DRAFT

WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Minutes of the Meeting
May 20, 2026

TIME: 3:31 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**
   As the most senior member of Board members present, Chair Wiley called the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (WRWSA) Board of Directors meeting to order at 3:31 p.m.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance** – Vice Chair Wiley led those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **Roll Call** – Chair Campbell requested each member present introduce themself. He noted a quorum was present.

BOARD MEMBER PRESENT
Don Wiley, *Chair*, Sumter Co Commissioner
Marcos Flores, *Vice Chair,* Wildwood Councilor
Diana Finegan, *Treasurer*, Citrus Co Commissioner
Ryan Amsler, Hernando County Commissioner
Kathy Bryant, Marion County Commissioner
Todd Coon, Sumter County Commissioner

BOARD MEMBER(S) ABSENT
Thomas Bronson, Brooksville City Councilor
Jerry Campbell, Hernando Co Commissioner
Gene Davis, Inverness City Councilor
Ray Dwyer, Belleview Commissioner
Jeff Kinnard, Citrus Co Commissioner
Michelle Stone, Marion County Commissioner
Carl Zalak, Marion County Commissioner

BOARD ALTERNATE(S) PRESENT
David Kingsbury, City of Brooksville

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
Alys Brockway, Hernando Co Water Res Mgr
Kathryn Eno, Purvis Gray & Company
Trevor Knight, Marion Co Water Res Liaison
Joy Kokjohn, St Johns River Water Mgt District
Morgan LaValle, SWFWMD Gov Community Ofc
Edward Miller, Purvis Gray & Company
Joseph Quinn, SWFWMD Water Supply Project Mgr
Brad Smith, Hernando County Utilities
David B. Geddis, Jr, Pinellas County Resident

4. **Additions/Deletions to the Agenda** – Mrs. Folsom said there are no additions or deletions to the agenda. She noted that only three counties are currently represented so budget items may not be considered for a vote (Item 9) until Ms. Bryant arrives.

5. **Public Comment** – Chair Wiley opened the floor for public comment. Two audience members addressed the Board regarding two agenda items. Ms. Joy Kokjohn, representing the St. Johns River Water Management District, spoke in support of Item 10, Regional Water Supply Plan – Final Report. Mr. David B. Geddis, Pinellas County resident, spoke about concern with Florida Statute 373 which covers Florida Water Law.

   There being no other members of the audience requesting to address the Board, Chair Wiley closed public comment.

Ms. Bryant entered the meeting at this time (3:38 pm).

6. **Consent Agenda**
   a. **Approval of Minutes** [approved March 18, 2026 minutes]
   b. **Bills to be Paid** [ratified April bills; approved May bills provided at the meeting]
   c. **As Needed Technical and Engineering Services – Authorization to Issue Work Order**
   d. **Staff Travel to the Florida Chamber of Commerce Environmental Permitting Summer School, July 21-24, 2026** [Approved Ms. Folsom, WRWSA Executive Director, to attend this year's Environmental Permitting Summer School at an estimated cost of $715.00]

   Ms. Bryant moved, seconded by Mr. Coon, to approve Consent Agenda Items 6.a., 6.b., 6.c. and 6.d., as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

7. **Request for Formal Position – Heart of Florida v Landfill Leachate Injection Well (Sumter County)**
   Ms. Suzannah Folsom, Executive Director, presented this item. The Heart of Florida Landfill is constructing a deep injection well to dispose of landfill leachate These wells are permitted through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. At the March 18, 2026 meeting, information on the landfill, leachate, injection well permitting requirements, and hydrogeology was presented by INTERA, one of the WRWSA As-Needed Engineering consultants. The meeting was attended by many members of the public that expressed concern over the proposed injection well.

   Additional correspondence on the injection well has been sent including:
   - March 30, 2026 Letter from Representative J.J. Grow to FDEP
   - March 31, 2026 letter from Citrus County to WRWSA requesting a formal position
   - April 2, 2026 letter from Sumter County to FDEP requesting a public education forum.

   Ms. Folsom noted the WRWSA Board could send a letter with a formal position on the landfill leachate injection well. Items that could be included in the letter are as follows:
   - Express concern for contamination
   - Map showing public supply wells.
   - Request that approval not be given for conversion to a Class I well.
   - Request water quality monitoring requirements:
     - additional monitoring well locations/depths.
     - Lake Panasoffkee.
     - Withlacoochee River.
   - Request access to proposed monitoring well(s) for independent testing.
   - Request a reduced term permit.
   - Request reduced quantity.
   - Request that the landfill obtain a bond for third party utilities affected by contamination that would "survive" transfer or bankruptcy.

   Following discussion, the Board requested Ms. Folsom to draft a letter stating the Board is not in support of this project noting potential environmental impacts. Ms. Folsom will provide the draft letter to Board members for their comment

8. **Fiscal Year 2024-25 Financial Audit**
   Ms. Katheryn Eno, Partner with Purvis Gray & Company, LLP, presented this item. Purvis Gray and Company has prepared the annual audit of the Authority's financial statements for the Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2025. Included as an exhibit is the Authority's financial position provided to Purvis Gray & Company. The following exhibits were provided to Board members in attendance: A. June 12, 2026 letter from Purvis Gray and Company; and B. Financial Statements and Independent Auditors' Report for Fiscal Year 2024-25. Ms. Eno noted that no issues were discovered during the audit and said that the switch to QuickBooks online did require additional support.

   Chair Wiley noted Board approval of the Financial Statements and Independent Auditors' Report for Fiscal Year 2024-25, dated June 12, 2026, as presented at the meeting, and submittal of this report to the Auditor General and to the Florida Department of Financial Services.

9. **Establishment of Proposed Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget Components**
Ms. Suzy Folsom, Executive Director, presented this item. The WRWSA Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget has been drafted for review. The per capita assessment and grant funding amounts were discussed at the March 18 Board meeting; however, a quorum was not available for approval. She said approval of the per capita assessment and grant funding amounts will be requested, and the corresponding drafted budget and work plan are provided for review.

a. Per Capita Assessment
Each year the WRWSA Board must approve a per capita rate to be paid by each of the member Counties. The current rate of $0.19 per capita has been in effect for sixteen 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 (BEBR), which prepares the State's official population estimates.

The table below lists the FY 2026-27 per capita assessment based on the BEBR population estimates from April 1, 2025, and a $0.19 per capita rate.

Per Capita Assessment		
County	**BEBR Population (April 1, 2025)**	**FY 2026-2027 Per Capita Annual Assessment per County**
Citrus	166,500	$ 31,635
Hernando	212,849	$ 40,441
Marion	433,765	$ 82,415
Sumter	162,493	$ 30,874
Total	**975,607**	**$185,365**

b. Grant Funding Program
The WRWSA Water Supply and Conservation Grant Funding Program is administered each year, granting up to 50% reimbursement for water supply development and water conservation activities. Revenues from the per capita assessment are typically utilized for this Program. In FY2025-26, the budget was $180,000, and applications received exceeded that amount. Staff recommended increasing the program amount to $185,000 for FY 2026-27.

Mr. Amsler moved, seconded by Mr. Kingsbury, to approve a per capita rate of $0.19 and grant funding amount of $185,000. Motion carried unanimously.

c. Draft FY 2026-27 Budget and Work Program
A drafted FY 2026-27 Budget and Work Program are provided for review and comment. These are based on the $0.19 per capita assessment and a grant funding amount of $185,000. The following exhibits were included in the Board's meeting materials: DRAFT FY 2026-27 Budget and DRAFT FY 2026-27 Work Program.

Chair Wiley noted a concern regarding the amount of carryover administration reserve funds. Ms. Folsom will follow up on this issue. She requested members review the DRAFT Budget and Work Program and provide comments by July 1, 2026.

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

10. **Regional Water Supply Plan – Approval of Final Report**
Ms. Suzy Folsom, Executive Director, welcomed Ms. Lisa Krentz, representing Hazen and Sawyer, to present this item. Copies of the final report were provided.

The Authority entered into a contract with Hazen and Sawyer in January 2023 to undertake the project. Plan Update was coordinated with the assistance of the SWFWMD, St. Johns River Water Management District, and representatives from member governments and public supply utilities in the four-county region. All of the comments received have been addressed, and the report will be provided for final approval at the meeting. This project budget is 97% expended. A summary of the billing and SWFWMD reimbursement received to date is provided below. The final billing and project closeout will be completed after the report has been approved.

Project Billing Summary

Hazen and Sawyer Contract Amount	Billed To Date	Remaining	SWFWMD Reimbursement Received
$350,000.00	$339,942.40	$10,057.60	$126,989.43

Ms. Finegan moved, seconded by Mr. Amsler, to approve the Final Regional Water Supply Plan update. Motion carried unanimously.

11. **Legislative Report**
Ms. Folsom, WRWSA Executive Director, presented this item. The 2026 Legislative Regular Session began on January 13, 2026 and ended on March 13, 2026. An additional Special Session from April 28-May 1, 2026 was held on congressional redistricting. An additional Special Session is scheduled from May 12 – 29 for the state budget.

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 legislative tracking, and the House and Senate websites.

As of May 12, 2026, three of the eight bills that we were tracking has been signed by the Governor, two have been signed by the Officers and presented to the Governor, and five passed in the House and Senate. We will continue to track the status of the bills. A summary of the bills that WRWSA has been tracking for this session is provided as an Exhibit to this item.

Ms. Folsom presented SB546/HB441, Conservation Lands, for the Board's information. She noted that the Board's next meeting a presentation on septic tanks will be provided,

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

12. **Attorney's Report** – Mr. Hartley noted there was nothing to report.

13. **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 that Phase 8 (WISE) is 88% complete by the end of March.
    d. **Correspondence** – Item(s) were included in the meeting materials.
    e. **News Articles** – Article(s) were included in the meeting materials.

14. **Other Business**
    - Ms. Bryant noted that Marion County has not sent a letter yet opposing the Heart of Florida project because it is waiting for the application for the conversion from a Class V Exploratory Well to a Class I Injection Well to be submitted to Florida Department of Environmental Protection as there is not presently a comment period open.
    - Ms. Bryant suggested that policy be made clear at beginning of meeting regarding when public comment could be received.

15. **Next Meeting Time and Location**
    - The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for July 15, 2026, at 3:30 p.m. at the Lecanto Government Building, Room 166.

16. **Adjournment** – Chair Wiley adjourned the meeting at 4:40 p.m.

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Don Wiley, Chair

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Suzannah J. Folsom, Executive Director