



WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY

Board Meeting Package

September 17, 2025
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 2025

Office	Board Members
Chair	The Honorable Jerry Campbell
Vice Chair	The Honorable Don Wiley
Treasurer	The Honorable Marcos Flores

Jurisdiction	Board Members
Citrus County	The Honorable Janet Barek
	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 Robert “Bo” Smith
City of Brooksville	The Honorable Thomas Bronson
City of Wildwood	The Honorable Marcos Flores
City of Crystal River	The Honorable Robert Holmes

Meeting Dates

The schedule of meetings for the 2024-2025 fiscal year are as follows:

November 20, 2024
January 15, 2025
March 19, 2025

May 21, 2025
July 9, 2025
September 17, 2025



September 8, 2025

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, September 17, 2025 3:30 p.m., at the Lecanto Government Center Building, Room 166, 3600 Sovereign Path, Lecanto, FL 34461.**

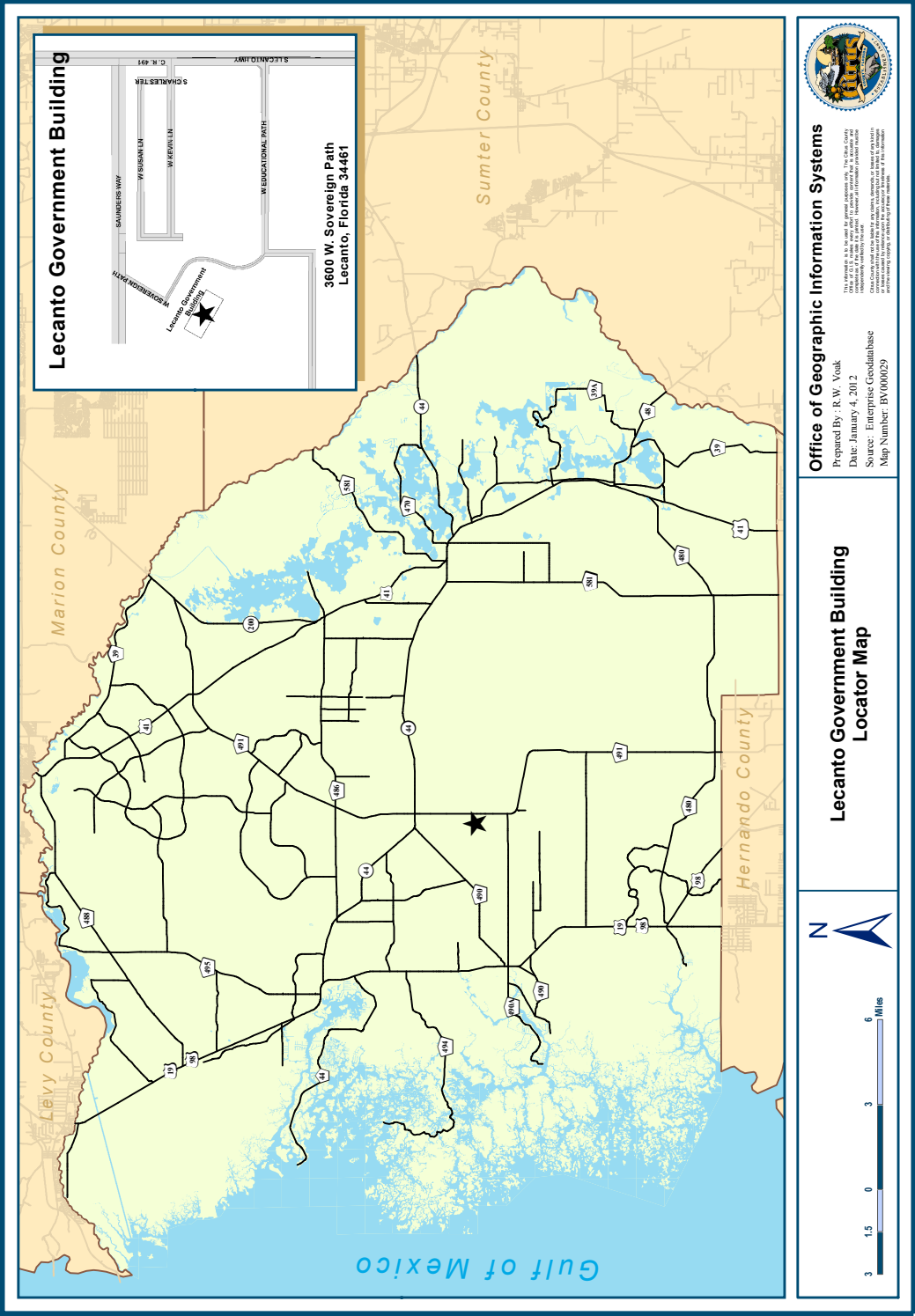
Enclosed for your review are the following items:

- Agenda
- Minutes of July 9, 2025
- 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.
- 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.



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 1st 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

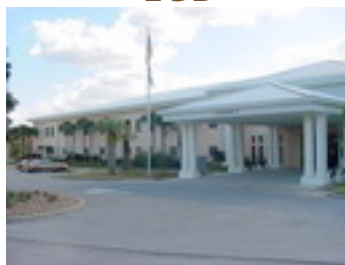
From Bushnell

- 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



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

A G E N D A

September 17, 2025 -- 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.

	<u>PAGE</u>
1. Call to Order . . . Jerry Campbell, Chair	
2. Pledge of Allegiance . . . Led by the Board	
3. Roll Call . . . Suzy Folsom, WRWSA Executive Director	
4. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda . . . Suzy Folsom, WRWSA	
5. Public Comment	
6. Consent Agenda . . . Jerry Campbell, Chair	
a. Approval of Minutes [approve July 9, 2025 minutes]	9
b. Public Officials Liability Insurance Policy [approve FY 2025-26 renewal payment]	13
c. Bills to be Paid [ratify August bills; approve September bills provided at the meeting]	21
d. Fiscal Year 2025-26 Calendar of Board Meeting Dates Report [approve FY 2025-26 dates]	23
e. Fiscal Year 2024-25 Budget Amendment – Purvis Gray Client Assistance	25
7. Resolution 2025-05 Adoption of Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-26 . . . Suzy Folsom, WRWSA	27
8. As-Needed Technical and Engineering Services – Authorization to Issue Work Orders . . . Suzy Folsom, WRWSA	37
9. Charles A. Black Wellfield Engineering Analysis . . . Suzy Folsom, WRWSA	39
10. Regional Water Supply Plan Update . . . Lisa Krentz, Hazen and Sawyer	45
11. Legislative Reports . . . Suzy Folsom, WRWSA	47
12. Attorney’s Report . . . Rob Batsel, WRWSA Attorney	51
13. Executive Director’s Report . . . Suzy Folsom, WRWSA	
a. Water Use Permit Demand Summary	53
b. Water Management Information System Water Use Permit Notifications	55
c. Residential Irrigation Evaluation Programs Update	57
d. Correspondence	59
e. News Articles	71
f. Other	
14. Other Business	
15. Next Meeting . . . November 19, 2025; 3:30 p.m.; Lecanto Government Building, Room 166	
16. Adjournment	

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

DRAFT

WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Minutes of the Meeting July 9, 2025

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

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

1. **Call to Order**

Chair Campbell called the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (WRWSA) Board of Directors meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

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

3. **Roll Call** – Chair Campbell asked each attendee to introduce themselves.

BOARD MEMBER PRESENT

Jerry Campbell, *Chair*, Hernando Co Commissioner
Don Wiley, *Vice Chair*, Sumter County Commissioner
Marcos Flores, *Treasurer*, Wildwood City Councilor
Ryan Amsler, Hernando County Commissioner
Janet Barak, Citrus County Commissioner
Todd Coon, Sumter County Commissioner
Robert Holmes, Crystal River City Councilor
Robert “Bo” Smith, Belleview Commissioner

BOARD MEMBER(S) ABSENT

Thomas Bronson, Brooksville City Councilor
Kathy Bryant, Marion County Commissioner
Jeff Kinnard, Citrus Co Commissioner
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

Carrieann Adkins, SWFWMD Govt Affairs Reg Mgr
Debra Burden, Citrus Co Water Conservation Mgr
Audra Curts, City of Crystal River
Katheryn Eno, Purvis Gray & Company
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 noted that are no additions or deletions to the agenda.

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

6. **Consent Agenda**

- a. **Approval of Minutes** [approved May 21, 2025 minutes]
- b. **Bills to be Paid** [ratified June bills; approved July bills provided at the meeting]
- c. **2025-2026 Regulatory Plan** [Approve plan as provided by staff for publication]

Mr. Holmes moved, second Ms. Barek, to approve Consent Agenda Items 6.a., 6.b. and 6.c., as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

7. **Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Financial Audit**

Ms. Katheryn Eno, Partner with Purvis Gray & Company, LLP, presented this item. Purvis Gray and Company has prepared the annual audit of the Authority’s financial statements for the Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2024.

Included as an exhibit in the Board's meeting materials is the Authority's financial position provided to Purvis Gray & Company. The following exhibits were included as separate documents: A. June 12, 2025 letter from Purvis Gray and Company; B. Financial Statements and Independent Auditors' Report for Fiscal Year 2023-24. Ms. Eno provided a review of the documents provided.

Ms. Barek moved, seconded by Mr. Wiley, to approve the Financial Statements and Independent Auditors' Report for Fiscal Year 2023-24, dated June 7, 2024, as presented at the meeting and submittal of this report to the Auditor General and to the Florida Department of Financial Services. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Water Supply and Conservation Grants Program – Approval of Awards

Ms. Folsom, Executive Director, presented this item. At the Authority's May 21, 2025 meeting, the Board set the total allocation of funds in Fiscal Year 2025-26 for the Local Government Grant Program at \$180,000. The Authority has received four grant applications, one each from Citrus, Hernando, Marion and Sumter counties. A summary of the applications is presented below while copies of the applications are included as exhibits to this item.

The applications received reflect continuations of member government proven effective water conservation programs. Staff analysis of the applications indicates all of the proposed water conservation programs meet the Authority's grant program requirements. Representatives of each of the applicants have been invited to attend the meeting and answer any Board questions regarding their respective water conservation grant applications.

The applications received total \$274,960.00. Staff recommends the Board approve the FY 2025-26 grant amounts as noted below totaling \$180,000.00. Sumter County has been notified that the amount being granted is not the full amount being requested.

The following exhibits were included in the Board's meeting materials:

- Citrus County Water Supply and Conservation Grant Application
- Hernando County Water Supply and Conservation Grant Application
- Marion County Water Supply and Conservation Grant Application
- Sumter County Water Supply and Conservation Grant Application
- Belleview Water Supply and Conservation Grant Application

Mr. Flores moved, seconded by Mr. Wiley, to approve the grants in the amounts recommended (Citrus County - \$47,175.00; Hernando County - \$47,000.00; Marion County - \$18,285.00; Sumter County - \$65,040.00; City of Belleview - \$2,500.00) and authorized the Chair to sign the Grant Agreements. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Consideration of this item was deferred to September 17, 2025 Board meeting as a representative from each County needs to be present for budget approval.

10. Regional Water Supply Plan

Ms. Lisa Krentz representing Hazen and Sawyer provided an update on the project status a summary of the future water supply modeling that Hazen and Sawyer has completed. The Authority entered into a cooperative funding agreement with the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) in December 2022 (23CF0004079) for Regional Water Supply Plan Update project. The Authority entered into a contract with Hazen and Sawyer in January 2023 to undertake the project. With the assistance of the SWFWMD, St. Johns River Water Management District, and a Technical Advisory Committee comprised of representatives from member governments and public supply utilities in the four-county region, the Plan Update is being coordinated.

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

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

11. Legislative Report

Ms. Folsom, Executive Director, presented this item. The 2025 Legislative Regular Session began on March 4, 2025 and ran for two extended periods ending June 16, 2025. Staff has gathered updated information on relevant bills that are related to conservation and water supply from SWFWMD, 1000 Friends of Florida, and the Florida Engineering Society's Conservation and Environmental Quality Committee, and the House and Senate websites.

A summary of the bills that WRWSA that staff has been tracking that passed during the session is provided in the meeting materials.

Ms. Folsom provided a more detailed presentation on the SB 492 / HB 1175 Mitigation Banks Bill for the Board's information. In response to Mr. Holmes' inquiry, the next presentation will be on the SB202 / HB11 Municipal Water and Sewer Utility Rates; as of July 1, it was the only bill not signed yet by the Governor.

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

12. Attorney's Report – Mr. Hartley noted that the 12-month extension to the agreement with EcoLand Design has been executed.

13. Executive Director's Report – Ms. Folsom presented the following items which required no action and highlighted items which had activity since last Board meeting.

- a. Water Use Permit Demand Summary** – A summary was in the Board's meeting materials.
- b. Water Use Permit Activity Report (WMIS Notifications)** – A list of notifications was included in the Board's meeting materials.
- c. Residential Irrigation Evaluation Programs Update** – Ms. Folsom said the focus for Phase 7 program is on follow-ups to 25% of the core evaluation participants, a comparison of pre- and post-evaluation water usage, a satisfaction survey and a report. This program will be complete in December 2025. She also noted that the Phase 8 program began in May 2025 and will be completed utilizing grant funding from the SWFWMD WISE program.
- d. Correspondence** – Item(s) were included in the meeting materials.
- e. News Articles** – Article(s) were included in the meeting materials. It was noted that Phase 2 of the Florida Water Loss Program has started, which provides free water audit services to municipalities in Florida.

12. Other Business – None

13. Next Meeting Time and Location

- The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for September 17, 2025, at 3:30 p.m. at the Lecanto Government Building, Room 166. .

14. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 4:43 p.m.

Jerry Campbell, Chair

Suzannah J. Folsom, Executive Director

Consent Agenda

Public Officials Liability Insurance Policy

The Authority has received the Public Officials Liability Insurance Renewal information, which is included as an exhibit to this item. The renewal amount is with the FY2024-25 budgeted amount of \$5,000.

See Exhibit – Public Officials Liability Insurance Policy Renewal

Staff Recommendation:

Board approval of the Public Officials Liability Insurance renewal of \$3,124.81, and for the Executive Director to sign the Surplus Lines Disclosure and Acknowledgment form.



Amwins Insurance Brokerage, LLC
10201 Centurion Parkway North
Suite 400
Jacksonville, FL 32256

amwins.com

September 2, 2025

Acentria Insurance
117 N Seminole Ave
Inverness, FL 34450

RE: Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority

PUBLIC OFFICIALS LIABILITY QUOTATION

Please find the attached quotation for Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority. Here is a summary of the terms and conditions:

INSURED: Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority

MAILING ADDRESS: 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Suite 228
Lecanto, FL 34461

CARRIER: Indian Harbor Insurance Company (Non-Admitted)

PROPOSED POLICY PERIOD: From 10/1/2025 to 10/1/2026
12:01 A.M. Standard Time at the Mailing Address shown above

QUOTE EXPIRATION DATE: 10/1/2025

POLICY PREMIUM:	Premium	\$2,751.00
	Fees	\$225.00
	Surplus Lines Taxes and Fees	\$148.81
	Total	\$3,124.81

MINIMUM EARNED PREMIUM: 25%

SUBJECTIVITIES: PLEASE SEE HIGHLIGHTED AREA OF CARRIER QUOTE. WE ALSO NEED THE FLORIDA LICENSE DISCLOSURE FORM.

SURPLUS LINES TAX SUMMARY

HOME STATE: Florida

FEES:

Fee	Taxable	Amount
Amwins Service Fee	Yes	\$225.00
Total Fees		\$225.00

SURPLUS LINES TAX CALCULATION:

State	Description	Taxable Premium	Taxable Fee	Tax Basis	Rate	Tax
Florida	Surplus Lines Tax	\$2,751.00	\$225.00	\$2,976.00	4.940%	\$147.02
	Stamping Fee	\$2,751.00	\$225.00	\$2,976.00	0.060%	\$1.79
Total Surplus Lines Taxes and Fees						\$148.81

Important Notice: Surplus Lines Tax Rates and Regulations are subject to change which could result in an increase or decrease of the total Surplus Lines Taxes and Fees owed on this placement. If a change is required, we will promptly notify you. Any additional taxes owed must be promptly remitted.

The attached Quotation from the carrier sets forth the coverage terms and conditions being offered. Please review carefully with your client as terms and conditions may differ from those requested in your submission. It is your responsibility to ensure the quoted coverage terms and conditions are sufficient to meet your client's coverage needs.

If after reviewing you should have any questions or requested changes, please let us know as soon as possible so we can discuss with the carrier prior to the effective date of coverage.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this Quotation and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Keylee Watts

Technical Assistant

T 904.996.0007 | F 877.570.9323 | keylee.watts@amwins.com

Amwins Insurance Brokerage, LLC

10201 Centurion Parkway North | Suite 400 | Jacksonville, FL 32256 | amwins.com

On behalf of,

Hannah Mathe

Vice President

T 678.586.2292 | F 877.570.9323 | hannah.mathe@amwins.com

Amwins Insurance Brokerage, LLC

In California: Amwins Brokerage Insurance Services | License 0F19710

10201 Centurion Parkway North | Suite 400 | Jacksonville, FL 32256 | amwins.com

SURPLUS LINES DISCLOSURE

Florida

SURPLUS LINES INSURERS' POLICY RATES AND FORMS ARE NOT APPROVED BY ANY FLORIDA REGULATORY AGENCY.

This insurance is issued pursuant to the Florida Surplus Lines Law. Persons insured by surplus lines carriers do not have the protection of the Florida Insurance Guaranty Act to the extent of any right of recovery for the obligation of an insolvent unlicensed insurer.

Surplus Lines Licensee:

Name: _____

Address: _____

License No.: _____

Signature: _____

Producing Agent:

Name: _____

Address: _____

AUTOMATIC RENEWAL LETTER

Indian Harbor Insurance Company is pleased to advise that the captioned insured qualifies for our automatic renewal process. A renewal submission will not be necessary; **all that is required is a written request to bind the below captioned terms prior to the expiration date.** After such request, please consider this letter as your Binder. We will then provide you with the policy with your full terms and conditions along with your invoice. **Please note that all policy forms, endorsements, and conditions of your policy will apply to the renewal policy.**

Insured: Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority
Policy #: POL0951174-06-REN
Effective Date: 10/01/2025
Carrier: Indian Harbor Insurance Company

Coverage	Limits	Retention	Premium	Fee
Public Officials Management & Employment Practices Liability	1,000,000 Per Claim 1,000,000 Aggregate 1,000,000 EPL	5,000 Retention 10,000 EPL Retention	2,751.00	

Conditions:

- At the time of binding, provide the name and email address of Insured contact for EPL Loss Prevention services.

Comments:

- Minimum Earned Premium is the GREATER of \$1,500 or 25% of annual premium
- We will not cancel flat after inception date
- Policy Fee is non-refundable
- Payment is due 15 days from the effective date of coverage.
- *PGU Not Responsible for Tax Filings
- By purchasing this coverage, you will have the opportunity to register for our PGU Employer Resource Center that provides unlimited, specific, documented, and confidential advice from the employment law attorneys. It also provides on-line training courses, including sexual harassment prevention, available for both supervisors and employees. As well as on-line tools; a state-specific employee handbook builder, forms, posters, news, and more.

If you have any questions about this Automatic Renewal Notice or about coverage for the coming year, please let us know.

ATTACHMENT
To
Claims-Made Public Official & Employment Practices Liability Application

Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority Statement of Agency Organization

- (1) The Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (Authority) is an independent special district authorized by section 373.1962, Florida Statutes (F.S.), as subsequently reenacted in section 373.713, F.S., and created by an interlocal agreement executed pursuant to section 163.01, F.S., in 1977, amended in 1984 and as expressed in the Revised and Restated Interlocal Agreement approved in 2014.
- (2) The Board of Directors (Board) of the Authority consists of Citrus, Hernando, Marion and Sumter counties and a municipal representative from each member county. Each representative is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the governing bodies of the parties. Members of the Board serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for travel expenses as provided in Section 112.016, F.S. The Board's officers consist of a chairman, vice-chairman and treasurer, each of whom serve for a term of one year, or until their respective successor is elected and qualified. The Board is vested with all of the powers of the Authority. The Executive Director serves as the Secretary to the Board.

Board Members:

- Jerry Campbell, Chair, Hernando County Commissioner
- Don Wiley, Vice Chair, Sumter County Commissioner
- Marcos Flores, Treasurer, Wildwood City Councilor
- Ryan Amsler, Hernando Co Commissioner
- Janet Barek, Citrus County Commissioner
- Thomas Bronson, Brooksville City Councilor
- Kathy Bryant, Marion County Commissioner
- Todd Coon, Sumter County Commissioner
- Robert Holmes, Crystal River City Councilor
- Jeff Kinnard, Citrus County Commissioner
- Robert "Bo" Smith, Belleview City Commissioner
- Michelle Stone, Marion County Commissioner
- Carl Zalak, Marion County Commissioner

Alternates:

- Gordon Onderdonk, Hernando County Utilities Dir
- Alys Brockway, Hernando County Water Resources Manager
- Trevor Knight, Marion County Water Resources Liaison
- Christine Dobkowski, City of Belleview Mayor
- Richard Weeks, City of Brooksville Public Works Department
- Audra K. Curtis-Whan, Crystal River City Manager
- Jason McHugh, Wildwood City Manager

(3) The Authority has no employees. Staffing needs are provided by contract with:

- Suzannah J. Folsom, Executive Director (sfolsom@wrwsa.org)
- Carolyn LuAnne Stout, Administrative Assistant (lstout@wrwsa.org)
- Robert W. Batsel, Attorney / James Hartley, Asst Attorney (rbatsel@lawyersocala.com)
- Purvis Gray & Company, Accountant (keno@purvisgray.com)

Other technical and engineering consultants on an as-needed basis.

Item 6.c.

Consent Agenda

Bills to be Paid

**August bills in the meeting materials;
September bills to be provided at meeting.**

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

Bills For Payment
8/20/2025

<u>Administrative Invoices</u>	<u>Invoice Number(s)</u>	<u>Invoice Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Suzannah J. Folsom, PE, Executive Director	1425	8/5/2025	\$8,782.46
Rob Batsel, General Counsel	150982	7/31/2025	\$963.50
C. LuAnne Stout, Admin Asst (Admin Services)	7-Jul-2025	8/1/2025	\$3,518.00
Ryan Amsler (July Bd Travel)		7/9/2025	\$19.58
Marcos Flores (July Bd Travel)		7/9/2025	\$35.16
Robert "Bo" Smith (July Bd Travel)		7/9/2025	\$36.49
Don Wiley (July Bd Travel)		7/9/2025	\$27.59
Nature Coast Web Design & Marketing (Contract/Monthly)	19201	8/1/2025	\$200.00
FL Dept of State FAR (Publish 2026 Regulatory Report)	160549	8/14/2025	\$12.46
Truist Bank Business Card Statement	8/2/2025	8/2/2025	\$973.95
Total Administrative Invoices			\$14,569.19

<u>Water Supply Studies and Facilities</u>	<u>Contract/ Budget</u>	<u>Balance Remaining</u>	<u>Current</u>
2025 General Services Contract	\$20,000.00		
Work Order 2025-01 CHA	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	
Work Order 2025-02 Stantec (fka Cardno)	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	
FY24-25 Water Conservation Grants Program	\$180,000.00	\$180,000.00	
Citrus County	\$47,000.00	\$47,000.00	
Hernando County	\$46,250.00	\$46,250.00	
Marion County	\$13,327.50	\$13,327.50	
Sumter County	\$73,512.50	\$73,512.50	
Regional Water Supply Plan Update (Q324)	\$350,000.00	\$79,680.00	
SJRWMD Irrigation Audits (East I-75)	\$60,000.00	\$40,224.25	
Phase 7 Irrigation Program (Q306)	\$102,000.00	\$35,345.95	\$500.00 (1)
Phase 8 WISE Irrigation Program	\$36,540.00	\$21,034.85	\$8,680.70 (2)
FY24-25 Total Project Invoices	\$712,000.00	\$355,340.20	\$9,180.70

Total Bills to be Paid	\$23,749.89
-------------------------------	--------------------

State Board of Administration	Transfer from SBA2 to SBA1	\$14,569.19
State Board of Administration	Transfer from SBA1 to Truist Bank	\$23,749.89
Truist Bank Deposit	Transferred from SBA1	\$23,749.89

Notes:

(1) Phase 7 (Q306) - Irrigation Audits - Reinspections

Jack Overdorff, ECO Land Design \$500.00 Invoice 811

(2) Phase 8 (WISE) - Irrigation Audits

Jack Overdorff, ECO Land Design \$7,880.70 Invoice 833

C. LuAnne Stout, Admin Services \$800.00 Invoice 7-Jul-Ph8 WISE-2025

\$8,680.70

Consent Agenda

Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Calendar of Board Meeting Dates

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

The Authority is required to follow Chapter 189, Florida Statutes, concerning meeting notices. In response to these statutory requirements, the Authority publishes an annual calendar of meeting dates that is approved by the Board. Any changes to the meeting dates, times or locations must be published in area newspapers to notice the change from the originally published calendar. The following dates are proposed for the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 meeting schedule.

Location of Meetings:	Lecanto Government Building, Room 166 3600 W. Sovereign Path Lecanto, Florida 34461
Start Time:	3:30 p.m.
Meeting Dates:	November 19, 2025 (Nov. 19-21 FAC Leg Conf, Hills Co) January 21, 2026 (Jan. 21 FAC Leg Day, Tallahassee) March 18, 2026 May 20, 2026 July 15, 2026 (Nov. 21-24 Permitting Summer School) September 16, 2026

Staff Recommendation:

Board approval of the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 meeting dates as shown above.

Consent Agenda

Fiscal Year 2024-25 Budget Amendment – Purvis Gray Client Assistance

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

The Authority has moved its Quickbooks desktop software to an online version. The 2015 Quickbooks version had become obsolete and failed to be up to date. Purvis Gray and Company assisted in adjusting the books of accounts with the move to online. The cost of providing client assistance in transferring bookkeeping from desktop to online is 13 hours at \$200 per hour.

Staff Recommendation:

Board approval of the Fiscal Year 2024-25 budget amendment to pay the amount of \$2,600 to Purvis Gray and Company for client assistance.

Resolution 2025-05, Adoption of Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

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

Included as Exhibit A to this item is the proposed FY 2025-26 budget. A draft budget was included in the May 2025 agenda packet and presented at the May 21, 2025 board meeting.

This budget has been prepared in a conservative manner to keep costs in check and enhance efficiencies for member governments. Included as Exhibit B is a description of the Authority's FY 2025-26 work program that is supported by the proposed budget.

See Exhibits included in the Board's meeting materials:

- A. Proposed FY 2025-26 Budget
- B. WRWSA FY 2025-26 Work Program
- C. Resolution 2025-05, Adoption of Final Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget

Staff Recommendation:

Approve Resolution 2025-05 adopting the FY 2025-2026 budget including anticipated revenues of \$523,068, expenditures in the amount of \$510,361, budgeted reserves in the amount of \$2,498,305, as presented in Exhibit A, for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2025 and ending September 30, 2026.

WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY						
Fiscal Year 2025-26 Budget						
Final September 4, 2025						
	4/1/2024 Population Estimate	Comments	Fiscal Year 2025-26	Fiscal Year 2024-25	\$ Change	% Change
Revenues: Administrative						
Assessments:		Official BEBR Population Estimates				
Citrus	166,151	3,911 person increase	\$31,569	\$30,826	\$743	2.4%
Hernando	210,577	6,312 person increase	\$40,010	\$38,811	\$1,199	3.1%
Marion	419,510	15,544 person increase	\$79,707	\$76,754	\$2,953	3.8%
Sumter	156,743	1,425 person increase	\$29,782	\$29,511	\$271	0.9%
Total Population/Assessments @ 19¢/Capita	952,981		\$181,068	\$175,902	\$5,166	2.9%
Administrative Revenue from Citrus Contract		Based on Citrus County contract and Board direction	\$17,293	\$25,703	-\$8,410	-32.7%
Subtotal			\$198,361	\$201,605	-\$3,244	-1.6%
Carryover Administration Reserve Funds (FYE 24/25 Estimate) (SBA1)		See Attachment 2	\$856,046	\$930,802	-\$74,755	-8.0%
Total Administrative Revenue Available			\$1,054,407	\$1,132,407	-\$77,999	-6.9%
Revenues: Water Resource Development (WRD) Projects						
2024 RWSP Update Matching Funds		50% of Remaining Project Budget (25%)	\$0	43,750	-\$43,750	-100.0%
SJRWMD Irrigation Audit Program SJRWMD Matching Funds		0% of Total Project Budget	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%
SJRWMD Irrigation Audit Program Cooperator Matching Funds		0% of Total Project Budget	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%
Phase 8 Irrigation Audit Program SWFWMD Matching Funds		0% of Total Project Budget	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$0	0.0%
Phase 8 Irrigation Audit Program Cooperator Matching Funds		0% of Total Project Budget	\$10,000	\$11,970	-\$1,970	-16.5%
Phase 7 Irrigation Audit Program SWFWMD Matching Funds		24 followups	\$0	\$1,500	-\$1,500	-100.0%
Phase 7 Irrigation Audit Program Cooperator Matching Funds		24 followups	\$0	\$750	-\$750	-100.0%
Annual Citrus WRD Payments (SBA2)		Based on CAB wellfield monthly average revenues of \$26,000 minus funds allocated to administrative revenue above	\$294,707	\$286,297	\$8,410	2.9%
Subtotal			\$324,707	\$364,267	-\$39,560	-10.9%
Carryover WRD Reserve Funds (FYE 24/25 Estimate) (SBA2)		See Attachment 2	\$1,629,553	\$1,385,454	\$244,099	17.6%
Total Water Resource Development Revenue Available			\$1,954,260	\$1,749,721	\$204,539	11.7%
Total Revenues Available			\$3,008,667	\$2,882,127	\$126,540	4.4%

WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY Fiscal Year 2025-26 Budget <i>Final September 4, 2025</i>					
		Fiscal Year 2025-26	Fiscal Year 2024-25	\$ Change	% Change
Expenditures: General Administration					
Executive Director	3% increase	\$97,560	\$94,716	\$2,844	3.0%
Administrative Assistant	3% increase	\$43,488	\$42,216	\$1,272	3.0%
Legal Services	Based on annual contract:				
Monthly Meetings @ \$235/hr	6 meetings/year, 3 hrs/meeting = 18 hrs	\$4,230	\$4,230	\$0	0.0%
Other Services @ \$235/hr.	4 hrs/month = 60 hrs	\$11,280	\$16,920	-\$5,640	-33.3%
Advertising	Based on FY 2023-24 actual	\$600	\$700	-\$100	-14.3%
Audit	Engagement Letter Email 08/21/24	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$0	0.0%
Bookkeeping Services	3x \$1250/qtr per Engagement Letter 08/29/25	\$3,750	\$3,000	\$750	25.0%
Liability Insurance	FY 23/24 actual plus 5%	\$3,280.00	\$5,000	-\$1,720	-34.4%
Office Supplies	Based on FY 2023-24 actual	\$1,500	\$1,250	\$250	20.0%
Postage	Based on FY 2023-24 actual	\$800	\$800	\$0	0.0%
Printing and Reproduction	Based on FY 2023-24 actual	\$2,000	\$1,600	\$400	25.0%
Publications/Software	Based on FY 2023-24 actual	\$150	\$150	\$0	0.0%
Rent (Lecanto Gov't Bldg)	Based on Lease Agreement	\$2,048	\$2,048	\$0	0.0%
Registrations/Dues	Based on FY 2023-24 actual	\$1,200	\$1,500	-\$300	-20.0%
State Fees/Assessments	Based on FY 2023-24 actual	\$175	\$175	\$0	0.0%
Telephone	Based on FY 2023-24 actual	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$0	0.0%
Travel (Board Members & Staff)	Based on FY 2023-24 actual	\$2,000	\$3,000	-\$1,000	-33.3%
Web Page / Computer Maintenance / Software	Based on projected needs	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$0	0.0%
Contingencies	@ 5% of non-contract admin costs	\$2,100	\$2,100	\$0	0.0%
Subtotal - General Administration Expenditures		\$198,361	\$201,605	-\$3,244	-1.6%
Fund Balance for Admin. Reserves FYE 25/26	FYE24/25 Admin Funds Bal + FY25/26 Admin Rev's - FY24/25 Admin Exp's	\$856,046	\$930,802	-\$74,755	-8.0%
Expenditures: Water Resource Development Projects					
General Services Contracts	As Needed Eng. & Tech. Firms	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$0	0.0%
CAB Engineering Analysis	Estimate from As-Needed	\$42,000	\$0	\$42,000	N/A
Local Government Grant Program	Approved 3/20/24	\$180,000	\$180,000	\$0	0.0%
2024 RWSP Update	25% of Project Budget	\$0	\$87,500	-\$87,500	-100.0%
SJRWMD Pilot Irrigation Audit Program	0% of project Budget	\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A
SWFWMD Phase 7 Irrigation Audit Program	24 followups @ \$125	\$0	\$3,000	-\$3,000	-100.0%
SWFWMD Phase 8 Irrigation Audit Program	100% of Project Budget	\$40,000	\$47,880	-\$7,880	-16.5%
Subtotal - Water Resource Development Projects		\$312,000	\$368,380	-\$56,380	-15.3%
Fund Balance for Water Resource Development Reserves FYE 25/26	FYE24/25 WRD Funds Bal + FY25/26 WRD Rev's - FY25/26 WRD Exp's	\$1,642,260	\$1,381,341	\$260,919	18.9%
Total Administration and WRD Expenses		\$510,361	\$569,985	-\$59,624	-10.5%
Total Administration and WRD Fund Balances at FYE 24/25	See Attachment 2 for detail	\$2,498,305	\$2,309,892	\$188,413	8.2%
Combined FYE 25/26 Expenditures and Fund Balances		\$3,008,666	\$2,879,877	\$128,789	4.5%

ATTACHMENT 1

CALCULATION OF REVENUE FOR 2025-26 AND CALCULATION OF AMOUNT OF FUNDS NEEDED FROM RESERVES Final September 4, 2025

Revenue	4/1/2024 Population	
LOCAL ASSESSMENTS @ 19¢ PER CAPITA		
Citrus	166,151	\$31,569
Hernando	210,577	\$40,010
Marion	419,510	\$79,707
Sumter	156,743	\$29,781
Subtotal	952,981	\$181,067
CHARLES A. BLACK WATER SUPPLY FACILITY		
\$26,000 per month * 12 months		\$312,000
Subtotal		\$312,000
MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS FOR STUDIES		
SWFWMD Match for RWSP Update		\$0
SWFWMD Match for Phase 7 Irrigation Audit Program		\$0
Local Cooperator Match for Phase 7 Irrigation Audit Program		\$0
SWFWMD Match for Phase 8 Irrigation Audit Program		\$20,000
Local Cooperator Match for Phase 8 Irrigation Audit Program		\$10,000
SJRWMD Match for Irrigation Pilot Evaluation Program		\$0
Local Cooperator Match for Irrigation Pilot Evaluation		\$0
Subtotal		\$30,000
TOTAL REVENUE FOR FY 2025-26		\$523,067
Less: 20254-26 Administration Expense		-\$198,361
Less: 2025-26 WRD Cost		-\$312,000
Funds from WRWSA Reserves (+to, -from)		\$12,706

ATTACHMENT 2

ANALYSIS OF BEGINNING FUND BALANCES FY 2025 - 2026 Final September 4, 2025

ESTIMATE OF WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT FUND BALANCE AT END OF FY 2024-25

04/25/25 WRDF Balance (SBA2)	\$1,733,841
FY 2024-25 Remaining WRD Fund Revenues	
6 Citrus Co. Payments @ \$26,000/month minus administrative component below	\$143,149
2024 RWSP SWFWMD Revenue	\$77,000
Phase 7 Irrigation Audit Local Cooperator Revenue	\$600
Phase 7 Irrigation Audit SWFWMD Revenue	\$1,200
SJRWMD Pilot Program Revenue Cooperator Revenue	\$0
SJRWMD Pilot Program SJRWMD Revenue	\$500
Revenues Subtotal	\$222,449
Less: FY 2024-25 Remaining Contract Expenditures:	
2024-25 Citrus Water Conservation Program	\$47,000
2024-25 Hernando Water Conservation Program	\$46,250
2024-25 Marion Water Conservation Program	\$13,238
2024-25 Sumter County Water Conservation Program	\$73,513
2024-25 General Services Contracts	\$10,000
2024 RWSP	\$134,236
SJRWMD Pilot Program	\$0
Phase 7 Irrigation Audit Program	\$2,500
Expenditures Subtotal	\$326,737
Total WRD Funds at end of FY 2024-25	\$1,629,553

ESTIMATE OF ADMINISTRATIVE FUND BALANCE AT END OF FY 2024-25

04/25/2025 Admin Bal (SBA1)	\$856,046
Admin Revenue from CAB WSF	\$12,852
Admin Revenue from Per Capita Contributions	\$87,951
Less remaining FY Admin costs for 6 months	-\$100,803
Total Administrative Funds at end of FY 2024-25	\$856,046

ESTIMATE OF TOTAL FUND BALANCE AT END OF FY 2024-25

Total WRD Funds at end of FY 2024-25	\$1,629,553
Total Administrative Funds at end of FY 2024-25	\$856,046
Total Fund Balance at end of FY 2024-25	\$2,485,599

PROJECTED FUND BALANCES AT END OF FY 2025-26

Total Fund Balances beginning of FY 2024-25:	\$2,485,599
Add: 2024-25 Revenues	\$523,067
Deduct 2024-25 Expenses:	-\$510,361
Projected Fund Balances at end of FY 2025-26:	\$2,498,305

DRAFT

Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority

Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Work Program

1. 2024 Regional Water Supply Plan Update

Work will continue on the 2024 Regional Water Supply Plan update. This will include population and demand projections, evaluation of water supply sources, conservation and reuse alternatives, and an evaluation of alternative water supply options. This work is co-funded by SWFWMD, and will be incorporated into their 2025 Northern Region Regional Water Supply Plan, and SJRWMD 2026 Central Springs/East Coast Regional Water Supply Plan update.

2. Joint Funding of Water Conservation Projects with Member Local Governments

The Authority will continue its grant program to assist local governments in improving water supply and conservation within the region in order to extend the use of groundwater as long as possible. Fresh groundwater is the least expensive source available to meet growing demands, however there is a limit to this source due to environmental impacts and impacts on other existing legal users caused by withdrawals. As the limit to fresh groundwater resources is reached, alternative, more expensive water sources will need to be developed. At the present time, water conservation programs are the most appropriate way for the Authority to help local governments extend the use of lower cost groundwater supplies. The 2025-26 proposed budget includes \$180,000 toward local government water supply and conservation projects. Proposals will be considered from local governments and public supply utilities in the Authority's jurisdiction. The grant program guidelines and application package may be found on the Authority's web page at www.wrwsa.org. The water conservation activities co-funded by this grant program help participating utilities meet and surpass the maximum 150 gallons per person per day that is required by the SWFWMD and to meet the SJRWMD conservation requirements.

3. Regional Residential Irrigation Audit Program to Promote Water Conservation within the Region

This ongoing program provides an opportunity for residential water utility customers to obtain site-specific evaluations for optimizing the use of water through landscaping techniques and efficient irrigation systems, and to implement recommendations provided by a professionally certified contractor. Contractors used for the site-specific evaluations are professionals certified by the Florida Irrigation Society (FIS) or another recognized certifying agency in the targeted region. The initiative includes program information, water conservation education, reporting and analysis by a consultant. This continuing project targets existing inefficient landscape and irrigation water use and results in significant water savings and can lead to water quality protection through reduced leaching of fertilizers and lawn chemicals. More than 1,500 audits have been conducted as part of Phases 1 to 7. In Phase 4, we began offering enhanced audits that have a more intense implementation of improvements, and have an improved benefit to reduce water usage. An average reduction in total water use of 28% has been achieved for the locations that have been audited. Phase 7 started in January 2023. This program is co-funded by the SWFWMD. Participating utilities incur only 25% of their respective portion of the project, leveraging local dollars with regional funds. This water conservation initiative helps participating utilities meet and surpass the maximum 150 gallons per person per day that is required by the SWFWMD.

In Fiscal Year 2023-24, we began a new program cofounded by SJRWMD that included Marion County and the City of Belleview as cooperating utilities. This pilot program included 60 enhanced evaluations.

4. Continued Cooperation with Citrus County in Operation and Management of the Authority's Charles A. Black Water Supply Facilities

The Authority and Citrus County are parties of a Water Supply Contract governing the operation and maintenance of the CABWSF. The Contract allows for the continued operation of the facilities by Citrus County in a cost-effective manner ensuring a long-term water supply for the County and its customers while also providing for long-term financial stability for the Authority.

WRWSA and Citrus County received a renewed Water Use Permit No. 7121 with an increased capacity of 7,181,900 gallons per day. Citrus County deposits an annual contribution to the Renewal and Replacement Fund of \$270,000 to account for inflation, and additional planned activities, and to maintain a balance the required balance of between \$2,000,000 and \$3,000,000.

5. Participation in Maintenance and Enhancement of the Central Springs Groundwater Model

The Authority will continue to participate in discussions with SJRWMD and SWFWMD on the implementation of the Central Springs Groundwater model. The intent is for both water management districts to utilize this common model for determining the availability of groundwater in the region, particularly in Marion County which is split by the districts' boundaries. The SJRWMD and SWFWMD continue to improve upon the model and seek the engagement of various stakeholders. The model has significant implications for groundwater availability in the region and the Authority's continued participation and coordination with member governments is essential to ensure water supply implications are considered as the model is updated. This model is being used for the 2024 Regional Water Supply Plan update.

6. Springs Protection and Restoration

The Authority continues to work with the SWFWMD on its springs coast initiative. The Authority staff continue to actively participate in the Springs Coast Management Committee as the public supply Representative, and monitor activities of the District and the Steering Committee for implications on water supply in the region. WRWSA is also providing a representative on the Technical Advisory Committee via one of our As-Needed Consultants.

7. Program Development and Technical Assistance

- a) Support efforts to further define the hydrogeology of the region. Continue cooperation with the water management districts on the collection of hydrologic data to further refine the Districts' planning and regulatory models. Coordinate on efforts to better define the lower Floridan aquifer and the extent of fresh and brackish groundwater within the aquifer.
- b) Promote the WRWSA Regional Framework through coordination with WRWSA member governments to facilitate regional and sub-regional cooperation on water supply development and reclaimed water projects. Work with the WMDs in defining strategic priorities for the region and how these priorities may influence the ranking criteria for the Districts' Cooperative Funding Initiatives, including potential District funding for regional and sub-regional traditional and non- traditional water supply development that is consistent with the WRWSA Regional Framework.
- c) Participate in the SWFWMD and SJRWMD minimum flows and levels (MFLs) programs representing the interests of member governments. Provide technical assistance to WRWSA

member governments in determining the potential impact to both the environment and potential water supply development based on proposed MFLs.

- d) Coordinate with FDEP, SJRWMD, SWFWMD and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services on policy and rule development. Provide assistance to WRWSA member governments on FDEP and District rule development that may include Water Use Permitting, Environmental Resource Permitting, water conservation and future water supply development, including the statewide consistency initiatives. Monitor water management programs and rule development in other parts of the state, including the Central Florida Water Initiative, for implications to the WRWSA and its member governments.
- e) Monitor and coordinate with the water supply planning and development activities in adjacent communities and regions, including but not limited to Tampa Bay Water, the Central Florida Water Initiative, the Polk Water Cooperative, and Lake and Levy counties for possible implications on water resource availability within the WRWSA region. Provide input to such activities when appropriate.
- f) Monitor applications for significant water use permits and permit modifications within the region for potential impacts on WRWSA and member government existing and planned water supply facilities and engage in the permitting process where appropriate.

WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY

RESOLUTION 2025-05

ADOPTION OF FINAL BUDGET
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-26

WHEREAS, pursuant to the requirements of Section 189.016(4), Florida Statutes, the Board of Directors of the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority held a public meeting on September 17, 2025, on the final budget and assessment rate for general administrative, operating and project expenses for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2025 and ending September 30, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the Board has complied with all requirements of said section and desires to adopt its final budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF THE WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY:

Section 1. The Board of the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority hereby adopts its final budget, for general administrative, operating and project expenses for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2025 and ending September 30, 2026, as shown on the attached Exhibit, attached hereto and made a part hereof as Exhibit A.

Section 2. This Resolution and a copy of the final budget as adopted shall be forwarded to the Board of County Commissioners of each member County.

Section 3. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

ADOPTED in regular session this seventeenth day of September 2025.

WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER
SUPPLY AUTHORITY

BY: Jerry Campbell, Chair

Attest:

Suzannah J. Folsom, Executive Director

Item 8

As-Needed Technical and Engineering Services – Authorization to Issue Work Orders

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

a. Agreements

At its September 2022 meeting the Board authorized the award of contracts for General Professional Engineering/Technical Services to the following firms in alphabetical order.

Firms (listed alphabetically)	Location
INTERA	Tampa
Hazen and Sawyer	Tampa
Applied Sciences Consulting	Tampa
Stantec Consulting Services	Riverview
Kimley-Horn & Associates	Ocala
CHA Consulting	Winter Springs

The agreements with these firms do not authorize any work; work must be authorized through the issuance of subsequent Work Orders, which must be approved by the Board. The agreements took effect October 1, 2022 and are valid for a three-year period (through September 30, 2025) and may be extended for two (2) one-year (1-year) periods upon mutual written agreement of both parties.

Staff recommends issuance of the following one-year extension of As-Needed General Engineering/Technical Services to the following firms:

Firms (listed alphabetically)	Location
INTERA	Tampa
Hazen and Sawyer	Tampa
Applied Sciences Consulting	Tampa
Stantec Consulting Services	Riverview
Kimley-Horn & Associates	Ocala
CHA Consulting	Winter Springs

b. Work Orders

The Board also authorized the issuance of work orders for FY 2025-26 to two of these firms, Reiss Engineering and Weber and Associates. These work orders have subsequently expired. In order to provide technical and engineering support on an as-needed basis in the coming fiscal year, it is necessary for one or more new work orders to be issued.

Staff recommends issuance of work orders in the amount of \$10,000 to the following firms:

Firms (listed alphabetically)	Location
Applied Sciences Consulting	Tampa
INTERA	Tampa

Staff Recommendation:

- (1) Board authorize the Executive Director to issue one-year extensions of As-Needed General Engineering/Technical Services agreements as shown above through September 30, 2026; and
- (2) Board authorize the Executive Director to issue the two work orders in an amount not to exceed \$10,000 each for the period through September 30, 2026 to Applied Sciences Consulting and INTERA.

Charles A. Black Wellfield Engineering Analysis

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

The Water Supply Contract with Citrus County requires that an engineering analysis be completed of the infrastructure at the Charles A. Black Wellfield and Treatment Plants every five years. The most recent report was completed in September 2021 at a cost of \$30,000. The evaluation will examine the condition and useful life of the water supply facilities, and project expenditures for Renewal and Replacement (R&R) for the coming 5-year time period. The analysis will also include the recommended amount that Citrus County should deposit monthly to maintain the R&R fund balance between \$2 and \$3 million dollars, per the requirements of the Water Supply Contract.

The Authority has a number of consultants currently under contract to perform work on an as-needed basis. Authority staff requested a proposal from CHA Consulting to update and re-evaluate the previous work conducted in 2021. Staff has identified a not-to-exceed amount of \$41,678 for this work. Funds are available in the FY 2025-2026 Water Resources Development Projects Expenditures as a line item.

See Exhibit - CHA Consulting Proposal

Staff Recommendation:

Approval of the Work Order to CHA Consulting to conduct an Engineering Evaluation of the Charles A. Black Water Supply Facilities for an amount not to exceed \$41,678.

WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY
GENERAL ENGINEERING SERVICES
WORK ORDER NO. 26-03

Scope of Services
**Engineering Evaluation of the Charles A. Black Wellfield Facilities and
Associated Renewal and Replacement Fund**

August 28, 2025

INTRODUCTION:

The Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (WRWSA) is charged with promoting environmental stewardship while planning for and developing water supplies for its member governments, which include Citrus, Hernando, Marion and Sumter counties. The Charles A. Black (CAB) Wellfield and the two associated water treatment facilities (CAB-1 and CAB-2) comprise the first water supply system developed by the WRWSA.

CAB-1 consists of two groundwater supply wells, disinfection equipment, storage tanks, and distribution piping equipment. CAB-2 consists of five groundwater supply wells, disinfection equipment, storage tanks, and distribution piping equipment. Both facilities are regulated by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD). The water use permit, which expires in 2043, allows for a total combined permitted withdrawal rate of 7.1819 million gallons per day (MGD).

The CAB water supply facilities are located in central Citrus County, and, although they are owned by the WRWSA, the County operates and maintains the CAB facilities pursuant to an agreement between the parties. Under this agreement, the County contributes funds on an annual basis to a Renewal and Replacement (R&R) fund for the CAB facilities. This agreement also provides periodic (every 5 years, commencing in 2020) inspections/evaluations of the CAB facilities by WRWSA to determine the adequacy of the R&R fund, the balance of which shall be maintained between \$2,000,000 and \$3,000,000 at all times. As a result of the inspection/evaluation, revisions to the County's required R&R fund annual contributions may be required.

As a part of this effort, WRWSA desires the services of a professional engineering firm to evaluate the adequacy of the R&R fund and the County's annual contributions. This will include evaluating the CAB capital facilities, estimating their respective useful lives, potential replacement schedules and associated costs, planned capital replacements and associated costs, the projected remaining R&R fund balance, recommendations for a revised annual R&R fund contribution, and recommendations for minimum and maximum R&R fund balances that could be incorporated into the water supply contract.

PURPOSE:

The CAB facilities were last evaluated in 2021 and, in accordance with the 2016 Water Supply Contract, are due for evaluation again in 2025/2026. The purpose of this project is to update the September 2021 *Engineering Evaluation for the Charles A. Black Wellfields and Water Treatment Facilities*. This will include reviewing the CAB facilities' compliance with regulatory requirements, evaluating the overall system performance and condition of visible above-grade capital equipment, estimating the useful life of capital facilities, developing/updating recommended R&R schedules, and evaluating the adequacy of the R&R fund and the County's annual contributions thereto.



SCOPE OF SERVICES:

TASK 1 - PROJECT MANAGEMENT/ADMINISTRATION

This task includes the work necessary for CHA to manage the project, including monthly progress summaries, and monthly invoice statements, and coordination of the CHA team. These activities will continue through the duration of the project.

TASK 2 - CAB EVALUATION

2.1.1 Kickoff meeting and data request

CHA will develop an agenda and prepare for and conduct a Project Kickoff Meeting with Authority and Citrus County staff. The project scope and schedule will be reviewed, contact representatives will be established, and subsequent project milestones will be scheduled. A preliminary request for needed information will be given to the Authority staff at the meeting. A summary of the meeting will be prepared and submitted to the Authority.

2.1.2 Data review

CHA will review available documents provided by WRWSA and Citrus County including reports, agreements and amendments, permits, record drawings, operating reports, maintenance records, and historical R&R costs.

2.1.3 Site visits

CHA staff will visit the wellfield and treatment facilities to observe and document the perceived condition and operational performance of major equipment. It is understood that CHA staff will not operate equipment or conduct destructive or otherwise invasive inspections. Rather, the evaluation will be based on observations, review of maintenance records, and discussions with operations and maintenance staff. It is anticipated that two CHA staff will participate in the site visits; one focused on the civil/mechanical components, and one focused on the electrical/instrumentation equipment.

2.1.4 Analyze R&R fund costs

CHA will prepare an updated cost analysis of anticipated R&R costs through fiscal year ending September 30, 2045. This update will be based on the observed condition and anticipated remaining useful lives of facility components and equipment items, review of maintenance records, planned capital improvements, and recommendations for future capital improvements. The updated cost analysis will be used to determine the adequacy of the R&R fund and the County's annual contributions thereto. Recommendations for minimum and maximum R&R fund balances will also be provided.

TASK 3 - CAB ENGINEERING EVALUATION AND R&R FUND UPDATE

CHA will prepare an updated report setting forth our evaluation of the wellfield and treatment facilities and review of the R&R fund. The updated report will describe the facilities and any changes made since the 2021 report, review flow records and compliance with permit requirements, summarize the observed visible condition of facility components, describe any planned improvements, and recommend system improvements not captured in the planned improvements. The report will also include a section that summarizes the team's findings with respect to the R&R fund, including major anticipated expenditures during the planning horizon and the adequacy of current annualized contributions to accommodate those expenditures. Expenditures from the R&R fund have to exceed \$2,500, otherwise the expenditure noted by the County will be considered routine maintenance.

TASK 4 - BOARD PRESENTATION

CHA will develop a presentation summarizing the findings of this report including the recommended budget. CHA will prepare and present to the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority Board Members.

DELIVERABLES:

Data request	Draft updated evaluation report
Kickoff meeting summary	Final updated evaluation report

SCHEDULE:

The CAB Water Supply Facilities Evaluation and R&R Fund Review is scheduled to begin upon receipt of Notice to Proceed, anticipated on October 1, 2025. The project timeline includes approximately three (3) months for evaluation and preparation of the draft report and associated documents, followed by a joint review period by WRWSA and Citrus County. The final deliverables will be submitted by March 1, 2026, to allow for Board presentation and acceptance at the March WRWSA meeting.

COMPENSATION:

For the engineering services set forth in this Scope of Services, the City will compensate the Consultant monthly on a percent complete of Lump Sum basis for tasks described herein, as follows:

Total Cost	
CAB Water Supply Facilities – Evaluation and R&R Fund Review	
1. Project Management	\$ 3,260.00
2. CAB Evaluation	\$20,432.00
3. CAB Engineering Evaluation & R&R Fund Update	\$13,530.00
4. Board Presentation	\$4,456.00
TOTAL	\$41,678.00

ASSUMPTIONS:

This project Scope of Work is based upon the following assumptions:

- No changes to the capacities of the CAB facilities or their permit requirements have been made since completion of the 2023 permit renewal.
- WRWSA will provide or arrange for access to the CAB facilities and provide copies of reports, agreements and amendments, permits, record drawings, operating reports, maintenance records, historical R&R costs, and other available, relevant information.

SIGNATURES:

**Withlacoochee Regional Water
Supply Authority**

Suzannah J. Folsom Date
Executive Director

CHA Consulting, Inc.

Allen W. Dethloff 9/1/2025
Allen W. Dethloff Date
Project Team Leader/Project Manager

Approved by:

Rob Batsel Date
General Counsel for WRWSA



Regional Water Supply Plan Update

Lisa Krentz, Hazen and Sawyer Project Manager, will provide an update on the project status.

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 model has been received now and the project is progressing. The revised project schedule is shown below, as per the last received invoice.

Task Summary

Task	Description	Schedule	% Complete
1	Project Management and Stakeholder Engagement	February 2023 – November 2025	85%
2	Data Collection and Processing	February 2023 – January 2024	Complete
3	Population and Demand Estimates	February 2023 – June 2024	Complete
4	Water Conservation and Reuse Evaluation	February 2023 – November 2024	Complete
5	Water Sources Evaluation	April 2024 – September 2025	80%
6	Water Supply Project Options	October 2024 – September 2025	50%
7	Recommendations	December 2024 – September 2025	15%
8	Draft and Final Report	February 2025 – November 2025	10%

This project budget is 77% 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	\$270,319.00	\$79,681.00	\$98,290.93

Staff Recommendation:

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

Item 11

Legislative Reports

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

The 2025 Legislative Regular Session began on March 4, 2025 and ran for two extended periods ending June 16, 2025. Staff have gathered updated information on relevant bills that are related to conservation and water supply from SWFWMD, 1000 Friends of Florida, and the Florida Engineering Society's legislative tracking, and the House and Senate websites.

A summary of the bills that WRWSA staff tracked that passed during the session is provided as an Exhibit to this item. A more detailed presentation on the SB 1228 / HB 691 Spring Restoration Bill will be given.

Presentations on other bills that passed during the 2025 session will follow at subsequent WRWSA Board meetings. Please let us know if there are any preferences for future topics.

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

Citrus County	October 31, 2025	9 am	Citrus County Commission Chambers
Hernando County	December 15, 2025	1 pm	Hernando County Commission Chamber
Marion County	October 1, 2025	1 pm	College of Central Florida's Klein Center
Sumter County	TBD		TBD

Exhibit: Bill Tracking

Staff Recommendation:

This is an information item and no action is required.

Status of Relevant Bills that Passed

Bill Title	Significance	Bill	Sponsors	Status
Emergency Preparedness and Response	- Revises provisions relating to emergencies including tenant rights, elections held after emergency, planning & preparedness for election emergencies, emergency management plans, training, government offices, National Flood Insurance Program participation, replacement structures, reporting, assessment of property, shelters, medical care, comprehensive plans, powers & duties of DEM, notification, financial assistance & funding, grant programs, contracts for emergency services, hurricane recovery, transportation of essentials, debris management, & hoisting equipment. - Emergencies; Prohibiting certain local governments from adopting ordinances for substantial improvements or repairs to a structure which include cumulative substantial improvement periods; prohibiting certain entities from assessing impact fees for specified replacement structures; revising public hurricane shelter funding prioritization requirements for the Division of Emergency Management; authorizing certain servicemembers to provide medical care in specified circumstances; revising requirements for the state comprehensive emergency management plan, etc.	SB 180	DeCeglie	Approved by the Governor (6/26/2025)
		HB 1535	McFarland	
Municipal Water and Sewer Utility Rates	Requires municipality to charge consumers receiving its utility services in another municipality the same rates, fees, & charges as it charges consumers within its own municipal boundaries.	SB202	Jones	Vetoed by the Governor (7/2/2025)
		HB11	Robinson	
Mitigation Banks	Revising the schedule to which the Department of Environmental Protection and water management districts are required to adhere for the release of credits awarded by a mitigation bank permit; prohibiting the release of mitigation credits until certain criteria are met; authorizing certain projects or activities to use credits released from a bank to offset impacts if certain requirements are met, etc.	SB492	Stan McClain	Approved by the Governor (6/26/2025)
		HB 1175	Duggan	

Bill Title	Significance	Bill	Sponsors	Status
Department of Agricultural and Consumer Services	• Defines water quality additives • Revises & creates provisions related to DACS powers, duties, functions, & programs. • requiring that certain lands acquired or owned by an electric utility be offered for fee simple acquisition by the department before the land may be offered for sale or transfer to a private individual or entity; • requiring local governmental entities to issue permits for electric vehicle charging stations based on specified standards and provisions of law;	SB 700	Truenow	Approved by Governor 5/15/2025
		HB 651	Tuck Alvarez Barnaby Black and Brackett	
General Permits for Distributed Wastewater Treatment Systems	• Authorizing the Secretary of Environmental Protection to grant a general permit for the replacement of an existing onsite sewage treatment and disposal system with a distributed wastewater treatment system under certain circumstances; providing for the installation of distributed wastewater treatment units to proceed without any further action by the Department of Environmental Protection if a permittee submits a notification to the department at least a specified number of days before installation, etc.	SB 796	Bradley	Approved by Governor 6/20/2025
		HB 645	Conerly	
Spring Restoration	• Authorizing certain domestic wastewater treatment facilities to request the incorporation of reclaimed water projects identified in Outstanding Florida Springs recovery or prevention strategies; requiring the Department of Environmental Protection to approve such requests within a certain period of time if certain conditions are met, etc.	SB 1228	McClain	Approved by Governor 6/19/2025
		HB 691	Conerly	
Permits for Drilling, Exploration, and Extraction of Oil and Gas Resources	• Prohibits drilling, exploration, or production of specified petroleum products within certain distance of national estuarine research reserves; requires DEP to consider certain factors when determining whether natural resources of certain bodies of water & shore areas are adequately protected from potential accident or blowout; provides requirements for balancing test to make such determination.	SB 1300	Simon and Brodeur	Approved by the Governor (6/26/2025)
		HB1143	Shoaf and Tant	

Item 12

Attorney's Report

To be provided at meeting

Item 13.a.

Executive Director's Report

Water Use Permit Demand Summary

Summary of Major Water Use Permits in WRWSA Service Area

Updated 8/18/2025

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 2025 GPD	RWSP Accuracy for 2025 +/- %
Citrus County								
207.007	City of Crystal River	3/27/2032	919,000	844,783	870,036	91.9%	750,000	-11.2%
419.013	City of Inverness	5/18/2031	1,535,000	1,267,252	1,185,163	82.6%	1,160,000	-8.5%
1118.008	Floral City Water Association, Inc.	2/28/2038	395,000	386,967	367,372	98.0%	310,000	-19.9%
2842.011	Citrus County	8/25/2035	4,780,000	3,667,832	3,020,807	76.7%	2,730,000	-25.6%
4153.015	Rolling Oaks Utilities, Inc.	8/20/2038	1,573,000	1,815,504	1,677,441	115.4%	1,510,000	-16.8%
4406.009	Homosassa Special Water District	8/25/2032	951,000	789,899	816,113	83.1%	770,000	-2.5%
7121.007	Citrus County - Charles A Black	8/22/2043	7,181,900	5,955,466	5,305,047	82.9%	3,840,000	-35.5%
9791.011	Citrus County - Sugarmill Woods	11/17/2025	2,435,300	2,859,232	2,517,215	117.4%	2,430,000	-15.0%
11839.008	Walden Woods	4/23/2039	187,900	157,493	165,762	83.8%	140,000	-11.1%
Hernando County								
5789.015	Hernando County	1/23/2041	24,360,000	22,206,077	20,972,395	91.2%	19,670,000	-11.4%
7627.007	City of Brooksville	8/5/2044	1,709,000	1,405,161	1,372,773	82.2%	1,160,000	-17.4%
Marion County - SWFWMD								
1156.013	Bay Laurel Community Development District	2/23/2041	7,560,900	4,735,060	4,241,875	62.6%	2,770,000	-41.5%
5643.008	Utilities, Inc. of Florida - Golden Hills	2/23/2036	188,400	130,494	131,171	69.3%	160,000	22.6%
6151.015	Marion County Utilities Consolidated WUP	12/13/2042	9,365,800	11,437,789	7,954,871	122.1%	5,500,000	-51.9%
8020.008	Association of Marion Landing Owners	9/9/2040	152,100	131,407	131,901	86.4%	160,000	21.8%
8339.008	FGUA - Dunellon	3/21/2035	1,117,100	1,178,284	1,319,606	105.5%	980,000	-16.8%
Marion County - SJRWMD								
2993-12	CSWR-Florida Utility Operating Company - South Marion Regional Water System	5/27/2042	231,000	197,622	197,641	85.6%	240,000	21.4%
2995-8	CSWR-Florida Utility Operating Company - Tradewinds Utilities Inc	2/27/2035	227,000	269,338	142,511	118.7%	100,000	-62.9%
3016-4	Ocala East Villas Inc	8/27/2031	107,000	67,674	86,793	63.2%	100,000	47.8%
3021-5	Rolling Greens Communities	9/13/2025	610,000	508,049	**	83.3%	350,000	-31.1%
3043-7	Florida Governmental Utility Authority - Ocala Oaks	1/6/2040	194,000	85,795	139,824	44.2%	190,000	121.5%
3130-6	CSWR-Florida Utility Operating Company - Sunray Estates	8/17/1940	195,000	178,206	158,605	91.4%	150,000	-15.8%
3137-7	City of Belleview	10/11/2036	1,022,000	1,355,788	1,148,221	132.7%	900,000	-33.6%
4578-9	Marion County Utilities Consolidated CUP	9/10/2023*	8,812,000	7,045,266	6,518,942	80.0%	6,890,000	-2.2%
50324-10	City of Ocala	8/7/2027	17,540,000	14,448,989	12,986,125	82.4%	11,620,000	-19.6%
Sumter County								
1368.009	Lake Panasoffkee Water Assoc Inc	10/21/2044	410,000	291,592	288,905	71.1%	380,000	30.3%
6519.01	City of Bushnell	3/29/2031	1,366,800	634,926	515,421	46.5%	850,000	33.9%
7185.007	City of Webster	5/23/2043	386,200	119,865	103,454	31.0%	210,000	75.2%
8135.016	City of Wildwood	3/31/2035	4,583,200	3,888,289	2,696,254	84.8%	5,560,000	43.0%
8193.006	City of Center Hill	11/18/2042	150,000	74,066	70,714	49.4%	210,000	183.5%
13005.012	Village Center Community Development District	1/23/2038	19,345,900	15,161,004	13,611,633	78.4%	24,810,000	63.6%
21031.001	Blue Goose Utility Company	4/7/2054	5,836,600	0	n/a	0.00%	n/a	n/a
20901.002	Gibson Place Utility Company	1/26/2041	3,985,700	902,745	n/a	22.6%	n/a	n/a
20721.003	South Sumter Utility Company	2/2/2038	2,600,000	1,699,737	1,492,784	65.4%	n/a	n/a
12-month Rolling Average for most recent available data								
5-year Rolling Average for most recent available data								
*Renewal submitted; Permitted GPD represents WUP request; utility has been extension granted through November 24, 2025; revision number updated to reflect submittal								
**No data reported Jan 2023-June 2024								

Item 13.b.

Executive Director's Report

WMIS WUP Notifications

Summary of Recent Water Use Permit Activity in WRWSA Service Area

Updated September 4, 2025

Water Use Permit #	Applicant/Permittee Name	Activity Type	Date	Avg GPD	Peak GPD	Use Type	Status
Citrus County							
11931.003	Citrus Hills Investment Properties	Letter Modification	2/17/2025	46,500	133,800	Landscape/ Recreation	Issued 6/27/2025
13279.007	Cabot Citrus Farms CDD / Attn: Shirley Conley*	Ownership Transfer	5/24/2025	763,900	1,645,000	Public Supply Recreation	Issued 7/18/2025
13360.005	FC Cattle Company	Letter Modification	8/22/2025	424,400	2,258,400	Agricultural	In Review
8970.005	Plantation Fusion	Ownership Transfer	8/27/2025	273,000	644,800	Landscape/ Recreation	In Review
Hernando County							
13279.007	Cabot Citrus Farms CDD / Attn: Shirley Conley *	Ownership Transfer	5/24/2025	763,900	1,645,000	Public Supply Recreation	Issued 7/18/2025
12841.005	Anthony J & Margo L Murchio	Renewal	7/31/2025	85,000	225,100	Agricultural	Issued 8/25/2025
9461.004	Mirror Lake	Letter Modification	8/18/2025	81,800	410,200	Agricultural	In Review
12208.004	Division of Forestry Withlacoochee State Forest **	Letter Modification	9/3/2025	600	700	Agricultural	In Review
Marion County - SWFWMD							
21074.001	Argos Ocala Ready Mix Plant	Ownership Transfer	7/22/2025	34,300	52,500	Industrial and Commercial	Issued 8/61/2025
6674.008	Golden Ocala Golf and Equestrian Club	Letter Modification	8/8/2025	265,300	764,100	Landscape/ Recreation	Issued 8/21/2025
Sumter County							
21252.000	Meadowbrook Acres of South Central FL	New	4/30/2025	15,600	20,600	Agricultural	In Review
7646.008	Anna Jameson	Renewal	5/28/2025	27,000	48,100	Agricultural	Issued 7/24/2025
8211.006	Flowerwood Nursery	Letter Modification	6/23/2025	387,800	847,000	Agricultural	Issued 7/15/2025
20576.002	Fern Spring	Letter Modification	7/2/2025	496,000	892,800	Industrial and Commercial	In Review
11575.005	Florida Beef	Modification	8/27/2025	452,700	469,200	Industrial and Commercial	In Review
12208.004	Division of Forestry Withlacoochee State Forest **	Letter Modification	9/3/2025	600	700	Agricultural	In Review

Item 13.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 7 Residential Irrigation Evaluation Program – SWFWMD

This program began in December 2022, with 77% of the planned evaluations completed in the evaluation timeframe, which was complete in July 2024. Now the focus of the program is on follow-ups to 25% of the core evaluation participants, a comparison of pre- and post-evaluation water usage, a satisfaction survey and a report. Fourteen of the 24 target follow-ups have been completed as of the end of July 2025. Staff is collecting pre and post usage data for the Phase 7 Report to be completed in October 2025. This program will be complete in December 2025.

Participating Utility	Total Evaluations To-date		Target # of Evaluations	Percent of Target Evaluations Completed
	Core	Enhanced		
Citrus	27	3	29	103%
Hernando	2	31	44	75%
Marion (West of 75)	1	18	71	27%
Villages VCCDD-LSSA	36	0	16	225%
Villages NSCUDD-VWCA	30	0	32	94%
Total	96	52	192	77%

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 will include 57 evaluations and will be completed within 12 months. Once the funds for the 8a phase application have been expended a second WISE funding application for phase 8b will be submitted.

Participating Utility	Total Evaluations To-date		Target # of Evaluations for Phase 8a and 8b	Percent of Target Evaluations Completed
	Core	Enhanced		
Citrus	2	2	20	20%
Hernando	1	24	60	42%
Marion (West of 75)	0	0	20	0%
Villages VCCDD-LSSA	0	0	8	0%
Villages NSCUDD-VWCA	0	0	16	0%
Total	3	26	124	23%

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.

Item 13.c.

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%
Total	35	60	55%

Item 13.d.

Executive Director's Report

Correspondence



July 29, 2025

Auditor General
Local Government Audits/251
401 Claude Pepper Building
111 West Madison Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1450

Subject: Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority FYE 2024 Audit

Auditor General:

Enclosed per instructions is one copy of the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority's FYE 2024 Audit Report. The Authority has submitted an electronic copy of the FYE 2024 Audit to the Auditor General email address as requested.

Please contact me if you have questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Suzannah J. Folsom, PE, PMP
Executive Director

Enclosures
cc: WRWSA Board of Directors

LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY AUDIT REPORT SUBMITTAL CHECKLIST

Entity Name: Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority
Entity Address: 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Suite 220
Lecanto, FL 34461

Entity Contact Person:

Name: Suzannah J. Folsom, PE, PMP
Title: Executive Director
Phone Number: 352-527-5695
E-mail Address: sfolsom@wrwsa.org

CPA Firm Contact Person:

Name: Helen Painter, CPA
Title: Audit Partner
Phone Number: 352-732-3872
E-mail Address: HelenP@purvisgray.com

Fiscal Year Audited: 2024

Date the auditor delivered the audit report to the entity: June 12, 2025

Does the audit report include the following items required by Section 10.557(3), Rules of the Auditor General?

Required for municipalities, special districts, the county as a whole, and county agencies¹

- | | |
|----------|--|
| <u>X</u> | The financial statements described in Sections 10.556(3) and (4), Rules of the Auditor General, as applicable, together with related notes to financial statements? |
| <u>X</u> | Required supplementary information (RSI) such as the management's discussion and analysis (not required for county agencies), or the budgetary comparison schedule (required as RSI if not presented as part of the financial statements)? |
| <u>X</u> | The auditor's report on the financial statements? |
| <u>X</u> | The auditor's report on compliance and internal control? |
| <u>X</u> | The management letter ² defined in Section 10.554(1)(i), Rules of the Auditor General? |

¹ Pursuant to Section 218.39(2), Florida Statutes, an audit of the board of county commissioners is not required. However, if the county report includes an audit of the board of county commissioners, it should, pursuant to Section 10.554(1)(e), Rules of the Auditor General, include the items required by Section 10.557(3), Rules of the Auditor General.

² If required reporting information for a dependent special district is fulfilled by inclusion in the primary local government audit report, a statement to that effect should be made in the dependent special districts' audit reports, and vice versa.

- X The written statement of explanation or rebuttal, including corrective action to be taken, required by Section 10.558(2), Rules of the Auditor General?
- X The auditor's report based on an examination conducted in accordance with *AICPA Professional Standards*, prepared in accordance with AT-C Section 315, promulgated by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, regarding the compliance requirements referenced in Section 10.556(10), Rules of the Auditor General?

Required for municipalities, special districts, and the county as a whole

- NA If applicable, any other auditor's reports, related financial information, and auditee-prepared documents required pursuant to Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance); or other applicable Federal law?
- NA Any auditor's reports and related financial information required pursuant to the *Florida Single Audit Act* (see Section 10.557(3)(e), Rules of the Auditor General)?
- NA For any fiscal year in which funds related to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill are received or expended, a schedule of receipts and expenditures of such funds required by Section 10.557(3)(m), Rules of the Auditor General?
- NA For any fiscal year in which funds related to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill are received or expended, a report that includes an opinion (or disclaimer of opinion) as to whether the schedule of receipts and expenditures of such funds required by Section 10.557(3)(m), Rules of the Auditor General, is presented fairly in all material respects in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole? The report must be prepared in accordance with AICPA Professional Standards, AU-C Section 725, promulgated by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (see Section 10.557(3)(f), Rules of the Auditor General)?

In addition to the above, have the following requirements been complied with:

- X Are all of the above elements of the audit report included in a **single document** as required by Section 10.557(3), Rules of the Auditor General?
- X Are **one** paper copy and **one** electronic copy of the audit report being submitted as required by Section 10.558(4), Rules of the Auditor General?
- X Is the audit report being submitted within 45 days after receipt of the audit report from the auditor, but no later than **9 months** after the end of the fiscal year? **NOTE:** There is no provision in law authorizing an extension for filing the audit report.
- X Is the electronic copy named using all lower-case letters as follows: [fiscal year] [name of entity].pdf? Counties should include the word "county" in the entity name; however, it is not necessary for municipalities to include "city of," "town of," etc. in the entity name. For example, the converted document for the 2020-21 fiscal year for Alachua County should be named 2021 alachua county.pdf while the converted document for the 2020-21 fiscal year for the City of Alachua should be named 2021 alachua.pdf.
- NA For entities that have adopted an impact fee by ordinance or resolution, was the affidavit referred to in Section 10.558(1), Rules of the Auditor General, submitted with the audit report if not submitted with the annual financial report?

NA

If the audit report is for a county or municipality, and a dependent special district was audited as part of the county or municipality audit, did the notes to financial statements clearly indicate that the special district had been included as part of the county's or municipality's reporting entity? **NOTE:** Pursuant to Section 218.39(3), Florida Statutes, an independent special district may not be audited as part of a county or municipality audit. When a dependent special district is audited as part of the county or municipality audit, the county or municipality notes to financial statements should clearly disclose that the special district is a component unit included within the county's or municipality's reporting entity.

This checklist should accompany the audit report. It is suggested that you retain a copy of the checklist for your files. Do not hesitate to contact us if assistance or clarification is needed regarding reporting requirements. Our contact information is as follows:

Auditor General
Local Government Audits/251
401 Claude Pepper Building
111 West Madison Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1450
Telephone: (850) 412-2892

E-mail Address: flaudgen_localgovt@aud.state.fl.us
Web site Address: FLAuditor.gov

**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

August 1, 2025

Mr. Kenneth J. Plante, Coordinator
Joint Administrative Procedures Committee
Room 680, Pepper Building
111 W. Madison Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1400

Dear Mr. Plante:

The Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority's has prepared its 2024-25 Regulatory Plan as required by section 120.74(1), Florida Statutes (F.S.). This Regulatory Plan was approved by the Authority's Board of Directors at its July 9, 2025 meeting.

Included with this correspondence are the Regulatory Plan and the certifications by the Authority's Vice Chair, Commissioner Jerry Campbell, and the Authority's General Counsel Assistant, James Harley, as required by section 120.74(1)(d), F.S. As required by section 120.74(2)(a)2, F.S., these certifications are being delivered to the committee electronically. The Authority has published the Plan on its website and will publish a notice in the Florida Administrative Register that includes the Plan's date and a website hyperlink.

Please contact me at the number or email below should you have any questions or need further information.

Sincerely,

Suzannah J. Folsom, PE, PMP
Executive Director
sfolsom@wrwsa.org

Enclosure
cc: WRWSA Board
Robert W. Batsel

**2025-2026 Regulatory Plan of the
Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (WRWSA)**

A. RULEMAKING TO IMPLEMENT NEW LAWS

List laws enacted or amended during the previous 12 months which create or modify the duties or authority of the WRWSA:

None

B. OTHER RULEMAKING

List each law not otherwise listed under A., which the WRWSA expects to implement by rulemaking before July 1, 2025, except emergency rulemaking:

None

C. UPDATE OF PRIOR YEAR'S REGULATORY PLAN OF SUPPLEMENT

No update or supplement of any prior year's regulatory plan is needed.

D. CERTIFICATIONS

Certification of Chairman of WRWSA Board of Directors:

As Chair of the Board of Directors, I certify that I have reviewed the WRWSA's 2025-2026 Regulatory Plan, that the WRWSA repealed all of its rules effective June 29, 2014, that no rulemaking has been conducted by the WRWSA subsequent to that repeal and further, as of July 9, 2025, that the WRWSA has no plans for rulemaking in the 2025-2026 fiscal year.



Jerry Campbell
Chair

Date: July 9, 2025

Certification of the WRWSA General Counsel

As General Counsel to the WRWSA, I certify that I have reviewed the WRWSA's 2025-2026 Regulatory Plan, that the WRWSA repealed all of its rules effective June 29, 2014, that no rulemaking has been conducted by the WRWSA subsequent to that repeal and further, as of July 9, 2025, that the WRWSA has no plans for rulemaking in the 2025-2026 fiscal year.



Robert W. Batsel, Jr.
General Counsel

Date: July 9, 2025

2025 NOTICE OF PROPOSED PROPERTY TAXES
AND PROPOSED OR ADOPTED
NON-AD VALOREM ASSESSMENTS
CITRUS COUNTY, FLORIDA TAXING AUTHORITIES
210 NORTH APOPKA AVE SUITE 200
INVERNESS, FL 34450-4294

**DO NOT PAY
THIS IS NOT A BILL**

AK: 2610271

Parcel ID:
18E18S25 43100

Location Address:
1700 N BLUE JAY TER
HERNANDO

Legal Description:
WELL SITE #1- COM AT SE COR OF SW1/4 OF NW1/4, TH N 0 DEG
4M 4S W AL E LN OF SW1/4 OF NW1/4 545.19 FT, TH S 89 DEG
55M 56S W 24.40 FT TO POB, TH S 89 DEG 55M 56S W 420 FT, TH



76
6-48613

2610271|7411|COM
WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER
SUPPLY AUTHORITY
3600 W SOVEREIGN PATH STE 228
LECANTO FL 34461-7718



Millage: 0000 Nbhd: 7411

PROPERTY APPRAISER VALUE INFORMATION

Market Value	Last Year (2024)	This Year (2025)	If you feel the market value of your property is inaccurate or does not reflect fair market value please call (352)341-6624, or if you are entitled to an exemption or classification that is not reflected below, contact the County Property Appraiser at 210 N Apopka Ave Suite 200, Inverness (352)341-6600.			
	72,170	72,170				
Assessment Reductions		Applies To	Value	Exemption	Applies To	Value
				GOVERNMENT	ALL TAXING AUTHORITIES	72,170

Taxing Authority	Assessed Value		Exemptions		If the property appraiser's office is unable to resolve the matter as to market value, classification, or an exemption, you may file a petition for adjustment with the Value Adjustment Board. Petition forms are available from the Property Appraiser's office. Petitions must be filed with the Clerk of Value Adjustment Board on or before 5:00 PM on September 10, 2025
	Last Year	This Year	Last Year	This Year	
COUNTY	72,170	72,170	72,170	72,170	For more information about your TRIM notice, go to our website: www.cltruspa.org
PUBLIC SCHOOLS	72,170	72,170	72,170	72,170	
WATER MANAGEMENT	72,170	72,170	72,170	72,170	
INDEPENDENT DISTRICTS	72,170	72,170	72,170	72,170	

TAXING AUTHORITY INFORMATION

TAXING AUTHORITY *Debt Service	Your Property Taxes Last Year 2024			Your Taxes This Year - 2025				
	Prior year tax rates and taxes			Tax rates and taxes this year if proposed budget is adopted		Tax rates and taxes this year if NO budget change is adopted		
	Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4	Column 5	Column 6	Column 7	Column 8
	Taxable Value	Tax Rate	Tax Amount	Taxable Value	Tax Rate	Tax Amount	Tax Rate	Tax Amount
COUNTY - GENERAL FUND	0	06.9898	0.00	0	06.9898	0.00	06.6536	0.00
COUNTY - TRANSPORTATION	0	00.9860	0.00	0	00.9860	0.00	00.9386	0.00
COUNTY - HEALTH DEPT	0	00.0564	0.00	0	00.0564	0.00	00.0537	0.00
COUNTY - LIBRARY	0	00.3147	0.00	0	00.3147	0.00	00.2996	0.00
COUNTY - FIRE DISTRICT	0	00.0000	0.00	0	00.0000	0.00	00.0000	0.00
COUNTY - STORMWATER	0	00.0000	0.00	0	00.0000	0.00	00.0000	0.00
COUNTY - FIRE RESCUE EMS	0	00.5780	0.00	0	00.5780	0.00	00.5491	0.00
COUNTY - LAW ENFORCEMENT	0	00.0000	0.00	0	00.0000	0.00	00.0000	0.00
SCHOOLS - LOCAL REQ'D EFFORT	0	03.0960	0.00	0	03.1030	0.00	02.9689	0.00
SCHOOLS - CAPITAL OUTLAY	0	01.5000	0.00	0	01.5000	0.00	01.4385	0.00
SCHOOLS - DISCRETIONARY	0	00.7480	0.00	0	00.7480	0.00	00.7172	0.00
WATER MANAGEMENT	0	00.1909	0.00	0	00.1831	0.00	00.1831	0.00
MOSQUITO CONTROL	0	00.3708	0.00	0	00.3708	0.00	00.3530	0.00
Total Millage Rate & Tax Amount		14.8306	0.00		14.8298	0.00	14.1553	0.00

Total Ad Valorem and Non-Ad Valorem (from reverse side) Tax If Budget Changes are made 0.00

The Taxing Authorities which levy property taxes against your property will soon hold **PUBLIC HEARINGS** to adopt budgets and tax rates for the next year. The purpose of the **PUBLIC HEARINGS** is to receive opinions from the general public and to answer questions on the proposed tax change and budget **PRIOR TO TAKING FINAL ACTION**. Each taxing authority may **AMEND OR ALTER** its proposals at the hearing.

TAXING AUTHORITY HEARING INFORMATION

[illegible]

Your final tax bill may contain non-ad valorem assessments which may not be reflected on this notice such as assessments for roads, fire, garbage, lighting, drainage, water, sewer or other governmental services and facilities which may be levied by your county, city or any special district.

NOTE: Non-ad valorem assessments are placed on this notice at the request of the respective local governing boards. Your tax collector will be including them on the November tax bill. For details on particular non-ad valorem assessments, contact the levying local governing board.

NOTE: Amounts shown on this form do NOT reflect early payment discounts you may receive or may be eligible to receive. (Discounts are a maximum of 4 percent of the amounts shown on this form.)

NON-AD VALOREM ASSESSMENTS

NON-AD VALOREM ASSESSMENTS				
LEVYING AUTHORITY	PURPOSE OF ASSESSMENT	LAST YEAR	THIS YEAR	CONTACT INFORMATION
TOTAL NON-AD VALOREM ASSESSMENTS:			0.00	

EXPLANATION OF "TAXING AUTHORITY INFORMATION" SECTION

COLUMN 1 - TAXABLE VALUE - LAST YEAR

—This column shows the prior assessed value less all applicable exemptions used in the calculation of taxes for that specific taxing authority.

COLUMNS 2 & 3 - YOUR FINAL TAX RATE AND TAXES LAST YEAR

These columns show the tax rate and taxes that were applied last year to your property. These amounts were based on budgets adopted last year and your property's previous taxable value.

COLUMN 4 - TAXABLE VALUE - THIS YEAR

This column shows the current assessed value less all applicable exemptions used in the calculation of taxes for that specific taxing authority. Various taxable values in this column may indicate the impact of the Additional Homestead exemption. Current year taxable values are as of January 1, 2025.

COLUMNS 5 & 6 - YOUR TAX RATE AND TAXES THIS YEAR IF PROPOSED BUDGET CHANGE IS MADE

These columns show what your tax rate and taxes will be this year under the BUDGET ACTUALLY PROPOSED by each taxing authority. The proposal is NOT final and may be amended at the public hearings shown at the top of this notice. The difference between columns 6 and 8 is the tax change proposed by each local taxing authority and is NOT the result of higher assessments.

COLUMNS 7 & 8 - YOUR TAX RATE AND TAXES THIS YEAR IF NO BUDGET CHANGE IS MADE

These columns show what your tax rate and taxes will be IF EACH TAXING AUTHORITY DOES NOT CHANGE ITS PROPERTY TAX LEVY. These amounts are based on last year's budget and your current assessment.

EXPLANATION OF "PROPERTY APPRAISER VALUE INFORMATION" SECTION

Market (Just) Value is the most probable sales price for your property in a competitive, open market. It is based on a willing buyer and a willing seller.

Assessment Reductions:

Properties can receive an assessment reduction for a number of reasons. Some of the common reasons are below.

There are limits on how much the assessments of your property can increase each year. The Save Our Homes program and the limitation for non-homestead property are examples. Certain types of property, such as agricultural land and land used for conservation, are valued on their current use rather than their market value. Some reductions lower the assessed value only for levies of certain taxing authorities.

If your assessed value is lower than your market value because limits on increases apply to your property or because your property's value is based on its current use, the amount of the difference and reason for the difference are listed in the box titled "Assessment Reductions" on the front page.

Assessed Value is the market value of your property minus any assessment reductions. The assessed value may be different for levies made by different taxing authorities.

Exemptions are specific dollar or percentage reductions in value based on certain qualifications of the property owner, such as the homestead exemption.

Taxable Value is the value used to calculate the tax due on your property. Taxable value is the assessed value minus the value of your exemptions.



Comments on the Draft 2025 RWSP update

From Suzannah Folsom <sfolsom@wrwsa.org>

Date Fri 8/29/2025 4:43 PM

To Cassidy Hampton <Cassidy.Hampton@swfwmd.state.fl.us>

Cc Istout wrwsa.org <lstout@wrwsa.org>; Carrieann Adkins <carrieann.adkins@swfwmd.state.fl.us>

 1 attachment (381 KB)

WRWSA comments on 2025 RWSP.pdf;

Hello Cassidy,

Attached are our comments on the draft 2025 RWSP.

Thank you for considering our feedback.

Suzannah Folsom

Executive Director



**WITHLACOOCHEE
REGIONAL
WATER
SUPPLY
AUTHORITY**

3600 W. Sovereign Path, Suite 228, Lecanto, FL 34461

sfolsom@wrwsa.org | O: (352) 527-5796 M: (813) 395-4004



August 29, 2025

Ms. Cassidy Hampton
Project Manager
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street,
Brooksville, FL 34604

Subject: Draft 2025 Regional Water Supply Plan Comments

Dear Ms. Hampton:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the DRAFT 2025 Northern District Regional Water Supply Plan Update (Districts RWSP Update).

We would like to highlight some differences in the public supply demand projections between the WRWSA Regional Water Supply Plan Update projections, and the District's RWSP update. These differences are noted by County in the table below, and reflect the Total County Demands listed in Appendix 3-3 Tables 4, 7, 13, 18, less the domestic self-supply and additional irrigation demands.

Public Supply Demand Projection Comparison

	SWFWMD Demand Projections (MGD)	WRWSA Demand Projection (MGD)	WRWSA % Difference from SWFWMD projections
County	2045	2045	
Citrus	18.2	21.1	16% higher
Hernando	24.8	33.5	35% higher
Marion	17.8	19.9	12% higher
Sumter	41.9	39.4	6% lower
Total	102.7	113.9	11% higher

We understand the District's methodology for projecting population and water supply demands. The WRWSA projected demands are based on discussions with the water supply utilities individually, and their compiled water supply projections for future growth.

In Chapter 4 Table 4-7, the note 1 at the bottom indicates that the Surface Water would be split between Citrus and Marion Counties, but the total value is shown only in Marion County. We would prefer to see the value split as indicated in the note. We are evaluating other locations in our WRWSA RWSP Update that would potentially benefit Hernando and Sumpter Counties as well.

In Chapter 5 Section 4 we appreciate the inclusion of a 10 MGD Surface Water Treatment Plant per our request.

We are in the process of completing our WRWSA Regional Water Supply Plan Update and hope to share the rest of our results in the near future.

We will continue to work closely with the District over the coming 5-year planning period to look for opportunities to refine our projection methodologies together to accurately plan for future water supply needs.

Thank you for considering our feedback as part of this process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Suzannah J. Folsom".

Suzannah J. Folsom, PE, PMP
Executive Director

Item 13.e.

Executive Director's Report

News Articles

DeSantis vetoes \$6.25 million slated for Ocklawaha River restoration

WUFT | By Rose Schnabel
July 1, 2025



The Graham family fishes off of a pier at Rodman Recreation Area on June 30. Kevin Graham grew up fishing near the dam and now frequents the site with his children and grandchildren. (Rose Schnabel/WUFT News)

Governor Ron DeSantis took his veto pen to the Rodman (Kirkpatrick) Dam line item in the state's budget, dashing advocates' hopes that "this could be the year."

The dam was originally built as part of the never-completed Cross Florida Barge Canal. Debate about the structure's economic and environmental impacts began before plans were drafted and remains fiery today, 56 years after its construction.

DeSantis slashed \$500,000 to study the potential environmental and economic effects of removing the dam last year.

Florida legislators brought the item back this session, allocating \$6.25 million to the dam in their proposed budget last month. The money would've gone to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to develop a removal plan by July 1, 2026 and complete it by December 31, 2035.

The Governor's veto indefinitely postpones those plans.

Dam supporters celebrate the preservation of Rodman Reservoir, a popular fishing destination. Opponents worry how long the dam, classified as “high hazard” by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, has left. Here’s what they had to say after the veto.

Kevin Graham, Palatka resident and angler at the dam: There’s not a whole lot of places you can bring your grandkids and young kids and people with disabilities. They’re able to get down to the water to enjoy what we have here in Florida. This place has been a landmark my entire life here. I’m 50 years old. I can remember being here when I was three or four years old. I mean, of course it’s changed a lot, but look at the beauty of this place.



About 15 people weathered the rain on June 30 to fish in the Rodman Recreation Area. Scientists say removing the dam would return six historic fish and shellfish species to the Ocklawaha River. (Rose Schnabel/WUFT News)

Erika Ritter, boat charter captain on the Ocklawaha: As a longtime business here with one of the first pontoon boats ever to do family tours and fishing trips on Ocklawaha, it was just a letdown. I grew up here. I was a small child, so I have some vague pictures of what it was like before the dam. But through my tour business, I just have watched all the fish disappear that were able to migrate up here. I was just so excited to be able to go out here in Eureka [Marion County] from my property and see these fish returning and also the regrowth of the forest that was drowned.

Lisa Rinaman, St. Johns Riverkeeper: Unfortunately, our river is struggling with loss of fish habitat and salt water intrusion, and other water quality issues that could be remedied by reuniting these rivers and this important ecosystem. By reuniting the natural connection of Silver Springs, the Ocklawaha and the St. Johns, that restores more than 150 million gallons of fresh water every single day to the lower St. Johns River. That infusion of fresh water that once historically was connected will offset saltwater intrusion and give our fish habitat and the submerged grasses a fighting chance to revive.



Miranda Busick and Skyler Vaughn on their second ever trip to the dam on June 30. Vaughn recently moved to Florida from his native Illinois. "This has been the coolest place we've fished," he said, estimating the pair has hooked a total of 20 bluegill in their visits to the dam so far. (Rose Schnabel/WUFT News)

Miranda Busick and Skyler Vaughn, anglers at the dam: If I Google search 'best place to catfish' it immediately comes up with Rodman Dam. I mean, we have a dam two minutes from us, but it doesn't have moving water like this. That's what the dam is helpful for. It's for the flow of the fishing. I don't think all these people would be fishing or even over here in this park if it weren't for this dam being here.

Margaret Spontak, president of Great Florida Riverway Trust: We have more work to do. We've got to bring the communities together on this and come up with a plan that will work for all the communities along the riverway. We knew this appropriation was a starting point anyway. We knew we were going to need to come back. It has always been in our plan to try to get funding for paired recreation with the restoration as well as the potential for an economic development package for Putnam County.

State adopts revised plans to improve water quality

WUFT | By Rose Schnabel

July 1, 2025



Swimmers explore the Ichetucknee head spring. The spring's nitrate levels exceed FDEP's standards of 0.35 mg/L. New plans aim to reduce that load by tasking polluters with reductions. (Rose Schnabel/WUFT News)

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection adopted plans to reduce pollution to Florida's rivers, springs and estuaries on Friday.

Florida's Clean Waterways Act required the agency update the plans by July 1.

The documents identify sources of nitrogen and phosphorus including agriculture, septic tanks and urban fertilizers and set long-term goals for reducing their impacts.

The agency adopted its first basin management action plan in 2007 for the Upper Ocklawaha River. More than 30 others followed with mixed success. Plans adopted in 2018 aimed to reduce nitrogen pollution at Florida's Outstanding Springs by about 8.7 million pounds per year.

Instead of shrinking, contaminants grew.

Between 2016 and 2024, nitrogen increased by about 1.5 million pounds per year on average in impaired outstanding springs, according to an analysis by the nonprofit Florida Springs Council.

An appellate court ruled in 2023 that a subset of the existing plans, made for Florida's Outstanding Springs, didn't comply with Florida law. That's because they didn't specify how much each category of polluter needed to reduce their footprint.

Friday's plans do.

For example, farm fertilizer accounts for the largest share of nitrogen contamination in groundwater in the Ichetucknee springshed. Septic is the next largest contributor, accounting for about a fifth of discharges.

The plan aims to slash nitrogen levels in half by 2038. Agriculture is responsible for more than half of the reduction, followed by Columbia County, Lake City and private golf courses.

If stakeholders don't comply, DEP can enforce civil penalties or court-ordered injunctions.

"Today's adoption of these plans is a significant milestone made possible through input, collaboration and dedication," said DEP Secretary Alexis A. Lambert in a June 27 press release.

DEP gathered input from more than 60 public meetings and 100 private ones while drafting the updates.

USGS to remove some water quality monitors from Outstanding Florida Springs

WUFT | By Rose Schnabel
July 17, 2025



USGS cuts removed continuous nitrate monitoring from Manatee Springs along the Suwannee River on July 1. It will stop pH monitoring on October 1. (Rose Schnabel/WUFT News)

An instrument resembling a two-tone blue wrapping paper tube sits at the edge of Manatee Springs near Chiefland. Every 15 minutes, it samples the spring's water, measures its nitrate levels and shoots off the data to a digital, public dashboard.

The gauge has sent about 385,000 of these electronic blips since its installation in 2014, offering kayakers, researchers and policymakers a report card of the spring's poor health.

Soon the signal will stop.

The U.S. Geological Survey discontinued continuous nitrate monitoring at 13 Outstanding Florida Springs on July 1, though some instruments continue to transmit data as they await removal.

Water Management Districts' monthly or quarterly nitrate sampling, once a form of redundancy, is now multiple sites' main data source, creating a data gap water quality experts call "relatively modest" for some springs and "a tragedy" for others.

The extent of the cuts

Each of Florida's five Water Management Districts has a joint funding agreement with the USGS to supplement the monitoring they do independently. The agreements cover everything from water level to dissolved oxygen and span rivers, lakes, springs and other waterbodies.

Four of the Districts told WUFT USGS had scaled back their agreements for the upcoming fiscal year, each by a different extent. The South Florida Water Management District didn't immediately respond.

The cuts come as President Trump proposes to slash total USGS funding by more than a third, but a spokesperson from USGS didn't respond to WUFT's inquiry for how Florida's reduction relates to federal funding.

Most of the impacts to Outstanding Florida Springs fall within the Suwannee River Water Management District. Last fiscal year, the District's agreement with the USGS and other agencies totaled \$1.5 million. Nitrate monitoring at the springs accounted for \$97,000, about 7% of the total.

The USGS requested to stop continuous nitrate monitoring in April and the change went into effect July 1, according to the District's July 8 Governing Board Meeting. The USGS still collects conductivity, dissolved oxygen, and temperature data at these sites.

The District will take over continuous monitoring at the Falmouth Springs, but doesn't "have the capacity to add the other continuous stations at this time," wrote District communications chief Troy Roberts.

The District also plans to take over some water quantity monitoring the USGS is stopping at non-spring sites. Staff are crunching the numbers on how much the extra work will cost, Roberts wrote, but the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, "has offered to help offset some costs associated with taking on these additional responsibilities."

Making do with less data

Twelve of the 13 Outstanding Florida Springs where USGS stopped nitrate monitoring exceed state maximums to be classified as a "healthy spring". The chemical comes from agricultural runoff, septic tanks and urban fertilizers, driving algal blooms that disrupt ecosystems and put off visitors.

Since contamination is so pervasive, periodic and continuous monitoring garner similar results.

Manatee Spring's 15-minute measurements show, for example, jagged but consistently rising nitrate levels from 2014 to 2025. "If you made those measurements less frequently, that same graph of data would be dots instead of a continuous line," said Sky Notestein, an environmental scientist with the Florida Springs Institute, "but the overall pattern would probably be similar."

Springs in North Central Florida are fed by the Floridan Aquifer, a massive network of rocky underground waterways that produces about 1.2 trillion gallons of water each year.

At some sites, such as Silver Springs, "the actual spring vent measurements are not that variable," said Matthew Cohen, Director of the Water Institute at the University of Florida.



Continuous water-quality sensors at a USGS gauge site. The agency discontinued nitrate and pH measurements at some Florida sites in July with more to follow in October. (Courtesy of USGS)

Quarterly measurements will give less granularity than the former 96-per-day Cohen said, but are “almost certainly sufficient” to track springs’ progress toward long-term management goals like the nutrient reductions the FDEP updated last month.

Ryan Smart is the executive director of the Florida Springs Council, whose lawsuit prompted the FDEP update. He called continuous monitoring “low hanging fruit”, emphasizing it as an accountability tool, but not a replacement for water quality improvements.

“When it comes to nitrogen, we know where the springs are and they’re not getting better,” he said. “Our focus is really on trying to address the pollution, not track it.”

“I think that’s the nature of monitoring cuts in general,” Cohen said. “There’s always room to identify places where you can reliably lower the intensity or expense of your monitoring and other places where you really shouldn’t.”

Tracking ‘breathing’ systems

Cohen puts Ichetucknee Springs in the ‘places where you really shouldn’t’ group.

The Suwannee River Water Management District operates an independent, continuous monitor at the site’s headspring but relied on its funding agreement with the USGS to track nitrogen at the river’s south take out, where visitors haul out their inner tubes.

The District plans to continue quarterly, not continuous, monitoring at this southern site.

“To me, the real tragedy is the loss of that sensor,” Cohen said.

Between the headspring and the take out, the area’s vibrant ecosystem totally transforms the water. It changes the water’s pH and oxygen concentrations, moves minerals and shuttles nitrate into living tissues.

“I’ve called it a sort of ‘breathing river,’” Cohen said. “If we don’t have sub-daily observations, we just can’t see any of that happening.”

Real-time monitoring is also important to detect and understand spring flow reversals.

When a spring-fed river floods, the spring fights against the pressure of all of the river water and rainwater on top of it. When the pressure gets high, the spring stops flowing. If it gets even higher, the flow reverses.

"In essence, instead of it being a spring, it becomes a sinkhole," said Notestein, the environmental scientist.

Reversals at most springs are infrequent, meaning that staff can miss them if only monitoring once per month or per quarter.

But some scholars contend that reversals are becoming longer and more frequent in riverside springs including Troy, Lafayette Blue and Suwannee, Cohen said, and continuous nitrate monitoring makes sure researchers don't miss them.

The 13 Outstanding Florida Springs impacted by USGS cuts are: Falmouth Spring, Fanning Springs, Ichetucknee Spring Group, Jackson Blue Spring, Lafayette Blue Spring, Madison Blue Spring, Manatee Spring, Rock Springs, Silver Springs, Troy Spring, Wacissa Spring Group, Wakulla Spring and Wekiwa Spring.

New Florida law ends public water fluoridation, raising health concerns

WUFT | By Isis Snow
July 29, 2025

"Water fluoridation is one of the 10 greatest public health achievements of the 20th century," said Jaana Gold, a Diplomat for the American Board of Dental Public Health.

For more than half a century, fluoride has flowed through Florida's water systems as a silent shield against tooth decay. But a newly passed law has redefined what is allowed to be added to public drinking water, ending the use of fluoride without expliciting naming it.

In many communities, especially rural ones, fluoridated water has been one of the few consistent tools for preventing cavities and promoting oral health. Now, public health experts say the change could widen health disparities, particularly in areas with limited access to dental care.

On July 1, a Florida Senate Bill 700 restricted public water systems to using only additives that improve water quality or remove contaminants. Since fluoride is added for dental health and not for treating water, the law effectively bans its use.

The bill states, "'Water quality additive' means any chemical, additive, or substance that is used in a public water system for the purpose of: (a) Meeting or surpassing primary or secondary drinking water standards; (b) Preventing, reducing, or removing contaminants; or (c) Improving water quality."

This definition excludes additives not used for one of those three purposes. Since fluoride is added to prevent tooth decay—a public health benefit, not a water quality function—it does not meet this definition. That's why the law effectively bans its use without ever mentioning "fluoride" directly.

Diplomat for the American Board of Dental Public Health Jaana Gold said removing fluoride from water systems adds to the burden of disease—particularly for vulnerable populations.

"Fluoridation helps reduce oral health disparities," she said. "Not everyone has the same access to care."

Gold, who also teaches at the University of Florida College of Dentistry said the loss of fluoridation would be a detriment to the public, making people vulnerable to tooth decay, infections and other medical issues.

"Losing fluoridated water adds to the burden of disease," she said. "Infections from untreated decay can lead to heart disease, sepsis, brain abscesses, even death. And socially—it affects jobs, confidence, eating, well-being."

While those who oppose the use of fluoridated water see the additive as a "chemical," Gold defines it differently.

“Fluoride is a naturally occurring mineral,” she said. “In water systems, we simply adjust it to a safe and effective level. It's not medication—it's public health.”

While public health organizations, like the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and the American Dental Association, overwhelmingly support water fluoridation, a vocal group of opponents argues the practice is outdated and harmful.

Among them is the Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., who has repeatedly called for an end to fluoride in public water systems.

In a post on X from November 2024, Kennedy said, ““Fluoride is an industrial waste associated with arthritis, bone fractures, bone cancer, IQ loss, neurodevelopmental disorders, and thyroid disease.”

He added that, if elected, his administration would advise all U.S. water systems to remove fluoride from their supplies. Groups like the Fluoride Action Network, an organization aiming to broaden awareness of the use of fluoride, have echoed Kennedy's concerns.

“Fluoridating water supplies is an outdated, unnecessary and dangerous relic from a 1950s public health culture” said the FAN website.

On its website, the organization cites studies linking fluoride exposure to brain development issues, reduced thyroid function, and potential links to osteosarcoma in adolescent males.

Sarah Catalanotto, executive director of the Suwannee River Area Health Education Center, works closely with underserved and rural communities in North Florida. She said the loss of fluoridated water could have ripple effects on oral health outcomes—especially in areas where access to dental care is already limited.

“We know that this is going to potentially impact and widen health disparities in the community, especially for those who are getting access to fluoride through the water system.”

The Suwannee River AHEC focuses on workforce development and health education in rural regions, where preventive care measures like water fluoridation can make a measurable difference. Without that added protection, Catalanotto said, communities could see a gradual rise in tooth decay and related complications.

Beyond the physical impacts, Catalanotto said the policy shift raises another serious issue: the spread of misinformation and the growing mistrust in public health systems.

“It can be a challenge for public health professionals and for health education, because a lot of misinformation can spread very quickly,” she said. “And, I think a lot of misinformation can lead to mistrust, and mistrust in our public health institutions, our department of health institutions and those who are really trying to put out the best and most accurate information out there.”

She encourages residents to consider where they are getting their information from, and if that source is credible to give health recommendations.

“My biggest recommendation would be to really try and look at the source of where their information is coming from,” she said. “Is their source reliable? Do they have the credentials or the training to be able to put out that type of information?”

She added that rural communities often get overlooked in policy conversations like this one, even though they are the most at risk.

“I think sometimes we forget the impact on our rural communities,” she said. “And it’s important they get access to those evidence-based recommendations, just like anybody else.”

Her hope is that health education can bridge the gap, not just between science and the public, but between policy and lived experience in the communities most affected.

“It’s really important for us to remember that it is not our job to tell somebody how to act or what to do,” she said. “But our hope is that through very clear, evidence-based information that is understandable, we can help raise awareness and help people be more proactive in their health decisions.”

Bronson, Otter Creek and Cedar Key have water and wastewater woes. Is a regional pipeline the solution?

WUFT | By Rose Schnabel

Published August 14, 2025



Cedar Key experiences regular flooding, especially during hurricane season. In this file image from Tropical Storm Hermine, the storm surged beyond the bank on G Street and towards 3rd Street.

A cooperative in Levy County is proposing an ambitious plan to tackle saltwater intrusion, septic-to-sewer transitions and municipal utility debt all at once through a regional water and wastewater project.

The project, which is in the planning phase, would pump and process groundwater in Bronson, transport it diagonally across the county to Otter Creek and Cedar Key and treat the returning wastewater back in Bronson by 2030.

The idea comes from a 2022 study commissioned by the Suwannee River Water Management District, which suggested a regional authority would better address municipal water concerns than a town-by-town approach.

The Town of Bronson, Town of Otter Creek and Cedar Key Water and Sewer District formed such an authority, called the Waccasassa Water and Wastewater Cooperative, in June 2023.

It presented its plan for informational purposes to the Levy County Board of County Commissioners last week. Here are five takeaways:

1. The plan includes new water and wastewater treatment facilities in Bronson and 35 miles of pipeline to Otter Creek and Cedar Key.

The wellfield/water treatment plant and advanced wastewater treatment facility would sit side by side adjacent to the Levy County jail and launch with capacities of 500,000 and 400,000 gallons per day, respectively.

Water and wastewater pipelines would follow the right-of-way along State Road 24 to Otter Creek and Cedar Key. The line would be installed six to eight feet underground, deeper in environmentally sensitive areas and when crossing other utilities.

Future phases of the project span to 2070 and would include increasing the system's capacity and potentially extending to other municipalities.

2. Each municipality has a different motivation to participate.

Bronson, Otter Creek and Cedar Key have two things in common: small-town populations and outsized water woes.

With a combined total population around 2,000, "there's no way in God's Earth that any of these towns can fix any of these problems on their own, at all, zero," said Sue Colson, Cedar Key Water and Sewer District board member and secretary of the cooperative.

Saltwater intrusion brought down the number of operable wells in Cedar Key from five to two. Those that remain produce water that's "not exactly palatable," Colson said, and requires "Rube Goldberg type of processing" to remove contaminants.

Cedar Key's wastewater treatment facility is located on the island itself, putting it at high risk of flooding with potentially devastating effects to nearby clam farms.

Last year, back-to-back hurricanes submerged all of the town's lift stations, causing them to fail. The town has refurbished five of 17 lift stations so far with state funding.

Relocating the wastewater facility off the island would cost an additional \$13 to \$15 million.

"We cannot any longer ignore the fact that we are an island and we're low lying," Colson said. "Before you sink millions of dollars into something, it should be in a place that's more suitable."

Twenty miles away, Otter Creek lacks a centralized wastewater system. Instead, its properties are dotted with about 80 septic tanks, known to contribute to groundwater contamination when improperly maintained. Most residents drink bottled water, according to a report from the cooperative's engineering contractor, as "treated water retains some taste and odor."

Bronson's water, the report says, requires little treatment. The town's community water system has a capacity of more than 860,000 gallons per day, of which residents use an average of 165,000 gallons per day, according to estimates from 2022.

The town is repaying a \$2.7 million loan it took out to hook up more residents to its wastewater treatment facility and needs \$12.4 million more worth of upgrades to meet groundwater quality requirements set by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

“To do any kind of updates right now is just not affordable for our town,” said Rachel Weeks, Bronson Town Council member and chair of the cooperative.

By selling land to the cooperative for the new facilities, Bronson could recuperate some cash and simultaneously meet wastewater improvement requirements. That sale, though, would come at the expense of indefinitely supplying water to communities down the pipeline.

“One city can't outweigh the others,” said Weeks. “We have to do what is fair and what is cost efficient and what is good for the people, for all the people.”

3. Municipalities, not households, would buy water and wastewater capacity.
The plan, if implemented, wouldn't change who bills residents for their water.

The Town of Bronson, Town of Otter Creek and Cedar Key Water and Sewer District would be the ones making the switch. Each would commit to buying a certain share of water and wastewater capacity based on their community's needs.

The cooperative will hear wholesale cost estimates at its Aug. 27 meeting in Bronson at the Dogan Cobb Building at 1 p.m.

4. The cooperative aims to cover the \$138 million projected cost with grants and forgivable loans. The FDEP, Florida Department of Commerce and Suwannee River Water Management District have awarded the cooperative \$900,000 to date for pre-planning and testing.

The group is applying for about \$150 million through state funding, split between \$138 million for the project itself and \$13 million for repairs, demolition and connections in Cedar Key and Otter Creek.

Bronson, Otter Creek and the Cedar Key Water and Sewer District will each pay a wholesale rate to cover operating costs, administrative fees and maintenance, among other expenses. If grants and forgivable loans don't cover the full cost of installing the system, those rates will rise to make up the difference.

Municipalities, in turn, would set costs for their residents.

“If we can't get 100% funding, I just don't see how this would move forward,” Weeks said, emphasizing municipalities' and residents' financial strain.

5. The project is in its earliest stages. Cooperative members can pull out if ongoing studies raise environmental or economic concerns.

“It's not like somebody just got up one day and said, ‘Hey, let's just put a pipeline up in Bronson,’” Colson said. “This was studied and it was examined and it was, it was talked about through the DEP and through the water management district as a good potential way to resolve problems.”

Crews will begin drilling a test well in Bronson this month.

They'll pump out high volumes of water, beyond what the project would remove per day, for two weeks to test for cleanliness and impacts to groundwater levels. "If this test drill goes well, then I feel like we've passed the first stage," Weeks said. "The second stage is that this has to be affordable for the cities and for the people."

The cooperative will discuss desalination as a potential alternative to the project for Otter Creek and Cedar Key only at its Aug. 20 meeting.

Citrus County commissioners approve Pine Ridge golf course homes in 3-2 vote

MICHAEL D. BATES Chronicle Reporter

Aug 27, 2025

It took six hours, but late Tuesday night Citrus County commissioners voted 3-2 to allow 80 homes on the long-vacant Pine Ridge golf course.

Commissioners Janet Barek and Diana Finegan opposed the Pine Ridge Reserve development, noting the board had unanimously rejected a similar request in January 2024.

"It's not right for government to go in and change other people's backyards," Finegan said.

Barek questioned why the outcome should be any different now since the only significant changes from the earlier plan were a reduction from 85 to 80 homes and the removal of gated access.

A packed audience filled the commission chambers and two overflow rooms. About 60 residents spoke, most reading prepared three-minute statements.

The crowd was split: supporters in green Pine Ridge United shirts said that the abandoned course is overgrown and will never return as a golf course, and that one-acre estate homes are a good fit for the neighborhood.

Opponents, many in black shirts, said they would rather look at weeds, nature and wildlife than new houses.

Commissioner Jeff Kinnard, who made the motion to approve, said he sympathized with homeowners who bought property on a golf course but added, "It's not a golf course anymore (and) I don't believe it will ever be a golf course." He said the planning commission "got it right" when it voted 6-1 in favor of the project last year.

Commissioner Holly Davis seconded the motion, saying she knew her decision — based on competent and substantial evidence — would cost her friends on both sides.

"But I have to follow the law," she said.

Chairman Rebecca Bays cast the deciding vote but offered no comment.

Attorney Robert Batsel, representing developer James Dicks of Dix Developments, said the plan includes 120 acres of open space to preserve the character of the community.

Supporters highlighted the financial and environmental benefits.

Resident Margaret Case called it "a win for county resources, a win for Pine Ridge and a win for the Nature Coast."

Restoring the course, she said, would cost millions plus \$840,000 a year in upkeep, while the development would increase taxable value, fund its own roads and trails, and sharply reduce water use.



Resident Tim Nitke was among many who turned out Tuesday to oppose plans for 80 homes on the former Pine Ridge Golf Course, warning of the negative impacts such developments have had on other communities that lost their courses.

