on farm; expands sales & use tax exemption for certain farm equipment; exempts sale of certain trailers from sales & use tax; exempts stakes used to support plants during agricultural production from sales & use tax; authorizes private landowners who have entered into agreement with DACS to implement specified best management practices to establish baseline condition of wetlands & other surface waters before making improvements. Effective Date: July 1, 2014</p> <p>01/13/14 HOUSE Filed</p> <p>01/27/14 HOUSE Referred to Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee; Finance & Tax Subcommittee; State Affairs Committee</p> <p>01/27/14 HOUSE Now in Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee</p> <p>02/28/14 HOUSE On Committee agenda - Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee, 03/04/14, 1:30 pm, 102 H</p> <p>03/04/14 HOUSE Favorable with CS by Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee; 10 Yeas, 0 Nays</p> <p>03/10/14 HOUSE Committee Substitute Text (C1) Filed</p> <p>03/12/14 HOUSE Now in Finance & Tax Subcommittee</p>		
SB 0600	Relating to Administrative Procedures	Dean	01/16/14
(C: 1626 1355) (S: 0975)	<p>Administrative Procedures; Requiring that a final order in specified administrative proceedings award all reasonable costs and attorney fees to a prevailing party under certain circumstances; revising the criteria used by an administrative law judge to determine if a party participated in a proceeding for an improper purpose, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2014</p> <p>01/09/14 SENATE Filed</p> <p>01/16/14 SENATE Referred to Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Judiciary; Rules</p>		
HB 0601	Relating to Reclaimed Water	Ray	03/24/14
(S: 0536)	<p>Reclaimed Water: Requires DEP, in coordination with DOACS & water management districts, to conduct study on expansion of beneficial use of reclaimed water, stormwater, & excess surface water & submit report to Governor & Legislature; requires DEP to provide for public input & comment. Effective Date: July 1, 2014</p> <p>01/14/14 HOUSE Filed</p> <p>01/27/14 HOUSE Referred to Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee; Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee; State Affairs Committee</p> <p>01/27/14 HOUSE Now in Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee</p> <p>02/28/14 HOUSE On Committee agenda - Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee, 03/04/14, 1:30 pm, 102 H</p> <p>03/04/14 HOUSE Favorable with CS by Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee; 11 Yeas, 0 Nays</p> <p>03/07/14 HOUSE Committee Substitute Text (C1) Filed</p> <p>03/10/14 HOUSE Now in Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee</p> <p>03/14/14 HOUSE On Committee agenda - Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee, 03/18/14, 9:30 am, 102 H</p> <p>03/18/14 HOUSE Favorable by Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee; 10 Yeas, 3 Nays</p> <p>03/18/14 HOUSE Now in State Affairs Committee</p> <p>03/19/14 HOUSE On Committee agenda - State Affairs Committee, 03/21/14, 9:30 am, 17 H</p> <p>03/21/14 HOUSE Favorable with CS by State Affairs Committee; 16 Yeas, 0 Nays</p> <p>03/21/14 HOUSE Committee Substitute Text (C2) Filed</p> <p>03/24/14 HOUSE Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading</p>		
SB 0636	Relating to Public Utility Suppliers	Braynon	02/18/14
	<p>Public Utility Suppliers: Requiring certain public utilities, defined as regulated companies, to submit a plan for increasing procurement from businesses controlled and operated by women, minorities, and service-disabled veterans; requiring the Florida Public Service Commission to establish guidelines to assist regulated companies in establishing such plans; providing that a regulated company may take certain measures to facilitate the participation of businesses controlled and operated by women, minorities, or service-disabled veterans, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2014</p> <p>01/14/14 SENATE Filed</p> <p>01/22/14 SENATE Referred to Communications, Energy, and Public Utilities; Commerce and Tourism; Community Affairs; Rules</p> <p>02/10/14 SENATE On Committee agenda - Communications, Energy, and Public Utilities, 02/18/14, 10:00 am, 301 S</p> <p>02/18/14 SENATE Favorable by Communications, Energy, and Public Utilities; 6 Yeas, 0 Nays</p> <p>02/18/14 SENATE Now in Commerce and Tourism</p>		
HB 0703	Relating to Environmental Regulation	Patronis	03/27/14
(S: 1464)	<p>Environmental Regulation: Specifies authority of counties to enforce certain wetlands, springs protection, & stormwater ordinances, regulations, & rules; revises procedures for transmittal & adoption of comprehensive plans & plan amendments; prohibits local governments from rescinding certain land use approvals; exempts certain land lessees from permit fees; authorizes durations & multiple commencement dates for certain consumptive use permits; requires delegated local governments to follow certain criteria & standards for well construction; revises well exam requirements; provides that proof of insurance meets certain mitigation bank permit requirements; exempts certain facilities, structures, & improvements from additional local government authorizations & permits; requires certain criteria to be incorporated into regional water supply plans; establishes solid waste landfill closure account within Solid Waste Management Trust Fund; provides permit extension. Effective Date: July 1, 2014</p> <p>01/21/14 HOUSE Filed</p> <p>02/03/14 HOUSE Referred to Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee; Local & Federal Affairs Committee; Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee; State Affairs Committee</p> <p>02/03/14 HOUSE Now in Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee</p> <p>02/28/14 HOUSE On Committee agenda - Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee, 03/04/14, 1:30 pm, 102 H - PCS</p> <p>03/04/14 HOUSE Favorable with CS by Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee; 10 Yeas, 2 Nays</p> <p>03/10/14 HOUSE Committee Substitute Text (C1) Filed</p>		

03/13/14 HOUSE Reference to Local & Federal Affairs Committee removed; Remaining references: Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee; State Affairs Committee

03/13/14 HOUSE Now in Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee

03/27/14 HOUSE On Committee agenda - Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee, 03/31/14, 4:00 pm, 102 H

SB 0718	Relating to Public Meetings	Legg	03/11/14
(I: 0985)	Public Meetings; Requiring that the notice of a public meeting include a description of each matter to be considered at such meeting; prohibiting the board or commission of an agency or authority of the state, a county, a municipality, or a political subdivision from acting upon a matter at a public meeting which was not included in the notice of such meeting; providing an exception for certain emergency matters upon the approval of a super majority of the members of the board or commission, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2014 01/23/14 SENATE Filed 02/04/14 SENATE Referred to Community Affairs; Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Rules 03/06/14 SENATE On Committee agenda - Community Affairs, 03/11/14, 4:00 pm, 301 S 03/11/14 SENATE Favorable by Community Affairs; 7 Yeas, 1 Nay 03/11/14 SENATE Now in Governmental Oversight and Accountability		
HB 0813	Relating to Water and Wastewater Utilities	Mayfield	03/24/14
(S: 1248)	Water and Wastewater Utilities; Designates act as "Ratepayer Representation Act"; prohibits county from providing water or sewer services in unincorporated areas covered by agreement with municipality; authorizes county to services when agreement does not provide expiration date; specifies that corporate powers of municipality do not apply to unincorporated areas of county without county's express consent; limits amount of water & sewer utility rates, fees, charges, & surcharges that municipality may impose on consumers outside of municipality's boundaries or ratepayers in unincorporated areas of county; requires PSC approval of such rates, fees, charges, & surcharges; authorizes ratepayers in unincorporated areas to petition PSC for determination whether rates, fees, & charges imposed by municipality are just & equitable; provides that PSC has regulatory authority over municipality that provides water or wastewater utility service in unincorporated areas of county; requires PSC approval before municipality purchases certain water or wastewater facilities. Effective Date: July 1, 2014 02/05/14 HOUSE Filed 02/14/14 HOUSE Referred to Energy & Utilities Subcommittee; Government Operations Appropriations Subcommittee; Regulatory Affairs Committee 02/14/14 HOUSE Now in Energy & Utilities Subcommittee 03/14/14 HOUSE On Committee agenda - Energy & Utilities Subcommittee, 03/18/14, 3:00 pm, 212 K 03/18/14 HOUSE Retained by Energy & Utilities Subcommittee 03/24/14 HOUSE Temporarily postponed by Energy & Utilities Subcommittee		
SB 0846	Relating to Governmental Ethics	Latvala	03/26/14
(C: 0655 7155 0606)	Governmental Ethics; Prohibiting a local officer from registering to lobby the Legislature or an agency on behalf of another person or entity other than his or her political subdivision; specifying the applicability of certain provisions of the Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees to members of the executive council of the Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation; authorizing the Commission on Ethics to initiate an investigation and hold a public hearing without receipt of a complaint in certain circumstances, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2014 02/05/14 SENATE Filed 02/08/14 SENATE Referred to Ethics and Elections; Community Affairs; Rules 02/10/14 SENATE On Committee agenda - Ethics and Elections, 02/17/14, 4:00 pm, 412 K 02/17/14 SENATE Favorable with CS by Ethics and Elections; 10 Yeas, 0 Nays 02/18/14 SENATE Committee Substitute Text (C1) Filed 02/19/14 SENATE Reference to Rules removed; Reference to Appropriations added; Remaining references: Community Affairs, Appropriations 02/19/14 SENATE Now in Community Affairs 02/28/14 SENATE On Committee agenda - Community Affairs, 03/05/14, 1:30 pm, 301 S 03/05/14 SENATE Favorable with CS by Community Affairs; 9 Yeas, 0 Nays 03/08/14 SENATE Committee Substitute Text (C2) Filed 03/10/14 SENATE Now in Appropriations 03/10/14 SENATE On Committee agenda - Appropriations, 03/13/14, 1:00 pm, 412 K 03/13/14 SENATE Placed on Special Order Calendar, 03/20/14 - If Received 03/13/14 SENATE Favorable with CS by Appropriations; 18 Yeas, 0 Nays 03/14/14 SENATE Committee Substitute Text (C3) Filed 03/14/14 SENATE Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading 03/14/14 SENATE Placed on Special Order Calendar, 03/20/14 03/20/14 SENATE Read Second Time; Amendments Adopted (309078, 637996, 727518, 631004); Ordered Engrossed; Placed on Third Reading for 03/26/14 03/20/14 SENATE Engrossed Text (E1) Filed 03/26/14 SENATE Read Third Time; Amendment Adopted (418036); Amendment Failed (150758); Amendment Withdrawn (620128); Passed (Vote: 38 Yeas / 0 Nays) 03/26/14 SENATE Engrossed Text (E2) Filed		
HB 0985	Relating to Public Meetings	Santiago	02/28/14
(I: 0718)	Public Meetings; Requires that notice of public meeting include description of each matter to be considered at such meeting; prohibits board or commission of agency or authority of state, county, municipality, or political subdivision from acting upon matter at public meeting which was not included in notice of such meeting; provides exception for certain emergency matters upon approval of super majority of members of board or commission; provides applicability. Effective Date: July 1, 2014 02/18/14 HOUSE Filed 02/28/14 HOUSE Referred to Government Operations Subcommittee; Local & Federal Affairs Committee; State Affairs Committee		

HB 0987	Relating to Local Government Infrastructure Surtax	Goodson	03/11/14
(I: 1102)	Local Government Infrastructure Surtax; Authorizes use of surtax for restoration or maintenance of natural water bodies for public use. Effective Date: July 1, 2014 02/19/14 HOUSE Filed 02/28/14 HOUSE Referred to Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee; Finance & Tax Subcommittee; State Affairs Committee 02/28/14 HOUSE Now in Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee 03/07/14 HOUSE On Committee agenda - Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee, 03/11/14, 12:30 pm, 102 H 03/11/14 HOUSE Favorable by Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee; 13 Yeas, 0 Nays 03/11/14 HOUSE Now in Finance & Tax Subcommittee		
SB 1050	Relating to Water And Wastewater Utility Systems	Hays	03/27/14
(S: 0357) (I: 0229)	Water And Wastewater Utility Systems; Requiring the Division of Bond Finance of the State Board of Administration to review the allocation of private activity bonds to determine the availability of additional allocation or reallocation of bonds for water and wastewater infrastructure projects; establishing a procedure for the commission to follow if it determines that a utility has failed to provide water and wastewater services that meet certain standards; allowing the Department of Environmental Protection to make, or to request that the Florida Water Pollution Control Financing Corporation make, loans, grants, and deposits to for-profit privately owned or investor-owned systems, and deleting current restrictions on such activity, etc.; Effective Date: 7/1/2014 02/13/14 SENATE Filed 02/19/14 SENATE Referred to Communications, Energy, and Public Utilities; Environmental Preservation and Conservation; Appropriations Subcommittee on Finance and Tax; Appropriations 03/27/14 SENATE On Committee agenda - Communications, Energy, and Public Utilities, 04/01/14, 9:30 am, 301 S		
SB 1102	Relating to Local Government Infrastructure Surtax	Altman	03/19/14
(I: 0987)	Local Government Infrastructure Surtax; Authorizing the use of the surtax for the restoration or maintenance of natural water bodies for public use, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2014 02/18/14 SENATE Filed 02/21/14 SENATE Referred to Community Affairs; Appropriations Subcommittee on Finance and Tax; Appropriations 03/14/14 SENATE On Committee agenda - Community Affairs, 03/19/14, 11:00 am, 301 S 03/19/14 SENATE Favorable by Community Affairs; 8 Yeas, 1 Nay 03/19/14 SENATE Now in Appropriations Subcommittee on Finance and Tax		
HB 1113	Relating to Onsite Sewage Treatment and Disposal Systems	Edwards	03/27/14
(C: 1160)	Onsite Sewage Treatment and Disposal Systems; Delays effective date of prohibition against land application of septage from onsite sewage treatment & disposal systems; directs DEP, in consultation with various entities & individuals, to examine potential options for safe & appropriate disposal or reuse of septage & submit report to Governor & Legislature. Effective Date: July 1, 2014 02/25/14 HOUSE Filed 03/05/14 HOUSE Referred to Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee; Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee; State Affairs Committee 03/05/14 HOUSE Now in Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee 03/14/14 HOUSE On Committee agenda - Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee, 03/18/14, 12:30 pm, 102 H 03/18/14 HOUSE Favorable with CS by Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee; 12 Yeas, 1 Nay 03/19/14 HOUSE Committee Substitute Text (C1) Filed 03/21/14 HOUSE Reference to Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee removed; Reference to Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee added; Remaining references Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee, State Affairs Committee 03/21/14 HOUSE Now in Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee 03/27/14 HOUSE On Committee agenda - Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee, 03/31/14, 4:00 pm, 102 H		
HB 1129	Relating to Special Districts	Caldwell	03/26/14
(S: 1518)	Special Districts; Requires DEO to publish certain information on website with respect to special districts; authorizes department to coordinate with the Department of State for certain purposes; provides for conversion of water control districts to community development districts; authorizes popularly elected governing board of water control district to conduct referendum on question of whether district may exercise certain special powers of community development district; provides referendum requirements & procedures; provides notice requirements; provides for special act, upon referendum approval, to codify special powers in charter of water control district & provide for conversion of district to community development district; authorizes conversion of water control district to community development district by special or local legislation. Effective Date: July 1, 2014 02/26/14 HOUSE Filed 03/05/14 HOUSE Referred to Economic Development & Tourism Subcommittee; Local & Federal Affairs Committee; Economic Affairs Committee 03/05/14 HOUSE Now in Economic Development & Tourism Subcommittee 03/21/14 HOUSE On Committee agenda - Economic Development and Tourism Subcommittee, 03/25/14, 9:00 am, 12 H 03/25/14 HOUSE Favorable with CS by Economic Development & Tourism Subcommittee; 11 Yeas, 0 Nays 03/26/14 HOUSE Committee Substitute Text (C1) Filed		
SB 1160	Relating to Onsite Sewage Treatment and Disposal Systems	Evers	03/27/14
(C: 1113)	Onsite Sewage Treatment and Disposal Systems; Delaying the effective date of the prohibition against the land application of septage from onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2014 02/20/14 SENATE Filed 02/28/14 SENATE Referred to Environmental Preservation and Conservation; Health Policy; Agriculture		

03/21/14 SENATE On Committee agenda - Environmental Preservation and Conservation, 03/26/14, 1:30 pm, 110 S
 03/26/14 SENATE Favorable with CS by Environmental Preservation and Conservation; 6 Yeas, 0 Nays
 03/27/14 SENATE On Committee agenda - Health Policy, 04/01/14, 3:00 pm, 412 K - If Received

SB 1168 (I: 0435)	Relating to Municipal Bonds Municipal Bonds; Requiring approval by referendum for the issuance of certain municipal bonds; providing ballot requirements for certain municipal bond referenda, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2014 02/20/14 SENATE Filed 02/28/14 SENATE Referred to Community Affairs; Appropriations Subcommittee on Finance and Tax; Appropriations	Garcia	02/28/14
HB 1237 (S: 1632)	Relating to Special Districts Special Districts: Reorganizes chapter 189, F.S., relating to special districts, into eight parts; transfers & renumbers various sections within chapter; revises Governor's power to suspend public officers to include members of governing body of special district; revises provisions relating to suspension & removal from office of municipal officers to include members of governing body of special district; revises when special district may be declared inactive; prohibits special districts declared inactive from collecting taxes, fees, or assessments; provides reporting requirements for governing body of certain special districts; provides requirements for chair of governing body; provides special district reporting requirements; provides for suspension of special districts under certain conditions; provides penalties for special districts that fail to comply; repeals provisions relating to Community Improvement Authority Act, legislative findings & intent, definitions, creation of community improvement authority & charters, board of supervisors, executive director CFO & other officers, financial records, & fiscal year, powers & duties, bonds, tax exemption, contracts, sale or lease of property, damages arising out of tort, and dissolution of authority. Effective Date: July 1, 2014 02/28/14 HOUSE Filed 03/11/14 HOUSE Referred to Local & Federal Affairs Committee; Finance & Tax Subcommittee; State Affairs Committee 03/11/14 HOUSE Now in Local & Federal Affairs Committee 03/25/14 HOUSE On Committee agenda - Local & Federal Affairs Committee, 03/27/14, 1:30 pm, 212 K - PCS 03/27/14 HOUSE Favorable with CS by Local & Federal Affairs Committee; 14 Yeas, 0 Nays	Metz	03/27/14
SB 1248 (S: 0813)	Relating to Water and Wastewater Utilities Water and Wastewater Utilities; Prohibiting a county from providing water or sewer services to an unincorporated area if a municipality is authorized to provide such services to the unincorporated area pursuant to a franchise agreement with a county or by a county resolution or ordinance; specifying that the corporate powers of a municipality do not apply to the unincorporated areas of a county without the county's express consent; limiting the amount of water and sewer utility rates, fees, and charges that a municipality may impose on consumers outside of the municipality's boundaries, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2014 02/25/14 SENATE Filed 02/28/14 SENATE Referred to Community Affairs; Environmental Preservation and Conservation; Rules	Latvaia	02/28/14
SB 1306 (S: 1055)	Relating to Onsite Sewage Treatment and Disposal Systems Onsite Sewage Treatment and Disposal Systems: Providing that an existing onsite sewage treatment and disposal system is not considered abandoned if the Department of Environmental Protection approves the use of all or a portion of the existing onsite sewage treatment and disposal system as an integral part of a sanitary sewer system, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2014 02/26/14 SENATE Filed 03/04/14 SENATE Referred to Health Policy; Environmental Preservation and Conservation; Agriculture; Rules 03/14/14 SENATE On Committee agenda - Health Policy, 03/19/14, 11:00 am, 412 K 03/19/14 SENATE Favorable with CS by Health Policy; 8 Yeas, 0 Nays 03/20/14 SENATE Committee Substitute Text (C1) Filed 03/25/14 SENATE Reference to Appropriations added; Reference to Rules removed; Remaining references: Environmental Preservation and Conservation; Agriculture; Appropriations 03/25/14 SENATE Now in Environmental Preservation and Conservation	Altman	03/25/14
HB 1313 (S: 1576)	Relating to Springs Springs: Specifies distributions to Ecosystem Management & Restoration Trust Fund; revises membership & duties of Acquisition & Restoration Council; requires DEP to establish certain minimum flows & water levels & delineate spring protection & management zone for Outstanding Florida Springs; requires water management districts to establish certain minimum flows & water levels & adopt maps depicting spring protection & management zones for Outstanding Florida Springs; providing funding for protection of Outstanding Florida Springs; requires local government comprehensive plans & ordinances to reflect certain prohibitions; requires DOH, DOACS, & DEP to conduct studies & submit reports; repeals provisions relating to periodic evaluation & assessment of onsite sewage treatment & disposal systems. Effective Date: July 1, 2014 03/03/14 HOUSE Filed 03/11/14 HOUSE Referred to Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee; Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee; State Affairs Committee 03/11/14 HOUSE Now in Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee	Brodeur	03/11/14
HB 1321 (S: 0272)	Relating to Water and Wastewater Utilities Water and Wastewater Utilities: Authorizes PSC to suspend or revoke certificate of authorization upon receipt of petition; creates process for customers to file & resolve, using the PSC, water quality grievances against certain water or wastewater utilities; creates process for PSC to resolve customer grievances for water quality issues; authorizes PSC to impose penalties on utility for certain failures; requires DEP to establish secondary wastewater service standards for odor, noise, aerosol drift, & lighting. Effective Date: October 1, 2014 03/03/14 HOUSE Filed 03/11/14 HOUSE Referred to Energy & Utilities Subcommittee; Appropriations Committee; Regulatory Affairs Committee 03/11/14 HOUSE Now in Energy & Utilities Subcommittee	Murphy	03/11/14
HB 1355	Relating to Administrative Procedures Administrative Procedures: Provides conditions under which proceeding is not substantially justified for purposes of award	Adkins	03/25/14

(C: 0975 0600) (S: 1626)	under Florida Equal Access to Justice Act; provides for publication of notices of rule development & of rules filed for adoption; provides additional notice of rule development, proposals, & adoptions; revises numerous provisions addressing challenges to agency action & agency statements, rules, & proposed rules; revises numerous provisions to authorize or require ALJ to award attorney fees & costs in administrative actions; requires ALJ to make certain findings & enter final order on validity of certain rules & alleged unadopted rules; provides for stay of proceedings not involving disputed issues of fact upon timely filing of rule challenge; provides that final order terminates stay; authorizes party to request mediation of rule challenge & declaratory statement proceedings; provides for award of attorney fees & costs by appellate court in specified administrative challenges; provides for attorney fees & costs incurred in litigating right to attorney fees & costs in administrative actions. Effective Date: July 1, 2014		
	03/03/14 HOUSE Filed		
	03/11/14 HOUSE Referred to Rulemaking Oversight & Repeal Subcommittee; Appropriations Committee; State Affairs Committee		
	03/11/14 HOUSE Now in Rulemaking Oversight & Repeal Subcommittee		
	03/21/14 HOUSE On Committee agenda - Rulemaking Oversight and Repeal Subcommittee, 03/25/14, 1:30 pm, 306 H 03/25/14 HOUSE Favorable with CS by Rulemaking Oversight and Repeal Subcommittee; 11 Yeas, 0 Nays		
SB 1464	Relating to Environmental Regulation	Simpson	03/26/14
(C: 1106) (S: 0703)	Environmental Regulation; Limiting the authority of a county to enforce certain modifications, readoptions, or amendments of certain wetlands, springs protection, and stormwater ordinances, regulations, and rules; exempting certain lessees of sovereignty submerged lands from permit fees for certain areas; requiring delegated local governments to adhere to certain criteria and standards for water well construction; exempting certain tents from the Florida Fire Prevention Code, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2014		
	02/28/14 SENATE Filed		
	03/05/14 SENATE Referred to Environmental Preservation and Conservation; Community Affairs; Appropriations; Rules		
	03/21/14 SENATE On Committee agenda - Environmental Preservation and Conservation, 03/26/14, 1:30 pm, 110 S		
	03/26/14 SENATE Favorable with CS by Environmental Preservation and Conservation; 4 Yeas, 1 Nay		
SB 1518	Relating to Special Districts	Bradley	03/05/14
(S: 1129)	Special Districts; Requiring the Department of Economic Opportunity to publish certain information on its website with respect to special districts; creating part II of ch. 190, F.S., relating to the conversion of water control districts to community development districts; authorizing the governing board of a water control district to conduct a referendum on the question of whether the district may exercise certain special powers of a community development district, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2014		
	02/28/14 SENATE Filed		
	03/05/14 SENATE Referred to Commerce and Tourism; Environmental Preservation and Conservation; Appropriations		
SB 1576	Relating to Springs	Dean	03/26/14
(S: 1313)	Springs; Specifying distributions to the Ecosystem Management and Restoration Trust Fund; requiring the Department of Environmental Protection or the governing board of a water management district to establish the minimum flow and water level for an Outstanding Florida Spring; creating the "Florida Springs and Aquifer Act"; specifying prohibited activities within a spring protection and management zone of an Outstanding Florida Spring; repealing provisions relating to periodic evaluation and assessment of onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2014		
	02/28/14 SENATE Filed		
	03/05/14 SENATE Referred to Environmental Preservation and Conservation; Agriculture; Appropriations		
	03/10/14 SENATE On Committee agenda - Environmental Preservation and Conservation, 03/13/14, 9:00 am, 110 S		
	03/13/14 SENATE Temporarily Postponed by Environmental Preservation and Conservation		
	03/17/14 SENATE On Committee agenda - Environmental Preservation and Conservation, 03/20/14, 8:00 am, 110 S		
	03/20/14 SENATE Favorable with CS by Environmental Preservation and Conservation; 8 Yeas, 0 Nays		
	03/24/14 SENATE Committee Substitute Text (C1) Filed		
	03/24/14 SENATE Now in Agriculture		
	03/26/14 Bill to be Discussed During the Office of EDR's Revenue Estimating Impact Conference, 03/28/14, 9:00 am, 117 K (No Votes Will Be Taken)		
	03/26/14 SENATE On Committee agenda - Agriculture, 03/31/14, 4:00 pm, 301 S		
SB 1626	Relating to Administrative Procedures	Lee (T)	03/27/14
(C: 0975 0600) (S: 1355)	Administrative Procedures; Providing conditions under which a proceeding is not substantially justified for purposes of an award under the Florida Equal Access to Justice Act; authorizing certain parties to provide to an agency their understanding of how certain rules apply to specific facts; authorizing the administrative law judge to award attorney fees under certain circumstances; authorizing a party to request mediation of a rule challenge and declaratory statement proceedings, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2014		
	02/28/14 SENATE Filed		
	03/05/14 SENATE Referred to Judiciary; Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Appropriations		
	03/20/14 SENATE On Committee agenda - Judiciary, 03/25/14, 9:00 am, 110 S		
	03/25/14 SENATE Not Considered by Judiciary		
	03/27/14 SENATE On Committee agenda - Judiciary, 04/01/14, 9:00 am, 110 S		
SB 1632	Relating to Special Districts	Stargel	03/27/14
(S: 1237)	Special Districts; Revising duties of the Legislative Auditing Committee; specifying applicability of procedures regarding suspension and removal of a member of the governing body of a special district; revising the circumstances under which the Department of Economic Opportunity may declare a special district inactive; requiring the Legislative Auditing Committee to provide notice of the failure of special districts to file certain required reports to the chair of the county legislative delegation or the chair or equivalent of the local general-purpose government, as applicable, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2014		
	02/28/14 SENATE Filed		
	03/05/14 SENATE Referred to Ethics and Elections; Community Affairs; Appropriations		
	03/12/14 SENATE On Committee agenda - Ethics and Elections, 03/17/14, 4:30 pm, 412 K		
	03/17/14 SENATE Favorable with CS by Ethics and Elections; 11 Yeas, 0 Nays		
	03/18/14 SENATE Committee Substitute Text (C1) Filed		

SB 1674	Relating to Ratification of Rules of the Department of Environmental Protection	Environmental Preservation and Conservation	03/18/14
(S: 7089)	Ratification of Rules of the Department of Environmental Protection; Ratifying specified rules relating to qualifications and performance reviews of contractors performing certain site rehabilitation activities for petroleum contaminated sites and procedures for procurement of such contractors for the sole and exclusive purpose of satisfying any condition on effectiveness pursuant to s. 120.541(3), F.S., which requires ratification of any rule meeting any specified thresholds for likely adverse impact or increase in regulatory costs, etc. Effective Date: On becoming law 03/13/14 SENATE Filed (Formerly PCB 7084) 03/18/14 SENATE Referred to Appropriations		
SB 1706	Relating to Administrative Procedures	Governmental Oversight and Accountability	03/27/14
(I: 7107)	Administrative Procedures; Revising requirements for the content of notices of rule development; revising the scope of public workshops to include information gathering for the preparation of statements of estimated regulatory costs; authorizing electronic delivery of notices to persons who have requested advance notice of agency rulemaking proceedings; revising requirements for substantially affected persons to submit proposals for lower cost regulatory alternatives to a proposed rule following a notice of change; revising requirements for an agency's consideration of such lower cost regulatory alternatives, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2014 03/27/14 SENATE Filed (Formerly PCB 7118)		
SB 1708	Relating to Administrative Procedures	Governmental Oversight and Accountability	03/27/14
(C: 7031 1226) (S: 7001)	Administrative Procedures; Revising the deadline to propose rules implementing new laws; revising requirements for the periodic review of agency rules; requiring agencies to annually review rulemaking and prepare and publish regulatory plans; relating to legislative review of agency rules in effect on or before a specified date and an Internet-based public survey of regulatory impacts, respectively, etc. Effective Date: Except as otherwise expressly provided in this act and except for this section, which shall take effect upon this act becoming a law, this act shall take effect July 1, 2014 03/27/14 SENATE Filed (Formerly PCB 7116)		
HB 7001	Relating to Administrative Procedures	Rulemaking, Oversight & Repeal Subcommittee	03/25/14
(C: 7031 1226) (S: 1708)	Administrative Procedures; Revises deadline to propose rules implementing new laws; revises requirements for periodic review of agency rules; requires agencies to annually review rulemaking & prepare & publish regulatory plans; requires publication by specified dates of notices of rule development & proposed rules necessary to implement new laws; provides for suspension of agency's rulemaking authority for failure to comply with specified provisions; repeals provisions relating to legislative review of agency rules in effect on or before specified date & Internet-based public survey of regulatory impacts; provides for rescission of suspension of rulemaking authority under such repealed provisions. Effective Date: July 1, 2014 11/22/13 HOUSE Filed (Formerly PCB RORS1) 12/16/13 HOUSE Referred to Government Operations Subcommittee; Government Operations Appropriations Subcommittee; Rules & Calendar Committee 12/16/13 HOUSE Now in Government Operations Subcommittee 03/21/14 HOUSE On Committee agenda - Government Operations Subcommittee, 03/25/14, 11:30 am, 212 K 03/25/14 HOUSE Favorable with CS by Government Operations Subcommittee: 10 Yeas, 0 Nays		
SB 7064	Relating to Public Records and Meetings	Governmental Oversight and Accountability	03/07/14
	Public Records and Meetings; Revising the general state policy on public records; authorizing a person to make a request to inspect or copy a public record at certain agency offices; providing that public records requests need not be in writing unless otherwise required by law; providing that a party filing an action against certain agencies is not required to serve a copy of a pleading claiming attorney fees on the Department of Financial Services, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2014 03/03/14 SENATE Filed 03/03/14 SENATE On Committee agenda - Governmental Oversight and Accountability, 03/06/14, 9:00 am, 412 K 03/06/14 SENATE Submitted as Committee Bill by Governmental Oversight and Accountability; 9 Yeas, 0 Nays 03/07/14 SENATE Committee Bill Filed as S 1648		
HB 7107	Relating to Administrative Procedures	Rulemaking, Oversight & Repeal Subcommittee	03/27/14
(I: 1706)	Administrative Procedures; Revises requirements for notice of rule development, notice of proposed rule, & notice of change; authorizes electronic delivery of certain notices; revises requirements for certain agency filings with JAPC; requires certain agency personnel to attend public hearings; requires agency to publish notice of convening separate proceeding & tolling rulemaking deadlines during separate proceedings; revises requirements for substantially affected persons to submit proposals for lower cost regulatory alternatives following notice of change; revises requirements for agency's consideration of lower cost regulatory alternatives; provides additional requirements for calculation of estimated regulatory costs; creates presumption of adverse impact on small business. Effective Date: July 1, 2014 03/11/14 HOUSE Filed (Formerly RORS2) 03/17/14 HOUSE Referred to Government Operations Subcommittee; State Affairs Committee 03/17/14 HOUSE Now in Government Operations Subcommittee		

ANRS1	Relating to Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee	03/04/14
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PCB ANRS 14-01 -- Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

02/28/14 HOUSE Filed

02/28/14 HOUSE On Committee agenda - Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee, 03/04/14, 1:30 pm, 102 H

03/04/14 HOUSE Submitted as Committee Bill by Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee; 12 Yeas, 0 Nays



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**Item. 13.a.
Repeal of
WRWSA Rules**

Item 13.a. Repeal of WRWSA Rules . . . Larry Haag, WRWSA Attorney

Repeal of Chapter 49C-1.001 through 49C-1.014, Florida Administrative Code

The Authority has Administrative Rules that are found in Chapter 49C-1.001 through 49C-1.014, Florida Administrative Code. These Rules were adopted in 1978 pursuant to a statutory requirement that agencies adopt rules that describe their organization and operating procedures. Currently, the Authority's Rules provide for its Name, Purpose, Definitions, Authority, Organization, Membership and Representation, Term and Compensation of Governing Board Members, Powers, Officers, Staff, Meetings, Committees, Budget and Finance, and Amendments.

Section 120.53, Florida Statutes, was subsequently revised in 1996 and the Rulemaking Requirement was deleted. Rather, agencies are now required to adopt a written Statement of Organization pursuant to Ch. 28-101, F.A.C. On the 17th day of April, 2013, the Authority proceeded to adopt a Statement of Organization and it would now be appropriate for the Authority to repeal its Rules. The Rules themselves are currently obsolete due to the fact that the Authority has most recently, through its County Members, entered into a new Revised and Restated Interlocal Agreement governing the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority.

Counsel recommends the Board authorize staff to initiate actions to repeal Chapter 49C-1.001 through 49C-1.014, Florida Administrative Code.

Staff Recommendation: Motion to initiate rulemaking to repeal the Authority's Rules found in Chapter 49C-1.001 through 49C-1.014, Florida Administrative Code, and to direct staff to submit the proposed rule language to the Florida Joint Administrative Rules Committee and to publish all required notices in the Florida Administrative Register.

PROPOSED RULE ADOPTION PROCESS

Repeal of Authority's Existing Rules in Chapter 49C-1.001 – 49C-1.014, F.A.C

- Step 1. Seek Board approval to initiate rulemaking process to repeal obsolete rules (March Board Meeting)
- Step 2. Board approves initiation of rulemaking process and approves proposed rule language (March Board Meeting)
- Step 3. If approved, publish Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and proposed rule language in the Florida Administrative Register (immediately following March Board meeting – must be published at least 28 days prior to Board's intended action)
- Step 4. Send notice to those persons that have requested notice of Authority's activities (immediately following March Board meeting)
- Step 5. Submit proposed language to JAPS for comments at least 21 days prior to rule adoption (immediately following March Board meeting)
- Step 6. Hold hearing if requested.
- Step 7. If no hearing requested, Board consideration of any JAPC changes and adopt proposed rules (May Board meeting)
- Step 8. File the adopted rules with the Florida Department of State (immediately following May Board meeting)
- Step 9. Rules become final 20 days following the date of filing in Step 8.

RULEMAKING TIMELINE

1. Publish Notice of Proposed Rule Development in Florida Administrative Weekly (FAW) for at least **14 days** prior to publishing the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking.
 - If a written response is received from an Affected Person requesting a workshop, then hold a public workshop; unless, the agency has explained why a workshop is unnecessary.
 - If a hearing is required, then the agency must advertise the Rule Development Workshop in the FAW for **14 days** before workshop.
2. Publish Notice of Proposed Rulemaking FAW for at least **28 days** before adoption.
 - If a written request for a hearing is received within **21 days** of publication from an affected person then the agency must conduct a public hearing; unless, the Rule relates exclusively to procedure or practice (Note: Under new Senate Bill the Board must conduct at least one hearing.)
 - Within **21 days** of publication a Substantially Affected Party may file a petition with the Division of Administrative Hearings (DOAH) to seek administrative determination of the validity of proposed rule.
 - If the Petition is sufficient and is timely filed with DOAH, then DOAH will conduct a formal administrative hearing. Proposed Rule cannot be adopted until DOAH enters its final order.
 - Any invalid portion of proposed rule must be withdrawn and notice of such invalidity must be published in the first available issue of FAW.
 - Submit the following documents to the Joint Administrative Procedures Committee (JAPC) **21 days** prior to the proposed rule being filed for adoption; (1) Notice of Proposed Rulemaking; (2) copy of text of rule; (3) Statement of Justification; (4) summary of the rule; (5) Federal Standards Statement; (6) Statement of Estimated Regular Costs; (7) copies of materials referenced.
 - If JAPC objects to the proposed rule, then within **30 days** of receipt of objections, the agency must modify proposed rule, withdraw entire rule, or refuse to modify or withdraw rule. If agency modifies proposed rule, then it shall re-submit the

proposed rule to JAPC and give Notice of Change in the first available FAW. The modified proposed rule cannot be filed for adoption less than **21 days** from date of publication of Notice of Change. If rule is withdrawn, then notify JAPC and publish notice in first available issue of FAW.

3. If no changes, or only technical changes, are required to be made to proposed rule, then notify JAPC **7 days** prior to adoption. Provide informal notice to Administrative Code Section (ACS) regarding technical changes.
4. Rule is adopted by filing the proposed rule with ACS for publication in Florida Administrative Code (FAC) and the rule becomes effective **20 days** after filing rule with ACS.
 - o Submit the following documents to ACS: (1) Certification of Administrative Rules filed with Department of State; (2) summary of rule; (3) summary of any hearings; (4) statement of facts and circumstances justifying rule; (5) coded text of rule with history of notes.
 - o Submit one original and two copies along with a disk.

Notice of Proposed Rule

WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY

RULE NO.	RULE TITLE
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49C-1.001	Name
49C-1.002	Purpose
49C-1.003	Definitions
49C-1.004	Authority
49C-1.005	Organization
49C-1.006	Membership and Representation
49C-1.007	Term and Compensation of Governing Board Members
49C-1.008	Powers
49C-1.009	Officers
49C-1.010	Staff
49C-1.011	Meetings
49C-1.012	Committees
49C-1.013	Budget and Finance
49C-1.014	Amendments

PURPOSE AND EFFECT: To repeal the Chapters 49C-1.001 through 1.014, Florida Administrative Code, as the provisions of the rule are obsolete and no longer in accordance with applicable statutory authority.

SUMMARY: The Board of Directors proposes to repeal the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority's rules regarding its administration due to them becoming obsolete and unnecessary as a result of statutory revisions to Section 120.53, Florida Statutes, which eliminated the requirement that these items be adopted into rule.

SUMMARY OF STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED REGULATORY COSTS: No statement of Estimated Regulatory Cost was prepared. The Board determined the proposed rules will not have an impact on small business. Any person who wishes to provide information regarding a statement of estimated regulatory costs, or provide a proposal for a lower cost regulatory alternative must do so in writing within 21 days of this notice.

SPECIFIC AUTHORITY: Section 163.01(5)(h), Florida Statutes; the Revised and Restated Interlocal Agreement of the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority dated January 14, 2014.

LAW IMPLEMENTED: Section 120.53, Florida Statutes.

IF REQUESTED WITHIN 21 DAYS OF THE DATE OF THIS NOTICE, A HEARING WILL BE SCHEDULED AND ANNOUNCED IN FAR.

THE PERSON TO BE CONTACTED REGARDING THE PROPOSED RULE IS: Richard S. Owen, Executive Director, Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority, Lecanto Government Building, 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Suite 228, Lecanto, FL 34461.

FULL TEXT OF THE PROPOSED RULE IS:

49C-1.001 Name.

Rulemaking Authority 163.01, 373.1962 FS as subsequently enacted in 373.713. FS. Law Implemented 120.53 FS. History–New 6-11-78, Formerly 16O-1.01, 16O-1.001, Repealed.

49C-1.002 Purpose.

Rulemaking Authority 163.01, 373.1962 FS as subsequently enacted in 373.713. FS. Law Implemented 120.53 FS. History–New 6-11-78, Amended 8-21-85, Formerly 16O-1.02, 16O-1.002, Repealed.

49C-1.003 Definitions.

Rulemaking Authority 163.01, 373.1962 FS as subsequently enacted in 373.713. FS. Law Implemented 120.53 FS. History–New 6-11-78, Amended 8-21-85, Formerly 16O-1.03, Amended 6-7-93, Formerly 16O-1.003, Repealed.

49C-1.004 Authority.

Rulemaking Authority 163.01, 373.1962 FS as subsequently enacted in 373.713. FS. Law Implemented 120.53 FS. History–New 6-11-78, Formerly 16O-1.04, 16O-1.004, Repealed.

49C-1.005 Organization.

Rulemaking Authority 163.01, 373.1962 FS as subsequently enacted in 373.713. FS. Law Implemented 120.53 FS. History–New 6-11-78, Formerly 16O-1.05, 16O-1.005, Repealed.

49C-1.006 Membership and Representation.

Rulemaking Authority 163.01, 373.1962 FS as subsequently enacted in 373.713. FS. Law Implemented 120.53 FS. History–New 6-11-78, Amended 8-21-85, Formerly 16O-1.06, Amended 10-6-92, 2-15-93, 6-7-93, Formerly 16O-1.006, Repealed.

49C-1.007 Term and Compensation of Governing Board Members.

Rulemaking Authority 163.01, 373.1962 FS as subsequently enacted in 373.713. FS. Law Implemented 120.53 FS. History–New 6-11-78, Amended 8-21-85, Formerly 16O-1.07, 16O-1.007, Repealed.

49C-1.008 Powers.

Rulemaking Authority 163.01, 373.1962 FS as subsequently enacted in 373.713. FS. Law Implemented 120.53 FS. History–New 6-11-78, Formerly 16O-1.08, 16O-1.008, Repealed.

49C-1.009 Officers.

Rulemaking Authority 163.01, 373.1962 FS as subsequently enacted in 373.713. FS.

Law Implemented 120.53 FS. History–New 6-11-78, Formerly 16O-1.09, 16O-1.009, Repealed.

49C-1.010 Staff.

Rulemaking Authority 163.01, 373.1962 FS as subsequently enacted in 373.713. FS. Law Implemented 120.53 FS. History–New 6-11-78, Amended 8-21-85, Formerly 16O-1.10, 16O-1.010, Repealed.

49C-1.011 Meetings.

Rulemaking Authority 163.01, 373.1962 FS as subsequently enacted in 373.713. FS. Law Implemented 120.53 FS. History–New 6-11-78, Amended 8-21-85, Formerly 16O-1.11, Amended 8-16-92, 6-7-93, Formerly 16O-1.011, Repealed.

49C-1.012 Committees.

Rulemaking Authority 163.01, 373.1962 FS as subsequently enacted in 373.713. FS. Law Implemented 120.53 FS. History–New 6-11-78, Amended 8-21-85, Formerly 16O-1.12, 16O-1.012, Repealed.

49C-1.013 Budget and Finance.

Rulemaking Authority 163.01, 373.1962 FS as subsequently enacted in 373.713. FS. Law Implemented 120.53 FS. History–New 6-11-78, Amended 8-21-85, Formerly 16O-1.13, Amended 7-21-92, 6-7-93, Formerly 16O-1.013, Amended 9-8-08, Repealed.

49C-1.014 Amendments.

Rulemaking Authority 163.01, 373.1962 FS as subsequently enacted in 373.713. FS. Law Implemented 120.53 FS. History–New 6-11-78, Amended 8-21-85, Formerly 16O-1.14, Amended 6-7-93, Formerly 16O-1.014, Repealed.

CHAPTER 49C-1 ORGANIZATION

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49C-1.001 Name.

The name of this organization shall be the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority, established as of February 23, 1977, under Chapter 163 and Section 373.1962, Florida Statutes.

Specific Authority 163.01, 373.1962 FS. Law Implemented 163.01, 373.1962 FS. History—New 6-11-78, Formerly 16O-1.01, 16O-1.001

49C-1.002 Purpose.

The Authority shall function for the purpose of planning, designing, constructing, operating, and maintaining facilities in the locations and at times necessary to insure that an adequate water supply will be available to all citizens within the Authority area while attending to the following:

(1) Giving priority to reducing adverse environmental effects of excessive or improper withdrawals of water from concentrated areas

(2) Not depriving, directly or indirectly, any county wherein water is withdrawn by the Authority, of the prior right to the reasonable and beneficial use of water which is required adequately to supply the reasonable and beneficial needs of the county or any of the inhabitants or property owners therein.

(3) Insuring that each party to the Interlocal Agreement shall have preferential right to purchase water from the regional water supply authority for use by said party to the reasonable and beneficial needs of all citizens therein.

Specific Authority 163.01, 373.1962 FS. Law Implemented 163.01, 373.1962 FS. History—New 6-11-78, Amended 8-21-85, Formerly 16O-1.02, 16O-1.002.

49C-1.003 Definitions.

As used in these Rules:

(1) "Authority" means the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority composed of the general voting membership.

(2) "Interlocal Agreement" means the Interlocal Agreement made and entered into February 23, 1977, by and between the political subdivisions of the State of Florida of Citrus, Hernando, Levy, Marion, and Sumter Counties, and as subsequently amended on September 18, 1984 to include only the political subdivisions of the State of Florida of Citrus, Hernando, Marion and Sumter counties, for the purpose of creating the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority. All references to the Interlocal Agreement shall include subsequent amendments thereto.

(3) "Resolution" shall mean the resolution of any county or municipality duly adopted seeking to be included in the Authority.

(4) "Large cities" means cities within the geographic area of the Authority that have 25,000 or more population.

(5) "Small cities" means cities within the geographic area of the Authority that have less than 25,000 population.

Specific Authority 163.01, 373.1962 FS. Law Implemented 163.01, 373.1962 FS. History--New 6-11-78, Amended 8-21-85, Formerly 160-1.03, Amended 6-7-93, Formerly 160-1.003.

49C-1.004 Authority.

The Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority, as provided for in the Interlocal Agreement, is hereby established pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 163.01 and Section 373.1962, Florida Statutes.

Specific Authority 163.01, 373.1962 FS. Law Implemented 163.01, 373.1962 FS. History--New 6-11-78, Formerly 160-1.04, 160-1.004.

49C-1.005 Organization.

The Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority, as provided for in the Interlocal Agreement, shall be organized in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 163.01 and Section 373.1962, Florida Statutes.

Specific Authority 163.01, 373.1962 FS. Law Implemented 163.01, 373.1962 FS. History--New 6-11-78, Formerly 160-1.05, 160-1.005.

49C-1.006 Membership and Representation.

The Authority shall be governed by a Board comprised of representatives of the parties to the Interlocal Agreement. Initially, the governing Board shall consist of no more than eleven (11) members, which may be increased, each having one vote. There are hereby established two (2) classifications of Governing Board representation:

(1) County Representation – Each county represented as a party to the Interlocal Agreement shall appoint one (1) County Commissioner for the first 50,000 population and one (1) additional County Commissioner for each additional 50,000 population, or increment thereof. The population of large cities which are members of the Authority will be deducted for representation and assessment purposes from their respective county population.

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

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

(b) Large cities shall appoint one (1) representative for the first 50,000 in population; and one (1) representative for each additional 50,000 in population or increment thereof. Small cities within each member county will have one (1) joint representative who shall be selected by all member small cities within their respective county by selecting the said representative who will thereafter represent all member small cities within the respective county.

(c) All municipal memberships heretofore selected to serve shall remain as the representative to the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority with any new member to be appointed pursuant to the provisions of Fla. Admin. Code paragraph 49C-1.006(2)(b), with the term of said municipal member to be provided for in the same manner as prescribed in Section V (2)(b) of the Interlocal Agreement, as the situation may dictate.

(d) Total representation, including municipal and county membership, from a single county may not exceed six (6) representatives to the Authority Board of Directors. Representation from the jurisdictions within the County shall be as follows:

1. The representative from small cities shall be and remain at one (1) per county.

2. County representation shall be in accordance with the formula provided in these rules, up to five (5) members. If a member large city is contained within a county, the representation between the county and municipality must be shared. These rules assume no more than one municipality within a county will exceed 25,000 population. When more than one municipality within a single county exceeds 25,000 population, based on official population estimates of the Department of Administration as published by the University of Florida, Bureau of Business and Economic Research, the Authority Board of Directors shall initiate rule-making to revise the representational formula for representation on the Board of Directors.

3. Large cities shall be represented in accordance with the formula provided in these rules. Representation for such cities shall be shared with a member county.

4. Both the member county and the member large city may continue to add representatives until the cap of five (5) members is

reached. Each year, based on the most recent Department of Administration population estimates as published by the University of Florida, Bureau of Business and Economic Research, an allocation of representatives for the city and county shall be made. If both units of government have sufficient population for three members, the third representative will be awarded to the unit of government with the greatest population. For purposes of this allocation, the County's population will be calculated based on the population in the unincorporated area.

Specific Authority 163.01, 373.1962 FS. Law Implemented 163.01, 373.1962 FS. History--New 6-11-78, Amended 8-21-85, Formerly 160-1.06, Amended 10-6-92, 2-15-93, 6-7-93, Formerly 160-1.006.

49C-1.007 Term and Compensation of Governing Board Members.

- (1) Representatives to the Governing Board shall serve for two (2) year staggered terms.
- (2) The method of staggering said terms shall be determined by the Governing Board.
- (3) The balance of the term of any Governing Board member who resigns or is unable to continue to serve shall be filled in the same manner as prescribed in Section V(1) or Section V(2) (b) and (c) of the Interlocal Agreement, as the situation may dictate.
- (4) Members of the Governing Board shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for travel expenses as provided in Section 112.016, Florida Statutes.

Specific Authority 163.01, 373.1962 FS. Law Implemented 163.01, 373.1962 FS. History--New 6-11-78, Amended 8-21-85, Formerly 160-1.07, 160-1.007.

49C-1.008 Powers.

The Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority may exercise any and all powers and all authority as may now or hereafter be vested in said authority by law including but not limited to its powers and authority as provided for in Sections 163.01 and 373.1962, Florida Statutes.

Specific Authority 163.01, 373.1962 FS. Law Implemented 163.01, 373.1962 FS. History--New 6-11-78, Formerly 160-1.08, 160-1.008.

49C-1.009 Officers.

The officers of the Authority shall be as follows:

- (1) A Chairman, who shall preside at meetings of the Authority; sign as authorized by the Authority, any contracts or other instruments which are deemed to be in the best interest of the Authority; and perform such other duties incident to the office as may be prescribed by the Authority.
- (2) The Vice-Chairman, who shall act in the Chairman's absence. The Vice-Chairman shall perform such other functions as the Authority may from time to time assign.
- (3) A Treasurer, who shall be entrusted with the receipt, care, and disbursement of Authority funds in accordance with fiscal policies and regulations adopted by said Authority.

Specific Authority 163.01, 373.1962 FS. Law Implemented 163.01, 373.1962 FS. History--New 6-11-78, Formerly 160-1.09, 160-1.009

49C-1.010 Staff.

The Authority may appoint an Executive Director and hire other staff as may be necessary. The Authority shall prescribe the duties and compensation for the Executive Director. Among other duties, the Executive Director shall:

- (1) Be responsible to the officers and the Authority for supervising and administering the work program of said Authority;
- (2) Act as Secretary to the Authority and shall prepare minutes of each meeting and be responsible for distributing copies to members of the Authority.

Specific Authority 163.01, 373.1962 FS. Law Implemented 163.01, 373.1962 FS. History--New 6-11-78, Amended 8-21-85, Formerly 160-1.10, 160-1.010.

49C-1.011 Meetings.

Meetings of the Authority shall be conducted in accordance with Chapter 120, Florida Statutes, and shall be held at intervals to be determined by the Governing Board.

(1) Regular meetings of the Governing Board shall, when feasible and convenient, be rotated among the counties representing parties to the Interlocal Agreement.

(2) Special meetings of the Governing Board may be called by the Chairman or a majority of the members at any time and place upon five (5) days written notice to the parties to the Interlocal Agreement.

(3) A quorum at any meeting shall be declared when a majority of the county membership is present or represented, excluding delinquent members. County Commission members and municipal members shall represent their respective county for purposes of establishing the county membership quorum. A member large city or member county that has been declared delinquent in payment of its assessments pursuant to these rules, including its small cities, shall not be included in the calculation toward establishing a quorum. When a member county or large city has been reinstated and paid its delinquent dues, the large city or county and any of its small cities may then be counted toward establishing a quorum for meetings.

Specific Authority 163.01, 373.1962 FS. Law Implemented 163.01, 373.1962 FS. History—New 6-11-78, Amended 8-21-85, Formerly 160-1.11, Amended 8-16-92, 6-7-93, Formerly 160-1.011.

49C-1.012 Committees.

The Chairman of the Governing Board with the advice and consent of the Board of directors shall appoint such committees as is necessary to carry out the work of the Authority. Committee membership is not restricted to members of the Governing Board.

Specific Authority 163.01, 373.1962 FS. Law Implemented 163.01, 373.1962 FS. History—New 6-11-78, Amended 8-21-85, Formerly 160-1.12, 160-1.012.

49C-1.013 Budget and Finance.

Each of the counties represented as parties to the Interlocal Agreement shall appropriate funds on a county-wide per capita basis as may be necessary or desirable for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of Section 373.1962, F.S., 1976, and the powers and duties of the Authority or its Governing Board. Large cities who have adopted resolutions of membership shall appropriate funds on a per capita basis pursuant to the requirements herein. Counties with member large cities shall deduct the large city population from their per capita assessment.

(1) The per capita appropriation shall be based upon the most current annual population estimates by the Department of Administration pursuant to the provisions of Section 186.901, F.S.

(2) No per capita appropriation shall become effective until it has been adopted by three-fifths (3/5) vote of the full voting membership of the Governing Board and approved by the official action of a majority of the contributing local governments representing the members of the Authority.

(3) Said per capita appropriation may be reduced or eliminated for any stated or unstated period should other sources of revenue make it unnecessary to require per capita appropriation.

(4) The Authority shall prepare a tentative annual budget for the fiscal year October 1 to September 30 and forward copies of same to the governmental bodies who are members of the Authority at least four (4) weeks prior to the adopting of a final budget in order that said local governments shall have an opportunity to take considered action in approving or disapproving the proposed budget and to provide for necessary per capita appropriation, if any.

(5) The budget and such other changes, amendments, or supplements as may be necessary to conduct the fiscal affairs of the Authority may be amended from time to time by action of the Governing Board to include any funds accumulated from time to time from sources other than per capita appropriations. The budget may not be amended to increase the annual per capita appropriation by the local governments as members in the Authority without the same majority as was necessary for original adoption.

(6) Should a large city or county fail to pay the approved annual per capita appropriation to the Authority or its billed prorated portion of the annual appropriation within (6) six months of October 1 or the date of the billing, whichever is later, the delinquent

large city or county and its small cities within the county shall relinquish their voting status as members of the Board of Directors of the Authority. In addition, the following actions shall be implemented at the option of the Authority Board of Directors:

(a) The Board may direct the Executive Director to send a letter to the governmental body of the county or large city whose appropriation remains unpaid with copies to appropriate member cities within the delinquent county. The letter shall state that the non-payment of the appropriation represents a violation of the terms of the rules herein established for the Authority and the delinquent member's voting privileges as well as the voting privileges of small cities and a large city, if appropriate, within the delinquent county, have been suspended and request that all billed payments be brought up-to-date immediately.

(b) The Board may also direct the Executive Director to notify the delinquent member government and its member cities, if appropriate, that all other privileges of membership to the Authority have been suspended, including but not limited to, Authority participation in water supply studies, hydrologic investigations and capital construction of facilities.

(7) Should the delinquent member government(s) desire to reinstate voting privileges on the Board of Directors, all delinquent dues and all dues levied by the Authority and duly approved by the member governments during the period of non-participation by the large city or county, shall be paid in full before the delinquent member government is allowed to be reinstated as a voting member of the Board of Directors and all other privileges are reinstated. In lieu of paying the delinquent dues as set forth above, the Board of Directors may waive the payment of delinquent dues, but require instead that the delinquent member government pay the costs of bringing its portion of the Authority's Master Plan up to date as it relates to the delinquent member's geographic area and such other expenses necessary for said member to be a functional member of the Authority; provided, however, such expenses shall not exceed what the delinquent member would have otherwise paid in dues should the member have never become delinquent.

Specific Authority 163.01, 373.1962 FS. Law Implemented 163.01, 373.1962 FS. History--New 6-11-78, Amended 8-21-85, Formerly 160-1.13, Amended 7-21-92, 6-7-93, Formerly 160-1.013, Amended 9-8-08.

49C-1.014 Amendments.

These Rules may be amended by the Authority by at least two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Governing Board voting at any regular or special meeting of the full voting membership of the Governing Board called for such purpose after written notice to all member governments.

Specific Authority 163.01, 373.1962 FS. Law Implemented 163.01, 373.1962 FS. History--New 6-11-78, Amended 8-21-85, Formerly 160-1.14, Amended 6-7-93, Formerly 160-1.014