



# WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY

## **Board Meeting Package**

March 18, 2026  
3:30 p.m.

### **Meeting Location:**

Lecanto Government Building  
Room 166  
3600 W. Sovereign Path  
Lecanto, Florida 34461

# Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority

## Board of Directors

*Effective March 2026*

<b>Office</b>	<b>Board Members</b>
Chair	The Honorable Don Wiley
Vice Chair	The Honorable Marcos Flores
Treasurer	The Honorable Diana Finegan

<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Board Members</b>
Citrus County	The Honorable Diana Finegan
	The Honorable Jeff Kinnard
Hernando County	The Honorable Ryan Amsler
	The Honorable Jerry Campbell
Marion County	The Honorable Kathy Bryant
	The Honorable Michelle Stone
	The Honorable Carl Zalak
Sumter County	The Honorable Todd Coon
	The Honorable Don Wiley
City of Belleview	The Honorable Ray Dwyer
City of Brooksville	The Honorable Thomas Bronson
City of Inverness	The Honorable Gene Davis
City of Wildwood	The Honorable Marcos Flores

## Meeting Dates

The schedule of meetings for the 2025-2026 fiscal year are as follows:

November 12, 2025  
January 14, 2026  
March 18, 2026

May 20, 2026  
July 15, 2026  
September 9, 2026



March 6, 2026

## MEMORANDUM

To: Water Supply Authority Board of Directors and Interested Parties  
From: Suzannah J. Folsom, Executive Director  
Subject: Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority Board of Directors Meeting

---

The Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority will hold a regular business meeting on **Wednesday, March 18, 2026, 3:30 p.m., at the Lecanto Government Center Building, Room 166, 3600 Sovereign Path, Lecanto, FL 34461.**

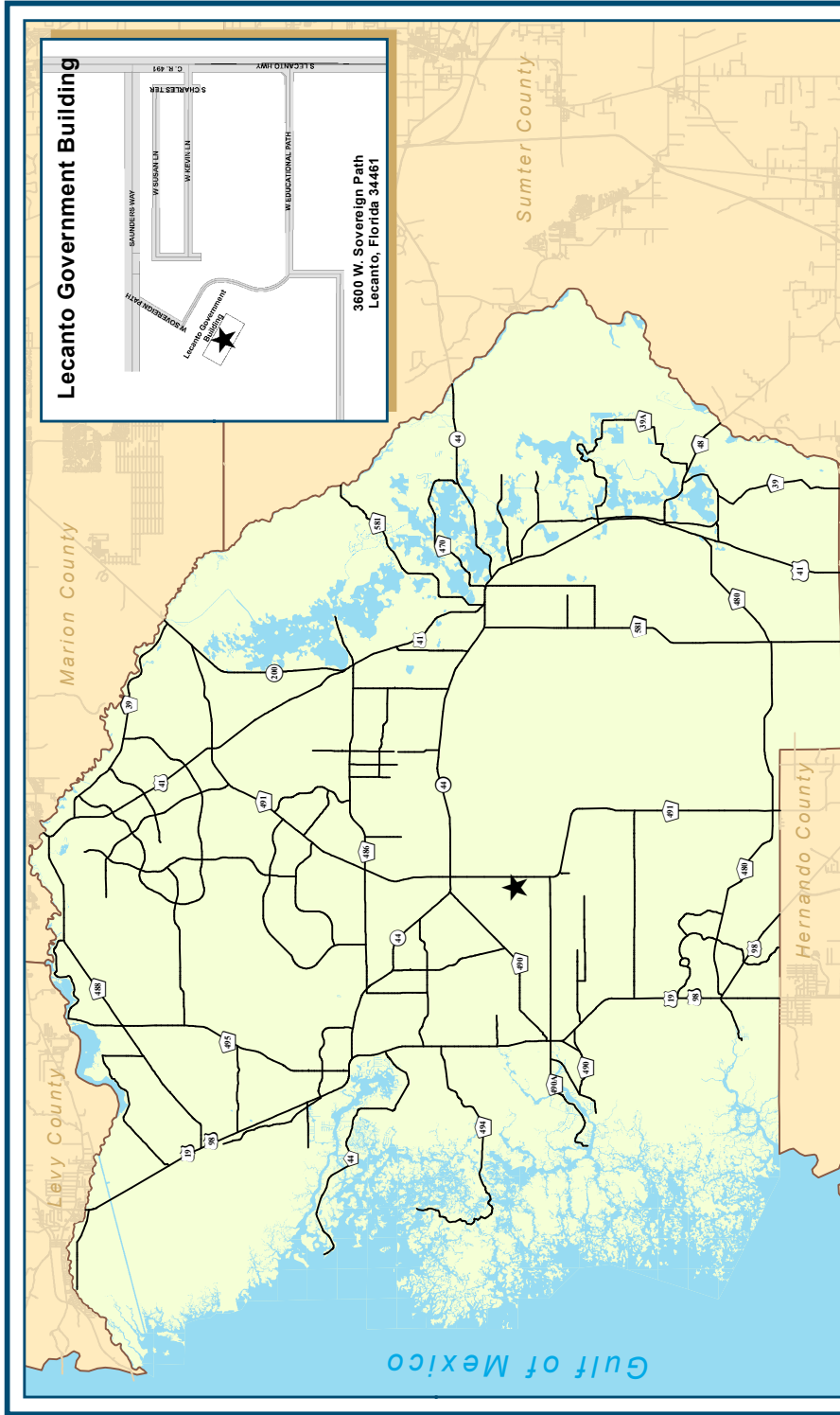
Enclosed for your review are the following items:

- Agenda
- Minutes of January 14, 2026
- Board Package\*

Please note that if a party decides to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at the above cited meeting, that party will need a record of the proceedings, and for such purpose, that party may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes that testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

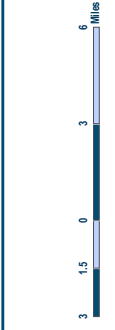
Enclosures

- \* Copies of the Board Package are available through the Internet. Log on to [www.wrwsa.org](http://www.wrwsa.org).
  - On the Authority's Home Page go to the left side of the page and click on "Meetings."
  - On the slide out menu is a button for the current Board Package.
  - Click on the Board Package to download and/or print.



**Office of Geographic Information Systems**  
 Prepared By: K.W. Volk  
 Date: January 4, 2012  
 Source: Enterprise Geodatabase  
 Map Number: BV000029

**Lecanto Government Building  
 Locator Map**



This information is for use for general information only. The City of Lecanto, Florida, Office of Geographic Information Systems is not responsible for any errors or omissions in this information. The City of Lecanto, Florida, Office of Geographic Information Systems is not responsible for any errors or omissions in this information. The City of Lecanto, Florida, Office of Geographic Information Systems is not responsible for any errors or omissions in this information.

## **Driving Directions to 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Lecanto Government Building**

### **From Brooksville:**

- Go North on N. Main St. toward S. Broad St./E. Jefferson St.
- Take the 1<sup>st</sup> Left onto S. Broad St./W. Jefferson St.
- Turn Right onto US 98/Ponce De Leon Blvd.
- Turn Right onto CR 491 toward Lecanto (about 13.5 miles)
- Turn Left on W. Educational Path (traffic signal)
- Turn right at the Park onto W. Sovereign Path; continue to the right to the Lecanto Government Building

### **From Ocala**

- Go southwest on SR 200 into Citrus County
- Turn Right onto CR 491 (stay on 491 through Beverly Hills, crossing Hwy. 486 and SR 44)
- Turn Right on Saunders Way
- Turn Left onto W. Sovereign Path; follow to Lecanto Government Building

### **From Bushnell**

- In Bushnell, Go West on FL-48W
- Turn Right onto US 41; continue to follow US 41 N
- Continue straight onto FL 44 W/W Main St.; continue straight on SR 44
- Turn Left onto CR 491
- Turn Right onto Saunders Way
- Turn Left onto W. Sovereign Path; follow to Lecanto Government Building

### **From Wildwood**

- Go West on SR 44W; continue on SR 44 through Inverness
- Turn Left onto CR 491
- Turn Right onto Saunders Way
- Turn Left onto W. Sovereign Path; follow to Lecanto Government Building.

**LGB**





**WIHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

**A G E N D A**

**March 18, 2026 -- 3:30 p.m.  
LECANTO GOVERNMENT BUILDING -- ROOM 166  
3600 W. Sovereign Path, Lecanto, Florida 34461**

*At the discretion of the Board, items may be taken out of order to accommodate the needs of the Board and the public.*

PAGE

<b>1. Call to Order . . . Chair Wiley</b>	
<b>2. Roll Call . . . Suzy Folsom, WRWSA Executive Director</b>	
<b>3. Introductions and Announcements . . . Suzy Folsom, WRWSA</b>	
<b>4. Pledge of Allegiance . . . Led by the Board</b>	
<b>5. Public Comment</b>	
<b>6. Consent Agenda . . . Chair Wiley</b>	
<b>a. Approval of Minutes</b> [draft January 14, 2026] .....	9
<b>b. Bills to be Paid</b> [February bills included; March bills provided at the meeting] .....	13
<b>c. Water Conservation Month Resolution</b> .....	15
<b>7. Proposed Leachate Injection Well in Sumter County . . . Suzy Folsom, WRWSA</b> .....	17
<b>8. Regional Water Supply Plan – Presentation on Draft Report Comments . . . Suzy Folsom, WRWSA</b> .....	19
<b>9. Establishment of Proposed Fiscal Year 2026-27 Per Capita and Grant Funding     Budget Components . . . Suzy Folsom, WRWSA</b> .....	21
<b>10. Legislative Report . . . Suzy Folsom, WRWSA</b> .....	23
<b>11. Attorney’s Report – Water Supply Agreement . . . Rob Batsel, WRWSA Attorney</b> .....	31
<b>12. Executive Director’s Report . . . Suzy Folsom, WRWSA</b>	
<b>a. Water Use Permit Demand Summary</b> .....	33
<b>b. Water Management Information System Water Use Permit Notifications</b> .....	35
<b>c. Residential Irrigation Evaluation Programs Update</b> .....	37
<b>d. Correspondence</b> .....	39
<b>e. News Articles</b> .....	47
<b>f. WRWSA Office Lease/Purchase Options</b> .....	65
<b>13. Other Business</b>	
<b>14. Next Meeting . . . May 20, 2026; 3:30 p.m.; Lecanto Government Building, Room 166</b>	
<b>15. Adjournment</b>	

*Please note that if a party decides to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at the above cited meeting, that party will need a record of the proceedings, and for such purpose, that party may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes that testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.*



**Item 6.a.**

Consent Agenda

**Approval of  
Minutes**

D R A F T

**WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Minutes of the Meeting  
January 14, 2026**

**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**

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 3:30 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 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  
Diane Finegan, Citrus County Commissioner  
Jeff Kinnard, Citrus Co Commissioner  
Ray Dwyer, Belleview 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  
Gene Davis, Inverness City Councilor  
Michelle Stone, Marion County Commissioner  
Carl Zalak, Marion County Commissioner

**BOARD ALTERNATE(S) PRESENT**

Trevor Knight, Marion Co Water Res Liaison

**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  
Debra Burden, Citrus Co Water Conservation Mgr  
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. **Mr. Kinnard moved, seconded by Mr. Wiley, to approve the published agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

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

**6. Consent Agenda**

**a. Approval of Minutes** [approve November 12, 2025 minutes]

**b. Bills to be Paid** [ratified December bills; approve January bills provided at the meeting]

**Mr. Kinnard moved, seconded by Mr. Wiley, to approve Consent Agenda Items 6.a. and 6.b., as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

**7. Election of Officers**

Ms. Suzannah Folsom, WRWSA Executive Director, presented this item. The Board of the WRWSA annually elects its Board officers, including a Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer at its January meeting. The Executive Director is the Board Secretary who serves in an ex-officio capacity.

Pursuant to the Election of Officers Policy, included as an exhibit to this item, the Board may entertain nominations for individual officers or a slate of officers. Typically, the current Vice Chair is nominated to become Chair and the current Treasurer is nominated to become Vice Chair. The office of Treasurer is customarily filled by a Board member from the county without a representative as an officer in the current slate of officers. This practice is informal, and circumstances may warrant nominations and elections to deviate from this practice. Also, pursuant to the Board Policy, the current Chair will chair the complete January meeting.

**Mr. Kinnard moved to nominate Mr. Wiley to serve as Chairman for the coming year. He amended his motion to include nominating Mr. Flores as Vice Chair and Ms. Finegan as Treasurer. Mr. Dwyer seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

Ms. Folsom noted she will contact the new Board officers to set a time to sign bank cards sometime in mid-April, after the March meeting. She said the new officers will take their respective seats just before the next Board meeting (i.e., midnight on March 18, 2026).

**8. Charles A. Black Wellfield – Renewal and Replacement Fund Annual Report**

Ms. Folsom, Executive Director, presented this item. Citrus County has submitted to the Authority the annual report for the Charles A. Black (CAB) Wellfield Renewal and Replacement (R&R) Fund, documenting deposits and expenditures for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, which was included as an exhibit to this item.

This annual report is required by the Water Supply Contract between the WRWSA and Citrus County. Staff has reviewed this report, and has found that the report is consistent with the pertinent Contract requirements, which state in part:

R&R Reserve Fund Reporting – The County shall provide to the Authority an annual report on contributions to and utilization of the R&R Reserve Fund, describing the date and amount of contributions to the Fund, interest earnings in the Fund; and the date, amount, and description of expenditures from the fund, including the purpose of the capital facility replacement, renewal or major repair. This annual report shall be for the prior Contract Year and shall be provided no later than January 31st in the following Contract Year.

The R&R Fund was credited with \$270,000 in deposits from Citrus County and \$106,126.23 in interest revenue. Expenditures totaled \$247,689.19. The R&R Fund balance increased from \$2,654,154.47 to \$2,782,591.51.

**Mr. Wiley moved to accept Citrus County’s annual report for the CAB R&R Fund, documenting expenditures and deposits for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025. Mr. Kinnard seconded the and it carried unanimously.**

**9. Regional Water Supply Plan**

Ms. Lisa Krentz representing Hazen and Sawyer provided a summary of the draft Regional Water Supply Plan report sections. 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.

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 noted that next steps will be provided at the March 18 meeting. Discussion ensued regarding desalination and the complexity of costs.

Comments on the draft report will be accepted until the end of January. The report will be finalized in once the comments have been addressed. This item was provided for the Board's information and no action was required.

**10. Legislative Reports**

Ms. Folsom, WRWSA Executive Director, presented this item. The 2026 Legislative Regular Session began on January 13, 2026. 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 2025 session was provided as an exhibit to this item.

Mr. Hartley noted there was nothing new to report on the property tax issue.

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

**11. Attorney's Report** – Mr. Hartley said there was nothing to report.

**12. 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 8a (WISE) will transition into Phase 8b.
- d. **Correspondence** – Item(s) were included in the meeting materials.
- e. **News Articles** – Article(s) were included in the meeting materials.
- f. **Other** -- None

**13. Other Business**

- Citrus County Commissioners Kinnard and Finegan requested clarification regarding the Charles A. Black Wellfield contract and wording about the yearly COLA. Mr. Hartley will review the contract.
- Ms. Folsom noted there is consideration that once the Sugarmill Woods permit is renewed that consolidation of the Citrus Springs/Pine Woods and Charles A. Black Wellfields into one permit with Sugarmill Woods.
- Discussion ensued regarding county water restrictions being consistent with the water management districts.
- Ms. Folsom offered one-on-one meetings with Board members about the Regional Water Supply Plan.

**14. Next Meeting Time and Location**

- The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for March 18, 2026, at 3:30 p.m. at the Lecanto Government Building, Room 166.
- The Board thanked Citrus County for hosting meetings.

**15. Adjournment** – Chair Campbell adjourned the meeting at 4:32 p.m.

---

Jerry Campbell, Chair

---

Suzannah J. Folsom, Executive Director

## **Item 6.b.**

**Consent Agenda**

### **Bills to be Paid**

**February bills in the meeting materials;  
March bills to be provided at meeting.**

**Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority**  
3600 W. Sovereign Path, Suite 228, Lecanto, Florida 34461

**Bills For Payment**  
**2/20/2026**

<u>Administrative Invoices</u>	<u>Invoice Number(s)</u>	<u>Invoice Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Suzannah J. Folsom, PE, Executive Director	1477	2/4/2026	<b>\$8,502.97</b>
Rob Batsel, General Counsel	165401	1/31/2026	<b>\$1,950.50</b>
C. LuAnne Stout, Admin Asst (Admin Services)	1-Jan-2026	2/2/2026	<b>\$3,624.00</b>
Don Wiley (Dec Bd Travel)		1/14/2026	<b>\$27.59</b>
Marcos Flores (Dec Bd Travel)		1/14/2026	<b>\$35.16</b>
Ray Dwyer (Dec Bd Travel)		1/14/2026	<b>\$36.49</b>
Alliance for Water Efficiency	11508	1/1/2026	<b>\$525.00</b>
Nature Coast Web Design & Marketing (Contract/Monthly)	19598	2/1/2026	<b>\$200.00</b>
Truist Bank Business Card Statement	2/2/2026	2/2/2026	<b>\$991.92</b>
<b>Total Administrative Invoices</b>			<b>\$15,893.63</b>

<u>Water Supply Studies and Facilities</u>	<u>Contract/ Budget</u>	<u>Balance Remaining</u>	<u>Current</u>
2026 General Services Contract	<b>\$20,000.00</b>		
Work Order 2026-01 Applied Sciences	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	
Work Order 2026-02 INTERA	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	
FY24-25 Water Conservation Grants Program	<b>\$180,000.00</b>	\$9,706.17	
Citrus County	\$47,000.00	\$9,452.35	
Hernando County	\$46,250.00	\$0.00	
Marion County	\$13,327.50	\$253.82	
Sumter County	\$73,512.50	\$0.00	
Regional Water Supply Plan Update (Q324)	<b>\$350,000.00</b>	\$10,056.60	
SJRWMD Irrigation Audits (East I-75)	<b>\$60,000.00</b>	\$40,224.25	
Phase 7 Irrigation Program (Q306)	<b>\$102,000.00</b>	\$34,470.95	
Phase 8 WISE Irrigation Program	<b>\$36,540.00</b>	\$4,217.00	<b>\$4,957.50</b> (1)
<b>FY24-25 Total Project Invoices</b>	<b>\$748,540.00</b>	\$114,457.97	<b>\$4,957.50</b>

<b>Total Bills to be Paid</b>	<b>\$20,851.13</b>
-------------------------------	--------------------

<b>State Board of Administration</b>	<b>Transfer from SBA2 to SBA1</b>	<b>\$15,893.63</b>
<b>State Board of Administration</b>	<b>Transfer from SBA1 to Truist Bank</b>	<b>\$20,851.13</b>
<b>Truist Bank Deposit</b>	<b>Transferred from SBA1</b>	<b>\$20,851.13</b>

Notes:

(1) Phase 8 (WISE) - Irrigation Audits

Jack Overdorff, ECO Land Design	\$4,507.50	Invoice 913
C. LuAnne Stout, Admin Services	\$450.00	Invoice 1-Jan-Ph8 WISE-2026
	<u>\$4,957.50</u>	

## Item 6.c.

### **Water Conservation Month Resolution**

Ms. Suzy Folsom, Executive Director, will present this item.

The purpose of this item is to request the Board execute a resolution declaring April 2026 as “Water Conservation Month.” Declaring April as Water Conservation Month has historically been used by the Authority as a means to focus the public’s attention on the need for and benefits of conservation and to highlight the resources available to help them.

Since 1998, the state of Florida, water management districts, local governments and water-related organizations, such as the Florida Section of the American Water Works Association, have declared April as Water Conservation Month. April is typically the time of year when water demands increase due to generally hot and dry conditions. Declaring April as Water Conservation Month will further the Authority’s and its member governments’ water conservation efforts.

The resolution for the Board’s consideration is provided in the meeting materials as an exhibit.

See Exhibit

#### **Staff Recommendation:**

Approve Resolution No. 2026-02 declaring April 2026 as “Water Conservation Month.”

WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY

RESOLUTION 2026-02

WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
DESIGNATES APRIL 2026 AS  
WATER CONSERVATION MONTH

WHEREAS, water is a basic and essential need of every living creature; and

WHEREAS, the State of Florida, the Southwest Florida Water Management District and the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority designate April as water conservation month; and

WHEREAS, the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority urges every consumer and each citizen and business to become more aware of the need to save water, and to take appropriate measures to conserve and protect this vital natural resource by practicing water-saving measures; and

WHEREAS, the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority Board of Directors supports and encourages water conservation measures within the Withlacoochee Region; and

WHEREAS, the support of April 2026 as Florida's Water Conservation Month reinforces conservation messages and efforts put forth by the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority Board of Directors hereby proclaims April 2026 as WATER CONSERVATION MONTH in the Withlacoochee Region.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chair and Secretary of the Board of Directors are hereby authorized to affix their signatures to the Resolution on behalf of the Board.

PASSED and ADOPTED in Lecanto, Citrus County, Florida on this eighteenth day of March 2026.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, WITHLACOOCHEE  
REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
BY Don Wiley, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Suzannah J. Folsom, Secretary

## **Proposed Leachate Injection Well in Sumter County**

Mrs. Suzannah Folsom, Executive Director, will present this item.

The Sumter County Administrator, Bradley Arnold, reached out to WRWSA in late February to determine if WRWSA would be an interested party related to the proposed landfill leachate injection well at the Heart of Florida Landfill.

Injection wells are an approved disposal method of landfill leachate disposal, as per Florida Administrative Code 62-701.500(8). These wells are permitted through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

A general presentation will review:

- Existing Landfill information
- Leachate Disposal methods
- Injection Well types
- Other Injections wells in WRWSA service area
- Other leachate injection wells in Florida
- Hydrogeology near proposed well

### **Staff Recommendation:**

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



## Regional Water Supply Plan – Draft Report Comments

Suzy Folsom, will present the draft report comments received for this project.

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.

Here is a summary of the major comments on the draft report that will be incorporated in the final report:

Executive Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Correction of terms to be consistent with the latest water supply policy</li> </ul>
Section 1 Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revisions and corrections to text wording and figures</li> </ul>
Section 2 Water Resource Protection Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep Minimum Flows and Levels (MFLs) discussion related to current status in this section, and move any discussion of future impacts later in the report after projections and modeling.</li> <li>• Corrections received from SWFWMD and SJRWMD for MFL status and priority lists per FDEP 2025 list.</li> </ul>
Section 3 Water Demand Projections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove Water Management District projections from this section and discussion of differences with WRWSA Utility projections, and Appendix C.</li> <li>• Revise text that infers additional quantities would not be available beyond existing permits. Clarify increasing difficulty near MFLs that are no longer being met.</li> </ul>
Section 4 Evaluation of Water Sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only show modeling results completed by SWFWMD and SJRWMD.</li> <li>• Simplify the Withlacoochee River availability representation in report text, and clarify that the supply availability will be reevaluated once the MFLs are officially set.</li> </ul>
Section 5 Water Supply Development Options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revise language related to aquifer confining layers</li> <li>• Provide clarity to whether the managed aquifer recharge is assumed to be rapid infiltration basins, wetlands, injection wells in saltwater or drinking water aquifer and how much treatment would be required, and make sure costs are included for dissolved oxygen removal.</li> <li>• Clarify that lower floridan aquifer (LFA) has limited isolation from the upper floridan aquifer (UFA) and LFA withdrawals can also affect MFLs.</li> <li>• Provide better explanations for scoring</li> </ul>
Section 6 Regionalization of Water Supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revise discussion for modeling results and emphasize that Gum Slough Springs Group MFL is under evaluation.</li> <li>• Focus funding discussion on water supply and water resource development opportunities from FDEP.</li> </ul>
Section 7 Summary and Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revise wording and remove some MFL discussion</li> <li>• Add near term task to reevaluate Withlacoochee River availability once the MFLs have been set</li> </ul>

## Item 8

The revised report will be provided for approval at the May Board meeting.

This project budget is 97% expended. A summary of the billing and SWFWMD reimbursement received to date is provided below.

### 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

### Staff Recommendation:

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

**Establishment of Proposed FY2026-27 Per Capita and Grant Funding Budget Components**

Mrs. Suzannah Folsom, Executive Director, will present this item.

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.

Our Draft Regional Water Supply Plan included Tier 3 Water Conservation as the most cost effective and highest ranked water supply option to meet future water supply needs. WRWSA supports conservation through the Water Supply and Conservation Grant Funding program. The WRWSA per capita assessments fund this program.

The table below lists four options for the FY 2026-27 per capita assessment and corresponding grant funding amount.

<b>Per Capita Assessment</b>					
<b>County</b>	<b>BEBR Population (April 1, 2025)</b>	<b>FY 2026 - 2027 Per Capita Assessment Options</b>			
		<b>\$0.19</b>	<b>\$0.22</b>	<b>\$0.29</b>	<b>\$0.71</b>
		<b>No Change</b>	<b>20-year ramp up</b>	<b>5-year ramp up</b>	<b>Tier 3 Conservation</b>
Citrus	166,500	\$31,635	\$36,630	\$48,285	\$118,215
Hernando	212,849	\$40,441	\$46,827	\$61,726	\$151,123
Marion	433,765	\$82,415	\$95,428	\$125,792	\$307,973
Sumter	162,493	\$30,874	\$35,748	\$47,123	\$115,370
<b>Total</b>	<b>975,607</b>	<b>\$185,365</b>	<b>\$214,633</b>	<b>\$282,926</b>	<b>\$692,681</b>
<b>Grant Funding Amount</b>					
<b>Corresponding Proposed Grant budget</b>		<b>\$185,000</b>	<b>\$210,000</b>	<b>\$280,000</b>	<b>\$690,000</b>

**Staff Recommendation:**

Board approval of a per capita rate and corresponding increase in grant funding amount for preparation of the Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget.



## Legislative Report

Ms. Suzannah Folsom, Executive Director, will present this item.

The 2026 Legislative Regular Session is scheduled to begin on January 13, 2026 and end on March 13, 2026. 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 March 9, 2026, only three of the bills that we have been tracking have passed in the House and Senate. We will continue to track the status of the bills and present on the final status at the Board Meeting. A summary of the bills that WRWSA has been tracking for this session is provided as an Exhibit to this item.

Exhibit: Bill Tracking

### Staff Recommendation:

This is an information item for the Board and no action is required.

**Bills that have passed**

<b>Bill Title</b>	<b>Significance</b>	<b>Bill</b>	<b>Sponsors</b>	<b>Status</b>
Conservation Lands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requires Division of State Lands to publish certain information on its website before Board of Trustees of Internal Improvement Trust Fund meets to review proposed sale of conservation lands;</li> <li>requires that certain parcels proposed for exchange be appraised in accordance with certain criteria;</li> <li>removes provisions requiring division to submit certain requests to Acquisition &amp; Restoration Council for review;</li> <li>removes provisions requiring division to provide certain recommendations to board;</li> <li>requires division to publish certain information on its website before council meets to review proposed land exchange;</li> <li>requires division to submit certain requests to council for review &amp; requiring council to provide recommendations to division in certain circumstances;</li> <li>requires division to provide certain recommendations to board of trustees in certain circumstances;</li> <li>requires governing board of water management district to publish certain information on its website before meeting to review proposed sale or exchange of certain lands.</li> </ul>	<a href="#">SB 546</a>	Mayfield	<b>2/26/2026 Passed</b>
		<a href="#">HB 441</a>	Kendall Tant Benarroch Black Campbell Eskamani Gosset- Seidman Tenrich Weinberger	<b>2/17/2026 Passed</b>
Special District Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revising agency agreements that provide state financial assistance to recipients or subrecipients to include certain special districts as an entity to which such agency may provide for the payment of invoices under specified circumstances</li> <li>revising the definition of “rural community” to include certain special districts</li> </ul>	<a href="#">SB 214</a>	McClain	<b>3/6/2026 Passed</b>
		<a href="#">HB 273</a>	Johnson	<b>3/4/2026 Passed</b>

Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prohibits, beginning on specified date, certain use &amp; sale, purchase, or distribution of aqueous film-forming foam;</li> <li>requires, beginning on specified date, certain entities to submit aqueous film-forming foam inventories &amp; disposal plans to DEP;</li> <li>prohibits, beginning on specified date, possession &amp; use of aqueous film-forming foam; authorizes DEP to administer certain grants or cost share programs; provides penalties &amp; injunctive relief;</li> <li>requires certain public entities disposing of domestic wastewater biosolids and treated effluent to quarterly conduct specified samplings &amp; submit results to DEP;</li> <li>limits purpose such samplings until specified standards are established by EPA &amp; adopted by DEP.</li> </ul>	<a href="#">SB 1230</a>	Harrell Truenow Berman	3/4/2026 Passed
		<a href="#">HB 1019</a>	Conerly Blanco	2/25/2026 Passed

**Bill that have not yet passed in both houses (as of March 9, 2026)**

Bill Title	Significance	Bill	Sponsors	Status
Florida Public Service Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revising the membership of the Florida Public Service Commission;</li> <li>requiring a group of parties to certain proceedings to negotiate the terms of a settlement with the Public Counsel before presenting such settlement to the commission;</li> <li>requiring that orders issued by the commission contain adequate support and rationale for any conclusions made by the commission;</li> <li>authorizing certain persons to make a motion to intervene in a pending commission proceeding;</li> <li>authorizing the commission to fix affordable, in addition to fair, just, and reasonable, rates</li> </ul>	<a href="#">SB 126</a>	Gaetz, Bradley	1/13/2026 Introduced
		<a href="#">HB 187</a>	Andrade Campbell, Tendrich, Young	1/13/2026 First Reading

Bill Title	Significance	Bill	Sponsors	Status
Blue Ribbon Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requires that development project meet certain requirements to qualify as blue ribbon project: &gt;10,000 acres, 60% set aside</li> <li>requires that blue ribbon project have blue ribbon plan; requires that project receive dollar-for-dollar credits from local government; specifies that project may be located on land with any future land use designation or zoning designation;</li> <li>prohibits required amendment of comprehensive plan or required rezoning for approval of project; authorizes landowner to apply to local government for approval of project;</li> <li>requires applicant to record plan for approved project in public records of county in which project property is located;</li> <li>authorizes applicant to appeal denial of project application to Department of Commerce; authorizes person whose substantial interests are or may be affected by approval of project to file petition with Department of Commerce.</li> </ul>	<a href="#">SB 354</a>	McClain	3/5/2026 Read a 3 <sup>rd</sup> time
		<a href="#">HB 299</a>	Melo	3/2/2026 Second Reading Calendar
Landscape Irrigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Creating the "Landscape Irrigation Standards and Watering Restrictions Act"</li> <li>prohibiting a person from taking certain actions regarding a landscape irrigation system unless such person is a licensed irrigation contractor or the property owner</li> <li>specifying that only a licensed irrigation contractor may connect an irrigation system to a water supply</li> <li>providing a purpose for landscape irrigation system standards</li> <li>creating a landscape irrigation watering schedule</li> <li>providing for the enforcement of the act</li> </ul>	<a href="#">SB 508</a>	Truenow	1/13/2026 Introduced
		<a href="#">HB 611</a>	Cobb	1/13/2026 First Reading
Standards for Storm Water Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requiring storm water systems in counties and municipalities, respectively, to comply with specified Department of Transportation standards;</li> <li>providing inspection requirements for such systems;</li> <li>specifying that certain local standards are superseded, etc.</li> </ul>	<a href="#">SB 558</a>	Burgess	1/29/2026 Environment and Natural Resources
		<a href="#">HB 239</a>	Grow	1/13/2026 First Reading

Bill Title	Significance	Bill	Sponsors	Status
Onsite Sewage Treatment and Disposal System Permits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prohibits municipality from requiring construction permits from DEP for single family residences as condition of issuing building or plumbing permits;</li> <li>requires such owners &amp; builders to provide certain proof to municipality</li> </ul>	<a href="#">SB 698</a>	Martin	3/11/2026 Special Order Calendar
		<a href="#">HB 589</a>	Nix	<b>2/25/2026 Passed</b>
Land and Water Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prohibits counties &amp; municipalities from adopting laws, regulations, rules, or policies relating to water quality or quantity, pollution control, discharge prevention or removal, or wetlands &amp; preempts such regulation to the state</li> <li>requires DEP to notify CFO of certain violations</li> <li>requires CFO to withhold certain funds</li> <li>repeals provisions relating to land management review teams.</li> </ul>	<a href="#">SB 718</a>	McClain	1/13/26 Introduced
		<a href="#">HB 479</a>	Maggard	1/16/2026 Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee
Public Officers and Employees or Governmental Agencies and Personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requiring that, beginning on a specified date, secretaries and executive directors of departments, chief administrative officers of certain units of state government, members of commissions and licensing boards, chairs of governing boards or certain chief executives of certain statewide entities, or any persons appointed to hold state office in the executive branch of state government be United States citizens and residents of this state; providing that such an office is automatically deemed vacant if the person holding that office does not meet certain requirements; requiring the Commission on Ethics to investigate certain lobbyists or principals who make prohibited expenditures, etc.</li> </ul>	<a href="#">SB 802</a>	Mayfield	1/13/2026 Introduced
		<a href="#">HB 593</a>	Andrade, Basabe, Chaney Plasencia, Valdes	<b>2/25/2026 Passed</b>
Stormwater Treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Defining the terms “compensating stormwater treatment” and “total land area”; requiring compensating stormwater treatment to comply with certain provisions unless certain circumstances exist;</li> <li>explaining the types of mitigation measures for compensating stormwater treatment that the Department of Environmental Protection or a water management district governing board must consider under certain circumstances;</li> <li>authorizing mitigation measures or enhancement credits intended to address certain impacts to be generated by certain entities and sold only to certain environmental resource permit applicants, etc.</li> </ul>	<a href="#">SB 848</a>	Truenow	<b>2/26/2026 Passed</b>
		<a href="#">HB 1457</a>	Gonzalez Pittman Overdorf	3/2/2026 2 <sup>nd</sup> reading calendar

Bill Title	Significance	Bill	Sponsors	Status
Consumer Fairness in Utility Rates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requires certain municipalities to impose same utility rates, fees, &amp; charges on consumers within its municipal boundaries &amp; boundaries of recipient municipality;</li> <li>prohibits such municipalities from imposing surcharges on consumers within boundaries of recipient municipality unless certain conditions are met; prohibits certain use of such surcharges;</li> <li>requires such municipalities to hold certain public hearings;</li> <li>requires certain municipalities to file specified reports with PSC;</li> <li>requires PSC to review certain consumer disputes &amp; make certain determinations.</li> </ul>	<a href="#">SB 940</a>	McClain	1/13/2026 Introduced
		<a href="#">HB 225</a>	Robinson	1/13/2026 First Reading
Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Providing for the ratification of certain rules for cleanup target levels for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)</li> <li>requiring the department to adopt interim screening values until the United States Environmental Protection Agency establishes final standards for additional PFAS compounds</li> <li>prohibiting fire service providers from using certain Class B firefighting foam after a specified date except under certain circumstances, etc.</li> </ul>	<a href="#">SB 1058</a>	Berman	1/13/2026 Introduced
		<a href="#">HB 855</a>	Long, Campbell	1/13/2026 First Reading
Water Management Districts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requires Commission on Ethics to investigate lobbyist or principal who has made prohibited expenditure &amp; to provide Governor with report of its findings &amp; recommendations regarding such investigation;</li> <li>prohibits certain persons from making or accepting expenditures;</li> <li>requires South Florida Water Management District, in cooperation with DEP, to provide detailed report that includes total estimated remaining cost of implementation of Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan &amp; status of applicable performance indicators for all project components;</li> <li>requires South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force to identify certain sources of funding; authorizes water management districts to levy certain ad valorem taxes on specified property for certain purposes;</li> <li>requires district governing board levying ad valorem taxes for certain projects to adopt resolution approved by majority vote of voting electors in district or basin;</li> <li>requires that water management district's tentative budget for its proposed operations &amp; funding requirements include district's capital improvement plan for current year &amp; next fiscal year; requires that certain projects submitted by water management districts to department for Statewide Flooding &amp; Sea Level Rise Resilience Plan be ranked on separate list;</li> </ul>	<a href="#">SB 1120</a>	Brodeur	<b>2/19/2026 Passed</b>
		<a href="#">HB 701</a>	Conerly	1/13/2026 First Reading

Bill Title	Significance	Bill	Sponsors	Status
Municipal Water and Sewer Utility Rates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requiring a municipality to charge customers receiving its utility services in another municipality the same rates, fees, and charges as it charges consumers within its own municipal boundaries under certain circumstances</li> </ul>	<a href="#">SB 1188</a>	Grall	1/13/2026 Introduced
		HB TBD		
Data Centers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prohibits agencies from entering nondisclosure agreements with data centers that restrict public disclosure of data center development information.</li> <li>Language pertaining to water management provides public hearings for water use permits and requirements for large-scale data center water use permits, including use of reclaimed water if available.</li> </ul>	<a href="#">SB 484</a>	Avila	<b>2/26/2026 Passed</b>
		<a href="#">SB 1118</a>	Yarborough	2/18/2026 Placed on calendar for 2 <sup>nd</sup> reading
		<a href="#">HB 1517</a>	Joseph	1/15/2026 Economic Infrastructure Subcommittee
		<a href="#">HB 1007</a>	Griffits	3/2/2026 Referred to House Calendar
Claims and Suits Against the Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>These bills increase the statutory liability limits for tort claims against governmental entities.</li> <li>Raises sovereign immunity caps in multiple phases, reaching as high as \$600,000 per individual claim and \$1.2 million per incident after Oct. 1, 2031.</li> <li>Empowers local governments to settle claims in excess of these limits without legislative action.</li> <li>Shortens from three years to 18 months the timeframe for presenting tort claims to an agency and reduces the statute of limitations for negligence suits from four years to two years.</li> </ul>	<a href="#">SB 1366</a>	Brodeur	3/10/2026 Special Order Calendar
		<a href="#">HB 145</a>	McFarland	<b>1/15/2026 Passed</b>

Bill Title	Significance	Bill	Sponsors	Status
Utility Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requiring that a new agreement, or an extension, renewal, or material amendment of an existing agreement, to provide certain utility services at retail be in writing;</li> <li>• requiring that certain public meetings be held as a condition precedent to the effectiveness of a new or extended agreement under which a municipality will provide specified utility services in other municipalities or unincorporated areas;</li> <li>• revising provisions relating to permissible rates, fees, and charges imposed by municipal water and sewer utilities on consumers located outside the municipal boundaries;</li> <li>• requiring municipalities that provide specified utility services to report certain information by a specified date, and annually thereafter, to the Florida Public Service Commission</li> </ul>	SB 1724	Martin	2/18/2026 Community Affairs
		<a href="#">HB 1451</a>	Busatta	<b>3/3/2026 Passed</b>
Special Districts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Abolishes certain soil &amp; water conservation districts; revises qualifications of supervisor; requires DACS to monitor &amp; ensure that each district is winding up administrative &amp; fiscal matters in timely manner &amp; using certain practices; transfers assets &amp; liabilities of such districts to DACS;</li> <li>• provides that independent special district that grant public access to district lands or water areas for outdoor recreational purposes owes no duty of care to perform specified actions;</li> <li>• provides that independent special district is not responsible for injury to persons or property caused by act or omission of such person upon such lands or water areas;</li> <li>• provides certain protection to owner of private land if independent special district secures easement or access through to district lands or water areas that independent special district makes available to public for outdoor recreational purposes</li> </ul>	<i>SB TBD</i>		
		<a href="#">HB 123</a>	Overdorf	1/13/2026 First Reading

**Item 11**

**Attorney's Report**

**Water Supply Agreement**  
*Overview to be provided  
at the meeting.*



## **Item 12.a.**

**Executive Director's Report**

### **Water Use Permit Demand Summary**

## Summary of Major Water Use Permits in WRWSA Service Area

Updated 2/19/2026

Water Use Permit #	Applicant/Permittee Name	Permit Expiration Date	Permitted Average GPD	Actual 12-Month Rolling Average GPD*	Actual 5-Year Rolling Average GPD**	Actual Use / Permit Capacity	WRWSA RWSP Projection for 2026 GPD	2024 RWSP Accuracy for 2026 +/-%
<b>Citrus County</b>								
<a href="#">207.007</a>	City of Crystal River	3/27/2032	919,000	841,774	886,362	91.6%	762,000	-9.5%
<a href="#">419.013</a>	City of Inverness	5/18/2031	1,535,000	1,260,181	1,198,570	82.1%	1,016,000	-19.4%
<a href="#">1118.008</a>	Floral City Water Association, Inc.	2/28/2038	395,000	390,258	374,606	98.8%	342,000	-12.4%
<a href="#">2842.011</a>	Citrus County	8/25/2035	4,780,000	3,958,800	3,180,596	82.8%	3,124,000	-21.1%
<a href="#">4153.015</a>	Rolling Oaks Utilities, Inc.	8/20/2038	1,573,000	1,852,323	1,703,564	117.8%	1,602,000	-13.5%
<a href="#">4406.009</a>	Homosassa Special Water District	8/25/2032	951,000	792,003	810,430	83.3%	792,000	0.0%
<a href="#">7121.007</a>	Citrus County - Charles A Black	8/22/2043	7,181,900	6,289,045	5,518,552	87.6%	5,446,000	-13.4%
<a href="#">9791.012</a>	Citrus County - Sugarmill Woods	11/17/2025	3,472,000	2,918,997	2,604,034	84.1%	2,434,000	-16.6%
<a href="#">11839.008</a>	Walden Woods	4/23/2039	187,900	178,570	166,719	95.0%	150,000	-16.0%
<b>Hernando County</b>								
<a href="#">5789.015</a>	Hernando County	1/23/2041	24,360,000	22,788,671	21,345,763	93.5%	21,448,000	-5.9%
<a href="#">7627.007</a>	City of Brooksville	8/5/2044	1,709,000	1,545,974	1,423,062	90.5%	1,416,000	-8.4%
<b>Marion County - SWFWMD</b>								
<a href="#">1156.013</a>	Bay Laurel Community Development District	2/23/2041	7,560,900	5,639,274	4,539,739	74.6%	4,820,000	-14.5%
<a href="#">5643.008</a>	Utilities, Inc. of Florida - Golden Hills	2/23/2036	188,400	138,139	132,651	73.3%	150,000	8.6%
<a href="#">6151.015</a>	Marion County Utilities Consolidated WUP	12/13/2042	9,365,800	10,497,219	8,507,587	112.1%	8,844,000	-15.7%
<a href="#">8020.008</a>	Association of Marion Landing Owners	9/9/2040	152,100	129,885	127,717	85.4%	140,000	7.8%
<a href="#">8339.008</a>	FGUA - Dunellon	3/21/2035	1,117,100	1,149,610	1,278,180	102.9%	1,176,000	2.3%
<b>Marion County - SJRWMD</b>								
<a href="#">2993-12</a>	CSWR-Florida Utility Operating Company - South Marion Regional Water System	5/27/2042	231,000	206,583	202,922	89.4%	170,000	-17.7%
<a href="#">2995-8</a>	CSWR-Florida Utility Operating Company - Tradewinds Utilities Inc	2/27/2035	227,000	305,569	162,736	134.6%	100,000	-67.3%
<a href="#">3016-4</a>	Ocala East Villas Inc***	8/27/2031	107,000	67,674	86,793	63.2%	100,000	47.8%
<a href="#">3021-5</a>	Rolling Greens Communities **** Florida Governmental Utility Authority - Ocala Oaks	9/13/2025	610,000	576,946	****	94.6%	400,000	-30.7%
<a href="#">3043-7</a>	Oaks	1/6/2040	194,000	118,380	136,119	61.0%	130,000	9.8%
<a href="#">3130-6</a>	CSWR-Florida Utility Operating Company - Sunray Estates	8/17/1940	195,000	182,949	163,012	93.8%	150,000	-18.0%
<a href="#">3137-7</a>	City of Belleview	10/11/2036	1,022,000	1,363,205	1,183,917	133.4%	1,054,000	-22.7%
<a href="#">4578-9</a>	Marion County Utilities Consolidated CUP*****	9/10/2023	8,812,000	7,362,230	6,697,915	83.5%	7,042,000	-4.3%
<a href="#">50324-10</a>	City of Ocala	8/7/2027	17,540,000	14,797,673	13,330,966	84.4%	13,240,000	-10.5%
<b>Sumter County</b>								
<a href="#">1368.009</a>	Lake Panasoffkee Water Assoc Inc	10/21/2044	410,000	287,049	289,591	70.0%	328,000	14.3%
<a href="#">6519.01</a>	City of Bushnell	3/29/2031	1,366,800	620,340	522,986	45.4%	794,000	28.0%
<a href="#">7185.007</a>	City of Webster	5/23/2043	386,200	114,723	105,067	29.7%	128,000	11.6%
<a href="#">8135.017</a>	City of Wildwood	3/31/2035	4,583,200	4,015,672	2,834,498	87.6%	3,456,000	-13.9%
<a href="#">8193.006</a>	City of Center Hill	11/18/2042	150,000	67,534	70,261	45.0%	86,000	27.3%
<a href="#">13005.012</a>	Village Center Community Development District	1/23/2038	19,345,900	18,408,515	14,204,696	95.2%	19,350,000	5.1%
<a href="#">21031.002</a>	Blue Goose Utility Company	4/7/2054	5,836,600	0	n/a	0.00%	n/a	n/a
<a href="#">20901.002</a>	Gibson Place Utility Company	1/26/2041	3,985,700	1,078,573	n/a	27.1%	712,000	-34.0%
<a href="#">20721.003</a>	South Sumter Utility Company	2/2/2038	2,600,000	1,759,934	1,580,806	67.7%	1,666,000	-5.3%
*12-month Rolling Average for most recent available data								
**5-year Rolling Average for most recent available data, n/a when insufficient data								
***No data reported Jan 2025-Dec 2025, HOA management changes								
****No data reported Jan 2023-June 2024, Renewal submitted as 3021-8								
*****Renewal submitted; Permitted GPD represents WUP request								

## **Item 12.b.**

**Executive Director's Report**

### **WMIS WUP Notifications**

## Summary of Recent Water Use Permit Activity in WRWSA Service Area

Updated March 9, 2026

Water Use Permit #	Applicant/Permittee Name	Activity Type	Date	Avg GPD	Peak GPD	Use Type	Status
<b>Citrus County</b>							
<a href="#">9791.012</a>	Sugarmill Woods Water System	Renewal	11/17/2025	3,472,000	4,845,969	Public Supply	In Review
<b>Hernando County</b>							
<a href="#">9461.004</a>	Mirror Lake	Letter Modification	8/18/2025	81,800	410,200	Agricultural	In Review
<a href="#">11059.010</a>	Glen Lakes Development	Letter Modification	2/10/2026	401,100	1,173,200	Landscape/ Recreation	Issued 3/6/2026
<b>Marion County - SWFWMD</b>							
<a href="#">6151.016</a>	Marion County Utilities Consolidated WUP	Letter Modification	12/10/2025	9,365,800	11,357,400	Public Supply	Application Withdrawn 1/9/2026
<a href="#">5122.012</a>	Whithurst Cattle Company	letter Modification	1/8/2026	2,198,500	6,005,700	Agricultural	Issued 2/12/2026
<b>Sumter County</b>							
<a href="#">20949.005</a>	Gibson Place Water Conservation Authority	Letter Modification	12/15/2025	4,466,000	22,341,000	Landscape/ Recreation	Issued 1/26/2026
<a href="#">12885.007</a>	Suwannee American Cement Company Sumterville Cement Plant	Letter Modification	1/14/2026	476,400	667,000	Industrial	Issued 2/2/2026
<a href="#">7925.005</a>	Rice Cattle Company	Modification	2/3/2026	65,800	285,200	Agricultural	Issued 3/4/2026
<a href="#">21039.003</a>	Blue Goose Water Conservation Authority	Letter Modification	2/11/2026	3,835,200	19,358,900	Landscape/ Recreation	Issued 3/4/2026
<a href="#">21031.003</a>	Blue Goose Utility Company	Letter Modification	2/11/2026	5,836,600	8,500,000	Public Supply	Issued 3/4/2026

## Item 12.c.

### Residential Irrigation Evaluation Programs Update

Suzy Folsom, Executive Director, will present this item.

Residential irrigation evaluations are great tools to promote water conservation, and help municipalities meet their per capita water usage goals. This is a progress update on the three residential irrigation evaluation programs that WRWSA is currently ongoing.

#### **Phase 8 Residential Irrigation Evaluation Program – SWFWMD**

This program began in May 2025 and will be completed utilizing grant funding from the SWFWMD WISE program. The first application for Phase 8a included 57 evaluations, and 65 evaluations were completed prior to completion. Reimbursement for 8a has been requested, and the application for funding for Phase 8b has been submitted.

Participating Utility	Total Evaluations To-date		Target # of Evaluations for Phase 8a and 8b	Percent of Target Evaluations Completed
	Core	Enhanced		
Citrus	10	5	20	75%
Hernando	2	41	60	72%
Marion (West of 75)	0	7	20	35%
Villages VCCDD-LSSA	0	0	8	0%
Villages NSCUDD-VWCA	0	0	16	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>52%</b>

#### **Residential Irrigation Evaluation Program Pilot – SJRWMD**

WRWSA started this new program in October 2023. 58% of the planned evaluations have been completed in through the end of April 2025. The timeframe for evaluation is complete. One lesson learned in this pilot program is that the mailings targeting users with greater than 20,000 gallons per month of average water usage did not yield the target number of 60 evaluations. This threshold will be lowered for future phases.

Participating Utility	Total Evaluations To-date	Target # of Evaluations	Percent Complete
City of Belleview	9	20	35%
Marion County (East of 75)	26	40	65%
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>55%</b>

#### Staff Recommendation:

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



## **Item 12.d.**

**Executive Director's Report**

### **Correspondence**



---

**2024 City of Brooksville Audit**

---

**From** Autumn Sullivan <ASullivan@cityofbrooksville.us>

**Date** Tue 1/6/2026 9:32 AM

**To** lstout wrwsa.org <lstout@wrwsa.org>

 1 attachment (1 MB)

- PDF Signed Final Reports & Financial Statements.pdf;

Good morning,

Please see the attached 2024 Financial Audit Report for the City of Brooksville.

Thank you.

---

*Autumn Sullivan*

Finance Director

asullivan@cityofbrooksville.us • Phone: 352-540-3810 x37410

City of Brooksville, Florida • 201 Howell Ave • Brooksville, FL 34601

[www.cityofbrooksville.us](http://www.cityofbrooksville.us)

Florida has a very broad public records law. As a result, any written communication created or received by the City of Brooksville will be made available to the public and media, upon request, unless otherwise exempt. Under Florida law, e-mail addresses are public records.

**CITY OF BROOKSVILLE, FLORIDA**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND**  
**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**  
**YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**



**CPAs | CONSULTANTS | WEALTH ADVISORS**

**CLAcconnect.com**



Dear Suzannah Folsom,

We are grateful for **Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority's** membership with the Alliance for Water Efficiency in 2025. This year, we strengthened our greatest asset, our diverse and engaged community of members, by working together through research, learning cohorts, and coalition building to address the most pressing issues in water efficiency and conservation.

We invite you to renew your membership for 2026 and continue building on this momentum. The coming year will be critical as we face increasing climate-related challenges and an evolving policy landscape. As a member, you gain access to tools, resources, and cross-sector connections, as well as contributing to a collective effort to advance practical water-saving solutions from pipes to policy.

I'm proud of what we accomplished together in 2025, including:

#### Research Outcomes

- *Advancing Sustainability Through Household Consumer Products: Guidance & Insights for Estimating & Communicating Water Savings*
- *Evaluating Changes in Peak Water Demand and How That May Affect the Choice, Design, Management, and Evaluation of Demand Management Strategies*

#### Education and Collaboration

- Convened nine Project Advisory Committees that helped inform our research outcomes on topics ranging from AMI benchmarking to large landscapes.
- Brought together 175+ water professionals in Chicago for the 3rd Annual *Water Efficiency & Conservation Symposium*
- Launched a new Business & Industry Committee to broaden corporate engagement in water stewardship

#### Federal Water Efficiency Advocacy

- Championed efforts to defend federal water and energy appliance standards and key programs like WaterSense and ENERGY STAR
- Built national support for the *Water Conservation Rebate Tax Parity Act*

To renew, please review the attached invoice and submit your payment by check. If you prefer to pay via ACH transfer or credit card, contact us at [membership@a4we.org](mailto:membership@a4we.org) or 773-360-5100. *Note that a 3% processing fee will be added to credit card transactions.*

We look forward to continuing our work together in 2026.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ron Burke". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Ron Burke, President & CEO  
Alliance for Water Efficiency



BILL TO  
Suzannah Folsom  
Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority  
3600 W. Sovereign Path  
Lecanto, FL 34461

INVOICE 11508  
DATE 01/01/2026

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
2026 Annual Membership Dues Renewal-Water Supplier	525.00

PAYMENT TERMS:  
Net 30 days from receipt of invoice  
All payments to be made in U.S. Dollars  
Include invoice number on check.

BALANCE DUE

**\$525.00**

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:  
Alliance for Water Efficiency  
318 WAdams Street, Suite 1514  
Chicago, Illinois 60606

THANK YOU

TAX ID#: 30-0416781



January 22, 2026

Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority  
3600 W Sovereign Path, Suite 228  
Lecanto, FL 34461

Subject: **Update in Entity Type**

To whom it may concern:

We are pleased to announce that Applied Sciences Consulting (Applied Sciences) has been acquired by Parsons Transportation Group Inc. (Parsons). Applied Sciences is a 20-year old engineering and design services firm that specializes in assisting local governments with all their water management, flood control, environmental and resiliency challenges. Joining the Parsons family of companies provides the Applied Sciences employees and clients with a plethora of technical and human resources that would augment and complement our current offerings.

Following the acquisition, the Applied Sciences entity type has been updated from a corporation to a limited liability company, while still maintaining the same FEIN Number (20-3212557).

Additional details regarding the integration plan are provided in the attached pamphlet.

Should you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 813.228.0900 or email: [info@appliedfl.com](mailto:info@appliedfl.com).

Sincerely,

**Applied Sciences Consulting LLC**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Elie Araj", written over a horizontal line.

Elie Araj, PE, CFM, BC.WRE  
President

Attachment: Preliminary Integration Timeline

January 22, 2026

Parsons has acquired Applied Sciences Consulting (ASC), a Florida-based engineering firm specializing in water and stormwater solutions. Parsons and Applied Sciences Consulting have established a roadmap for integration and reorganization. Below are the highlights:

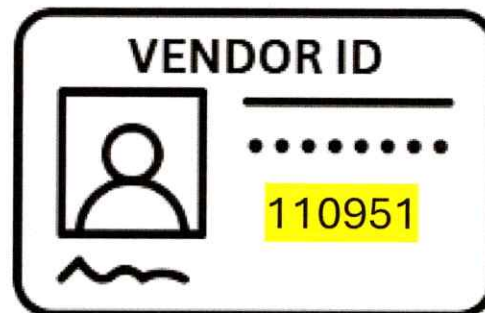
1. The ASC entity form was changed from a corporation to a limited liability company.
2. Parsons and ASC will remain separate legal entities operating under their separate and distinct Federal Employee ID (FEID) numbers and will continue to qualify and operate under the respective companies until further notice.
3. Full integration is currently targeted for July 2026 at the earliest.
4. ASC employees will continue to be on ASC's payroll until the full integration.
5. The goal of the integration process timeline is to avoid any interruption in project delivery or quality control. Our ability to complete this process without impact on our clients or employees is of the utmost importance.
6. As such, we are currently still in the preliminary stage of full integration.
7. The ASC operations have not significantly experienced any changes to operations or overhead, pending full integration.
8. The assignment/novation of contracts with local governments and clients is a process that will take a good portion of 2026, following which our clients and employees will reap the full benefits of the integration.
9. Please find some more detailed preliminary target dates.
  - a. Completion of the due diligence and design of business processes' architecture - Quarter 1, 2026.
  - b. Training, user testing, and validation - Quarter 2, 2026.
  - c. Completion of business tools migration - Quarter 2, 2026.
  - d. Email migration completed - Quarter 3, 2026.
  - e. Project data and documentation migration - Quarter 2, 2026.
  - f. Reorganization and derivation of new cost model - July 2026
  - g. Assignment / Novation of contracts - Quarter 3 and Quarter 4, 2026.

End of Document



Hernando County Board of County Commissioners  
20 N. Main St. • Brooksville, FL 34601

WRWSA/STATE BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION  
3600 W SOVEREIGN PATH STE 228  
LECANTO, FL 34461-7726



Dear Valued Vendor,

The Hernando County Board of County Commissioners would like to inform you of an upcoming improvement to our financial system.

Over the next several months, Hernando County will be transitioning to a new Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system designed to enhance efficiency, accuracy, and overall service. As part of this transition, there will be future changes related to vendor information maintenance and certain financial processes. The new system will also include a vendor self-service portal, allowing vendors to securely access and view select information and maintain their own vendor details. This functionality is intended to improve efficiency, strengthen safeguards against fraud, and support a more secure process overall.

At this time, **no action is required**. This letter is being sent as a courtesy only. Once the new system is fully implemented and our website is live, we will provide further detailed instructions and guidance regarding any next steps.

We value our partnership with our vendors and want to ensure this transition is as smooth as possible. Additional communications will be sent prior to the system going live, including timelines, resources, and support information.

We appreciate your cooperation and look forward to working with you during this transition.

Sincerely,

*Emily Childs*

Accounts Payable Manager, Financial Services  
Hernando County Board of County  
20 N. Main Street RM 264  
Brooksville, FL 34601  
Phone: 352-540-6788



## **Item 12.e.**

**Executive Director's Report**

### **News Articles**

## **Water shortages declared in parts of Central Florida amid dry conditions**

Feb 10, 2026

Tony Atkins, WESH 2

MARION COUNTY, Fla. — Dry conditions across Central Florida are prompting water management districts to take action, with officials urging residents to conserve water ahead of what could be a dry spring.

The St. Johns River Water Management District declared a water shortage Thursday for parts of several counties, including Marion County. Officials said the declaration is meant to encourage residents and local governments to begin conserving water now.

“Even though we’re in a state that’s surrounded by water, we have a finite water supply,” said Clay Coarsey, Water Supply Planning Director.

The district said conditions are unlikely to improve without significant rainfall from cold fronts moving through the region.

“We will probably be in this kind of water shortage unless we start to get some frontal systems that come through this time of year and deposit a significant amount of rainfall,” Coarsey said.

The lack of rain comes as parts of Central Florida are also dealing with wildfires fueled by cold, dry and windy weather. Officials said water conservation can help ensure adequate water pressure for firefighting efforts.

“They want to make sure they’ve got plenty of pressure in their hydrants,” Coarsey said. “As we get these dry conditions, following water restrictions has the added benefit of making water available if a wildfire occurs.”

Another agency, the Southwest Florida Water Management District, also issued a water shortage this week for Sumter County and parts of Lake County. Those areas are now under a Phase Two water shortage, which limits lawn watering to one day per week.

Lake County resident Rosa Ferrer said the dry conditions have taken a toll on her lawn.

“It’s been devastating, actually,” Ferrer said.

Despite the impact, Ferrer said she understands the importance of conserving water and has made changes at home.

“I’ve asked everybody in the house to limit their showers to five minutes,” she said. “Water is essential. We’re very lucky in this country that we don’t have to worry about clean water.”

Water management officials said they are relying on voluntary conservation efforts to help stretch available water supplies during the unusually dry stretch.

“If we can start doing these voluntary efforts, that can help stretch our water supply out,” Coarsey said.

Officials said they are hopeful additional mandatory restrictions can be avoided, but will continue monitoring conditions closely in the coming days.

## **Citrus county opens applications for fire, solid waste, and stormwater assessment programs**

Feb 10, 2026

Colleen Cole, WMNF

Citrus County is now accepting applications for multiple assessment assistance programs. According to a press release from Citrus County, “The applications, available for the assessment year, include hardship assistance, mobile home and RV park vacancy adjustments, vacancy reimbursement, stormwater mitigation credits, Estimated Stormwater Unit (ESU) adjustments, and utility availability development rights reassignment.”

### *Fire, Solid Waste and Stormwater Hardship Assistance Application*

This application helps low-income residents who own homesteaded single-family homes or condominium units offset the cost of Fire, Solid Waste, and Stormwater MSBU assessments. A single application may be used to apply for all three services.

*The application must be filed with supporting documentation by May 1st to:*

Citrus County Board of County Commissioners

Attn: Housing Services

2804 W. Marc Knighton Court, #12

Lecanto, FL 34461

To find the application go to: [www.citrusbocc.com/assessmentapps](http://www.citrusbocc.com/assessmentapps).

### *Fire Protection Mobile Home RV Park Vacancy Application*

This application is for owners of mobile home parks or recreational vehicle parks to show vacancy rates and request an adjustment to the fire protection assessments.

The application must be filed with supporting documentation by May 1st to:

Citrus County Land Section

Fire Protection MSBU

3600 W. Sovereign Path, Suite 205

Lecanto, FL 34461

For applications call: 352-527-5458

*Solid Waste Vacancy Reimbursement Application*

This application is for applicants of improved residential property to request reimbursement of the Solid Waste MSBU of the dwelling unit was unoccupied and vacant from January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025.

The application must be filed with supporting documentation by July 1st to:

Citrus County Land Section  
Solid Waste MSBU  
3600 W. Sovereign Path, Suite 205  
Lecanto, FL 34461

For applications call: 352-527-5458

*Stormwater Mitigation Credit and Estimated Stormwater Unit (ESU) Review Applications*

Stormwater Mitigation Credit applications may reduce stormwater assessments for qualifying properties that have on-site features, including:

- Detention facilities (in open basins) that control discharge rates and provide stormwater treatment
- Retention facilities (in closed basins) that discharge no stormwater

The application must be filed with supporting documentation by May 1st to:

Citrus County Land Section  
Stormwater MSBU  
3600 W. Sovereign Path, Suite 205  
Lecanto, FL 34461

Applications are available at: [www.citrusbocc.com/assessmentapps](http://www.citrusbocc.com/assessmentapps).

*Utility Availability Permanent Reassignment of Development Rights (DVR) Application*

This application is for property owners affected by the Water and Sewer Utility Availability Assessment.

The application must be filed with supporting documentation by May 1st to:

Citrus County Land Section  
Utility Availability MSBU  
3600 W. Sovereign Path, Suite 205  
Lecanto, FL 34461

For applications, call the Land Section at 352-527-5458.

## **Wildwood finally sees ‘home stretch’ in expensive wastewater projects caused by rapid growth**

Jan 13, 2026

Marv Balousek, Villages-News

Wildwood commissioners voted Monday night to issue up to \$90 million in revenue bonds to cover most of the cost of the city’s \$162-million wastewater treatment projects. “We’ve been working on this a long time,” said Assistant City Manager Cassandra Smith. “We’re on the home stretch.”

Some of the cost is covered by grants and higher utility fees, but a second bond issue may be needed. Rapid growth including homes in the Villages of Southern Oaks as well as commercial and apartment projects prompted the need to increase sewage treatment capacity. Growth was outpacing the city’s wastewater capacity so a hold was placed on some projects.

But City Manager Jason McHugh reported in November that the crisis had passed due to less rainfall and a temporary DAVCO plant that will become operational in July.

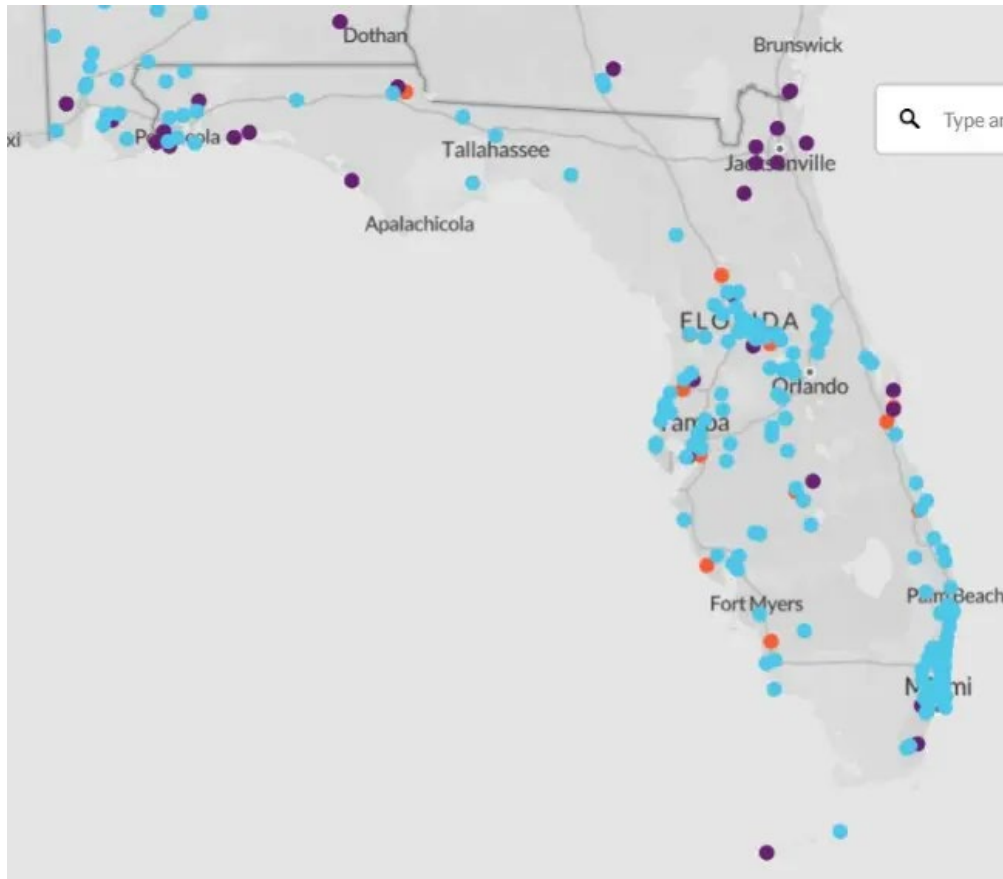
The total cost includes increasing the efficiency of the existing treatment plant, building a second plant and related projects such as a pump station and effluent storage improvements. A bond purchase contract designates Jeffries LLC in conjunction with J.P. Morgan Securities and Truist Securities as underwriters. They will purchase the bonds and market them. U.S. Bank Trust Co., named registrar and paying agent, will keep records of bond owners and distribute principal and interest payments. The total bond amount plus interest must be repaid in 30 years at the latest.

Wildwood may insure the bonds, which would reduce the interest rate, if the insurance premium is less than the rate savings.

## Florida lawmakers propose ban on toxic firefighting foam linked to water and soil contamination

Jan 26, 2026

Laura Cassels, Florida Trident



PFAS in Florida. Via EWG.

TALLAHASSEE, FL – State lawmakers are weighing a ban on a highly effective but toxic foam widely used to suppress flammable-liquid fires that is leaking into water supplies and sickening people, with firefighters at the forefront of the worldwide battle with “forever chemicals.”

Due to public health and environmental concerns, the foam was banned in the United Kingdom last year and in Australia in 2018. Several U.S. states, including New York and Michigan, ban most uses of it. The U.S. Department of Defense is phasing it out this year.

The effort this year by lawmakers to ban the substance comes years after state and federal findings that numerous military installations, airports and firefighter training centers in Florida are riddled with forever chemicals, called PFAS (which stands for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances), in water and soil. That is because the toxic firefighting foam, which is very good at its job, has for decades been routinely sprayed at those places in tests, in training, and when big machines such as jets catch fire.

State Sen. Gayle Harrell, a Republican representing all of Martin County and parts of neighboring St. Lucie and Palm Beach counties, wants Florida to ban the use of Aqueous Film-Forming Foam – or AFFF, which is loaded with PFAS – starting July 1 and to ban its sale, purchase or distribution in Florida by July 1 of next year.

Her bill, SB 1230, sets a July 1, 2028, deadline to ban the possession and use of the toxic foam. There are major exemptions for aviation facilities, military installations and emergency firefighting situations in which no alternative to AFFF is suitable.

“This is a really significant step forward to protect our firefighters,” Harrell said at the bill’s first legislative hearing in Tallahassee on Jan. 20, where it passed unanimously and advanced for further hearings. “Our firefighters are the ones directly exposed to it. ... This is a *forever* chemical, and it does cause serious risk for cancer.”

PFAS are a group of synthetic chemicals that include PFOS, PFOA and many related compounds used for decades in household items because they are resistant to water, grease and stains. Everyday products that may contain PFAS include non-stick cookware, pizza boxes, cosmetics, and water-resistant, stain-resistant raincoats, carpets and upholstery.

PFAS chemicals bioaccumulate and never degrade, leading them to be called forever chemicals. Firefighting foam containing PFAS is linked to kidney cancer, testicular cancer and other diseases, according to multiple federal health and environmental agencies.

Being heavy with PFAS, AFFF foam is excellent at smothering flammable-liquid fires — which is a big deal at airports and military installations where big machines laden with fuel can ignite. Safe alternatives are being sought, but until the right thing comes along, federal aviation and military authorities are keeping AFFF at the ready. Even where bans are in place, exemptions usually are made for those facilities.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in its occupational safety and health branch, and the National Cancer Institute cite research about PFAS and disease, and they report firefighters among workers most at risk of developing cancer and other diseases in the line of duty. PFAS also are prevalent around dry-cleaning establishments, chemical plants and certain other industrial sites. Some states and regions are investigating the effect of PFAS on wildlife. For example, Michigan health authorities in September issued a “do not eat” advisory for deer and fish in a hunting and fishing area contaminated with PFAS.

“We’ve known for some time”

Meanwhile, federal authorities including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the National Institutes of Health, and the U.S. Department of Defense cite the use of AFFF as a leading source of PFAS contamination in water and soil and a menace to public health. Ten years ago, the EPA issued drinking water advisories for certain PFAS at 70 parts per trillion. In 2024, the agency slashed that tolerance and issued a National Primary Drinking Water Regulation setting enforceable thresholds ranging from 1 to 10 parts per trillion.

Firefighters are aware, and they are concerned.

“We’ve known for some time the ingredients in this foam are carcinogenic, and bad for the environment,” said Treasure Island Fire Chief Trip Barrs, 37 years a firefighter, and president of the Florida Fire Chiefs Association. He told the *Florida Trident* his 18-person fire department has disposed of its AFFF and uses less powerful products, but he worries about his crews’ past exposures to the foam, mostly during training exercises. His team has annual physicals to screen for cancer markers.

“We trained a lot” with AFFF, Barrs said, adding that firefighters also have learned that materials containing PFAS are sewn into most protective suits, called turnout gear. He noted that a 2019 Florida law recognized the hazards of his profession when it established a “cancer presumption” for firefighters diagnosed with any of 21 types of cancers. That law presumes a firefighter’s line of work caused his or her cancer and guarantees medical coverage and a one-time cash payout.

As federal reports emerged detailing widespread pollution of water with PFAS, water suppliers in Stuart, FL, and hundreds of other water suppliers brought a tidal wave of lawsuits against manufacturers 3M, DuPont, Tyco and BASF. The actions, combined into a mega lawsuit titled “Aqueous Film-Forming Foam (AFFF) Products Liability Litigation,” accused the manufacturers of failing to warn users about the dangers of their products. Admitting no guilt, 3M and the lesser manufacturers agreed in 2024 to pay up to \$14.7 billion across the country to remediate contaminated public water systems. The lion’s share comes from 3M alone — \$10.3 billion paid out over 13 years.

Water suppliers in Florida eligible in coming years for millions from the water settlements include suppliers in Stuart, Tampa, Tallahassee and Miami. Tampa Bay Water, for example, announced in July it will receive more than \$21 million. The actions they take should result in safer water but cannot undo damage done. Across the nation, more than 73 million people use water containing excessive levels of PFAS, according to the EPA.

Another flood of AFFF lawsuits, these for personal injury, is on the way.

#### Suspicious cancers in the vicinity

Sick firefighters and other people with cancers they believe are caused by PFAS leaked from Aqueous Film-Forming Foam have filed thousands of federal lawsuits claiming personal injury. The number of open cases in the AFFF mega lawsuit has risen to more than 15,000, according to the U.S. Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation. Like the water contamination cases, the personal injury cases are being handled by the same judge, U.S. District Judge Richard M. Gergel, in Charleston, S.C.

One of the new lawsuits was filed by Jerelyn Zeche and nine other people employed now or previously at the College of Central Florida’s Ocala campus. They are suing the college, the Florida State Fire College, and a host of PFAS manufacturers, alleging that those parties avoidably exposed them to PFAS left behind by the use of Aqueous Film-Forming Foam, used when the site operated as the State Fire College training center.

A lead attorney on the case, John B. Agnetti of Miami, told the *Trident* his clients were not told that test wells on the campus where they worked were known to be contaminated with PFAS.

“The state of Florida, particularly the college, knew of this condition for some time and failed to disclose it,” Agnetti contends. “These carcinogens were used to put out fires ... These are chemicals that never go away.”

Zeche, identified in the lawsuit as a professor/manager in a dental hygiene program at the college’s Hampton Center in Ocala, alleges she was sickened by high levels of PFAS in wells and on the ground at the campus. She says she developed breast cancer, which spread to her lymphatic system, and other diseases, including heart problems related to her cancer treatments.

Another plaintiff employed in the dental program, Chiquita Brewton, believes both she and her daughter developed diseases from being poisoned by the chemicals. All the plaintiffs assert they have been sickened or are at elevated risk for developing cancer and other diseases linked to PFAS exposure at the Ocala college campus.

Besides the health claims, Agnetti also foresees a wave of lawsuits claiming losses in value of neighboring properties due to their proximity to the contamination.

In 2019-21 testing, the state DEP tested 29 current and former fire-training centers believed to have used AFFF over the years. As at the Ocala site, all but two were found to contain excessive levels of PFAS in on-site water and/or soil. They include sites in Pensacola, Tallahassee, Jacksonville, Tampa, Orlando, Englewood, Daytona Beach, Hialeah, Miami-Dade, Grassy Key in the Florida Keys, and 17 others.

#### Legislative steps

Sen. Harrell’s proposed ban on AFFF also calls on the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to catalog inventories of the toxic foam, design plans for safely disposing of it — which isn’t easy or cheap — and issue guidance and money to help fire departments and airports with the transition to safer products. The amount of money was not specified in her bill, leaving room to speculate whether firefighting units will be able to afford safe disposal of their AFFF stockpiles and to reconfigure their gear to handle the safer alternative products.

Fire Chief Barrs, who traveled to the state Capitol last week to share his views with lawmakers, hopes there will be significant funding to help firefighters and their communities do battle with PFAS, which are essentially everywhere and last forever.

With the stoic demeanor of a leadership firefighter, Barrs said, “This is a good start.”

Harrell’s bill is cosponsored in the House by Rep. Omar Blanco, a Miami Republican and Florida’s 2020 Professional Firefighter of the Year, and Rep. Bill Conerly, a Republican and civil engineer who represents part of Manatee County. Their bill is HB 1019, which has not yet had a hearing.

A more comprehensive pair of bills, which also address liability for contaminated property, has not been scheduled for hearings. They are SB 1058, sponsored by Sen. Lori Berman, of Palm Beach County and Senate Democratic caucus leader, and HB 855, sponsored by Democratic Reps. Daryl Campbell of Broward County and Rob Long of Palm Beach County.

The 2026 regular legislative session started Jan. 13 and is set to end March 13.

## **The Ocklawaha River restoration project is long overdue, supporters said. Florida politics**

Gabrielle Russon

March 4, 2026

By a 107-3 vote, the House passed a bill to restore the Ocklawaha River to its natural flow and breach the Kirkpatrick Dam. Some lawmakers have called HB 981 one of the biggest environmental projects the state has ever taken up, similar to the Everglades restoration. “With the restoration of the Ocklawaha River, we had the opportunity to reunite rivers to restore some of our vibrant springs communities and bring manatees back to places where they once lived,” said Rep. Lindsay Cross, a St. Petersburg Democrat who is an environmental scientist. “This will be something that we look back at decades from now as a crowning jewel of the state of Florida.”

But one lawmaker who represents Putnam County, where the river runs through, stood against the bill on the House floor and argued it could hurt rural Florida. “One thing my community has had for generations is the Rodman Reservoir. It’s our place. It’s where people fell in love. It’s where kids learned to fish. It’s where even today some families still put food on the table. Many in my district do not have much, but what they do have, they cherish,” said Republican Rep. Judson Sapp. “Rodman attracts tourists who come for world-class bass fishing. That matters. It matters for small business, for local jobs, and for a rural community that cannot afford to lose another thing.”

Rep. Kevin Chambliss, a Homestead Democrat, and Rep. Lauren Melo, a Naples Republican, joined Sapp in voting against Republican Rep. Wyman Duggan’s bill. Meanwhile, the Senate companion bill (SB 1066) sponsored by Sen. Jason Brodeur, a Lake Mary Republican, is ready for the full Senate floor.

Even as the river restoration project gains momentum in the Legislature, it remains to be seen whether it escapes Gov. Ron DeSantis’ veto pen. DeSantis has a history of vetoing the Ocklawaha River money. “Stay tuned!” DeSantis Press Secretary Molly Best said when reached for comment Wednesday on DeSantis’ intentions if the Legislature passes the river restoration bill. Duggan hinted that the bill already had input from DeSantis as he advocated for it on the House floor. “This legislation, built on collaboration with community stakeholders, the Legislature, and the Governor, is long overdue,” Duggan said.

The nearly 80-mile Ocklawaha has statewide importance because it is the main tributary to the St Johns River, the longest river in Florida. HB 981 would order the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to develop a plan to restore the Ocklawaha River by Jan. 1, 2027, and complete the work by Dec. 31, 2032.

“If enacted, the legislation would reconnect Silver Springs and the Ocklawaha River to the St. Johns River for the first time in more than half a century — restoring a vital floodplain forest, reviving springs and fisheries, expanding public access to world-class outdoor recreation, and strengthening rural and riverway economies across Northeast Florida,” the Great Florida Riverway Trust said in a statement after Wednesday’s vote.

In addition, the bill seeks to expand outdoor recreational activities, such as manatee viewing, paddling tours and more in Putnam, Marion, Clay and St. Johns counties. The bill creates the 19-member Northeast Florida River and Springs Recreation and Economic Development Advisory Council. Those who are chosen will not get paid and will help oversee the outdoor recreation plan that will get additional state grant funding. The Governor will appoint nine members to represent river recreation businesses, anglers, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, environmentalists and commerce. Local communities, and Naval Air Station Jacksonville will also have representation on the group.

One of the most controversial issues of the project was removing the Kirkpatrick Dam, originally known as the Rodman Dam, which became a popular place to fish. The dam was built in 1968 at a time when a project to slice through Florida and create a barge canal to run coast to coast was still in motion. Former President Richard Nixon halted the Cross Florida Barge Canal in 1971 and years of litigation, questions and delays carried on for years about what to do with the land.

Environmentalists and river enthusiasts have fought to restore the river, which they said would help native fish thrive and uncover 20 hidden natural springs. In turn, those would bring tourists happy to spend time outdoors and enjoy nature. “Florida has a proud tradition of doing the hard right thing to protect our natural heritage from the Everglades to the Kissimmee River. And the Oklahoma River deserves that same commitment,” Duggan said. “For nearly 60 years, Floridians championed the restoration and waited for their leaders to act.”

Meanwhile, Sapp argued restoring the river could threaten waterfront homes, cause flooding and lower property values. “My community will never be the same again if this passes,” the Green Cove Springs Republican said.

# **Villagers need to cut back on water usage during severe shortage**

**by Villages-News Editorial**

**February 17, 2026**

Due to the declaration of a Phase II “Severe” Water Shortage by the Southwest Florida Water Management District, Villagers need to cut back on their water usage.

Where the Restrictions Apply in The Villages

The restrictions apply to residential and general commercial customers in The Villages located in the following areas:

Sumter County: Districts 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16, and Middleton

Marion County: District 4

Lake County: District 11

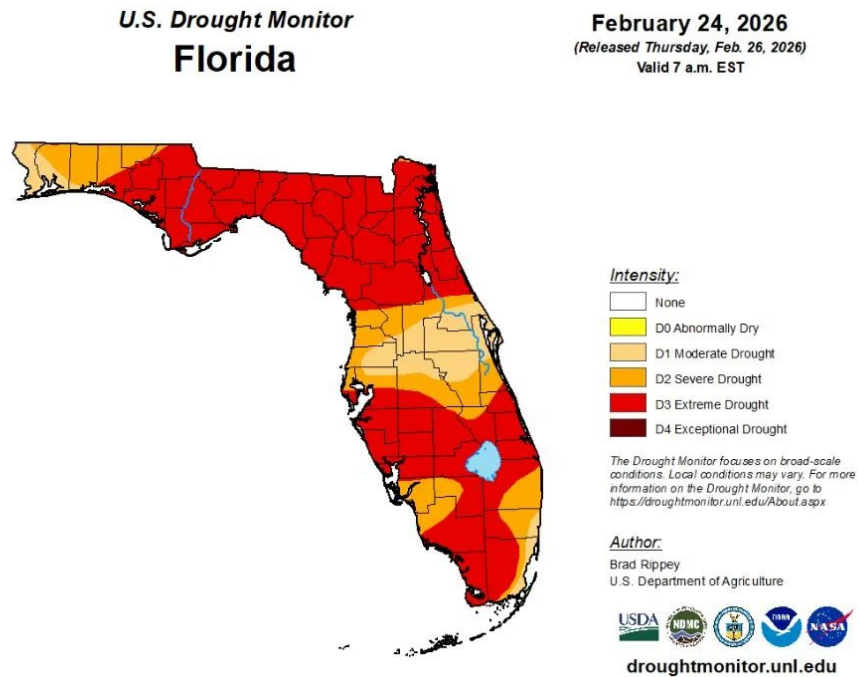
Restrictions will remain in effect through July 1.

# Florida Faces Historic Drought Crisis as Entire State Falls Into Drought Conditions With 67% Now in Extreme Drought

Waldron News

By Colton Hayes

March 4, 2026



FLORIDA — New data from the U.S. Drought Monitor released February 24, 2026, shows an alarming milestone across the Sunshine State: every part of Florida is now experiencing drought conditions, marking the first time in the 21st century that 100% of the state has fallen into drought status.

Even more concerning, the report indicates a record-breaking 67% of Florida is currently classified under “Extreme Drought” (D3), signaling severe water shortages and significant stress on ecosystems, agriculture, and water supplies across the state.

## Extreme Drought Now Dominates Most of Florida

The latest drought map shows large sections of northern, central, and southern Florida covered in deep red, representing extreme drought conditions.

Areas experiencing widespread extreme drought include:

- Jacksonville and much of Northeast Florida
- Tallahassee and the Florida Panhandle
- Gainesville and North Central Florida
- Tampa Bay region
- Southwest Florida including Fort Myers and Naples
- Large portions of South Florida

These conditions indicate major rainfall deficits and rapidly drying soils, which can significantly increase wildfire risk and strain water resources.

Moderate to Severe Drought Also Spreading Across Central Florida

While extreme drought dominates much of the map, other parts of the state are experiencing moderate to severe drought conditions, particularly across sections of central Florida and interior regions.

Counties across the Orlando corridor and parts of inland central Florida appear in lighter drought categories, including:

- Moderate Drought (D1)
- Severe Drought (D2)

These areas are still experiencing notable rainfall shortages, though conditions are slightly less severe compared to the widespread extreme drought surrounding them.

Why This Drought Is Historically Significant

Florida regularly experiences dry seasons during winter and early spring, but the current situation stands out due to its statewide scale and severity.

According to drought monitoring data:

- 100% of Florida is now in drought
- 67% of the state is classified as extreme drought
- This marks the highest level of extreme drought coverage ever recorded in Florida

Such widespread drought can lead to falling water levels in lakes and rivers, agricultural losses, increased wildfire risk, and stress on municipal water supplies.

## Potential Impacts Across the State

If dry conditions persist, Florida could face several growing concerns over the coming weeks.

Possible impacts include:

- Increased wildfire danger, especially across forests and grasslands
- Water restrictions in some communities
- Agricultural stress on crops and livestock
- Lower lake and groundwater levels
- Environmental impacts on wetlands and wildlife

Spring rainfall will play a key role in determining whether conditions improve or worsen across the state.

## What Happens Next

Meteorologists will be closely monitoring upcoming weather patterns to see whether rainfall systems develop that could help relieve the drought.

However, drought recovery typically requires multiple significant rain events over several weeks, meaning conditions could persist for some time if rainfall remains limited.

For now, the new drought data highlights a historic and concerning moment for Florida's climate conditions, with the entire state now officially experiencing drought.

## Item 12.f.

### WRWSA Office Lease/Purchase Options

Ms. Suzannah Folsom, Executive Director, will present this item.

WRWSA has an agreement with Citrus County to lease office space in the Lecanto Government Building. This 5-year agreement will expire at the end of September 2026. WRWSA staff has reached out the Citrus County to inquire about renewing the lease. The County is willing to renew the lease, however they are not sure if it would be for the current space, as many of the departments in the Lecanto Government Building are moving and the final arrangement for spaces in the building will not be available until May.

The current lease is for approximately \$2,047.68 per year for 289 square feet. In addition, the lease provides for utilities, internet access, and meeting rooms when needed. A review of similar office spaces in the area (see attached exhibit) did not yield better options for lease or purchase. WRWSA staff will continue to coordinate the Citrus County on the availability of space in the Lecanto Government Building.

Staff will include the current lease amount in the proposed budget for the FY 2026-27 as a placeholder, and will provide an updated lease agreement for approval prior to the lease expiring in September 2026.

#### Staff Recommendation:

This is an information item for the Board and no action is required.

**Comparison of existing WRWSA Lease to other rental or purchase options**

<b>Existing Lease</b>		<b>SQFT</b>	<b>\$/SQFT/yr</b>	<b>\$/month</b>	<b>\$/year</b>
Lecanto Government Building	3600 W Sovereign Path Suites 228 and 229	289.63	\$ 7.07	\$ 170.64	\$ 2,047.68

**Alternate office space for Lease**

<b>Location Name</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>SQFT</b>	<b>\$/SQFT/yr</b>	<b>\$/month</b>	<b>\$/year</b>
Inverness	202 W highland Blvd Suite 220 Inverness, FL 34452	1500	\$ 16.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 24,000.00
Pro Business Center	1919 W Gulf To Lake Hwy Lecanto, FL 34461	960	\$ 12.00	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 15,600.00
Bushnell Plaza	138 Bushnell Plz Suite 205 Bushnell, FL 33513	327	\$ 31.16	\$ 849.11	\$ 10,189.32
Dunellon	11371 N Williams St. Unit 6 Dunellon, FL 34432	750	\$ 13.60	\$ 850.00	\$ 10,200.00
Wildwood 2	601 Webster St Wildwood, FL 34785	2348	\$ 15.33	\$ 2,999.57	\$ 35,994.84
Vantage point	1578 N Meadowcrest Blvd. Cystal River	1625	\$ 11.00	\$ 1,489.58	\$ 17,875.00
Norvell Bryant	2500 N Anvil Ter. Hernando, FL 34442	1800	\$ 13.00	\$ 1,950.00	\$ 23,400.00
Villages	4713 E SR 44 Wildwood, FL 34785	1500	\$ 32.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 48,000.00
Bellevue Building	11997 US Highway 441 Bellevue, FL 34421	2900	\$ 10.34	\$ 2,498.83	\$ 29,986.00
Bellview Building	5608 SE 113th St Bellevue, FL 34420	2400	\$ 20.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 48,000.00
Ocala1Lease	2801 SW College Road, #16 Ocala, FL 34474	1200	\$ 16.00	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 19,200.00
Timber Ridge Professional Center	9401 SW Highway 200 - Building 1000 Ste 1002 Ocala, FL 34481	1469	\$ 18.00	\$ 2,203.50	\$ 26,442.00

<b>Alternate Office Spaces for Purchase</b>		<b>SQFT</b>	<b>\$/sqft</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$/Year for 30 year financing</b>
Retail Wildwood	103 N Main St Wildwood, FL 3	4200	\$ 142.86	\$ 600,000.00	\$39,030.86
Medical Condo in Villages lake Sumter Landing	910 Old Camp Road Lady Lake, FL 32162	1850	\$ 405.41	\$ 750,000.00	\$48,788.58
Brooksville Commercial Building	1340 Howell Ave Brooksville, FL 34601	2040	\$ 190.69	\$ 389,000.00	\$25,305.01
Ocala Office Building	2750 SE 17th St Ocala FL 34471	3278	\$ 205.92	\$ 675,000.00	\$43,909.72
Ocala Office	2801 SW College Rd, Ocala, FL 34474	1800	\$ 180.56	\$ 325,000.00	\$21,141.72
Ocala1Buy	2801 SW College Rd, Ocala, FL 34474	1200	\$ 187.50	\$ 225,000.00	\$14,636.57
MGC Environmental	2716 S Lecanto highway Lecanto, FL 34461	1547	\$ 548.80	\$ 849,000.00	\$55,228.67
Inverness	102 E Highland Blvd Inverness, FL 34452	2520	\$ 178.57	\$ 450,000.00	\$29,273.15
Lake Pannasofkee	2339 N C-470 Lake Pannasofkee, FL 33538	1350	\$ 185.19	\$ 250,000.00	\$16,262.86