

APPROVED

WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Minutes of the Meeting May 21, 2025

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

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

1. Call to Order

Chair Campbell 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

Chair Campbell asked each attendee to introduce themselves. Ms. Suzannah Folsom, WRWSA Executive Director, noted that a quorum was needed to consider Item 7 which will be achieved when Ms. Bryant arrives.

BOARD MEMBER PRESENT

Jerry Campbell, *Chair*, Hernando Co Commissioner
Don Wiley, *Vice Chair*, Sumter County Commissioner
Marcos Flores, *Treasurer*, Wildwood City Councilor
Ryan Amsler, Hernando County Commissioner
Janet Barak, Citrus County Commissioner
Kathy Bryant, Marion County Commissioner
Todd Coon, Sumter County Commissioner
Robert Holmes, Crystal River City Councilor
Jeff Kinnard, Citrus Co Commissioner

BOARD MEMBER(S) ABSENT

Thomas Bronson, Brooksville City Councilor
Michelle Stone, Marion County Commissioner
Robert “Bo” Smith, Belleview Commissioner
Carl Zalak, Marion County Commissioner

BOARD ALTERNATE(S) PRESENT

None

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

Carrieann Adkins, SWFWMD Govt Affairs Reg Mgr
Alys Brockway, Hernando Co Water Resource Mgr
Debra Burden, Citrus Co Water Conservation Mgr
Trevor Knight, Marion Co Water Resources Liaison
Lisa Krentz, Hazen and Sawyer
Joseph Quinn, SWFWMD Water Supply Project Mgr
Paige TaraCruz, SWFWMD Environmental Prj Mgr

- 3. Introductions and Announcements** – Mrs. Folsom noted that are no additions or deletions to the agenda.
- 4. Pledge of Allegiance** – Chair Campbell led those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 5. Public Comment** – There being no members of the audience requesting to address the Board, Chair Campbell closed public comment.
- 6. Consent Agenda**
- Approval of Minutes** [approved [March 19, 2025 minutes] – **Mr. Wiley moved, second Mr. Kinnard, to approve Consent Agenda Item 6.a as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**
 - Bills to be Paid** [ratified April bills; approved May bills provided at the meeting] – **Mr. Kinnard moved, second Mr. Wiley, to approve Consent Agenda Item 6.b as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

- c. **Phase 7 Irrigation System Audit Program – Extend Contract** [Approve extension of the Phase 7 Irrigation evaluation contract with EcoLand Design, LLC for the first of two optional 12-month extensions starting from September 2025] – **Mr. Kinnard moved, second Mr. Coon, to approve Consent Agenda Item 6.c as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**
- d. **Staff Travel to the Florida Chamber of Commerce Environmental Permitting Summer School, July 15-18, 2025** [Approve Ms. Folsom, WRWSA Executive Director, to attend this year's Environmental Permitting Summer School at an estimated cost of \$695.00] – Ms. Folsom suggested that the General Counsel's office may consider attending this event in the future. **Mr. Kinnard moved, second Mr. Homes, to approve Consent Agenda Item 6.d as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

At this time, Item 8 was considered out of order of the agenda.

8. **Regional Water Supply Plan Update – Status Report**

Ms. Lisa Krentz representing Hazen and Sawyer provided an update on the project status a summary of the future water supply modeling that Hazen and Sawyer has completed. 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. The Authority entered into a contract with Hazen and Sawyer in January 2023 to undertake the 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.

Ms. Krentz presented the project goals and objectives:

- Goal is to assist public utilities by identifying regional water supply opportunities across four counties
- Objectives
 - Quantify public water supply demand
 - Assess water conservation and reuse potential
 - Identify water resource availability to meet demand
 - Evaluate economic constraints
- Plan is cooperatively funded by SWFWMD in support of 2025 RWSP for Northern Region

This project is behind schedule due to some delays in the availability of the Central Springs Model. The model has been received now and the project is progressing. Findings to date include some utilities have surplus unallocated reclaimed water, demand-supply mismatch exists geographically by utility, and conservation and reuse are helpful but not sufficient alone.

Ms. Krentz reviewed the next steps for this project:

- Refine spatial overlay of supply and demand timing
- Identify and screen candidate regional project concepts
- Evaluate benefits to Minimum Flows and Levels (MFLs) of using alternative water supplies (Gum Slough and Withlacoochee)
- Develop cost estimates for alternative projects
- Coordinate with District and partners (July - September)
- Finalize Report

Ms. Folsom reviewed the map showing Florida's designated Water Use Caution Areas.

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

Ms. Bryant entered the meeting at 3:44 p.m. With a quorum now present, Item 7 was considered.

7. **Establishment of Proposed Fiscal Year 2025-26 Budget Components**

Ms. Folsom presented the following items.

a. **Grant Funding Amount and Guidelines**

Since 2005, the Authority has funded an annual grants program that provides matching funds for water conservation and water supply development projects. Member governments and

other utilities in the region have applied for and received cooperative grants for projects of mutual benefit. The 2025-26 grants cycle will begin with an announcement to be sent to utility directors and water conservation coordinators in the region regarding the Authority's Local Government Grant Program.

For the current fiscal year 2024-25 budget, the Board approved a budget amount of \$180,000. Staff requests the same amount of \$180,000 for the Grant Program for fiscal year 2025-26.

Ms. Bryant moved, second Mr. Kinnard, to approve setting the total allocation of funds in fiscal year 2025-26 budget for the Local Government Grant Program at \$180,000 for water supply and conservation projects. Motion carried unanimously.

b. FY 2025-26 Per Capita Rate

Each year the Authority Board must approve a per capita rate for each of the member counties. The current rate of \$0.19 per capita has been in effect for thirteen years, since the 2009-10 fiscal year. The per capita rate is applied to the latest county population estimates prepared by the Bureau of Economic and Business Research, which prepares the State's official population estimates.

In the coming fiscal year, a per capita rate of \$0.19 will generate total revenue of \$181,067, an increase of \$5,167 or approximately 2.9% from the current fiscal year. The assessments are billed quarterly to each county at a rate of 25% of the amount listed above.

County	BEER Population (April 1, 2024)	FY 2024-2025 Assessment
Citrus	166,151	\$31,569
Hernando	210,577	\$40,010
Marion	419,510	\$79,707
Sumter	156,743	\$29,781
Total	952,981	\$181,067

Ms. Bryant moved, second Mr. Wiley, to approve no change in the per capita rate of \$0.19 for preparation of the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Budget. Motion carried unanimously.

c. Draft Proposed FY 2025-26 Budget

Ms. Folsom noted that included as Exhibit A to this item is the draft FY 2025-26 budget for the Board's review. The budget has been prepared in a conservative manner to keep costs in check and enhance efficiencies for the member governments. She said that included as Exhibit B is a description of the Authority's FY 2025-26 work program that is supported by the proposed budget.

No motion was required as this item was provided for review and will be presented, incorporating any comments received, at the July 9, 2025 Board Meeting for approval.

9. Legislative Report

Ms. Folsom, Executive Director, presented this item. The 2025 Legislative Regular Session began on March 4, 2025. Staff has gathered updated 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.

Ms. Folsom reviewed bills that WRWSA staff has been tracking which are noted in the exhibit to this item as provided in the Board's meeting materials.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Holmes, Ms. Folsom will report at the next meeting on mitigation permitting.

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

10. **Attorney's Report** – Mr. McKay noted there was nothing to report. He said he will review the EcoLand Design contract and prepare a 12-month extension to the agreement as approved earlier in Item 6c.
11. **Executive Director's Report** – Ms. Folsom presented the following items which required no action and highlighted items which had activity since last Board meeting.
 - a. **Water Use Permit Demand Summary** – A summary was in the Board's meeting materials.
 - b. **Water Use Permit Activity Report (WMIS Notifications)** – A list of notifications was included in the Board's meeting materials.
 - c. **Residential Irrigation Evaluation Programs Update** – Ms. Folsom noted the Phase 7 program began in December 2022, with 77% of the planned evaluations completed in the evaluation timeframe, which was complete in July 2024. Now the focus of the program is on follow-ups to 25% of the core evaluation participants, a comparison of pre- and post-evaluation water usage, a satisfaction survey and a report. This program will be complete in December 2025. She also noted that the Phase 8 program began in May 2025 and will be completed utilizing grant funding from the SWFWMD WISE program.
 - d. **Correspondence** – Item(s) were included in the meeting materials.
 - e. **News Articles** – Article(s) were included in the meeting materials.
12. **Other Business**
 - Ms. Folsom noted that Ms. Bryant's presentation at the January Legislative Delegation regarding Marion County's priorities was very enlightening and well presented. She thanked Ms. Bryant for mentioning water supply as a priority.
 - The meeting of the new Board officers to sign the bank check card was earlier today at 1:30 p.m.
 - Reminder: It is that time of year to complete financial disclosures.
13. **Next Meeting Time and Location**
 - The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for July 9, 2025, at 3:30 p.m. at the Lecanto Government Building, Room 166. Meeting date earlier due to Environmental Permitting Summer School attendance by the Executive Director and an event that County board members may be attending.
 - Reminder: An elected representative from each County needs to be present for budget approval at the July meeting.
14. **Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 4:23 p.m.

Jerry Campbell, Chair

Suzannah J. Folsom, Executive Director