

DRAFT

WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Minutes of the Meeting November 8, 2023

TIME: 3:30 p.m.
PLACE: Lecanto Government Building
ADDRESS: 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

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

2. Roll Call

Ms. Suzannah Folsom, WRWSA Executive Director, called the roll and a quorum was declared not present. Ms. Folsom noted that Item 6, Consent Agenda, will be considered at the January 24, 2024 meeting.

BOARD MEMBER PRESENT

Craig Estep, *Treasurer*, Sumter County Commissioner
David Bailey, Brooksville City Councilor
Robert “Bo” Smith, Belleview City Commissioner

BOARD ALTERNATE(S) PRESENT

Ken Frink, Crystal River Assistant City Manager
Jody Kirkman, Marion County Utilities Director

BOARD MEMBER(S) ABSENT

Jeff Kinnard, *Chair*, Citrus Co Commissioner
Beth Narverud, *Vice Chair*, Hernando County Commissioner
Rebecca Bays, Citrus County Commissioner
Ken Brown, Crystal River City Councilor
Jerry Campbell, Hernando County Commissioner
Kathy Bryant, Marion County Commissioner
Michelle Stone, Marion County Commissioner
Dale Swain, Bushnell City Councilor
Don Wiley, Sumter County Commissioner
Carl Zalak, Marion County Commissioner

3. Introductions and Announcements

WRWSA STAFF PRESENT

Suzannah J. Folsom, PE, PMP, Executive Dir
James Hartley, General Counsel Assistant
LuAnne Stout, Administrative Asst.

WRWSA STAFF ABSENT

Robert W. Batsel, Jr., General Counsel

OTHERS PRESENT

Debra Burden, Citrus Co Water Conservation Mgr
Trevor Knight, Marion Co Water Resources Liaison
Lisa Krentz, Hazen and Sawyer
Ron Patel, Hernando County
Joseph Quinn, SWFWMD Water Supply Project Mgr
Doug Leeper, SWFWMD Minimum Flows and Levels
Randy Smith, SWFWMD Bureau Chief for Natural Systems and Restoration
Paige TaraCruz, SWFWMD Project Manager

4. Pledge of Allegiance – Treasurer Estep led those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. Public Comment – There being no members of the audience requesting to address the Board, Treasurer Estep closed public comment.

6. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of Minutes** – The September 20, 2023, draft minutes were provided in the Board’s meeting materials.
- b. Bills to be Paid** – October and November 2023 will be provided at the Board’s next meeting.

Board took no action as a quorum was noted presented. Items 6.a. and 6.b. will be presented that the Board’s next meeting.

7. Irrigation Audit Program Phase 6 – Review of Draft Report

Mrs. Suzannah Folsom, WRWSA, presented this item. Phase VI of the Authority’s Regional Irrigation System Evaluation Program began in December 2020 as part of the Authority’s ongoing water conservation initiative. Phase VI of the Irrigation Audit Program was funded by and completed in cooperation with the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD), Citrus, Hernando, and Marion counties and the North Sumter County Utility Dependent District (NSCUDD) and the Villages Community Center Development District (VCCDD).

The draft report details the number of evaluations completed, the estimated water saved, and the cost effectiveness of this phase of the program. Phase VI is on time and within budget. A summary of the major findings of the Phase VI effort will be presented at the January meeting. The Phase VI draft report is provided as an exhibit for review and comment. It has also been provided to the cooperating utilities and SWFWMD for review. A final report will be submitted to SWFWMD by the end of December.

Board took no action. Staff will incorporate any comments received by the Board, the cooperating utilities, and SWFWMD into a final report. Staff will incorporate comments on this draft report into a final report and submit it to SWFWMD by December 31, 2023.

8. Charles A. Black Wellfield Fiscal Year 2022-23 Revenues

Mrs. Suzannah Folsom, WRWSA Executive Director, will presented this item. The end of Fiscal Year 2022-23 represented the sixth full year operating under the revised Water Supply Contract with Citrus County. The purpose of this agenda item is to report to the Board the status of water sales to Citrus County and corresponding revenues for the fiscal year. The FY 2022-23 budget included the minimum contract charge of \$240,000. The revenue received reflects a surplus revenue of \$64,760.

The following table summarizes quantities of water sold water and revenues for FY 2022-23.

Month	Pumpage Reported by Citrus Co.	Rate	Amount Billed	Payment	Payment Date
Oct	155,079,000	0.1487	\$23,060.25	\$23,060.25	11/3/2022
Nov	159,326,200	0.1487	\$23,691.81	\$23,691.81	12/2/2022
Dec	167,725,000	0.1487	\$24,940.71	\$24,940.71	1/4/2023
Jan	155,287,000	0.1487	\$23,091.18	\$23,091.18	2/2/2023
Feb	148,855,000	0.1487	\$22,134.74	\$22,134.74	3/2/2023
Mar	187,912,000	0.1487	\$27,942.51	\$27,942.51	4/3/2023
Apr	195,405,000	0.1487	\$29,056.72	\$29,056.72	5/4/2023
May	191,571,000	0.1487	\$28,486.61	\$28,486.61	6/5/2023
Jun	172,460,000	0.1487	\$25,644.80	\$25,644.80	7/5/2023
Jul	172,361,000	0.1487	\$25,630.08	\$25,630.08	8/4/2023
Aug	173,185,000	0.1487	\$25,752.61	\$25,752.61	9/3/2023
Sep	170,331,000	0.1487	\$25,328.22	\$25,328.22	10/4/2023
Total	2,049,497,200	0.1487	\$304,760.23	\$304,760.23	

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

9. Minimum Flows and Levels – Priority Lists and Schedules

Mrs. Suzannah Folsom, WRWSA Executive Director, introduced Mr. Doug Leeper with the Southwest Florida Water Management District Natural Systems Restoration Department who presented a status report to the Board of the establishment of minimum flows and levels (MFLs) in the Authority's four-county area.

Chapter 373, Florida Statutes, requires each of the water management districts to have a Priority List and Schedule for the establishment of MFLs. This Priority List and Schedule identifies water bodies for which the District plans to establish minimum flows and levels and also identifies planned water reservations. Minimum flows and levels are limits set by the District Governing Board for surface waters and groundwater systems that are intended to prevent significant harm to the water resources or ecology of the area that may be caused by water withdrawals. Reservations set aside water from withdrawals for the protection of fish and wildlife or public health and safety.

The Districts are required to update this List and Schedule each year and provide the updated List to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) by November 15th. Included as exhibits to this item are the MFLs that have been established to-date, and the proposed Priority Lists and Schedules for waterbodies within the WRWSA four-county area that are to be approved by the District Governing Boards for submittal to the DEP in November. A GIS map of the MFL locations and the current status of the MFL are provided by the DEP Office of Water Policy.

The Water Management Districts will use these MFLs to assess the health of the environment and will limit the issuance of future water supply permits based on monitoring these locations. All MFLs are currently being met except for the Silver Spring MFL, which is listed as "Prevention" which means that the SJRWMD has a Prevention Strategy in place to bring it back to "Meeting" the MFL. This strategy includes conservation, aquifer recharge with the Ocala wetland aquifer recharge park, relocating supply to the lower Floridan aquifer, and increasing use of reclaimed for irrigation.

The most relevant upcoming MFLs to be set will be four locations along the Withlacoochee River, three of which were "rescheduled from 2024 to 2025 based on delayed acquisition of topographic data necessary for hydrologic model development" and the fourth (Lower segment) rescheduled from 2024 to 2026 "to allow for acquisition of critical environmental data necessary for hydrological modeling of the estuarine portion of the river".

The Withlacoochee River has been identified as a potential alternative water supply source for the region, but the potential quantities that could be available cannot be determined until the minimum flows are set. WRWSA will continue to monitor and report on efforts to set these MFLs.

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

10. Legislative Report

Ms. Suzannah Folsom, WRWSA Executive Director, presented this item. The 2024 Florida Legislative Session is scheduled to start January 9, 2024 and end March 8, 2024. Staff will gather information on relevant bills that are related to conservation and water supply from SWFWMD, 1000 Friends of Florida, and the Florida Engineering Society's Conservation and Environmental Quality Committee, and the House and Senate websites. Hernando County and Sumter County both held their local legislative delegation meetings on October 26, 2023.

This item was for the Board's information only and no action was required.

11. Attorney's Report – Mr. Batsel was not present and Mr. James Hartley was introduced as his assistant. No report provided at this time.

12. Executive Director's Report – Ms. Folsom presented the following items which required no action.

- a. **Water Use Permit Demand Summary** - A summary was in the Board's meeting materials. .
- b. **Water Management Information System Water Use Permit Notifications** – A list of notifications was included in the Board's meeting materials.
- c. **Residential Irrigation Evaluation Programs Update** – Residential irrigation evaluations are great tools to promote water conservation, and help municipalities meet their per capita water usage goals. This was a progress update on the three residential irrigation evaluation programs that WRWSA is currently ongoing.
- d. **Regional Water Supply Plan Update** - The Authority entered into a cooperative funding agreement with the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) in December 2022 (23CF0004079) for Regional Water Supply Plan Update project. With the assistance of the SWFWMD, St. Johns River Water Management District, and a Technical Advisory Committee comprised of representatives from member governments and public supply utilities in the four-county region, the Plan Update is being coordinated. The consultant has been working on population and demand projections, and conservation reuse evaluations.
- e. **Correspondence** – Several items were included in meeting materials.
- f. **News Articles** – Several articles were included in meeting materials.

12. Other Business – Ms. Folsom noted Mr. Brown was not here to receive a plaque honoring his 10 years of service on the Board. Mr. Frink will present the plaque to him at the City of Crystal River's next council meeting.

13. Next Meeting Time and Location

- Next Regular Board Meeting – January 24, 2024, at 3:30 p.m. at the Lecanto Government Building, Room 166. (*Meeting moved one week later due to Florida Association of Counties Legislative Day in Tallahassee on January 17.*)

14. Adjournment – Treasurer Estep adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Jeff Kinnard, Chair

Suzannah J. Folsom, Executive Director