

DRAFT

WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Minutes of the Meeting November 12, 2025

TIME: 3:31 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**

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

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

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

BOARD MEMBER PRESENT

Jerry Campbell, *Chair*, Hernando Commissioner
Don Wiley, *Vice Chair*, Sumter County Commissioner
Marcos Flores, *Treasurer*, Wildwood Councilor
Janet Barak, Citrus County Commissioner
Robert Holmes, Crystal River City Councilor
Michelle Stone, Marion County Commissioner

BOARD MEMBER(S) ABSENT

Ryan Amsler, Hernando County Commissioner
Todd Coon, Sumter County Commissioner
Thomas Bronson, Brooksville City Councilor
Kathy Bryant, Marion County Commissioner
Robert “Bo” Smith, Belleview Commissioner
Jeff Kinnard, Citrus Co 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.

OTHERS PRESENT

Carriann 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 Res Liaison
Lisa Krentz, Hazen and Sawyer
Paige TaraCruz, SWFWMD Environmental Prj Mgr

WRWSA STAFF ABSENT

Robert W. Batsel, Jr., General Counsel

4. **Additions/Deletions to the Agenda** – Mrs. Folsom said there are no additions or deletions to the agenda.

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

6. **Consent Agenda**

- a. **Approval of Minutes** [approve September 17, 2025 minutes]
- b. **Bills to be Paid** [ratified October bills; approve November bills provided at the meeting]
- c. **Quarterly Financial Report** [accept October 2024 through June 2025 report]
- d. **Marion County Run for the Springs 5K** [approve \$500 sponsorship for February 28, 2026 event]

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

7. **Resolution 2025-05 Adoption of Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026**

Ms. Suzannah Folsom, WRWSA Executive Director, presented this item. Included as Exhibit A to this item is the proposed FY 2025-26 budget. This budget has been prepared in a conservative manner to keep costs in check and enhance efficiencies for member governments. Included as

Exhibit B is a description of the Authority's FY 2025-26 work program that is supported by the proposed budget. Exhibits included in the Board's meeting materials were as follows: A. Proposed FY 2025-26 Budget; B. WRWSA FY 2025-26 Work Program; and C. Resolution 2025-05, Adoption of Final Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget.

Each County was represented by an elected Commissioner to create a quorum for approval of this item. Ms. Stone moved, seconded by Ms. Barak, to approve Resolution 2025-05 adopting the FY 2025-2026 budget including anticipated revenues of \$523,068, expenditures in the amount of \$510,361, budgeted reserves in the amount of \$2,498,305, as presented in Exhibit A, for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2025 and ending September 30, 2026. Motion carried unanimously.

8. **Minimum Flows and Levels – Priority Lists and Schedules**

Ms. Folsom, Executive Director, presented this item. The purpose of this item is to provide 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. The 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 at: <https://fdep.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=dff89179a4994477a70e6ed3dfc16647>

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, which are scheduled in 2026. 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.

Staff is also tracking the reevaluation of Lake Weir and Gum Slough Springs Group as the new levels may affect permit applicants in their vicinity.

Mr. Holmes asked that the maps include well locations and amount pumped yearly. Ms. Folsom noted that, at the Board's request, staff can provide further information. She said that public hearings are scheduled for several MFLs.

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

9. **Regional Water Supply Plan**

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.

This project is behind schedule due to some delays in the availability of the Central Springs Model. The draft report is now available for review. The revised project schedule is shown below, as per the last received invoice in September. This project is scheduled to be complete in December.

Using a PowerPoint presentation, Ms. Krentz provided an overview of current findings to date and prioritization of projects (near term, mid-term and long term). She reviewed the integrated reuse, recharge, and regional source strategy for the project.

Mr. Wiley inquired about a test injection well in Sumter County near the landfill. Ms. Krentz said she will check into that proposal.

Regarding project completion by end of the year, Ms. Folsom noted that SJRWMD has requested time to review the draft report and an extension will be required for completing the final report.

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

10. **Irrigation Audit Program Phase 7 – Review of Draft Report**

Ms. Folsom, WRWSA Executive Director, presented this item. Phase 7 of the Authority's Regional Irrigation System Evaluation Program began in December 2022 as part of the Authority's ongoing water conservation initiative. Phase 7 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 7 is on time and within budget however the targeted number of evaluations were not achieved. A summary of the major findings of the Phase 7 effort will be presented at the meeting. The Phase 7 draft report is provided as an exhibit for review and comment. It has also been provided to the cooperating utilities and SWFWMD for review. As an exhibit to this item, the draft report was provided at the meeting.

Mr. Wiley moved, seconded by Ms. Stone, to authorize staff to incorporate comments on this draft report into a final report and submit it to SWFWMD by December 31, 2025. Motion carried unanimously.

11. **Legislative Reports**

Ms. Folsom, WRWSA Executive Director, presented this item. The 2025 Legislative Regular Session began on March 4, 2025 and ran for two extended periods ending June 16, 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 legislative tracking, and the House and Senate websites.

A summary of the bills that WRWSA staff tracked that passed during the session is provided as an Exhibit to this item. A more detailed presentation on the SB 1300 / HB 1143 Permits for Drilling, Exploration, and Extraction of Oil and Gas Resources was provided by Ms. Folsom.

The 2026 Legislative Regular Session will begin January 13, 2026. The dates and times for the Legislative delegations are listed below:

Hernando County	December 15, 2025	1 pm	Hernando County Commission Chamber
Marion County	October 1, 2025	1 pm	College of Central Florida's Klein Center
Sumter County	TBD		TBD

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

12. **Attorney's Report**

a. **Discussion on Reduced Property Taxes**

Mr. Hartley, Assistant General Counsel, reported that nothing official has been filed and a number of options are being reviewed that would change how governments do business. He noted that the county per capita assessments may require changes accordingly.

b. **Legal Notice Requirements**

Mr. Hartley, Assistant General Counsel, reported that for governments it saves money. For the Authority to only post on its website, each county website would have to adhere to the status and coordinate postings with the Authority. Ms. Barek said she preferred noticing in newspapers. Mr. Wiley agreed with Ms. Barek and noted that most people do not look at websites. Chair Campbell said he also agrees and, until all counties are posting their websites, the Authority should continue posting in local newspapers.

13. **Executive Director's Report** – Ms. Folsom said she met with other Water Supply Authority Executive Directors and among items of discussion were ability to use reverse auction procurement process to reduce costs, asset management, and alternative water supplies. She 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 8a (WISE) will merge into Phase 8b.
- d. **Correspondence** – Item(s) were included in the meeting materials. A future presentation will be provided on the SWIM Priority List.
- e. **News Articles** – Article(s) were included in the meeting materials.
- f. **Other** -- None

14. **Other Business**

- Board members discussed issues regarding disposal of railroad ties in Dunnellon and their contaminants, and a borrow pit for the Suncoast Extension.
- Ms. Folsom said she will be scheduling meetings with stakeholders, including each Board member regarding the Regional Water Supply Plan.

15. **Next Meeting Time and Location**

- The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for January 14, 2026, at 3:30 p.m. at the Lecanto Government Building, Room 166.
- The Board thanked Citrus County for hosting meetings and the new chairs at the dais.

16. **Adjournment** – Chair Campbell adjourned the meeting at 4:52 p.m.

Jerry Campbell, Chair

Suzannah J. Folsom, Executive Director