# Board of County Commissioners Sumter County, Florida

7375 Powell Road, Suite 200 • Wildwood, FL 34785 • Phone (352) 689-4400 • FAX: (352) 689-4401 Website: http://sumtercountyfl.gov



July 10, 2019

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

RE: Alternate for Commissioner Printz

Mr. Owen:

As Commissioner Printz is unable to attend the July 17, 2019 Board Meeting, the Board of County Commissioners designated Commissioner Burgess to attend in his place for this meeting.

Regards,

Bradley Arnold

County Administrator

Al Butler, Dist 1 (352) 689-4400 7375 Powell Road Wildwood, FL 34785

Garry Breeden, Dist 4 Second Vice Chairman (352) 689-4400 7375 Powell Road Wildwood, FL 34785 Don Burgess, Dist 3 Chairman (352) 689-4400 7375 Powell Road Wildwood, FL 34785

Bradley S. Arnold, County Administrator (352) 689-4400 7375 Powell Road Wildwood, FL 34785 Steve Printz, Dist 5 Vice Chairman (352) 689-4400 7375 Powell Road Wildwood, FL 34785

Gloria R. Hayward, Clerk & Auditor (352) 569-6600 215 East McCollum Avenue Bushnell, FL 33513 Doug Gilpin, Dist 2 (352) 689-4400 7375 Powell Road Wildwood, FL 34785

County Attorney The Hogan Law Firm Post Office Box 485 Brooksville, Florida 34605

#### Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority

3600 W. Sovereign Path, Suite 228, Lecanto, Florida 34461

### Bills For Payment 6/19/2019

	Invoice	Invoice	
Administrative Invoices	Number(s)	Date	Amount
Richard S. Owen, AICP, Executive Director	2019-05	6/4/2019	\$6,804.68
Larry Haag, Attorney	34894 34895	5/30/2019	\$1,915.98
Robert Batsel, Special Counsel			\$0.00
Diane Salz, Governmental Affairs (Professional Fee)	53119	5/31/2019	\$3,500.00
Diane Salz, Governmental Affairs (Travel)	53119	5/31/2019	\$191.98
C. LuAnne Stout, Admin Asst (Services)	05-May-2019	6/3/2019	\$3,125.00
Kathy Bryant (Board Travel)		5/15/2019	\$36.49
Al Butler (Board Travel)		5/15/2019	\$27.59
Gary Ernst (Board Travel)		5/15/2019	\$36.49
Jeff Kinnard (Board Travel)		5/15/2019	\$11.13
Dale Swain (Board Travel)		5/15/2019	\$27.59
Carl Zalak (Board Travel)		5/15/2019	\$36.49
Karen Allen (Web Maint)	112	6/11/2019	\$150.00
Sun Trust Business Card Statement	06.02.2019	6/2/2019	\$397.87
Total Administrative Invoices			\$16,261.29
		•	

Water Supply Studies and Facilities	Contract/ Budget	Balance Remaining	Current Invoice(s)
General Services Contract	\$75,000.00	\$35,000.00	
Work Order 18-01. Water Resource Associates	\$25,000.00	\$20,754.60	
Work Order 18-02. Weber and Associates	\$15,000.00	\$11,687.50	
Regional Water Supply Plan Update	\$299,940.00	\$169,850.71	
FY2017-18 Water Conservation Grants Program			
Citrus County	\$42,627.50	\$2,461.38	
Hernando County	\$48,350.00	\$7,973.69	
Marion County	\$35,245.00	\$17,571.18	
Phase 4 Irrigation Program	\$200,000.00	\$64,939.78	<b>\$500.00</b> (1)
Phase 5 Irrigation Program	\$200,000.00	\$161,453.46	<b>\$2,315.74</b> (2)
Total Project Invoices	\$941,162.50	\$491,692.30	\$2,815.74

Total Bills to be Paid	\$19,077.03

State Board of Administration	Transfer from SBA2 to SBA1	\$2,815.74
State Board of Administration	Transfer from SBA1 to SunTrust Bank	\$19,077.03

Notes:

(1) Phase 4 (N822) - Irrigation Audit Reinspections

Jack Overdorff, ECO Land Design \$500.00 Invoice 358

(2) Phase 5 (Q040) - Irrigation Audits

Jack Overdorff, ECO Land Design \$2,015.74 Invoice 359

C. LuAnne Stout, Admin Services \$300.00 Invoice 05-May-Q040 2019 \$2,315.74

#### July 17 WRWSA Board Meeting

richardowen wrwsa.org 07/15/2019, 2:41 PM

Ms. Ramos, it was a pleasure meeting you and Ms. Marchman at the July 3, 2019 Review Committee meeting. The WRWSA appreciates the efforts by Gray Robinson to respond to the RFQ for legal services. Thank you for letting us know of your decision to withdraw your statement from further consideration.

Sincerely,

Richard S. Owen, AICP
Executive Director
Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority
3600 W. Sovereign Path, Suite 228
Lecanto, FL 34461
richardowen@wrwsa.org
352-293-5955

Heather M. Ramos < Heather.Ramos@gray-robinson.com > 07/15/2019, 10:07

AMlmhaag@tampabay.rr.com;richardowen wrwsa.org;michelle.stone@marioncountyfl.org;

Commissioners Stone and Printz, Mr. Haag and Mr. Owen – We wanted to thank you again very much for your time on July 3. We thoroughly enjoyed meeting each of you and learning about the Water Supply Authority.

Given the results of the review committee, we have decided to withdraw our statement of qualification. We hope to have the pleasure of working with the Water Supply Authority at some point in the future.

Kind regards, Heather

Heather M. Ramos | Shareholder GRAY | ROBINSON

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#### Water Conservation Grants Program – Approval of Awards

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

At the Authority's May 15, 2019 meeting, the Board set the total allocation of funds in Fiscal Year 2019/20 for the Local Government Grant Program at \$130,000. The Authority has received four grant applications, one each from Citrus, Hernando and Marion counties and the City of Crystal River. A summary of the applications is presented below while copies of the applications are included as exhibits to this item.

The three of the four applications received, including Citrus, Hernando and Marion counties, reflect continuations of member government proven effective water conservation programs. The City of Crystal River has also applied for water conservation activities including toilet and irrigation controller rebates and water conservation education programs. Staff analysis of the applications indicates all of the proposed water conservation programs meet the Authority's grant program requirements. It should be noted that the application from Marion County did not contain the required resolution of support and commitment of matching funds from the County Commission. Authority staff discussed this with Marion County staff and encouraged them to submit the application absent this resolution, with the understanding the County staff would seek Commission approval at an upcoming Commission meeting. Representatives of each of the applicants have been invited to attend the meeting and answer any Board questions regarding their respective water conservation grant applications.

It should be noted the total amount of the grant requests exceed the amount approved by the Board for inclusion in the FY 2019-20 budget by \$6,533.50. Staff recommends the Board amend the FY 2019-20 budget by a like amount to afford the funding of these grants. A resolution to amend the budget is included as an exhibit.

#### See Exhibits:

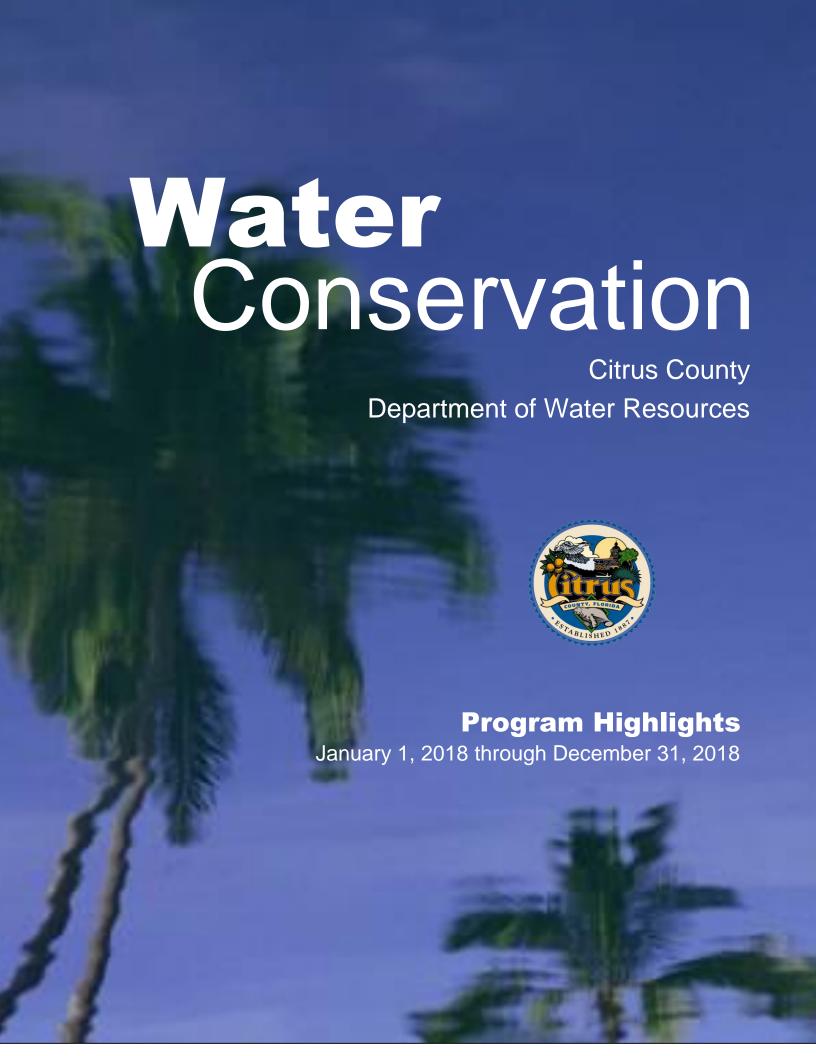
- Citrus County Water Conservation Grant Application
- Hernando County Water Conservation Grant Application
- Marion County Water Conservation Grant Application
- The City of Crystal River Water Conservation Grant Application
- Resolution 2019-05 Amending the FY 2019-20 Budget to Increase the Water Conservation Grant Program from \$130,000.00 to \$136,533.50

#### **Staff Recommendation:**

Board approval of the grants in the amounts shown below, authorization for the Chair to sign the grant Agreements and approval of Resolution 2019-05 Amending the FY 2019-20 budget to increase the amount allocated to the Water Conservation Grant Program from \$130,000.00 to \$136,533.50.

FY 2019-20	WRWSA Grant	Applications and Staff	Recommendations

Applicant	Amount Requested	Amount Requested in Application	Amount Recommended
Citrus County	\$45,995.40	\$ 45,998.50	\$45,995.40
Hernando County	\$48,350.00	\$48,350.00	\$48,350.00
Marion County	\$34,095.00	\$33,095.00	\$34,095.00
Crystal River	\$9,090.00	\$9,090.00	\$9,090.00
Total	\$137,530.40	\$136,533.50	\$137,530.40



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#### INTRODUCTION

Citrus County Utilities serves about 23,500 accounts. According to 2010 census data, the average household size in Citrus is 2.1 persons, which means the utility serves roughly one-third of the more than 144,000¹ citizens in the county. All drinking water within the county is withdrawn from the Floridan aquifer, one of the world's most productive aquifers². Yet, the aquifer is a finite water source and highly dependent on rainfall as demonstrated by several rainfall deficits within recent years. These deficits, or droughts, cause local lakes to empty, wells to dry, and river flows to diminish. In response, Citrus County fell under Water Shortage Orders in 2012, 2013, and 2017, each time reducing the maximum irrigation allowance to one day per week.

Citrus County is not alone in drawing from the Floridan aquifer. Many private well owners, cities, counties, and utilities in Florida depend on this aquifer or surface waters derived from its source. The Floridan Aquifer can be as deep as 500 to 1000 feet in some areas, and in other areas near the land surface<sup>3</sup>. Here in Citrus County, the aquifer is close to the land surface and more vulnerable to contamination.

The County's Department of Water Resources employs a water conservation team solely focused on achieving greater water use efficiency. Demand- or customer-side initiatives include educational programs, financial incentives to replace high water using fixtures with efficient models, customer-side leak detection and irrigation restriction enforcement.

The County has also enacted supply-side measures, such as utility-side leak detection, advanced metering, an increasing-block rate structure and informative customer billing. Together, successful supply- and demand-side reductions allow the County to accommodate a larger population with lesser or equal water supply. Reducing demand on existing water supplies is less expensive than developing costly alternative water sources, such as desalination.

Programs discussed within this water conservation progress report have been implemented throughout the County's water systems, including water use permits known as Charles A. Black, #7121; Sugarmill Woods, #9791; and Citrus Springs/Pine Ridge, #2842.

#### **PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAM**

#### **Community Outreach**

The Department of Water Resources has a team of six employees geared toward reducing citizens' water use through water conservation and Florida-friendly Landscaping™ education.

<sup>2</sup> http://pubs.usgs.gov/ha/ha730/ch\_g/G-text6.html

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> www.census.gov

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> http://proceedings.esri.com/library/userconf/proc95/to100/p088.html

#### **Speaking Engagements**

Our FFL program coordinator and other team members spoke to one hundred and thirty-two (132) citizens at six organizational meetings. Topics discussed were FFL principles, weed management and appropriate fertilization. The participating community organizations include the Beverly Hills and Inverness garden clubs, Citrus Retired Educators, and Kiwanis.

#### Literature Distributed

The water conservation office takes every opportunity to provide citizens with literature on water conservation, water quality, Florida-friendly Landscaping<sup>™</sup>, fertilizer use, Water Sense labeled fixtures and other water-saving information. Below are the titles and quantities of brochures distributed in 2018.

Florida-Friendly Fertilizing	1125
Protect the Waterfront	40
Stormwater Systems	40
Hazardous Chemicals!	40
FFL Program	1552
Florida-Friendly Fertilizing	
Tips	925
Restoring Our Springs	923
Florida-Friendly Class Schedule	865

Water Restrictions	1679
FYN Handbook	94
Plant Selection Guide	119
Basics of Micro-Irrigation	363
Saving Water Indoors	890
Saving Water Outdoors	885
Rain Barrels	865
Irrigation System Maintenance	
Guide	1040

#### Home & Property Owner Association Outreach

Thirty-eight (38) community members of the Terra Vista homeowner association received Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ information and other water conserving tools in 2018. Topics discussed include the Florida-friendly Landscaping, fertilizer use, water conservation and Water Sense labeled irrigation controllers.

#### **Annual Water Conservation Expo**

CCU hosted its 11th Water Conservation Expo in the Sugarmill Woods community in March of 2018. The event focused on saving water indoors and outdoors through leak detection and installation of WaterSense labeled products. The event also aimed to increase awareness of homeowners' contributions to water quality, as the community is within the springsheds of two Outstanding Florida Waterbodies, the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers. Citizens learned how to read their water bill and the benefits of Automated Metering Infrastructure available to the Sugarmill Woods community. Seventy-six (76) residents attended the event. 'Get a handle on leaks' dye tablet cards, Water Sense labeled irrigation controller information



sheets & rebate applications were distributed. Fifty-seven (57) faucet aerators and 34 showerheads were distributed.

The Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ program coordinator, the University of Florida Extension Services director, two utility project managers and three water conservation specialists manned seven tables at this booth-style event. Participants sought information at each booth to complete questions for a raffle entry. Florida-Friendly plants were displayed throughout the event and later used as prizes for raffle participants.

#### Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Classes

The coordinator hosts two monthly Florida-Friendly Landscaping<sup>™</sup> workshops. In 2018, twenty-four classes were held for a total of 520 participants. The annual participation increased by 60 attendees compared to 2017. Class information includes the nine principles of FFL, right plant right place, insect management, fertilizing, efficient irrigation, and more. The class titled Right Plant, Right Place seems to attract the greatest participation.



#### **Irrigation 101 Workshops**

The department held its first Irrigation 101 workshops in 2018. The initiative is geared toward the County's new homeowners and residents that have never had an irrigation system before. The classes discuss local soils, turf water needs, irrigation head types, new plant material establishment, rain sensors, smart controllers and water restrictions. In 2018, two classes were held that reached 78 citizens. Pre and post surveys were distributed to gauge knowledge change. The surveys found that 58% of participants were aware that grass can be watered every other week in cooler months compared to 81% after class



participation. Seventy-one percent of pre-surveyed participants knew that rain sensors are required by Florida Statute compared to 100% of those post surveyed. Fifty-five percent of participants thought mixing irrigation heads in the same zone was a good practice (which it is not), compared to only 2% at the end of the class. Overall, participants indicated their knowledge gain from attending the class grew from an average of 3.5 to 6.8 on a scale of 1 to 10, 1 being 'Not at All knowledgeable' and 10 being 'Very Knowledgeable'.

#### Contractor training

The Department of Water Resources coordinated its first contractor training in 2018. The workshop was intended to educate contractors on water conservation practices desired by citizens that could benefit business and increase customer satisfaction. Five contractors registered for the evening event. Only one contractor actually attended the class.



#### Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Site Visits

Twenty-eight site visits were conducted to instruct homeowners on practices that encourage water conservation and improve water quality. These personal evaluations offer site-specific education that address poor performing turf, plants solutions and developing a new landscape.

#### Master Gardener Outreach

The coordinator takes a lead role in training Master Gardeners through Extension Services. These Master Gardeners then host booths throughout the community, such as libraries and home improvement stores to provide information on basic botany, cultural practices, household pest control, entomology, Florida-Friendly Landscaping, fertilizer and soils. The FFL coordinator worked with 314 Master Gardeners in 2018.

#### **Unity Day**

The FFL coordinator participated in the South Dunnellon community's Unity Day to distribute Florida-Friendly Landscaping information. Twelve (12) citizens were reached.

#### Fix a Leak Week

Citrus County Utilities joined the EPA in celebrating Fix a Leak Week by continuing to promote its Schedule a Specialist program and hosting the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Water Conservation Expo. The events were promoted through the utility's January bill insert, an announcement in the Chronicle & Greenbelt Gazette, letters to new Sugarmill residents, Facebook and Twitter. In addition, the Citrus County Board of County Commissioners adopted a resolution proclaiming March 19-25, 2018 as Fix a Leak Week in Citrus County.



Because minor water leaks account for nearly 1 trillion gallons of water wasted each year in U.S. homes, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Water-Senses\* program promotes Fix a Leak Week the third week of March each year. Fix a Leak Week is an annual reminder to Americans to check household plumbing fixtures and irrigation systems for leaks.

Citrus County Utilities offers the Schedule a Specialist program and Water Conservation Expo each year to provide assistance checking for leaks, as well as water saving fixtures and education. Learn more below.

#### Schedule a Specialist

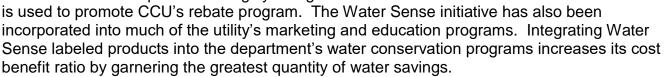
Get the irrigation system spruced up for springl Our water con servation specialists can conduct a FREE irrigation system checkup with you. We also teach how to use your meter to check for leaks, operate the irrigation controller, test the rain sensor and provide toilet leak detection tablets. Call 352-527-7669.

#### **Water Conservation Expo**

Join us at the annual Sugarmill Woods water conservation expon Friday, March 23, 2018 from 12pm to 3pm at the Sugarmill Woods Country Club for expertise on irrigation scheduling, indoor and outdoor leak detection, Florida-friendly Landscaping<sup>18</sup> and water-saving fixtures. There are lost of give-a-ways!

#### 3rd Water Sense Partner of the Year Award

Citrus County Utilities was honored to receive its third consecutive EPA WaterSense partner of the year in 2018. The EPA Water Sense partnership helps increase citizen awareness of indoor and outdoor water saving behaviors and builds awareness of the Water Sense label that guides citizens in making smarter water-saving irrigation controller, toilet, faucet and showerhead choices. Products bearing the WaterSense label have been independently certified to be twenty percent more water efficient and perform as well or better than their less efficient counterparts. The highly recognizable WaterSense® label is used to promote CCU's rebate program. The Water Sense initiative h



#### **Public Exhibits**

#### Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge Day

In December 2018, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Services hosted its annual Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge Day. Two representatives attended the event to discuss fertilizer use in our springshed and the water-saving benefits of Water Sense labeled aerators and showerheads. Thirty (30) aerators and fifteen (15) showerheads were distributed. Together, the associates educated 212 citizens at this event.



#### Home and Garden Shows

The Florida-Friendly Landscaping program coordinator and a water conservation specialist exhibited and distributed information at two home and garden shows hosted by the Citrus County Chronicle in 2018. A variety of topics were addressed, including Florida-friendly landscaping, proper fertilization practices, plant selection, irrigation restrictions, and Water Sense labeled irrigation controllers. Three hundred and forty-six (346) citizens were reached through participating in these events.



#### Chronicle's Welcome Back Snowbirds

Each year the Citrus County Chronicle, the county's primary source for print media, hosts a welcome back snowbirds event at its office in the Meadow Crest community. The FFL coordinator and a conservation specialist spoke with 196 citizens about proper irrigation management, scheduling and Water Sense labeled irrigation controllers.



#### Citrus County Fair

This booth-style event distributed information to 53 citizens about programs and services available through the Citrus County Extension Services office.

#### Plant Sale

The FFL coordinator manned a table at the Extension Service plant sale to distribute Florida-Friendly Landscaping information. Three hundred and twenty-nine (329) citizens claimed information.

#### Youth Outreach

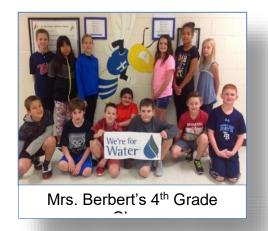
#### Earth Day

The utility participated in an Earth Day event hosted by the Extension Services office to discuss ways to conserve water and protect the aquifer. This event had a youth focus and reached 126 participants. Students again pledge a water-saving behavior and participated in a photo opportunity.



#### Classroom Toilet Leak Detection Challenge

Citrus County Utilities held its 4th annual classroom toilet leak detection challenge in 2018. The initiative prompts 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms to tests toilets at home for leaks. The lesson is based on Water Sense materials altered to meet local needs. The utility provides all necessary supplies to requesting teachers. The



classroom package contains a Teacher's Guide, Student Worksheets, step-by-step toilet leak detection instructions, dye tablets, a fun Water Sense activity page and instructions for parents and guardians explaining how to fix a toilet leak.

To participate, teachers send an email to the conservation office noting the number of students and their school. The necessary supplies are then delivered. Students accompanied by an adult at home complete the toilet leak detection test, worksheet and a brief five-question survey.

Teachers are encouraged to take a photo of their class holding the We're for Water signs and take the We're for Water pledge online. Students are rewarded

with five-minute shower timers and pencils made from recycled newspaper. All participating classrooms receive a certificate of appreciation and are entered into a chance drawing to win a pizza party. Pizzas are donated. The program results are presented and the pizza-party chance drawing takes place during a Citrus County Board of County Commissioners meeting. Teachers and students tune in to see the drawing live.

Thirty (30) classrooms from 6 Citrus County primary schools participated, totaling 352 students. Together the students tested 537 toilets and identified 68 leaks for a potential water savings of more than 18,000 gallons a day.

#### Science Nights

The FFL program coordinator and conservation specialists participated in science nights at Homosassa, Inverness and Floral City Elementary, reaching 428 students in 2018. Students pledged how they would save water and proudly posed for photos.



#### **Drop Savers Poster Contest**

Citrus County Utilities coordinates the American Water Works Associations' annual Drop Savers Poster Contest locally to promote water conservation awareness and to celebrate the Keep Citrus County Beautiful Save Our Waters Week campaign. Additionally, the campaign raises awareness to Water Sense labeled products and their savings potential. Students grades K-12 create a poster depicting a water-saving idea, in slogan form, drawing form, or both.

In 2018, a twenty-five-dollar cash prize was awarded to each of the five division winners. Divisions are as follows: Division 1 kindergarten and first grades; Division 2 - second and third grades; Division 3 - fourth and fifth grades (photo below,



Division 3 winner, 5th grader Savanna McMullen and teacher Mrs. Easom of Citrus Springs Elementary); Division 4 - sixth, seventh and eighth grades. The school of each division winner received a plaque displaying the winning poster. Division winning posters were also submitted to the Florida Section of American Water Works Association's state-wide Drop Savers poster contest.

The Citrus County Division One winner also won second place in the AWWA statewide contest.

#### **Articles & Reports to Media**

News releases are issued to support each of the 24 annual department sponsored FFL classes, water conservation programing, annual quantifiable water savings, EPA's Fix a Leak Week initiatives, the classroom leak detection challenge, poster contest, and more. All pross releases are distributed to media the

contest, and more. All press releases are distributed to media through the County's public information officer.

- Why We're for Water. Article published. January 18, 2018.
- Students Challenged to Detect Water Leaks.
   Press Release issued. February 20, 2018.
- Irrigation 101 Workshop. Press release issued. April 30, 2018.
- Students challenged to Detect Water Leaks, Save Water. Article published. March 3, 2018.
- Citrus County Celebrates EPA's Fix a Leak Week. Press Released issued. March 13, 2018.
- Proclamation: BOCC Proclaims EPA's Fix a Leak Week. March 13, 2018.
- Fix a Leak Week. Facts on Leaks. ½ page Advertisement. March 18, 2018.
- Sugarmill Woods Water Conservation Expo. ½
   Page Advertisement. March 22, 2018.
- April is Water Conservation Month. ½ page Advertisement. March 31, 2018.
- Proclamation: BOCC Proclaims April is Water Conservation Month. April 10, 2018.
- 11th Annual SMW Water Conservation Expo. Announcement published. April 19, 2018.
- Irrigation 101 workshop. ¼ page Advertisement. April 27, 2018.
- Irrigation 101 workshop. ¼ page Advertisement. April 30, 2018.
- Water Conservation Specialists Speak (at irrigation 101 class). Article published. July 9, 2018.





- Winners of Drop Savers Poster Contest. Press Release issued. May 3, 2018.
- Young Water Savers Excel in (poster) Contest. Article published. May 2018.
- Students Find Leaky Toilets. Press Release issued. May 9, 2018.
- Water Conservation Warriors Find Leaky Toilets. Article published. May 2018.
- Citrus County Saves 13.4 Million. Press Release issued June 11, 2018.
- Citrus County BOCC Celebrates Smart Irrigation Month. Press Release issued. July 9, 2018
- Proclamation: BOCC Proclaims Smart Irrigation Month in Citrus County. July 10, 2018.
- Smart Irrigation Month. Paid Advertisement. July 17, 2018.
- Citrus BOCC Celebrates Smart Irrigation Month. Article published. Citrus County Chronicle. July 22, 2018
- County Focuses on Irrigation. Editorial. Citrus County Chronicle. July 31, 2018.
- Citrus County Utilities Wins 2018 Water Sense Partner of the Year Award. Press Release issued September 26, 2018.
- County Receives Grant. Press Released issued. October 2, 2018
- Citrus County Utilities Encourages Consumers to "Shower Better" With WaterSense® This Energy Action Month. Press Released issued. October 2, 2018.
- Citrus County Utilities Wins National Water Sense partner of the Year Award. Article published. October 18. 2018.
- County Grant Program to Reduce Excess Irrigation. Article published. October 18, 2018.
- Save Water: October is Energy Action Month in Citrus. Article published. October 18. 2018.
- Sugarmill Woods Unexpected Lawn Woes. Article. 2018.
- BOCC Acknowledges Receipt of the EPA's 2018 Water Sense Partner of the Year Award. October 23, 2018.
- Prizes for Water Conservation Posters. Press Release issued December 5, 2018.

#### Water Audit Customer Assistance

#### Schedule a Specialist

On average, landscape irrigation accounts for about 50% of Citrus County Utilities public water supply. However, that is an average. Some customer use 70% or more of water purchased on the landscape. The Schedule a Specialist program addresses both indoor and outdoor water use efficiency. The training, which takes place at the homeowner's site, includes a zone-by-zone walk of the irrigation system with the customer to identify inefficiencies such as leaky, broken or blocked sprinkler heads, heads that can be capped, and sprays that need adjusting. A rain sensor test is performed to ensure proper function. If the sensor is not functioning, the specialist explains the County's \$50 account credit for sensor replacement.

The SAS program also aims to teach owners how to operate their irrigation controller to make necessary seasonal adjustments or simply turn the system off. Staff explain seasonal needs of turf and offer suggested runtimes based on the customer's landscape. Specialists also perform a leak check using the meter.

Each participant is provided a folder of water-saving information, such as the current water restrictions, available rebates, watering guide for new sod, FFL principles, micro-irrigation, protecting our springs, fertilizing guide, rain barrels and toilet leak detection dye tablets. Lastly, free faucet aerators and showerheads are offered. Two hundred, seventy-seven (277) appointments were conducted in 2018. Water saving results will be available next year for the 2018 trainings.

Below are water savings for the 2017 trainings. Results are based on a comparison of billed water use twelve months prior to the visit and twelve months after the visit.

Pre & Post Water Use Comparison

Schedule a Specialist	·
Single Family Residential	2017: 363 Appointments
	1 <sup>st</sup> Year Results
Gallons Saved	19,382,000
% Reduction in Water Use	25%

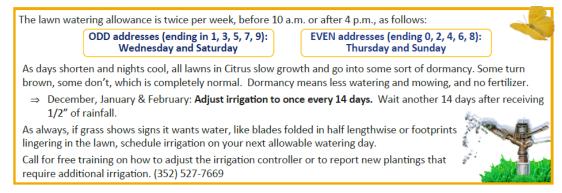
#### **Year-round Landscape Irrigation Conservation Measures**

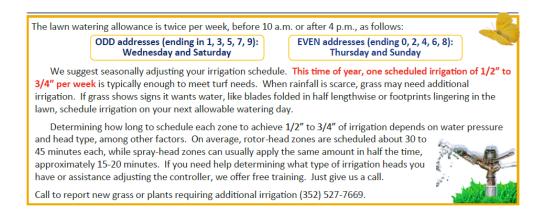
#### Social Media

Citrus County keeps its citizens updated on current water restrictions and best management practices through Facebook and Twitter throughout the year. In the winter months, it endorsed the District's Skip a Week campaign and in the summer, Watch the Weather – Wait to Water. Additionally, Water Sense awareness, indoor and outdoor water saving tips, programs and events are promoted throughout the year.

#### Included in Bill Insert

The utility's water conservation bill inserts detail the current watering allowances, as well as the suggested irrigation frequency for the season. The newsletter was included in seven bills in 2018 for a distribution of more than 164,000. Below are examples of irrigation scheduling suggestions from the December and August inserts.





#### **Information Posted on Website**

Citrus County Utilities maintains a webpage at <a href="www.citrusbocc.com/waterres/conservation/">www.citrusbocc.com/waterres/conservation/</a> for its customers to find information regarding water conservation, water restrictions and Florida-Friendly Landscaping™. In 2018, the site received 8,952 pageviews, of which 7,139 were unique. The 2018 views are about half of the those logged in 2017. The water restrictions webpage accounted for the difference. The County was under one-day per week water restrictions in '17, which led to increased traffic. The average time citizens spent on the site in 2018 was two minutes, two seconds.

#### Water Efficient Landscape Demonstration Project

The Department of Water Resources staff help coordinate and maintain Extension Services' Florida-Friendly landscape behind its office. The landscape has a winding path through native and non-native Florida-friendly plants, all clearly labeled for citizens. Best Management Practices are displayed throughout. The garden is visited by workshop participants, master gardener classes, government employees, as well as citizens attending events such as Earth Day and the plant sales.

#### **Information in Customer Bills & Mailings**

#### Fix a Leak Week AMI Mailing

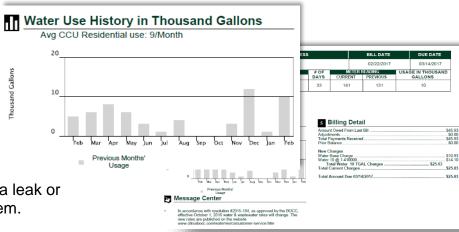
Citrus County Utilities took advantage of its AMI meters in the Sugarmill Woods community by mailing customers with potential leaks a day's worth of hourly readings. Customer that had usage between 1:00 AM and 3:00 AM and/or used at least ten gallons of water every three hours throughout the day were targeted.

The letter described how to use the meter to check for leaks, announced the annual water conservation expo, explained toilet leak detection and offered customer the opportunity to request more readings by contacting the conservation office. About 600 customers received the letter. Pre and post water data will be available in next year's report.

#### Informative Customer Billing

Citrus County Utilities bills for service each month. The monthly usage bar chart is a quick reference tool to help customers monitor changes in water use. The chart shows up to thirteen months of usage in thousands of gallons. Significant

increases in use often signal a leak or malfunctioning irrigation system.



#### **Bill Inserts**

In 2018, seven water-conservation oriented newsletters and three rebate applications were sent to Citrus County Utilities' customers via bill inserts. Some of the topics discussed, were as follows:

#### <u>January</u>

- EPA Water Sense Fix A Leak Week
- Every other week irrigation in winter
- Rain Sensors reduce water use
- FFL classes

#### March

- Irrigation system water consumption
- Checking for pool leak
- Fertilizer ordinance
- New plant material watering

#### April

- Irrigation 101 class
- April is Water Conservation Month
- SMW offer for hourly reading data
- New sod watering calendar
- Schedule a Specialist

#### <u>May</u>

- Try 1-day per week irrigation
- Dollar weed love water

- Call before you install (new plants)
- Hurricane Season FYI
- Keep grass high for drought tolerance

#### <u> Iuly</u>

- July is Smart Irrigation Month
- Poster contest water-saving tips
- Switch to a Water Sense showerhead and save

#### <u>August</u>

- Over irrigation can harm grass
- 23<sup>rd</sup> annual Save Our Waters Week
- How to read your water bill

#### **November**

- Irrigation 101 class to be offered
- Winter lawn maintenance tips
- Schedule a Specialist

#### **OUTDOOR WATER USE REDUCTION PROGRAM**

#### **Ordinance Limiting Lawn and Landscape Irrigation**

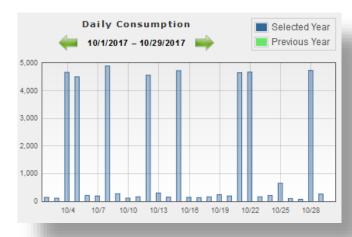
Citrus County adopted a water restriction ordinance consistent with the District's. Three full-time staff enforces Year-Round Water Conservation Measures and Water Shortage Orders, per FAC 40D, for all properties within unincorporated Citrus County.

#### Water Restriction Enforcement

The water restriction ordinance allows the utility to immediately issue a monetary fine for irrigation violations, when necessary. However, typically citizens receive a one-time educational notice informing them of the current water restrictions before monetary violations are issued.

Enforcement focuses on four primary issues: wrong day / wrong time irrigation; irrigating during or shortly after a significant rain event; broken irrigation system parts; and new plant material watering allowances.

In addition to violations observed during patrol, the utility began using its advanced metering infrastructure to issue violations in August 2017. The AMI software called Mi-Net, allows staff to generate a daily spreadsheet of all water use by account. The information is then sorted to eliminate low water use and accounts able to irrigate on a given day. The Mi-Net software produces a daily and hourly water use bar chart for each account to easily see patterns and identify potential irrigation violations.



Most, not all, enforcement is within areas that receive Citrus County Utilities water. In 2018,

the utility issued 600 water violations. The utility is able to generate a report of customer water use twelve months before a violation is issued and compare to subsequent years. Below are the water savings that resulted from violation notices issued in 2017. Data for 2018 will be available next year.

Pre & Post Water Use Comparison: Ordinance Enforcement Via Patrol

Violations Observation During Patrol (wrong day or time, broken irrigation parts)		
Residential & Commercial	Residential & Commercial	
Janua	January 2017 through December 2017	
853 Violations Issued		
1 <sup>st</sup> Year Results		
Gallons Saved 27,425,000		
% Reduction in Water Use	21%	

Pre & Post Water Use Comparison: Ordinance Enforcement Via AMI data

The direct trates of Companies in Chamanes Emercement that in adda		
Violations Using Advanced Metering Infrastructure (Mi-Net) (wrong day or time)		
Residential & Commercial		
August 2017 through December 2017		
593 Violations Issued		
	1 <sup>st</sup> Year Results	
Gallons Saved	25,531,000	
% Reduction in Water Use	20%	

#### New Plant Material Watering Allowance

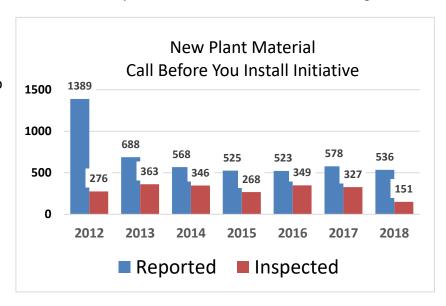
At an average of 500 gallons of water used per irrigation zone and 4,500 per complete irrigation cycle, watering new plantings, sod and seed can consume large quantities of water. The *Call Before You Install* (CBYI) program asks customers to voluntarily call when installing new plant material. This initiative was established to educate citizens about irrigation allowances for new plant material, focus additional irrigation to only those areas that qualify, explain the hazards of over-irrigating established plantings, provide a research-based new sod establishment calendar, reduce the number of violations issued that have a valid exemption and eliminate the watering of aesthetic grasses, such as ryegrass.

Water Conservation Specialists conduct site visits for customers that intend to use the automatic irrigation system to water sod installed in only a portion of the yard. These visits reduce the number of customers that would otherwise use the automatic irrigation system to establish plugs or small patches of grass that could more efficiently be watered by hand or with a hose-end sprinkler. The visits also enforce that only the irrigation zones with greater than 50% new plant material can be watered with the automatic irrigation system, rather than all zones. Customers that have replaced the entire yard with new turf are not visited, rather given the allowances and suggested establishment calendar.

The establishment calendar is based on University of Florida research that encourages small

amounts of water frequently in the beginning. Then, increases irrigation volumes while decreasing frequency, until phased into the suggested ½" to ¾" irrigation about once per week.

All participants are given a folder of water-saving information. Five hundred and thirty-six (536) citizens called to report new plant material in 2018. One hundred and fifty-one (151) of these customers received an educational site visit.



#### Administrative Regulation Requiring Florida-Friendly Landscaping<sup>™</sup>

Citrus County has implemented Administrative Regulation 12.10- 2, titled Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Green Industry Best Management Practices (FFL/GI-BMP) Educational Program to reduce nutrient leaching and runoff into ground and surface waters, and to encourage adoption of BMPs by employees and citizens through education.

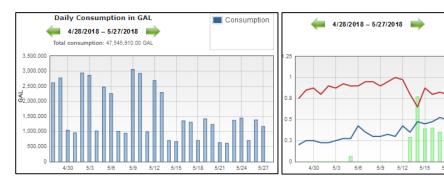
#### Full-time FFL Program Coordinator

The Citrus County Department of Water Resources employs a fulltime Florida-Friendly Landscaping Program Coordinator. This staff member is located at the Extension Services office for greatest contact with the public and University of Florida FFL program initiatives.

#### **Ordinance Requiring Rain Interrupting Device**

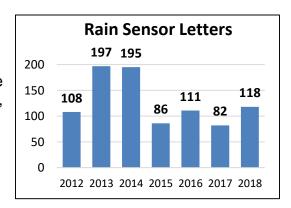
Citrus County has adopted an ordinance (Ch. 66, Article II, Div. I, Sec. 66-36 through 66-40) requiring all automatic irrigation systems to have a functioning rain shut off device, per F.S. 373.62.

Whether the result of customer education or functioning rain sensors, Citrus County's advanced metering data shows that most automatic irrigation systems are not watering after significant rainfall. The blue bar chart on the left below shows daily system-wide use for permit #9791 that predominately serves the Sugarmill Woods community. Allowable irrigation days are those around 2,500,000 gallons or more from the end of April to mid-May. The light green bar chart on the right below shows rainfall in inches. Comparing the two, water use drops by more than one million gallons per irrigation day after significant rainfall.



#### Rain Sensor Notices

Irrigating during or after a significant rain event is most often an indicator that a functioning rain sensor is not present, as required by F.S. 373.62. Letters are sent to residents irrigating under these circumstances, noting that, "If a rain sensor exists, we recommend testing to verify it is functioning properly." Further adding that, "if a rain sensor is not currently installed on the irrigation system, please install one to ensure no future notices are necessary."



Precipitation (in.)

High (°F)

Low (°F)

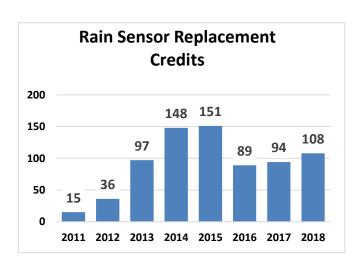
Each rain sensor education notice is accompanied by a \$50 rain sensor rebate application and an offer for a free rain sensor test. One hundred and eighteen (118) rain sensor notices were issued in 2018. Below are the water savings that resulted from 2017 notices.

Pre & Post Water Use Comparison

Rain Sensor: Patrol and Advanced Metering Infrastructure		
Residential & Commercial		
January 2017 through December 2017		
82 Violations Issued (irrigation may not be connected)		
	1 <sup>st</sup> Year Results	
Gallons Saved	2,731,000	
% Reduction in Water Use	24%	

#### Rain Sensor Replacement Account Credit

The rain sensor account credit program offers a \$50 incentive for customers to replace a non-functioning sensor. Required by Florida Statute 373-62, a functioning rain sensor turns off an irrigation cycle during or after a significant rainfall. The amount of water used to irrigate a landscape ranges from hundreds to thousands of gallons per cycle. Each interrupted cycle saves a substantial amount of water. One hundred and eight (108) rain sensor credits were issued in 2018. Water savings data will be available next year for the 2018 program.



Pre & Post Water Use Comparison

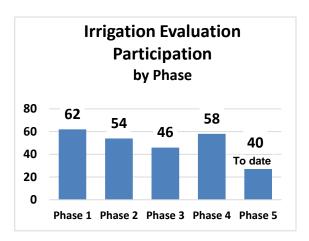
Rain Sensor - Account Credit		
Single Family Residential		
January 2017 through December 2017		
94 Credits (irrigation may not be connected to CCU system)		
	1 <sup>st</sup> Year Results	
Gallons Saved	3,310,000	
% Reduction in Water Use	19%	

#### **Landscape Irrigation Audit Program**

#### CFI Irrigation Evaluations Phases 1-5

Citrus County continues to partner with the WRWSA and SWFWMD to carry out irrigation evaluations for its high water use customers. The program targets users that average greater than 20,000 gallons of water each month with automatic irrigation systems connected to Citrus County Utilities.

The following charts compare customers' 12-month pre-water consumption to post water use in phases one through three. Water savings are based on customer's actual billed water consumption.



Pre & Post Water Use Comparison: Phases 1-3

Pre & Post Water Use Comparison: Phases 1-3						
Phase 1 - N27	Phase 1 - N278 Irrigation Evaluation Program:					
Single Family	Single Family Residential					
	Completed September 2011 – October 2012					
62 Evaluations Completed						
	1 <sup>st</sup> Year	2 <sup>nd</sup> Year	3 <sup>rd</sup> Year	4 <sup>th</sup> Year	5 <sup>th</sup> Year	6th Year
	(2013)	(2014)	(2015)	(2016)	(2017)	(2018)
Gallons Saved	6,879,000	7,418,000	7,190,000	9,217,000	7,459,000	11,514,000
% Reduction in Water Use	29%	31%	30%	39%	31%	48%

Phase 2 - N491 Irrigation Evaluation Program: Single Family Residential				
Completed May 2013 – June 2014				
54 Evaluations Completed				
	1 <sup>st</sup> Year	2 <sup>nd</sup> Year	3 <sup>rd</sup> Year	4 <sup>th</sup> Year
	(2015)	(2016)	(2017)	(2018)
Gallons Saved	4,526,000	6,180,000	3,776,000	5,526,000
% Reduction in Water Use	23%	30%	9%	22%

Phase 3 - N640 Irrigation Evaluation Program: Single Family Residential			
Completed January 2015 – August 2015  46 Evaluation Completed			
	1 <sup>st</sup> Year (2016)	2 <sup>nd</sup> Year (2017)	3 <sup>rd</sup> Year (2018)
Gallons Saved	1,556,000	618,000	3,305,000

% Reduction in	100/	40/	220/
Water Use	10%	4%	22%

#### N860 Pilot Water Sense Labeled Irrigation Controller CFI Initiative

Citrus County partnered with the SWFWMD to incentivize installation of 75 Water Sense labeled irrigation controllers in 2018. Research shows that ET Controllers, such as those labeled Water Sense, have a potential water savings of 18% to 32% compared to traditional irrigation controllers<sup>4</sup>. Savings trend towards the higher percentage range when high water use sites are targeted and participants are also provided education. Both factors were incorporated into the N860 controller project. In addition, each participant received an irrigation system checkup training from a County water conservation specialist and education on operation of the new controller. Fifty (50) installations were completed during this pilot phase. Twelve-month post water use will be available next year.

#### Rain Gauge Distribution

A rain gauge is used to measure rainfall. Most grasses require no more than ½" to ¾" of water each week. This simple tool prompts homeowners to shut off their irrigation system when a sufficient amount of rain has fallen. The utility distributes free rain gauges at events, irrigation audits, workshops, trainings and more. Hundreds of citizens took advantage of the program in 2017.

#### Other Programs Designed to Reduce Outdoor Water Use

#### Water Sense® Labeled Irrigation Controller Account Credit

In 2018, forty-eight (48) customers were issued a \$150 credit on their water bill for updating their irrigation controller to a Water Sense® approved model. According to the EPA, Water Sense labeled controllers save an average of 8,800 gallons of water annually or 20% less than a traditional controller. Shown below, the first year of data for the 2017 controller credits showed a 21% decrease in water use.

Pre & Post Water Use Comparison

1 to a tool water one companion		
Water Sense® Labeled Irrigation Controller - Account Credit		
Single Family Residential – Open to ALL customers, regardless of water use level		
January 2017 – December 2017		
43 Controller Account Credits Issued		
1 <sup>st</sup> Year		
	(2018)	
Gallons Saved	2,268,000	
% Reduction in Water Use	21%	

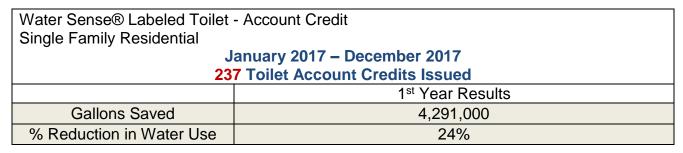
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Water Research Foundation, Smart Irrigation Controller Demonstration and Evaluation in Orange County Florida, [Project #4227], June 2016.

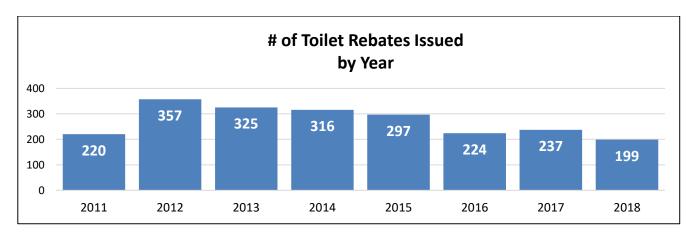
#### INDOOR WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM

#### Plumbing retrofit rebates

#### WaterSense® Toilet Account Credit

Toilets installed prior to 1995 typically use 3.5 to 7 gallons per flush (gpf). Water Sense labeled toilets use 1.28 gpf or less. CCU offers its customers a \$100 incentive to replace pre-1995 toilets with WS labeled models. Toilets produced after 1995 were made efficient through the Energy Policy act of 1992, which required toilets to be manufactured to use 1.6 gpf or less. One-year post water use results are available for the 237 toilets rebates issued in 2017.





#### Energy Star® Clothes Washer Account Credit

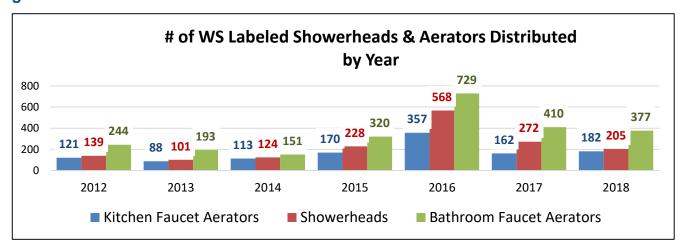
Energy Star certified clothes washers are more water efficient than standard models. When funds are available, CCU offers customers a \$75 credit for choosing an Energy Star rated washer. The Energy Star rating includes water efficiency standards. Water savings are estimated between 14 and 16 gallons per day, per washer, with an estimated life of five years. Cumulative daily savings from rebates issued since



2014 are an estimated 2,359,725 gallons per day.

#### Faucet aerator and showerhead giveaways

Citrus County Utilities provides free Water Sense labeled kitchen faucet aerators, bathroom faucet aerators and showerheads to its customers. These fixtures are easy to install and use about 20% less water than standard fixtures. Customers can pick up the fixtures from the conservation office or one of the many community events throughout the year. Research shows that only about 50% of those distributed are actually installed. With an average life of five years and a 50% install rate, estimated savings since 2014 are about 13,014,529 gallons of water.



#### RESOLUTION NO. 19 R-233

A RESOLUTION OF MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA SUPPORTING THE MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' APPLICATION FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT WATER SUPPLY FUNDING ASSISTANCE FROM THE WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY FOR LOCAL WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM EFFORTS.

WHEREAS, the Marion County Board of County Commissioners (Board) recognizes the importance of efficient water use to protect and sustain its local water supply and related natural resources; and

WHEREAS, the Board is required by permit to promote water conservation initiatives, which include but are not limited to conservation rate structures, a countywide landscape irrigation ordinance, homeowner workshops, and irrigation evaluation and education services; and

WHEREAS, the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (Authority), through its own recognition of the importance of water use efficiency, has created a local government water supply assistance program which provides funding to member governments specifically for water conservation projects; and

WHEREAS, the Board is seeking a grant through the Authority's funding assistance program for landscape and irrigation retrofits, toilet rebates, low-flow retrofit kits and homeowner-education elements of its overall water conservation programming in Fiscal Year 2019/2020; and

WHEREAS, the Board is required, according to the terms of the Authority's funding assistance program, to budget and expend matching funds equal to or greater than fifty percent (50%) of the amount of the requested grant;

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

- Marion County Board of County Commissioners supports the application to the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority for local program funding for the 2019/2020 fiscal year.
- 2. Marion County Board of County Commissioners agrees to budget \$46,100 as part of its on-going Water Use Efficiency Program.

This resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption of the final budget for Fiscal Year 2019/2020 by the Board of County Commissioners of Marion County, Florida.

PASSED AND DULY ADOPTED this day of day of 2019

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA

Michelle Stone, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

DAVID R. ELLSPERMANN, CLERK



# WRWSA Executive Director Recruitment July 17, 2019 Board Meeting

## Advertisements

- Tampa Bay Times, Citrus Chronicle, Leesburg Daily Commercial and Ocala Star-Banner
- Florida Section of the American Water Works Association
- Florida Section of the American Water Resources Association
- My Water Daily
- Authority's website
- Member county procurement opportunities



# Recruitment Process

- Open until August 16, 2019
- Applications reviewed by staff
- Short list of a maximum of five applicants developed
- Authority staff contact previous employers and references
- Short list is invited to interview with the Board at the September 19, 2019 meeting



# Recruitment Process

(continued)

- September 19, 2019 Board Meeting
  - Board ranks the applicants
  - Authorizes staff to enter into negotiations with applicants in ranked order
- Proposed contract presented at the November 20, 2019 meeting for approval



# Staff Recommendation

- Approval of the recruitment process
- Approval of the advertisement, including minimum qualifications

## Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority Consulting Executive Director

Closing Date/Time
August 16, 2019, 5:00 p.m. EST

Summary of Duties: This is an annual contractual position; the appointment is as the Chief Executive Officer of the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority. The position is referred to as the Executive Director and reports directly to the Board of Directors of the Authority. The position includes daily direction and operating responsibility, including managing all of the Authority's consulting contracts and project contracts as well as budgeting and financial responsibility. The Executive Director is responsible for organizing and preparing the monthly Board meeting agenda and ensuring minutes of the meeting are prepared. The Executive Director functions as the principal agent of the 13-member Board of Directors in recommending and implementing policies the Board adopts and also participates in Authority activities and performs other duties as needed. The position is responsible for ensuring compliance with all federal and state requirements.

#### Position Qualifications and Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in political science, business
  administration, public administration or management, or in a technical field related to water
  resources/water supply AND ten year's progressively responsible, related experience,
  INCLUDING at least five years' experience in a senior-level management capacity OR an
  equivalent combination of education and experience is required.
- Masters or higher-level education or professional accreditation in business, management, public administration or other applicable degree field is preferred.
- Demonstrated strong leadership, management, communication and diplomacy skills are required.
- Possession of a valid Florida Driver License upon signing of contract is required.
- Demonstrated knowledge of water resource-related issues, resource management, regulation and conservation theory and practice is preferred. Florida specific water resource management and development knowledge and experience is preferred.
- Education or experience in engineering, science or water-resource related field is desirable.
- Applicants are subject to a background check.

Appointment Conditions: The Executive Director is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Authority Board of Directors. The position is an annual contractual arrangement in which the consulting Executive Director is NOT an employee of the Board, but a consultant. Conditions of employment and remuneration are subject to contract negotiations. Applicants must live either in the four-county regional area or within commuting distance outside the region such that access to the office in Lecanto, to member government office locations, and/or to events within the region and state are possible.

<u>To Apply for this Position</u>: To receive consideration as an applicant, interested candidates must submit the following:

- 1. A cover letter summarizing interest in the position and relevant qualifications:
- 2. A current resume; and
- The names, addresses and telephone numbers of five references, at least three of which must be work-related.

Applications should be submitted to the:

Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority
Attn: Contracting Executive Director Recruitment
3600 W Sovereign Path
Suite 228
Lecanto, FL 34461

Applications must be received by August 16, 2019, 5:00 p.m. EST.