



WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY

Board Meeting Package

July 15, 2026
3:30 p.m.

Meeting Location:

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

Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority

Board of Directors

Effective March 2026

Office	Board Members
Chair	The Honorable Don Wiley
Vice Chair	The Honorable Marcos Flores
Treasurer	The Honorable Diana Finegan

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

Meeting Dates

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

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

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



July 6, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: Water Supply Authority Board of Directors and Interested Parties

From: Suzannah J. Folsom, Executive Director

Subject: Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority Board of Directors Meeting

The Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority will hold a regular business meeting on **Wednesday, July 15, 2026, 3:30 p.m., at the Lecanto Government Center Building, Room 166, 3600 Sovereign Path, Lecanto, FL 34461.**

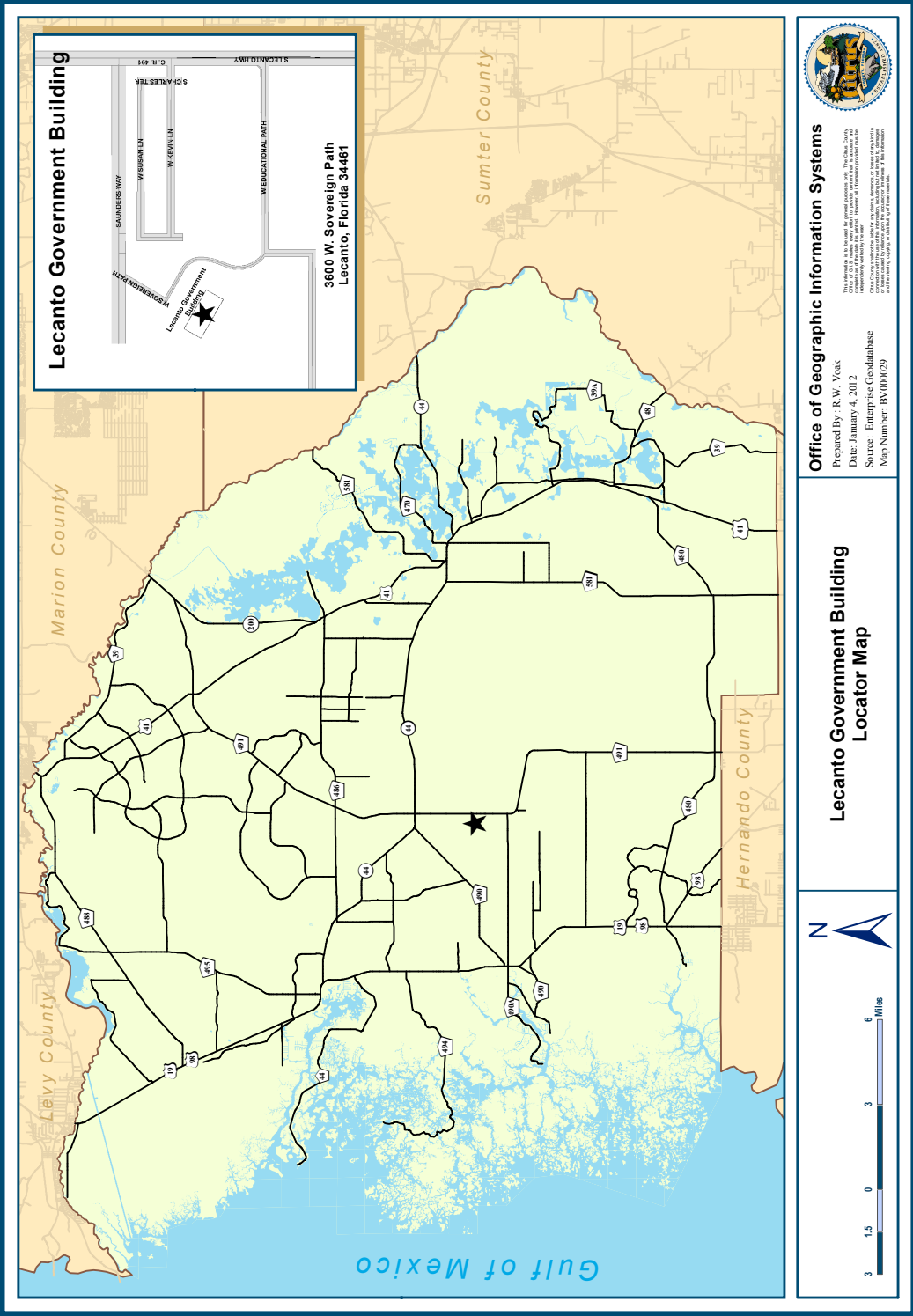
Enclosed for your review are the following items:

- Agenda
- Minutes of May 20, 2026
- Board Package*

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

Enclosures

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



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

Lecanto Government Building Locator Map



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

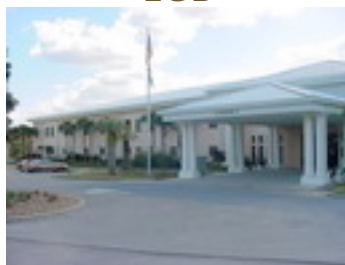
From Bushnell

- 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

July 15, 2026 -- 3:30 p.m.

**LECANTO GOVERNMENT BUILDING -- ROOM 166
3600 W. Sovereign Path, Lecanto, Florida 34461**

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

PAGE

1. Call to Order . . . Don Wiley, 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 . . . Don Wiley, Chair	
a. Approval of Minutes [May 20, 2026]	9
b. Bills to be Paid [ratify June bills; approve July bills provided at the meeting]	15
c. 2026-2027 Regulatory Plan [approve plan as provided by staff for publication]	17
d. Purvis Gray Client Assistance for 2025 Annual Financial Report [approve additional \$4,000 cost]	19
7. Formal Position Letters on Heart of Florida Landfill Leachate Injection Well	21
8. Water Supply and Conservation Grants Program – Approval of Awards . . . Suzy Folsom, WRWSA	27
9. Resolution 2026-05 Adoption of Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 . . . Suzy Folsom, WRWSA	67
10. Legislative Report . . . Suzy Folsom, WRWSA	77
11. Attorney’s Report . . . Rob Batsel, WRWSA Attorney	81
12. Executive Director’s Report . . . Suzy Folsom, WRWSA	
a. Water Use Permit Demand Summary	83
b. Water Management Information System Water Use Permit Notifications	85
c. Residential Irrigation Evaluation Programs Update	87
d. Correspondence	89
e. News Articles	111
13. Other Business	
14. Next Meeting . . . September 9, 2026; 3:30 p.m.; Lecanto Government Building, Room 166	
15. 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 May 20, 2026

TIME: 3:31 p.m.
PLACE: Lecanto Government Building
ADDRESS: 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Room 166, Lecanto, Florida 34461

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

1. Call to Order

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

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

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

BOARD MEMBER PRESENT

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

BOARD MEMBER(S) ABSENT

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

BOARD ALTERNATE(S) PRESENT

David Kingsbury, City of Brooksville

WRWSA STAFF PRESENT

Suzannah J. Folsom, PE, PMP, Executive Dir
James Hartley, General Counsel Assistant
LuAnne Stout, Administrative Asst.

WRWSA STAFF ABSENT

Robert W. Batsel, Jr., General Counsel

OTHERS PRESENT

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

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

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

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

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

6. Consent Agenda

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

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

7. Request for Formal Position – Heart of Florida v Landfill Leachate Injection Well (Sumter County)

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

Additional correspondence on the injection well has been sent including:

- March 30, 2026 Letter from Representative J.J. Grow to FDEP
- March 31, 2026 letter from Citrus County to WRWSA requesting a formal position
- April 2, 2026 letter from Sumter County to FDEP requesting a public education forum.

Ms. Folsom noted the WRWSA Board could send a letter with a formal position on the landfill leachate injection well. Items that could be included in the letter are as follows:

- Express concern for contamination
- Map showing public supply wells.
- Request that approval not be given for conversion to a Class I well.
- Request water quality monitoring requirements:
 - o additional monitoring well locations/depths.
 - o Lake Panasoffkee.
 - o Withlacoochee River.
- Request access to proposed monitoring well(s) for independent testing.
- Request a reduced term permit.
- Request reduced quantity.
- Request that the landfill obtain a bond for third party utilities affected by contamination that would “survive” transfer or bankruptcy.

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

8. Fiscal Year 2024-25 Financial Audit

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

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

9. Establishment of Proposed Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget Components

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

a. Per Capita Assessment

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

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

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

b. Grant Funding Program

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

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

c. Draft FY 2026-27 Budget and Work Program

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

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

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

10. Regional Water Supply Plan – Approval of Final Report

Ms. Suzy Folsom, Executive Director, welcomed Ms. Lisa Krentz, representing Hazen and Sawyer, to present this item. Copies of the final report were provided.

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

Project Billing Summary

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

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

11. Legislative Report

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

Staff has gathered updated information on relevant bills that are related to conservation and water supply from SWFWMD, 1000 Friends of Florida, and the Florida Engineering Society's legislative tracking, and the House and Senate websites.

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

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

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

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

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

- a. **Water Use Permit Demand Summary** – A summary was in the Board's meeting materials.
- b. **Water Use Permit Activity Report (WMIS Notifications)** – A list of notifications was included in the Board's meeting materials.
- c. **Residential Irrigation Evaluation Programs Update** – Ms. Folsom noted that Phase 8 (WISE) is 88% complete by the end of March.
- d. **Correspondence** – Item(s) were included in the meeting materials.
- e. **News Articles** – Article(s) were included in the meeting materials.

14. Other Business

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

15. **Next Meeting Time and Location**

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

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

Don Wiley, Chair

Suzannah J. Folsom, Executive Director

Item 6.b.

Consent Agenda

Bills to be Paid

**October bills in the meeting materials;
November bills to be provided at meeting.**

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

Bills For Payment
5/20/2026

<u>Administrative Invoices</u>	<u>Invoice Number(s)</u>	<u>Invoice Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Suzannah J. Folsom, PE, Executive Director	1485	4/30/2026	\$8,278.53
Rob Batsel, General Counsel			\$0.00
C. LuAnne Stout, Admin Asst (Admin Services)	4-Apr-2026	5/1/2026	\$3,624.00
Nature Coast Web Design & Marketing (Contract/Monthly)	19846	5/1/2026	\$200.00
Hernando Co BoCC (Q306 Reimbursement)		5/20/2026	\$4,140.81
Truist Bank Business Card Statement	5/2/2026	5/2/2026	\$1,108.80
Total Administrative Invoices			\$17,352.14

<u>Water Supply Studies and Facilities</u>	<u>Contract/ Budget</u>	<u>Balance Remaining</u>	<u>Current</u>
2026 General Services Contract	\$20,000.00		
Work Order 2026-01 Applied Sciences	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	
Work Order 2026-02 INTERA	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	
FY24-25 Water Conservation Grants Program	\$180,000.00	\$9,706.17	
Citrus County	\$47,000.00	\$9,452.35	
Hernando County	\$46,250.00	\$0.00	
Marion County	\$13,327.50	\$253.82	
Sumter County	\$73,512.50	\$0.00	
Regional Water Supply Plan Update (Q324)	\$350,000.00	\$10,056.60	
SJRWMD Irrigation Audits (East I-75)	\$60,000.00	\$40,224.25	
Phase 7 Irrigation Program (Q306)	\$102,000.00	\$34,470.95	
Phase 8 WISE Irrigation Program (2024-25 \$47,890 + 2025-26 \$40,000)	\$87,890.00	\$47,633.90	\$6,690.70 (1)
FY24-25 Total Project Invoices	\$799,890.00	\$114,457.97	\$6,690.70

Total Bills to be Paid	\$24,042.84
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State Board of Administration	Transfer from SBA2 to SBA1	\$17,352.14
State Board of Administration	Transfer from SBA1 to Truist Bank	\$24,042.84
Truist Bank Deposit	Transferred from SBA1	\$24,042.84

Notes:

(1) Phase 8 (WISE) - Irrigation Audits

Jack Overdorff, ECO Land Design	\$5,940.70	Invoice 953
C. LuAnne Stout, Admin Services	\$750.00	Invoice 4-Apr-Ph8 WISE-2026
	<u>\$6,690.70</u>	

Item 6.c.

Consent Agenda

2026-2027 Regulatory Plan

**2026-2027 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, 2026, 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 2026-2027 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 15, 2026, that the WRWSA has no plans for rulemaking in the 2026-2027 fiscal year.

Don Wiley
Chair

Date: July 15, 2026

Certification of the WRWSA General Counsel

As General Counsel to the WRWSA, I certify that I have reviewed the WRWSA's 2026-2027 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 15, 2026, that the WRWSA has no plans for rulemaking in the 2026-2027 fiscal year.

Robert W. Batsel, Jr.
General Counsel

Date: July 15, 2026

Consent Agenda

Purvis Gray Client Assistance for 2025 Annual Financial Report

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

Due to the Authority moving its Quickbooks desktop software to an online version, Purvis Gray and Company assisted in adjusting the books of accounts with the move to online. The 2015 Quickbooks version had become obsolete and failed to update.

The cost of providing client assistance with reconciliation problems due to the software conversion in performing the 2025 Annual Financial Audit is \$4,000.

Staff Recommendation:

Board approval for payment of \$4,000 to Purvis Gray and Company for client assistance in completed the 2025 Annual Financial Audit..

Item 7

Formal Position Letters on Heart Of Florida Landfill Leachate Injection Well

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

The Heart of Florida Landfill is constructing a deep injection well to dispose of landfill leachate. These wells are permitted through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. At the March 18, 2026 meeting, information on the landfill, leachate, injection well permitting requirements, and hydrogeology was presented by Intera, one of the WRWSA As-Needed Engineering consultants. The meeting was attended by many members of the public that expressed concern over the proposed injection well.

On May 20, 2026, the WRWSA Board of Directors had additional discussion and determined that WRWSA should send letters to FDEP and the Governor expressing a formal position against the Heart Of Florida Landfill leachate deep injection well.

The drafted letters have been reviewed by counsel and are provided as exhibits. Upon approval by the Board of Directors, the letters will be signed by the Board Chair and Executive Director and sent to FDEP and the Governor.

Exhibit 7a - Letter to Governor Ron DeSantis

Exhibit 7b - Letter to FDEP

Staff Recommendation:

Approve the drafted letters for the Board Chair and Executive Director to sign.



July 15, 2026

The Honorable Ron DeSantis
Governor's Appointments Office
The Capitol Building Lower Level, Suite LL-10
Tallahassee FL 32399-0001

Subject: Heart of Florida Landfill
Class V Injection Well Exploratory Permit 0450206-001-UC/5EX
Facility ID: 108384

Dear Governor DeSantis,

We are sending this letter in opposition to the leachate injection well project under construction at the Heart of Florida Landfill (HOFL). We have received many calls, emails, letters from the public and other government leaders, and public comment at our March 18, 2026 and May 20, 2026 board of director meetings. On May 20, 2026 the WRWSA Board directed the Chair and director to send this letter of opposition to Governor Ron Desantis and Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

The Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (WRWSA) is special district of the state that develops water supply and promotes environmental stewardship. Our Board of Directors includes elected representatives from Sumter, Marion, Citrus and Hernando Counties and the Cities of Wildwood, Inverness, Belleview and Brooksville. We also have a wellfield and two water treatment facilities in Citrus County. We have concerns that the proposed leachate injection well could contaminate the Floridan aquifer and other vital water resources in Central Florida.

The HOFL deep injection well is in close proximity to a variety of important water resources, including:

- Lake Panasoffkee – 2.5 miles
- Withlacoochee River – 6 miles
- Gum Springs – 17 miles
- WRWSA Charles A. Black Wellfield – 24 miles

Our concerns include:

- the lack of history or experience with deep injection wells in Sumter County.
- uncertainty of confinement between the injection zone and drinking water resources.
- uncertainty regarding the hydrogeology in this region of karst geology.
- potential water quality contamination for public supply, agriculture and industry in the region.
- eventual water quality impacts on natural resources in the region.
- difficulty in remediating contamination after it has occurred at the proposed depth.
- high cost of alternative water resources that would be required if the Floridan aquifer is no longer a viable source due to contamination.

We realize that the permit for the Class V Exploratory well construction has already been granted and construction is underway. We understand that the permit granted does not allow for leachate to be injected until the HOFL has applied for and received a conversion to a Class I injection well. We also understand that Florida Department of Environmental Protection will not be accepting public comment until the application for conversion to a Class I injection well has been received. We will send another opposition letter at that time.

In the mean time we would like support from the Governor requiring FDEP to consider the following:

- Additional Monitoring Wells: A single monitoring well may not be sufficient to detect contamination of the Floridan aquifer. We would request additional monitoring wells at the HOFL property northwest, southwest and west property boundaries.
- Monitoring Surface Water: Please consider requiring compliance sampling at surface water locations including Lake Panasoffkee and the Withlacoochee River.
- Increased Frequency of Sampling: Please consider requiring an increased frequency of water quality sampling in the permit requirements. If the time between sampling is shortened, the likelihood of the contamination spreading offsite is reduced.
- Reduced Quantity: it appears that HOFL has applied for an injection quantity that is much greater than the quantity of leachate that they have historically produced. Please consider limiting the quantity.
- Independent Quality Assurance: Please consider requiring access for independent sampling of monitoring wells.
- Backup Leachate Disposal Method(s): Please require that HOFL maintains contracts and facilities as a backup to the injection well for leachate disposal.
- Increased Bonding Requirements: The bonding requirements for HOFL should consider the cost of remediating the groundwater contamination and developing alternative sources of water supply for third party utilities in the bonding requirements for an operational permit that would survive transfer or bankruptcy.
- Limited Permit Duration: Please consider limiting the term of the permit, which would require a full regulatory review of the injection well operation for continued use.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,

Don Wiley
Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority
Board of Directors Chair

Suzannah Folsom
Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority
Executive Director

Copy: WRWSA Board of Directors
Florida Department of Environmental Protection



July 15, 2026

Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Water Resource Management
Aquifer Protection/UIC
2600 Blair Stone Road
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Subject: Heart of Florida Landfill
Class V Injection Well Exploratory Permit 0450206-001-UC/5EX
Facility ID: 108384

Dear Dr. Richard Lobinske,

We are sending this letter in opposition to the leachate injection well project under construction at the Heart of Florida Landfill (HOFL). We have received many calls, emails, letters from the public and other government leaders, and public comment at our March 18, 2026 and May 20, 2026 board of director meetings. On May 20, 2026 the WRWSA Board directed the Chair and director to send this letter of opposition to Governor Ron Desantis and Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

The Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (WRWSA) is special district of the state that develops water supply and promotes environmental stewardship. Our Board of Directors includes elected representatives from Sumter, Marion, Citrus and Hernando Counties and the Cities of Wildwood, Inverness, Belleview and Brooksville. We also have a wellfield and two water treatment facilities in Citrus County. We have concerns that the proposed leachate injection well could contaminate the Floridan aquifer and other vital water resources in Central Florida.

The HOFL deep injection well is in close proximity to a variety of important water resources, including:

- Lake Panasoffkee – 2.5 miles
- Withlacoochee River – 6 miles
- Gum Springs – 17 miles
- WRWSA Charles A. Black Wellfield – 24 miles

Our concerns include:

- the lack of history or experience with deep injection wells in Sumter County.
- uncertainty of confinement between the injection zone and drinking water resources.
- uncertainty regarding the hydrogeology in this region of karst geology.
- potential water quality contamination for public supply, agriculture and industry in the region.
- eventual water quality impacts on natural resources in the region.
- difficulty in remediating contamination after it has occurred at the proposed depth.
- high cost of alternative water resources that would be required if the Floridan aquifer is no longer a viable source due to contamination.

We realize that the permit for the Class V Exploratory well construction has already been granted and construction is underway. We understand that the permit granted does not allow for leachate to be injected until the HOFL has applied for and received a conversion to a Class I injection well. We also understand that FDEP will not be accepting public comment until the application for conversion to a Class I injection well has been received. We will send another opposition letter at that time.

In the mean time we would like FDEP to begin to consider the following:

- Additional Monitoring Wells: A single monitoring well may not be sufficient to detect contamination of the Floridan aquifer. We would request additional monitoring wells at the HOFL property northwest, southwest and west property boundaries.
- Monitoring Surface Water: Please consider requiring compliance sampling at surface water locations including Lake Panasoffkee and the Withlacoochee River.
- Frequency of Sampling: Please consider requiring an increased frequency of water quality sampling in the permit requirements. If the time between sampling is shortened, the likelihood of the contamination spreading offsite is reduced.
- Reduced Quantity: it appears that HOFL has applied for an injection quantity that is much greater than the quantity of leachate that they have historically produced. Please consider limiting the quantity.
- Independent Quality Assurance: Please consider requiring access for independent sampling of monitoring wells.
- Backup Leachate Disposal Method(s): Please require that HOFL maintains contracts and facilities as a backup to the injection well for leachate disposal.
- Increased Bonding Requirements: The bonding requirements for HOFL should consider the cost of remediating the groundwater contamination and developing alternative sources of water supply for third party utilities in the bonding requirements for an operational permit that would survive transfer or bankruptcy.
- Limited Permit Duration: Please consider limiting the term of the permit, which would require a full regulatory review of the injection well operation for continued use.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,

Don Wiley
Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority
Board of Directors Chair

Suzannah Folsom
Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority
Executive Director

Copy: WRWSA Board of Directors
Florida Governor Ron Desantis

Water Supply and Conservation Grants Program – Approval of Awards

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

At the Authority's May 20, 2026 meeting, the Board set the total allocation of funds in Fiscal Year 2026-27 for the Local Government Grant Program at \$185,000. The Authority has received four grant applications, one each from Citrus, Hernando, and Marion counties; and the City of Belleview. 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 \$227,650.00. Staff recommends the Board approve the FY 2026-27 grant amounts as noted below.

See Exhibits:

- Citrus County Water Supply and Conservation Grant Application (page 28)
- Hernando County Water Supply and Conservation Grant Application (page 35)
- Marion County Water Supply and Conservation Grant Application (page 47)
- Belleview Water Supply and Conservation Grant Application (page 56)

Staff Recommendation:

Board approval of the grants in the amounts shown below and authorization for the Chair to sign the Grant Agreements.

**FY 2026-27 WRWSA Grant Applications
and Staff Recommendations**

Applicant	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
Citrus County	\$44,600.00	\$44,600.00
Hernando County	\$47,000.00	\$47,000.00
Marion County	\$19,225.00	\$19,225.00
City of Belleview	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Total	\$113,825.00	\$113,825.00

WATER SUPPLY AND CONSERVATION GRANT APPLICATION FORM:

Name of applicant:

Citrus County Board of County Commissioners, a political subdivision of the State of Florida

Provide a short description of the proposed water conservation project in the text box below:

The Citrus County water conservation program will offer monetary incentives to customers for replacing non-functioning rain sensors and upgrading to WaterSense® labeled toilets and irrigation controllers. The County will also continue to provide free indoor retrofit items, such as WaterSense® labeled showerheads and faucet aerators.

In previous funding cycles, the County included its WaterSense® labeled irrigation controller direct installation initiative for high-water-use residential sites in this grant request. Due to implementation challenges associated with SWFWMD's WISE program during the previous grant cycle, the County has reevaluated its approach and now intends to incorporate the controller installation program into the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority's Enhanced Evaluations Initiative. As a result, this year's grant request has been reduced because that portion of the program is expected to be funded separately.

Beyond incentives and retrofit opportunities, the County will continue education and outreach efforts to promote long-term water savings. This includes expanding youth education, increasing outreach to irrigation, landscape, and building contractors, and continuing public messaging on irrigation efficiency and applicable water restrictions. Outreach may include bill inserts, workshops and trainings, promotional items, billboards, radio advertisements, print materials, bus signage, and other communication channels.

List previous grants received from WRWSA in the previous 3 fiscal years and date completed:

- \$47,175 scheduled to complete September 30, 2026
- \$47,000 completed September 30, 2025
- \$40,170 completed by September 30, 2024

Attachments to application:

1. A resolution of support that includes a commitment that the grant recipient will budget and expend its matching funds as required by the grant program.
2. A summary of the project tasks (scope of services) with estimated costs by task, if applicable.
3. A time schedule for the project and expected completion date that will be inserted in the local government contract.

Return Application to:

Suzannah J. Folsom, Executive Director
WRWSA, 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Suite 228, Lecanto, Florida 34461

Deadline: July 1, 2026, 5:00 p.m. EST

Exhibit 'A'
FY 26-27 Scope of Service

Task: Incentives to Install Water-Saving Fixtures

Objective: Reduce water consumption by providing incentive to install water-efficient fixtures and irrigation system components.	Estimated QTY	COST PER	County	WRWSA	Total Cost
Projects: Provide three rebate opportunities to Citrus County Utilities water customers: irrigation controllers, rain sensors and toilets. Coordinate a Water Sense labeled irrigation controller installation initiative at sites with high water consumption, typically greater than 20,000 per month on an annual average. Distribute faucet aerators and showerheads to customers. Incentivize installation of rain barrels.	3	\$1,450.00	\$2,175.00	\$2,175.00	\$4,350.00
	35	\$100.00	\$1,750.00	\$1,750.00	\$3,500.00
	20	\$50.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$1,000.00
	40	\$25 to \$100	\$1,825.00	\$1,825.00	\$3,650.00
	varies	varies	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00
	100	\$75.00	\$3,750.00	\$3,750.00	\$7,500.00
Subtotal:			\$11,000.00	\$11,000.00	\$22,000.00

Tasks: Water Conservation Education

Objective: Reduce water consumption through water conservation education to community youth and adults.	Estimated QTY	COST PER	County	WRWSA	Total Cost
Project: Create and print nine newsletter bill inserts promoting water-saving behaviors.	9	\$2,200.00	\$9,900.00	\$9,900.00	\$19,800.00
Project: Print and distribute water conservation related educational materials.			\$1,750.00	\$1,750.00	\$3,500.00
Project: Coordinate student poster contest, toilet leak detection challenge and other youth education initiatives.			\$1,250.00	\$1,250.00	\$2,500.00
Project: Purchase and distribute promotional items such as bags, pens, pencils, dish scrapers, leak detection dye tables and rain gauges.			\$4,250.00	\$4,250.00	\$8,500.00
Project: Promote water conservation awareness through community workshops and other educational opportunities.			\$3,950.00	\$3,950.00	\$7,900.00
Project: Promote water conservation awareness through print, email, radio, billboard, survey, bus signage, and other media.			\$12,500.00	\$12,500.00	\$25,000.00
Subtotal:			\$33,600.00	\$33,600.00	\$67,200.00

Programming will begin October 1, 2026. Citrus County will expend all grant funding by September 30, 2027.

County	WRWSA	Total Cost
\$44,600.00	\$44,600.00	\$89,200.00
TOTAL:		

RESOLUTION NO. 2026 - 051

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CITRUS COUNTY, FLORIDA, A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF THE WATER SUPPLY AND CONSERVATION GRANT APPLICATION TO THE WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY AND, COMMITTING FUNDS TO MATCH GRANT FUNDING FOR A WATER CONSERVATION EDUCATION AND INCENTIVE PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, the Citrus County Board of County Commissioners recognizes and supports the County's efforts to educate its customers and the general public on the importance of water conservation; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the County's Consumptive Use Permits Nos. 7121, 9791 and 2842, the County must continue to develop, improve upon, and expand water conservation programs to reduce demands on water resources within its service areas and increase efficiency of use; and

WHEREAS, the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (Authority) provides funding assistance to local governments for projects and programs with an emphasis on water conservation; and

WHEREAS, the County's water conservation program meets the grant funding eligibility requirements of the Authority; and

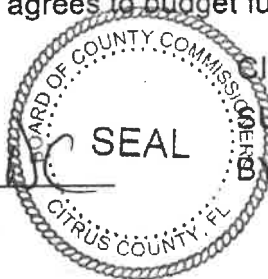
WHEREAS, the County will budget and expend its matching funds as required by the grant program;

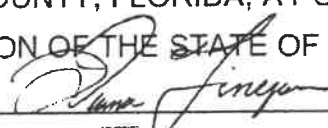
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Citrus County, Florida:

Citrus County Board of County Commissioners supports the application to the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority for the FY 2026-27 Water Supply and Conservation Grant and agrees to budget funds as identified in Scope of Services.

ATTEST:

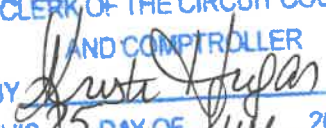

TRACI PERRY, CLERK



CITRUS COUNTY, FLORIDA, A POLITICAL
SUBDIVISION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA
BY: 
DIANA FINEGAN, CHAIRMAN

APPROVED AS TO FORM FOR
THE RELIANCE OF CITRUS
COUNTY ONLY:


DENISE A. DYMOND LYN
COUNTY ATTORNEY

CERTIFIED TO BE A TRUE COPY
TRACI PERRY
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
AND COMPTROLLER
BY:  D.C.
THIS 25 DAY OF JUL 20 26



APPROVED

JUN 22 2026

Citrus County
Board of County Commissioners

**WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY
LOCAL GOVERNMENT WATER SUPPLY AND CONSERVATION
FUNDING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

PROJECT GRANT AGREEMENT

This Agreement is made and entered into this fifteenth day of July, 2026, by and between the **WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY** (hereinafter called the "AUTHORITY"), and **CITRUS COUNTY** (hereinafter called the "GRANTEE"), in furtherance of funding assistance in the development of the "CITRUS COUNTY WATER SUPPLY AND CONSERVATION PROGRAM". In consideration of the mutual covenants contained herein and pursuant to Chapter 163, Laws of Florida, Florida Interlocal Cooperation Act of 1969, as subsequently amended, and Section 373.713(2)(i), Florida Statutes, the parties hereto agree as follows:

1. The AUTHORITY has found that the implementation of water conservation programs by a member government is the primary purpose of the project known as the "CITRUS COUNTY WATER SUPPLY AND CONSERVATION PROGRAM" (hereinafter called the "PROJECT"), and enters into this Agreement with the GRANTEE for assisting in the funding of water conservation programs more particularly described in its Application. The PROJECT application is attached hereto marked Exhibit "A" and made a part hereof.

2. The GRANTEE shall provide the AUTHORITY with a copy of the GRANTEE's contract documents executed for the PROJECT and the third party vendor providing said services in order to confirm the total project costs.

3. PROJECT FUNDING:

A. The AUTHORITY agrees to pay, on a reimbursement basis, to the GRANTEE, the sum of \$44,600 of the proposed \$89,200 total budget cost for the PROJECT.

B. The GRANTEE shall pay PROJECT costs prior to requesting reimbursement from the AUTHORITY. The AUTHORITY shall reimburse the GRANTEE for fifty percent (50%) of all allowable costs in each approved invoice based upon the listed tasks contained in Exhibit "A", not to exceed the sum of \$44,600 as identified in paragraph 3.A. above. Reimbursement requests must include all documentation required by the AUTHORITY for proper audit review and the GRANTEE shall certify that the request for payment is appropriate and that said task or portion thereof has been completed.

C. The GRANTEE shall provide the AUTHORITY with a schedule and description of "tasks" for the PROJECT with the cost associated with each task set forth.

D. The Grantee shall submit a final PROJECT reimbursement request after completion of the project, which shall be no later than September 30, 2026. The final reimbursement request

must be submitted no later than December 31, 2026. Requests submitted after December 31, 2026 shall not be considered for reimbursement.

E. The AUTHORITY shall, within sixty (60) days after receipt of a payment request, review the work accomplished to date under this Agreement and, if the work and payment request are in accordance with all applicable requirements, approve the request for payment.

4. GRANTEE shall ensure that all services procured and all purchases of goods obtained for the accomplishment of the PROJECT shall be secured in accordance with applicable State and Federal laws and in accordance with the GRANTEE's adopted procurement procedures.

5. GRANTEE shall follow all State and Federal laws relating to its established audit and accounting procedures and as they relate to said PROJECT and cost reimbursements.

6. The GRANTEE shall retain all records supporting PROJECT costs for three (3) years after the fiscal year in which the final PROJECT payment was released by the AUTHORITY or until final resolution of matters resulting from any litigation, claim or audit that started prior to the expiration of the three-year retention period. The AUTHORITY, State Auditor General, State Comptroller, and other agencies or entities with jurisdiction shall have the right to inspect and audit the GRANTEE's records for said PROJECT within the retention period.

7. This Agreement shall become effective upon execution and the GRANTEE shall complete preparation and/or construction of all PROJECT elements on or before September 30, 2026. The completion date may be extended by the AUTHORITY for good cause at the written request of the GRANTEE and must be made prior to PROJECT completion date.

8. The AUTHORITY's Executive Director for the purposes of this Agreement shall be responsible for ensuring performance of its terms and conditions and shall be responsible for recommending approval of all reimbursement requests to the AUTHORITY prior to payment. The GRANTEE's Liaison Agent, as identified in the PROJECT application, or successor, shall act on behalf of the GRANTEE relative to the provisions of this Agreement.

9. The Executive Director shall have the authority to approve budget changes within individual tasks up to a total amount not to exceed TEN PERCENT (10%) of total project costs without Board approval.

10. All monies expended by the GRANTEE for the purpose contained herein at the option of the AUTHORITY shall be subject to audit review.

11. Each party hereto agrees that it shall be solely responsible for the wrongful acts of its employees and agents. However, nothing contained herein shall constitute a waiver by either party of its sovereign immunity or the provisions of §768.28, Florida Statutes.

12. The GRANTEE shall comply with all federal, state, and local rules and regulations in developing this PROJECT. The GRANTEE acknowledges that this requirement includes compliance with all federal, state, and local health and safety rules and regulations. The GRANTEE further agrees to ensure that the GRANTEE's contract will include this provision in all subcontracts issued as a result of this Agreement.

13. The AUTHORITY reserves the right to inspect said PROJECT and any and all records related thereto at any reasonable time.

14. This Agreement may be unilaterally canceled by the AUTHORITY in the event the GRANTEE refuses to allow public access to all documents, papers, letters or other material made or received in conjunction with this Agreement pursuant to Chapter 119, Florida Statutes.

15. The AUTHORITY shall also have the right to demand a refund, either in whole or in part, of the funds provided to the GRANTEE for non-compliance with the terms of this Agreement if not cured within thirty (30) days of written notice thereof from the AUTHORITY. The GRANTEE, upon notification from the AUTHORITY, agrees to refund and will forthwith pay to the AUTHORITY, the amount of money demanded by the AUTHORITY. Such refund shall include interest calculated at two percent (2%) over the prevailing prime rate as reported by the Federal Reserve on the date the AUTHORITY calculates the amount of refund due. Interest shall be calculated from the date(s) of payment(s) to the GRANTEE by the AUTHORITY.

16. The employment of unauthorized aliens by a GRANTEE is considered a violation of Section 274A(e) of the Immigration and Nationality Act. If the GRANTEE knowingly employs unauthorized aliens, such violation shall be cause for unilateral cancellation of this Agreement. The GRANTEE shall be responsible for including this provision in all subcontracts with private organizations issued as a result of this Agreement.

17. No person on the grounds of race, creed, color, national origin, age, sex or marital status shall be excluded from participation in; be denied the proceeds or benefits of; or be otherwise subjected to discrimination in performance of this Agreement.

18. This Agreement strictly prohibits expenditure of these funds for the purpose of lobbying the Florida Legislature, the judicial branch, or a state agency.

19. The GRANTEE shall have an audit performed in accordance with the Rules of the Auditor General promulgated pursuant to §11.45, Florida Statutes, and have a statement prepared by an independent certified public accountant which attests that the GRANTEE has complied with the provisions of this Agreement and whether the audit results in an unqualified opinion.

20. A person or affiliate who has been placed on the convicted vendor list following a conviction for public entity crime may not perform work as a grantee, contractor, supplier, subcontractor, or consultant under a contract with any public entity, and may not transact business with any public entity

in excess of the threshold amount provided in §287.017, Florida Statutes, or Category Two, for a period of thirty-six (36) months from the date of being placed on the convicted vendor list.

21. A copy of the audit and attestation as required in Paragraph 19 shall be submitted to the AUTHORITY within one (1) year from the PROJECT completion date as set forth in Paragraph 7 or as extended by the AUTHORITY.

22. This Agreement is not intended nor shall it be construed as granting any rights, privileges or interest in any third party without mutual written agreement of the parties hereto.

23. This Agreement represents the entire agreement of the parties. Any alterations, variations, changes, modification or waivers of provisions of this Agreement shall only be valid when they have been reduced to writing, duly executed by each of the parties hereto, and attached to the original of this Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused these presents to be duly executed on the date and year first above written.

WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER
SUPPLY AUTHORITY

By: _____
DON WILEY
Chair

ATTEST:

By: _____
SUZANNAH J. FOLSOM
Executive Director

CITRUS COUNTY, a political Subdivision of
the State of Florida

By: _____
JEFF KINNARD
Chair

ATTEST:

By: _____

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY

By: _____
_____ for the Grantee

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND CORRECTNESS:

By: _____
Attorney for Authority

WATER SUPPLY AND CONSERVATION GRANT APPLICATION FORM:**Name of applicant:**

Hernando County Utilities Department

Provide a short description of the proposed water conservation project in the text box below:

Hernando County Utilities Department (HCUD) promotes and produces dynamic, innovative, effective water resource protection and programs. These have led Hernando County to lower the per capita water use requirements below the 150 gallons per person per day regulation of Southwest Florida Water Management District.

Projects:

In-School education programs,
Conservation messaging campaign and promotions
Water conservation incentive programs for HCUD customers

List previous grants received from WRWSA in the previous 3 fiscal years and date completed:

FY 2023/24 Closed September 30, 2024

FY 2024/25 Closed September 30, 2025

FY 25/26 will close September 30, 2026

Attachments to application:

1. A resolution of support that includes a commitment that the grant recipient will budget and expend its matching funds as required by the grant program.
2. A summary of the project tasks (scope of services) with estimated costs by task, if applicable.
3. A time schedule for the project and expected completion date that will be inserted in the local government contract.

Return Application to:

Suzannah J. Folsom, Executive Director
WRWSA, 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Suite 228, Lecanto, Florida 34461

Deadline: July 1, 2026, 5:00 p.m. EST

FY 2027 Conservation Project Budget

Hernando County Utilities Department Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority Local Government Water Conservation Grant Program

Springs Coast Environmental Learning Center \$5,000
Gulf Coast Academy \$4,500

Water resource and conservation education
Curriculum assistance.

Total: **\$9,500**

Promotional Items & Workshops

Materials for educational purposes, inserts, flyers,
door hangers, packets for rebates and code enforcement.
Items for Community events, workshops, presentations. Meeting
Supplies; Florida Friendly Landscape Workshop,
Springs Workshop and accessories
Speaker stipends, venue rental, rain barrels

Total **\$24,500**

Conservation Advertising Campaign

Commercial media spots (television, radio, print)
Spectrum/Charter streaming advertising
Water conservation vehicle Wrap
and water conservation magnetic signs for
HCUD vehicles

Total **\$20,000**

HCUD Resource Programs

To included incentives for participating in: HE Washing Machine,
Rain Sensor Replacement, Low Flow Toilets, Rain Barrels,
FFL Yard Certification. And/or programs such as, professional
leak detection program, Sprinkler Check-up Program,
High Efficiency Sprinkler Replacement Project, soil amendment
Pilot project or water sense timer replacement, groundwater
monitoring pilot project.

Total **\$37,000**

Presentation/Workshop Equipment

A/V equipment, video/graphic software
and other accessories.

Total **\$3,000**

TOTAL PROPOSED BUDGET
WRWSA portion/share (50%)

TOTAL **\$94,000**
Total **\$47,000**

**WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY
LOCAL GOVERNMENT WATER SUPPLY AND CONSERVATION FUNDING ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM**

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED PROJECT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027

**HERNANDO COUNTY UTILITIES DEPARTMENT
WATER CONSERVATION AND WATER RESOURCE PROTECTION PROGRAM**

Overview

The Hernando County Utilities Department (HCUD) is one of the first local governments in the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) to establish an inverted or conservation water rate structure. Hernando County continues to endorse Ordinance 2010-15 which is a one day per week watering schedule. Average water use in the residential sector (single-family homes) ranges between 8000-10,000 gallons a month. Hernando County Utilities Department supplies safe potable water and wastewater services to over 80% of Hernando County. HCUD's customer accounts include residential, commercial, and industrial and total over 70,000 accounts and increasing. Hernando County was also one of the first local governments to implement a rain sensor rebate program for customers. We have continued these incentive-based water conservation programs including low flow toilets, rain sensor rebates, HE washing machine rebates, irrigation evaluation and audit programs, Florida Friendly certified landscapes, participation in Florida Friendly Landscaping programs and participate regionally in an irrigation evaluation and audit program with WRWSA member government partners. These programs, along with many others, show the deep commitment this utility has to the protection and conservation of Hernando County's water supply. Facebook Live and Zoom educational presentations.

Information is collected from Hernando County residents and other water conservation program participants on types of programs that they believe are the most vital and important. We use this information to produce materials, presentations, workshops, and seminars. Much of our educational programming to virtual platforms. We will continue bringing in-person educational presentations and workshops to the public in 2027. We have monthly rain barrel workshops in person. And our Florida Friendly Landscaping program has daily presence on social media covering important and timely topics.

Through the WRWSA Local Government Water Supply and Conservation Funding Assistance Program we support these educational efforts.

Assistance from the WRWSA Local Government Water Supply and Conservation Funding Assistance Program, all residents of Hernando County may benefit by the water conservation and water resources protection programs.

PURPOSE & PROPOSED INITIATIVES

Major elements of the program consist of:

- In-school education program (Springs Coast Environmental Education Center, Gulf Coast Academy of Science and Technology)
- Conservation Messaging Campaign

- Customer and Residents Incentive Programs
- Community educational presentations, workshops, and events.

To serve all the citizens of Hernando County, those served by the county's utility system as well as those who use private wells or customers of the City of Brooksville, the county is applying to the WRWSA for funding assistance in the continued development and expansion of its water conservation and quality protection program.

Springs Coast Environmental Education Center (SCEEC)/Gulf Coast Academy of Science and Technology (GCA)

The SWFWMD purchased Weeki Wachee Springs and the attraction property to be part of the Weeki Wachee Preserve. SWFWMD committed approximately \$750,000 to construct an environmental education center on the property, under the condition that the Hernando County School District supply teachers, curriculum, and equipment. The Hernando County Water and Sewer District (HCW&SD) Board and the Hernando County Board of County Commissioners have pledged to support this endeavor and have authorized a contribution to the Education Center. The doors of the unique learning center opened in April 2005. Initially it served only fourth grade students of Hernando County. SCEECE has expanded its reach to nearly all grade levels and regularly hosts thousands of Hernando County students. As with other Hernando County Schools, The Hernando County Utilities Department has specifically provided support for the development of a water resource/quality protection and water conservation module of the curriculum. By providing support to the center, the Utilities Department is allocating its resources to those skilled in working with students - teachers. In addition, creation of the curriculum module ensures that a consistent and continuing message will be embedded in the educational process. In FY 2008 we added the Gulf Coast Academy of Science and Technology to our student educational efforts. GCA is committed to providing an exceptional education through weekly field experiences integrated with a hands-on advanced middle school curriculum. (Budget item: Springs Coast Environmental Education Center, Gulf Coast Academy)

Water Conservation media messaging campaign:

This campaign includes radio and streamed television advertising. We provide all educational presentations to Hernando County's YouTube channel. This online presence has been very popular. Additionally, we provided water conservation messages on other social media such as Facebook and Instagram. The innovative and instructional media messages broaden public awareness and heightened the acceptance of water conservation was a way of life. Both the Hernando County Utilities Department and Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority are listed in media spots. (Budget items: commercial airtime, radio, and print media)

Water Conservation and Resource Protection Promotion and Workshops

This quote, "It is because of people that groundwater must be protected, but it is only through the efforts of people that it can be accomplished" describes the importance of bringing education to the public. This is accomplished through promotions, events such as rain barrels workshops, information stations and direct conservation/groundwater protection communication through customer bills. Both the Spring Workshop and the Florida Friendly Workshop are highlights of the effort to bring water conservation and water resource protection to the public. (Budget Item: Rain barrels, informational guides, workshops, signs)

HCUD Water Resource Programs:

Hernando County Utilities Department encourages our customers to conserve our valuable water supply through water bill rebates (and other incentives). Incentive programs: HE Washing Machine Rebate (\$100), Rain Sensor Rebate Program (\$60.00), Low-Flow Toilet Replacement Program (\$130.00) and promotion of Florida Friendly Landscaping workshop, where customer attendees receive a “tuition” reimbursement on their water bill. Incentives also help further the promotion of Hernando County’s Florida Friendly Landscaping (FFL) program. Customer rebates include a \$30 rebate for participating in the FFL rain barrel workshops and another \$25 rebate is available for certifying their landscape as a Florida Friendly Landscape. Outdoor water conservation projects/programs/incentives may include professional leak detection project, sprinkler checkup program, high efficiency irrigation nozzles, water sense timer replacements and/or potential pilot project for sustainability through inclusion of soil amendments incentive and local groundwater monitoring pilot project.

CONCLUSION

The above elements of the Hernando County Utilities Department’s Water Conservation/Water Resource Program are diverse and purposefully set up that way. An effective water conservation program for a public supply utility must reach all its customers and must strive to change behavior and attitudes towards conservation and protection of water resources to affect reliable, long-term results. This must be accomplished through a multi-functional approach including education, outreach, and financial incentives.

IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

All the above projects and initiatives will be ongoing throughout Fiscal Year 2026. Funds from the current (FY 2026) WRWSA assistance program will be encumbered by September 30, 2026. This meets the requirement to submit funding request for 2027 fiscal year. The water conservation initiatives for FY 2027 will begin October 1, 2026, and conclude with all grant assistance funds being encumbered by September 30, 2027.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026- 124

A RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA, SITTING AS THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE HERNANDO COUNTY WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT, SUPPORTING THE HERNANDO COUNTY UTILITIES DEPARTMENT'S "LOCAL GOVERNMENT WATER SUPPLY AND CONSERVATION FUNDING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM" APPLICATION TO THE WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COUNTYWIDE WATER CONSERVATION AND QUALITY PROTECTION PROGRAM; AUTHORIZING THE CHAIRMAN TO EXECUTE THE APPLICATION AND ANY RELATED DOCUMENTS THAT MAY BE REQUIRED; AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF THE UTILITIES DEPARTMENT TO DESIGNATE APPROPRIATE STAFF TO PERFORM THE TECHNICAL, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED HERewith; PROVIDING THAT THIS RESOLUTION SUPERSEDE PRIOR ACTIONS IN CONFLICT HERewith; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

WHEREAS, the Hernando County Water and Sewer District (the "District") was created by ordinance and established in all of the unincorporated area of the county; and

WHEREAS, the Hernando County Board of Commissioners (the "Board") is the Governing Board of the District; and,

WHEREAS, the Hernando County Utilities Department (the "HCUD") is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the water and wastewater facilities and infrastructure of the county; and,

WHEREAS, the Board recognized that in order to protect the water resources of unincorporated Hernando County and to properly plan for the future needs of its citizens, the establishment of a Water Conservation and Water Resource Protection Program for the County and the District is essential; and,

WHEREAS, the Southwest Florida Water Management District (the "SWFWMD") has identified water conservation as an essential planning and protection element of its water resource management program; and,

WHEREAS, the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (the "Authority") was established, of which Hernando County is a member, to provide an entity to help ensure that an adequate and safe supply of water is available for the citizens of the region and the county; and,

WHEREAS, the Authority has established the "Local Government Water Supply and Conservation Funding Assistance Program" to which a member may apply for cooperative funding for water supply projects or projects relating to the development of water supply; and,

WHEREAS, the Authority has determined that the establishment and development of water conservation programs support and further the intention of the water supply development of the region; and,

WHEREAS, the HCUD has submitted an application to the Authority's funding assistance program to seek financial assistance in the development of a countywide water conservation program (the "Project") in order to provide

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA:

SECTION 1. The above recitals are incorporated herein by reference and made a part hereof.

SECTION 2. The Board of County Commissioners ("Board") hereby gives its official support for the Hernando County Utilities Department to submit an application to the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority for cooperative funding in the development of the County's water conservation program.

SECTION 3. The Board, in order to meet the terms of the financial assistance program, agrees to budget and expend on the Project an amount equal to or greater than the required fifty percent (50%) matching funds as required by the program.

SECTION 4. The Board understands and agrees that it shall expend its required matching funds prior to the Authority expending its fifty percent (50%) match for the Project.

SECTION 5. The Board hereby authorizes its Chairman to execute the referenced Application and the Board further authorizes its Chairman to execute such additional documents including, compliance assurances and related documentation required by the Authority in connection with the foregoing.

SECTION 6. The Board further authorizes HCUD, Director Brad Smith, to designate appropriate staff to perform the technical, financial and administrative activities associated herewith.

SECTION 7. In the event of any conflict between this Resolution and any prior resolution or actions of the Board, this Resolution shall supersede and control.

SECTION 8. If any section or part of this Resolution proves to be invalid, unlawful, or unconstitutional, it shall not be held to invalidate or impair the validity, force or effect of any other section or part of this Resolution.

SECTION 9. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

ADOPTED IN REGULAR SESSION THIS 23 DAY OF JUNE 2026 IN BROOKSVILLE, FLORIDA.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA**

Attest: menke osinga, Deputy Clerk
Douglas A. Chorvat, JR.
Clerk of Court &
Comptroller

By: Jerry Campbell
Jerry Campbell
Chairman



Approved for Form and
Legal Sufficiency

By: Jon Jouben

**WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY
LOCAL GOVERNMENT WATER SUPPLY AND CONSERVATION
FUNDING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

PROJECT GRANT AGREEMENT

This Agreement is made and entered into this fifteenth day of July, 2026, by and between the **WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY** (hereinafter called the "AUTHORITY"), and **HERNANDO COUNTY** (hereinafter called the "GRANTEE"), in furtherance of funding assistance in the development of the "HERNANDO COUNTY WATER SUPPLY AND CONSERVATION PROGRAM". In consideration of the mutual covenants contained herein and pursuant to Chapter 163, Laws of Florida, Florida Interlocal Cooperation Act of 1969, as subsequently amended, and Section 373.713(2)(i), Florida Statutes, the parties hereto agree as follows:

1. The AUTHORITY has found that the implementation of water conservation programs by a member government is the primary purpose of the project known as the "HERNANDO COUNTY WATER SUPPLY AND CONSERVATION PROGRAM" (hereinafter called the "PROJECT"), and enters into this Agreement with the GRANTEE for assisting in the funding of water conservation programs more particularly described in its Application. The PROJECT application is attached hereto marked Exhibit "A" and made a part hereof.

2. The GRANTEE shall provide the AUTHORITY with a copy of the GRANTEE's contract documents executed for the PROJECT and the third party vendor providing said services in order to confirm the total project costs.

3. PROJECT FUNDING:

A. The AUTHORITY agrees to pay, on a reimbursement basis, to the GRANTEE, the sum of \$47,000 of the proposed \$94,000 total budget cost for the PROJECT.

B. The GRANTEE shall pay PROJECT costs prior to requesting reimbursement from the AUTHORITY. The AUTHORITY shall reimburse the GRANTEE for fifty percent (50%) of all allowable costs in each approved invoice based upon the listed tasks contained in Exhibit "A", not to exceed the sum of \$47,000 as identified in paragraph 3.A. above. Reimbursement requests must include all documentation required by the AUTHORITY for proper audit review and the GRANTEE shall certify that the request for payment is appropriate and that said task or portion thereof has been completed.

C. The GRANTEE shall provide the AUTHORITY with a schedule and description of "tasks" for the PROJECT with the cost associated with each task set forth.

D. The Grantee shall submit a final PROJECT reimbursement request after completion of the project, which shall be no later than September 30, 2026. The final reimbursement request

must be submitted no later than December 31, 2026. Requests submitted after December 31, 2026 shall not be considered for reimbursement.

E. The AUTHORITY shall, within sixty (60) days after receipt of a payment request, review the work accomplished to date under this Agreement and, if the work and payment request are in accordance with all applicable requirements, approve the request for payment.

4. GRANTEE shall ensure that all services procured and all purchases of goods obtained for the accomplishment of the PROJECT shall be secured in accordance with applicable State and Federal laws and in accordance with the GRANTEE's adopted procurement procedures.

5. GRANTEE shall follow all State and Federal laws relating to its established audit and accounting procedures and as they relate to said PROJECT and cost reimbursements.

6. The GRANTEE shall retain all records supporting PROJECT costs for three (3) years after the fiscal year in which the final PROJECT payment was released by the AUTHORITY or until final resolution of matters resulting from any litigation, claim or audit that started prior to the expiration of the three-year retention period. The AUTHORITY, State Auditor General, State Comptroller, and other agencies or entities with jurisdiction shall have the right to inspect and audit the GRANTEE's records for said PROJECT within the retention period.

7. This Agreement shall become effective upon execution and the GRANTEE shall complete preparation and/or construction of all PROJECT elements on or before September 30, 2026. The completion date may be extended by the AUTHORITY for good cause at the written request of the GRANTEE and must be made prior to PROJECT completion date.

8. The AUTHORITY's Executive Director for the purposes of this Agreement shall be responsible for ensuring performance of its terms and conditions and shall be responsible for recommending approval of all reimbursement requests to the AUTHORITY prior to payment. The GRANTEE's Liaison Agent, as identified in the PROJECT application, or successor, shall act on behalf of the GRANTEE relative to the provisions of this Agreement.

9. The Executive Director shall have the authority to approve budget changes within individual tasks up to a total amount not to exceed TEN PERCENT (10%) of total project costs without Board approval.

10. All monies expended by the GRANTEE for the purpose contained herein at the option of the AUTHORITY shall be subject to audit review.

11. Each party hereto agrees that it shall be solely responsible for the wrongful acts of its employees and agents. However, nothing contained herein shall constitute a waiver by either party of its sovereign immunity or the provisions of §768.28, Florida Statutes.

12. The GRANTEE shall comply with all federal, state, and local rules and regulations in developing this PROJECT. The GRANTEE acknowledges that this requirement includes compliance with all federal, state, and local health and safety rules and regulations. The GRANTEE further agrees to ensure that the GRANTEE's contract will include this provision in all subcontracts issued as a result of this Agreement.

13. The AUTHORITY reserves the right to inspect said PROJECT and any and all records related thereto at any reasonable time.

14. This Agreement may be unilaterally canceled by the AUTHORITY in the event the GRANTEE refuses to allow public access to all documents, papers, letters or other material made or received in conjunction with this Agreement pursuant to Chapter 119, Florida Statutes.

15. The AUTHORITY shall also have the right to demand a refund, either in whole or in part, of the funds provided to the GRANTEE for non-compliance with the terms of this Agreement if not cured within thirty (30) days of written notice thereof from the AUTHORITY. The GRANTEE, upon notification from the AUTHORITY, agrees to refund and will forthwith pay to the AUTHORITY, the amount of money demanded by the AUTHORITY. Such refund shall include interest calculated at two percent (2%) over the prevailing prime rate as reported by the Federal Reserve on the date the AUTHORITY calculates the amount of refund due. Interest shall be calculated from the date(s) of payment(s) to the GRANTEE by the AUTHORITY.

16. The employment of unauthorized aliens by a GRANTEE is considered a violation of Section 274A(e) of the Immigration and Nationality Act. If the GRANTEE knowingly employs unauthorized aliens, such violation shall be cause for unilateral cancellation of this Agreement. The GRANTEE shall be responsible for including this provision in all subcontracts with private organizations issued as a result of this Agreement.

17. No person on the grounds of race, creed, color, national origin, age, sex or marital status shall be excluded from participation in; be denied the proceeds or benefits of; or be otherwise subjected to discrimination in performance of this Agreement.

18. This Agreement strictly prohibits expenditure of these funds for the purpose of lobbying the Florida Legislature, the judicial branch, or a state agency.

19. The GRANTEE shall have an audit performed in accordance with the Rules of the Auditor General promulgated pursuant to §11.45, Florida Statutes, and have a statement prepared by an independent certified public accountant which attests that the GRANTEE has complied with the provisions of this Agreement and whether the audit results in an unqualified opinion.

20. A person or affiliate who has been placed on the convicted vendor list following a conviction for public entity crime may not perform work as a grantee, contractor, supplier, subcontractor, or consultant under a contract with any public entity, and may not transact business with any public entity

in excess of the threshold amount provided in §287.017, Florida Statutes, or Category Two, for a period of thirty-six (36) months from the date of being placed on the convicted vendor list.

21. A copy of the audit and attestation as required in Paragraph 19 shall be submitted to the AUTHORITY within one (1) year from the PROJECT completion date as set forth in Paragraph 7 or as extended by the AUTHORITY.

22. This Agreement is not intended nor shall it be construed as granting any rights, privileges or interest in any third party without mutual written agreement of the parties hereto.

23. This Agreement represents the entire agreement of the parties. Any alterations, variations, changes, modification or waivers of provisions of this Agreement shall only be valid when they have been reduced to writing, duly executed by each of the parties hereto, and attached to the original of this Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused these presents to be duly executed on the date and year first above written.

WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER
SUPPLY AUTHORITY

By: _____
DON WILEY
Chair

ATTEST:

By: _____
SUZANNAH J. FOLSOM
Executive Director

HERNANDO COUNTY, a political
Subdivision of the State of Florida

By: _____
JERRY CAMPBELL
Chair

ATTEST:

By: _____

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY

By: _____
_____ for the Grantee

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND CORRECTNESS:

By: _____
Attorney for Authority



FY 2026-27

WATER SUPPLY AND CONSERVATION GRANT APPLICATION FORM:

Name of applicant:

Marion County Board of County Commissioners

Provide a short description of the proposed water conservation project in the text box below:

Marion County Water Resources and Marion County Utilities work cooperatively to plan, implement, and manage a comprehensive, goal-based water conservation program, for the Marion County Board of County Commissioners. The program is conducted through public outreach, indirect public education, and direct water conservation incentives. The County requests funding for water use efficiency initiatives including low flow toilet rebates, low flow water conservation kits, rain sensors, and educational outreach programs and materials.

List previous grants received from WRWSA in the previous 3 fiscal years and date completed:

2025= \$18,285 to be completed by September 30, 2026
2024= \$13,237.50 completed September 30, 2025
2023 = \$9,160.06 completed September 30, 2024.

Attachments to application:

1. A resolution of support that includes a commitment that the grant recipient will budget and expend its matching funds as required by the grant program.
2. A summary of the project tasks (scope of services) with estimated costs by task, if applicable.
3. A time schedule for the project and expected completion date that will be inserted in the local government contract.

Return Application to:

Suzannah J. Folsom, Executive Director
WRWSA, 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Suite 228, Lecanto, Florida 34461

Deadline: July 1, 2026, 5:00 p.m. EST

Marion County WRWSA FY 2026/2027 Grant Application Attachments
Program Description

Marion County Water Resources and Marion County Utilities work cooperatively to plan, implement, and manage a comprehensive, goal-based water conservation program for the Marion County Board of County Commissioners. The program is conducted through public outreach, indirect public education, and direct water conservation incentives. The County requests funding for water use efficiency initiatives including efficient irrigation rebates, low-flow toilet rebates, low-flow retrofit kits and educational outreach materials.

The following is a breakdown of the costs of the various projects that Marion County requests grant funding for during fiscal year 2026/27:

Program	Total Cost	County Cost Share	WRWSA Cost Share
Educational Outreach	\$8,000	\$4,000	\$4,000
Utility Bill Inserts on Water Use Efficiency	\$3,000	\$1,500	\$1,500
Educational Print Media	\$2,500	\$1,250	\$1,250
Low-Flow Toilet Rebates (Non-MCU Customers East of I-75)	\$800	\$400	\$400
Low-Flow Toilet Rebates (Non-MCU Customers West of I-75)	\$800	\$400	\$400
Rain Sensors	\$3,600	\$1,800	\$1,800
Water Conservation Billboards	\$11,000	\$5,500	\$5,500
Smart Irrigation Controller Rebates	\$8,750	\$4,375	\$4,375
Total Project Costs	\$38,450	\$19,225	\$19,225

These projects represent only a portion of the County's on-going Water Use Efficiency Program. A cost-share of \$19,225 will help to offset the costs of performing incentive-based water conservation programs as well as conducting public outreach. The remainder of the program costs will be funded by the Marion County Board of County Commissioners and other cooperative partners.



FY 2026-27

Educational Outreach: The purpose of this program is to encourage residents to make changes to their daily water use habits to increase efficiency. The program focuses on education and water use efficiency. The target audience is county wide. The program will provide students and residents hands-on experience during events and in the summer months, as a follow up from other education initiatives, and incorporate how the implementation of simple water efficient practices have an impact on water resources. It also highlights the ability to collectively save up to 3,000 gallons of water a month per household by implementing these practices. Residents and students will be shown how to replace non-efficient faucet aerators, showerheads, and nozzles with efficient ones, check for leaky toilets, learn how to use rain gauges effectively, and apply water efficient practices in and around the home.

Marion County will offer summer presentations that students can take advantage of individually or in combination with other partnering organizations. Programs will consist of presentations, handouts, hands on application of water conservation items, and promo items for participants. Residents and visitors to Marion County will be provided educational and promotional materials during events and festivals throughout the year as well as demonstrations at workshops.

Utility Bill Inserts on Water Use Efficiency: Billing inserts are distributed on a bimonthly basis by Marion County Utilities. These inserts are used to educate citizens on water use efficiency and to promote the County's incentive-based programs. Message topics in FY2026/27 will include informing citizens of the change back to the once a week watering schedule, how to conduct a routine check on an irrigation system, how to identify common household leaks, restrictions related to water shortages declarations, and other topics related to water use. These inserts are a big driver for participation in the County's water use efficiency initiatives.

Educational Print Media: Along with billing inserts for Utility customers, tip cards and brochures on water use efficiency, incentive programs, and resource protection are made available at Marion County libraries and the MCU lobby for customers free of charge.

Low-Flow Toilet Rebates: The toilet rebate program offers unincorporated Marion County residents up to \$80 (or \$160 if two toilets are replaced) to replace conventional toilets using 1.28 gallons per flush or more with ultra-high efficiency toilets using 0.8 gpf or less. This is an ongoing program that has been in place since October, 2011. This grant would provide approximately 50 toilet rebates in unincorporated Marion County for residents that are not Marion County Utilities customers. It is estimated that the replacement of these toilets will save an estimated 25.1million gallons total over their 20-year lifespan at a cost of approximated \$1.01per thousand gallons saved. The County is expected to have a grant with the Southwest Florida Water Management District to cooperatively fund rebates as well for Marion County Utilities customers.

Rain Sensors: Rain sensors are required on all irrigation systems installed after May 1, 1991, pursuant to Florida Administrative Code 40C-2.042(5). Rain sensors help to conserve water by preventing irrigation after recent rain events. The average rain sensor only functions for 2-3 years before needing replacement. Providing rain sensors to residents will help to ensure more irrigation systems function properly and conserve water.

Water Conservation Billboards: A billboard campaign is utilized each year to promote smart water conservation practices. These billboards promote the use of rain sensors, discourage overwatering of lawns, inform citizens of the shift to once a week watering, inform citizens about various water conservation rebates available, and emphasize the importance of protecting the aquifer. Past billboard campaigns have achieved over 1million impressions annually at a cost of less than \$0.01 per impression.

Smart irrigation Controller Rebates: Smart irrigation controllers utilize local weather and landscape conditions to tailor watering schedules to actual conditions on site. Studies have found that these devices reduce water use by an average of 15-30%. When used in conjunction with a soil moisture sensor (SMS) or evapotranspiration (ET) based sensor, the potential savings are as high as 90% during the rainy season. With these rebates, residents will be eligible for up to \$500 towards the purchase and installation of a smart controller and SMS or ET based sensor.

Grant Timeline

Education Outreach

Conduct education outreach campaigns 10/1/2026-9/30/2027

Give presentations at summer camps across the county 6/1/2027-9/1/2027

Educational Materials

Develop, print, and distribute materials 10/1/2026- 9/30/2027

Low-Flow Toilet Rebates

Enroll participants 10/1/2026-9/1/2027

Perform inspections and issue rebates 10/1/2026-9/30/2027

Rain Sensors

Order rain sensors 10/1/2026- 8/1/2027

Distribute and track rain sensors 12/1/2026- 9/30/2027

Utility Bill Inserts on Water Use Efficiency

Develop, print, and distribute materials 10/1/2026- 9/30/2027



FY 2026-27

Water Conservation Billboards

Develop and run billboard campaigns 10/1/2026-9/30/2027

Smart Irrigation Controller Rebates

Enroll participants 10/1/2026-9/1/2027

Perform inspections and issue rebates 10/1/2026-9/30/2027

**WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY
LOCAL GOVERNMENT WATER SUPPLY AND CONSERVATION
FUNDING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

PROJECT GRANT AGREEMENT

This Agreement is made and entered into this fifteenth day of July, 2026, by and between the **WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY** (hereinafter called the "AUTHORITY"), and **MARION COUNTY** (hereinafter called the "GRANTEE"), in furtherance of funding assistance in the development of the "MARION COUNTY WATER SUPPLY AND CONSERVATION PROGRAM". In consideration of the mutual covenants contained herein and pursuant to Chapter 163, Laws of Florida, Florida Interlocal Cooperation Act of 1969, as subsequently amended, and Section 373.713(2)(i), Florida Statutes, the parties hereto agree as follows:

1. The AUTHORITY has found that the implementation of water conservation programs by a member government is the primary purpose of the project known as the "MARION COUNTY WATER SUPPLY AND CONSERVATION PROGRAM" (hereinafter called the "PROJECT"), and enters into this Agreement with the GRANTEE for assisting in the funding of water conservation programs more particularly described in its Application. The PROJECT application is attached hereto marked Exhibit "A" and made a part hereof.

2. The GRANTEE shall provide the AUTHORITY with a copy of the GRANTEE's contract documents executed for the PROJECT and the third party vendor providing said services in order to confirm the total project costs.

3. PROJECT FUNDING:

A. The AUTHORITY agrees to pay, on a reimbursement basis, to the GRANTEE, the sum of \$19,225 of the proposed \$38,450 total budget cost for the PROJECT.

B. The GRANTEE shall pay PROJECT costs prior to requesting reimbursement from the AUTHORITY. The AUTHORITY shall reimburse the GRANTEE for fifty percent (50%) of all allowable costs in each approved invoice based upon the listed tasks contained in Exhibit "A", not to exceed the sum of \$19,225 as identified in paragraph 3.A. above. Reimbursement requests must include all documentation required by the AUTHORITY for proper audit review and the GRANTEE shall certify that the request for payment is appropriate and that said task or portion thereof has been completed.

C. The GRANTEE shall provide the AUTHORITY with a schedule and description of "tasks" for the PROJECT with the cost associated with each task set forth.

D. The Grantee shall submit a final PROJECT reimbursement request after completion of the project, which shall be no later than September 30, 2026. The final reimbursement request

must be submitted no later than December 31, 2026. Requests submitted after December 31, 2026 shall not be considered for reimbursement.

E. The AUTHORITY shall, within sixty (60) days after receipt of a payment request, review the work accomplished to date under this Agreement and, if the work and payment request are in accordance with all applicable requirements, approve the request for payment.

4. GRANTEE shall ensure that all services procured and all purchases of goods obtained for the accomplishment of the PROJECT shall be secured in accordance with applicable State and Federal laws and in accordance with the GRANTEE's adopted procurement procedures.

5. GRANTEE shall follow all State and Federal laws relating to its established audit and accounting procedures and as they relate to said PROJECT and cost reimbursements.

6. The GRANTEE shall retain all records supporting PROJECT costs for three (3) years after the fiscal year in which the final PROJECT payment was released by the AUTHORITY or until final resolution of matters resulting from any litigation, claim or audit that started prior to the expiration of the three-year retention period. The AUTHORITY, State Auditor General, State Comptroller, and other agencies or entities with jurisdiction shall have the right to inspect and audit the GRANTEE's records for said PROJECT within the retention period.

7. This Agreement shall become effective upon execution and the GRANTEE shall complete preparation and/or construction of all PROJECT elements on or before September 30, 2026. The completion date may be extended by the AUTHORITY for good cause at the written request of the GRANTEE and must be made prior to PROJECT completion date.

8. The AUTHORITY's Executive Director for the purposes of this Agreement shall be responsible for ensuring performance of its terms and conditions and shall be responsible for recommending approval of all reimbursement requests to the AUTHORITY prior to payment. The GRANTEE's Liaison Agent, as identified in the PROJECT application, or successor, shall act on behalf of the GRANTEE relative to the provisions of this Agreement.

9. The Executive Director shall have the authority to approve budget changes within individual tasks up to a total amount not to exceed TEN PERCENT (10%) of total project costs without Board approval.

10. All monies expended by the GRANTEE for the purpose contained herein at the option of the AUTHORITY shall be subject to audit review.

11. Each party hereto agrees that it shall be solely responsible for the wrongful acts of its employees and agents. However, nothing contained herein shall constitute a waiver by either party of its sovereign immunity or the provisions of §768.28, Florida Statutes.

12. The GRANTEE shall comply with all federal, state, and local rules and regulations in developing this PROJECT. The GRANTEE acknowledges that this requirement includes compliance with all federal, state, and local health and safety rules and regulations. The GRANTEE further agrees to ensure that the GRANTEE's contract will include this provision in all subcontracts issued as a result of this Agreement.

13. The AUTHORITY reserves the right to inspect said PROJECT and any and all records related thereto at any reasonable time.

14. This Agreement may be unilaterally canceled by the AUTHORITY in the event the GRANTEE refuses to allow public access to all documents, papers, letters or other material made or received in conjunction with this Agreement pursuant to Chapter 119, Florida Statutes.

15. The AUTHORITY shall also have the right to demand a refund, either in whole or in part, of the funds provided to the GRANTEE for non-compliance with the terms of this Agreement if not cured within thirty (30) days of written notice thereof from the AUTHORITY. The GRANTEE, upon notification from the AUTHORITY, agrees to refund and will forthwith pay to the AUTHORITY, the amount of money demanded by the AUTHORITY. Such refund shall include interest calculated at two percent (2%) over the prevailing prime rate as reported by the Federal Reserve on the date the AUTHORITY calculates the amount of refund due. Interest shall be calculated from the date(s) of payment(s) to the GRANTEE by the AUTHORITY.

16. The employment of unauthorized aliens by a GRANTEE is considered a violation of Section 274A(e) of the Immigration and Nationality Act. If the GRANTEE knowingly employs unauthorized aliens, such violation shall be cause for unilateral cancellation of this Agreement. The GRANTEE shall be responsible for including this provision in all subcontracts with private organizations issued as a result of this Agreement.

17. No person on the grounds of race, creed, color, national origin, age, sex or marital status shall be excluded from participation in; be denied the proceeds or benefits of; or be otherwise subjected to discrimination in performance of this Agreement.

18. This Agreement strictly prohibits expenditure of these funds for the purpose of lobbying the Florida Legislature, the judicial branch, or a state agency.

19. The GRANTEE shall have an audit performed in accordance with the Rules of the Auditor General promulgated pursuant to §11.45, Florida Statutes, and have a statement prepared by an independent certified public accountant which attests that the GRANTEE has complied with the provisions of this Agreement and whether the audit results in an unqualified opinion.

20. A person or affiliate who has been placed on the convicted vendor list following a conviction for public entity crime may not perform work as a grantee, contractor, supplier, subcontractor, or consultant under a contract with any public entity, and may not transact business with any public entity

in excess of the threshold amount provided in §287.017, Florida Statutes, or Category Two, for a period of thirty-six (36) months from the date of being placed on the convicted vendor list.

21. A copy of the audit and attestation as required in Paragraph 19 shall be submitted to the AUTHORITY within one (1) year from the PROJECT completion date as set forth in Paragraph 7 or as extended by the AUTHORITY.

22. This Agreement is not intended nor shall it be construed as granting any rights, privileges or interest in any third party without mutual written agreement of the parties hereto.

23. This Agreement represents the entire agreement of the parties. Any alterations, variations, changes, modification or waivers of provisions of this Agreement shall only be valid when they have been reduced to writing, duly executed by each of the parties hereto, and attached to the original of this Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused these presents to be duly executed on the date and year first above written.

WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER
SUPPLY AUTHORITY

By: _____
DON WILEY
Chair

ATTEST:

By: _____
SUZANNAH J. FOLSOM
Executive Director

MARION COUNTY, a political Subdivision
of the State of Florida

By: _____
CARL ZALAK, III
Chair

ATTEST:

By: _____

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY

By: _____
_____ for the Grantee

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND CORRECTNESS:

By: _____
Attorney for Authority

WATER SUPPLY AND CONSERVATION GRANT APPLICATION FORM:**Name of applicant:**

City of Belleview

Provide a short description of the proposed water conservation project in the text box below:

The city of Belleview will focus on water conservation through reduced irrigation by providing materials to residents. The first incentive will be a Planting Package that residents can apply online. It will contain educational material, seeds, a rain gauge, an irrigation ruler, and a soil moisture meter.

The City will also host and promote information sessions that teach participants about landscape design, using native species drought tolerant plants, and irrigation. Participants will plant a planter box that they get to take home to serve as a reminder of the principles learned.

List previous grants received from WRWSA in the previous 3 fiscal years and date completed:

Irrigation Evaluation Program with WRWSA & SJRWMD for 2023 - 2025

WRWSA 2025/2026 Water Supply and Conservation Grant (still in progress)

Attachments to application:

1. A resolution of support that includes a commitment that the grant recipient will budget and expend its matching funds as required by the grant program.
2. A summary of the project tasks (scope of services) with estimated costs by task, if applicable.
3. A time schedule for the project and expected completion date that will be inserted in the local government contract.

Return Application to:

Suzannah J. Folsom, Executive Director
WRWSA, 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Suite 228, Lecanto, Florida 34461

Deadline: July 1, 2026, 5:00 p.m. EST



CITY OF BELLEVIEW

City with Small Town Charm

www.bellevuefl.org

Public Works

5525 SE 119th St.

Belleview, FL 34420

Office: 352-245-7021

Fax: 352-307-7708

WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY – LOCAL GOVERNMENT WATER SUPPLY AND CONSERVATION FUNDING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED PROJECT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026/2027

CITY OF BELLEVIEW PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT – UTILITIES WATER CONSERVATION

OVERVIEW

The City of Belleview (located in Southern Marion County) is part of the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) and is also partnered with the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (WRWSA). SJRWMD, WRWSA, and the City of Belleview have a shared vision to educate our residents and commercial users on the importance of water conservation.

The recent Phase III Extreme Drought as issued by the SJRWMD highlighted the necessity for water conservation projects to be a priority to the City, and ideally to the residents as well. Reduced irrigation is one of the simplest ways in which to reduce consumption of water. There are many drought tolerant plant species in Florida that can still make a landscape vibrant and appealing. By educating residents and business owners on methods of incorporating these plants into their landscapes, the City hopes to reduce irrigation overall.

PROJECT TASKS/SCOPE OF WORK

Planting Packages

The City of Belleview wants to explore water conservation through reduced irrigation and drought tolerant plants. The City will put together Planting Packages that will consist of educational materials on using Florida native species that are low maintenance and drought tolerant. The kit will also contain seeds, a soil moisture meter, a rain gauge, and an irrigation ruler.

The City will create an online submission form on the City website where residents can request a kit. The kit will be hand delivered by Utility technicians while they run their routes.

Projected Cost: \$3000

Water Conservation through Landscaping

In addition, the City will promote and host a Water Conservation through Landscaping information session for residents of the City that will be held at least twice throughout the year (more if residents show interest). The City will arrange to have guest speakers on landscape design, irrigation systems, and drought tolerant plants. The session will culminate in a fun and engaging project of a planter box that participants get to take home. The planter box will serve as a reminder of the material presented at the session, and would appeal to not only home owners but renters and apartment-dwellers that want to beautify their space.

Projected Cost: \$3000

Total Project Cost: \$6000

\$3000 to be paid by City of Bellevue; \$3000 to be paid by WRWSA

Projected Timeline of Events

October 2026

Put together Planting Packages. Create online submission form for people to order the kit.

October 2026 – September 2026

Deliver Planting Packages to residents.

November 2026

Host first Water Conservation Through Landscaping information session.

April 2027

Host second Water Conservation Through Landscaping information session.

August 2027

Third Water Conservation Through Landscaping information session (if interest shown)

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-04

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF BELLEVUE, FLORIDA, SITTING AS THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE CITY OF BELLEVUE WATER AND SEWER UTILITY, SUPPORTING THE CITY OF BELLEVUE UTILITY DEPARTMENT'S "LOCAL GOVERNMENT WATER SUPPLY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM" APPLICATION TO THE WITHLACOOCHIEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A CITYWIDE WATER CONSERVATION AND QUALITY PROTECTION PROGRAM; AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE APPLICATION AND ANY RELATED DOCUMENTS THAT MAY BE REQUIRED; AUTHORIZING THE PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR TO DESIGNATE APPROPRIATE STAFF TO PERFORM THE TECHNICAL, FINANCIAL, AND ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED HERewith; PROVIDING THAT THIS RESOLUTION SUPERSEDES PRIOR ACTIONS IN CONFLICT HERewith; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Bellevue City Commission (the "City Commission") is the Governing Board of the City of Bellevue; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bellevue is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the water and wastewater facilities and infrastructure of the city; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission recognizes that in order to protect the water resources of Bellevue and to properly plan for the future needs of its citizens, the establishment of a Water Conservation and Water Resource Protection Program for the City and the Utility is essential; and

WHEREAS, the St. Johns Water Management District (the "SJWMD") has identified water conservation as an essential planning and protection element of its water resource management program; and

WHEREAS, the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (the "Authority"), of which the City of Bellevue is a member, was established to provide an entity to help ensure that an adequate and safe supply of water is available for the citizens of the region and the county; and

WHEREAS, the Authority has established the "Local Government Water Supply Funding Assistance Program" to which a member may apply for cooperative funding for water supply projects or projects relating to the development of water supply; and

WHEREAS, the Authority has determined that the establishment and development of water conservation programs support and further the intention of the water supply development of the region; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bellevue has submitted an application to the Authority's funding assistance program to seek financial assistance in the development of a citywide water conservation program (the "Project") in order to provide water conservation supplies to residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Commission of the City of Bellevue as follows:

1. The above recitals are true and correct and are incorporated herein by reference and made a part hereof.
2. The City Commission hereby gives its official support for the Bellevue Public Works Department to submit an application to the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority for cooperative funding in the development of the City's water conservation program.
3. The City Commission, in order to meet the terms of the financial assistance program, agrees to budget and expend on the Project an amount equal to or greater than the required fifty percent (50%) matching funds as required by the program.
4. The City Commission understands and agrees that it shall expend its required matching funds prior to the Authority expending its fifty percent (50%) match for the Project.
5. The City Commission hereby authorizes the Mayor to execute the referenced Application and the Commission further authorizes the Mayor to execute such additional documents including compliance assurances and related documentation required by the Authority in connection with the foregoing project.
6. The City Commission further authorizes the Bellevue Public Works Director to designate appropriate staff to perform the technical, financial, and administrative activities associated herewith.
7. In the event of any conflict between this Resolution and any prior resolution or actions of the Board, this Resolution shall supersede and control.
8. If any section or part of this Resolution proves to be invalid, unlawful, or unconstitutional, it shall not be held to invalidate or impair the validity, force or

effect of any other section or part of this Resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AND RESOLVED by a _____ to _____ vote of the City Commission of the City of Belleview, Florida on the 7th day of July, 2026.

CHRISTINE DOBKOWSKI
Mayor

Attest:

LEZLI MERRITT
City Clerk

Approved as to Form and Legal Sufficiency for
the use and Benefit of the City of Belleview Only:

City Attorney

CERTIFICATE OF POSTING

I HEREBY CERTIFY that foregoing Resolution was posted and available for public review on our website under Upcoming Public Hearings and in our online agenda packet prior to the Commission meeting in accordance with City policy

LEZLI MERRITT
City Clerk

**WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY
LOCAL GOVERNMENT WATER SUPPLY AND CONSERVATION
FUNDING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

PROJECT GRANT AGREEMENT

This Agreement is made and entered into this fifteenth day of July, 2026, by and between the **WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY** (hereinafter called the "AUTHORITY"), and **CITY OF BELLEVIEW** (hereinafter called the "GRANTEE"), in furtherance of funding assistance in the development of the "CITY OF BELLEVIEW WATER SUPPLY AND CONSERVATION PROGRAM". In consideration of the mutual covenants contained herein and pursuant to Chapter 163, Laws of Florida, Florida Interlocal Cooperation Act of 1969, as subsequently amended, and Section 373.713(2)(i), Florida Statutes, the parties hereto agree as follows:

1. The AUTHORITY has found that the implementation of water conservation programs by a member government is the primary purpose of the project known as the "CITY OF BELLEVIEW WATER SUPPLY AND CONSERVATION PROGRAM" (hereinafter called the "PROJECT"), and enters into this Agreement with the GRANTEE for assisting in the funding of water conservation programs more particularly described in its Application. The PROJECT application is attached hereto marked Exhibit "A" and made a part hereof.

2. The GRANTEE shall provide the AUTHORITY with a copy of the GRANTEE's contract documents executed for the PROJECT and the third party vendor providing said services in order to confirm the total project costs.

3. PROJECT FUNDING:

A. The AUTHORITY agrees to pay, on a reimbursement basis, to the GRANTEE, the sum of \$3,000 of the proposed \$6,000 total budget cost for the PROJECT.

B. The GRANTEE shall pay PROJECT costs prior to requesting reimbursement from the AUTHORITY. The AUTHORITY shall reimburse the GRANTEE for fifty percent (50%) of all allowable costs in each approved invoice based upon the listed tasks contained in Exhibit "A", not to exceed the sum of \$3,000 as identified in paragraph 3.A. above. Reimbursement requests must include all documentation required by the AUTHORITY for proper audit review and the GRANTEE shall certify that the request for payment is appropriate and that said task or portion thereof has been completed.

C. The GRANTEE shall provide the AUTHORITY with a schedule and description of "tasks" for the PROJECT with the cost associated with each task set forth.

D. The Grantee shall submit a final PROJECT reimbursement request after completion of the project, which shall be no later than September 30, 2026. The final reimbursement request

must be submitted no later than December 31, 2026. Requests submitted after December 31, 2026 shall not be considered for reimbursement.

E. The AUTHORITY shall, within sixty (60) days after receipt of a payment request, review the work accomplished to date under this Agreement and, if the work and payment request are in accordance with all applicable requirements, approve the request for payment.

4. GRANTEE shall ensure that all services procured and all purchases of goods obtained for the accomplishment of the PROJECT shall be secured in accordance with applicable State and Federal laws and in accordance with the GRANTEE's adopted procurement procedures.

5. GRANTEE shall follow all State and Federal laws relating to its established audit and accounting procedures and as they relate to said PROJECT and cost reimbursements.

6. The GRANTEE shall retain all records supporting PROJECT costs for three (3) years after the fiscal year in which the final PROJECT payment was released by the AUTHORITY or until final resolution of matters resulting from any litigation, claim or audit that started prior to the expiration of the three-year retention period. The AUTHORITY, State Auditor General, State Comptroller, and other agencies or entities with jurisdiction shall have the right to inspect and audit the GRANTEE's records for said PROJECT within the retention period.

7. This Agreement shall become effective upon execution and the GRANTEE shall complete preparation and/or construction of all PROJECT elements on or before September 30, 2026. The completion date may be extended by the AUTHORITY for good cause at the written request of the GRANTEE and must be made prior to PROJECT completion date.

8. The AUTHORITY's Executive Director for the purposes of this Agreement shall be responsible for ensuring performance of its terms and conditions and shall be responsible for recommending approval of all reimbursement requests to the AUTHORITY prior to payment. The GRANTEE's Liaison Agent, as identified in the PROJECT application, or successor, shall act on behalf of the GRANTEE relative to the provisions of this Agreement.

9. The Executive Director shall have the authority to approve budget changes within individual tasks up to a total amount not to exceed TEN PERCENT (10%) of total project costs without Board approval.

10. All monies expended by the GRANTEE for the purpose contained herein at the option of the AUTHORITY shall be subject to audit review.

11. Each party hereto agrees that it shall be solely responsible for the wrongful acts of its employees and agents. However, nothing contained herein shall constitute a waiver by either party of its sovereign immunity or the provisions of §768.28, Florida Statutes.

12. The GRANTEE shall comply with all federal, state, and local rules and regulations in developing this PROJECT. The GRANTEE acknowledges that this requirement includes compliance with all federal, state, and local health and safety rules and regulations. The GRANTEE further agrees to ensure that the GRANTEE's contract will include this provision in all subcontracts issued as a result of this Agreement.

13. The AUTHORITY reserves the right to inspect said PROJECT and any and all records related thereto at any reasonable time.

14. This Agreement may be unilaterally canceled by the AUTHORITY in the event the GRANTEE refuses to allow public access to all documents, papers, letters or other material made or received in conjunction with this Agreement pursuant to Chapter 119, Florida Statutes.

15. The AUTHORITY shall also have the right to demand a refund, either in whole or in part, of the funds provided to the GRANTEE for non-compliance with the terms of this Agreement if not cured within thirty (30) days of written notice thereof from the AUTHORITY. The GRANTEE, upon notification from the AUTHORITY, agrees to refund and will forthwith pay to the AUTHORITY, the amount of money demanded by the AUTHORITY. Such refund shall include interest calculated at two percent (2%) over the prevailing prime rate as reported by the Federal Reserve on the date the AUTHORITY calculates the amount of refund due. Interest shall be calculated from the date(s) of payment(s) to the GRANTEE by the AUTHORITY.

16. The employment of unauthorized aliens by a GRANTEE is considered a violation of Section 274A(e) of the Immigration and Nationality Act. If the GRANTEE knowingly employs unauthorized aliens, such violation shall be cause for unilateral cancellation of this Agreement. The GRANTEE shall be responsible for including this provision in all subcontracts with private organizations issued as a result of this Agreement.

17. No person on the grounds of race, creed, color, national origin, age, sex or marital status shall be excluded from participation in; be denied the proceeds or benefits of; or be otherwise subjected to discrimination in performance of this Agreement.

18. This Agreement strictly prohibits expenditure of these funds for the purpose of lobbying the Florida Legislature, the judicial branch, or a state agency.

19. The GRANTEE shall have an audit performed in accordance with the Rules of the Auditor General promulgated pursuant to §11.45, Florida Statutes, and have a statement prepared by an independent certified public accountant which attests that the GRANTEE has complied with the provisions of this Agreement and whether the audit results in an unqualified opinion.

20. A person or affiliate who has been placed on the convicted vendor list following a conviction for public entity crime may not perform work as a grantee, contractor, supplier, subcontractor, or consultant under a contract with any public entity, and may not transact business with any public entity

in excess of the threshold amount provided in §287.017, Florida Statutes, or Category Two, for a period of thirty-six (36) months from the date of being placed on the convicted vendor list.

21. A copy of the audit and attestation as required in Paragraph 19 shall be submitted to the AUTHORITY within one (1) year from the PROJECT completion date as set forth in Paragraph 7 or as extended by the AUTHORITY.

22. This Agreement is not intended nor shall it be construed as granting any rights, privileges or interest in any third party without mutual written agreement of the parties hereto.

23. This Agreement represents the entire agreement of the parties. Any alterations, variations, changes, modification or waivers of provisions of this Agreement shall only be valid when they have been reduced to writing, duly executed by each of the parties hereto, and attached to the original of this Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused these presents to be duly executed on the date and year first above written.

WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER
SUPPLY AUTHORITY

By: _____
DON WILEY
Chair

ATTEST:

By: _____
SUZANNAH J. FOLSOM
Executive Director

CITY OF BELLEVIEW, a political Subdivision
of the State of Florida

By: _____
CHRISTINE DOBKOWSKI
Mayor

ATTEST:

By: _____
LEZLI MERRIT, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY

By: _____
_____ for the Grantee

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND CORRECTNESS:

By: _____
Attorney for Authority

Resolution 2026-05, Adoption of Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027

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

Included as Exhibit A to this item is the proposed FY 2026-27 budget. A draft budget was included in the May 2026 agenda packet and presented at the May 20, 2026 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 2026-2027 Budget
- B. WRWSA FY 2026-2027 Work Program
- C. Resolution 2026-05, Adoption of Final Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget

Staff Recommendation:

Approve Resolution 2026-05 adopting the FY 2026-2027 budget including anticipated revenues of \$600,115, expenditures in the amount of \$547,969, budgeted reserves in the amount of \$2,634,741, as presented in Exhibit A, for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2026 and ending September 30, 2027.

WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY

Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget

Draft July 7, 2026

	4/1/2025 Population Estimate	Comments	Fiscal Year 2026-27	Fiscal Year 2025-26	\$ Change	% Change
Revenues: Administrative						
Assessments:		Official BEBR Population Estimates				
Citrus	166,500	349 person increase	\$31,635	\$31,569	\$66	0.2%
Hernando	212,849	2,272 person increase	\$40,441	\$40,010	\$431	1.1%
Marion	433,765	14,255 person increase	\$82,415	\$79,707	\$2,708	3.4%
Sumter	162,493	5,750 person increase	\$30,874	\$29,782	\$1,092	3.7%
Total Population/Assessments @ 19¢/Capita	975,607		\$185,365	\$181,068	\$4,297	2.4%
Administrative Revenue from Citrus Contract		Based on Citrus County contract and Board direction	\$17,604	\$17,293	\$311	1.8%
Subtotal			\$202,969	\$198,361	\$4,608	2.3%
Carryover Administration Reserve Funds (FYE 25/26 Estimate) (SBA1)		See Attachment 2	\$841,010	\$856,046	-\$15,036	-1.8%
Total Administrative Revenue Available			\$1,043,979	\$1,054,407	-\$10,428	-1.0%
Revenues: Water Resource Development (WRD) Projects						
SJRWMD Irrigation Audit Program SJRWMD Matching Funds		0% of Total Project Budget	\$7,500	\$0	\$7,500	100.0%
SJRWMD Irrigation Audit Program Cooperator Matching Funds		0% of Total Project Budget	\$11,250	\$0	\$11,250	100.0%
Phase 8 Irrigation Audit Program SWFWMD Matching Funds		0% of Total Project Budget	\$0	\$20,000	-\$20,000	-100.0%
Phase 8 Irrigation Audit Program Cooperator Matching Funds		0% of Total Project Budget	\$0	\$10,000	-\$10,000	-100.0%
Phase 9 Irrigation Audit Program SWFWMD Matching Funds		50% of Total Project Budget	\$40,000	\$0	\$40,000	#DIV/0!
Phase 9 Irrigation Audit Program Cooperator Matching Funds		25% of Total Project Budget	\$20,000	\$0	\$20,000	#DIV/0!
Annual Citrus WRD Payments (SBA2)		Based on CAB wellfield monthly average revenues of \$28,000 minus funds allocated to administrative revenue above	\$318,396	\$294,707	\$23,689	8.0%
Subtotal			\$397,146	\$324,707	\$72,439	22.3%
Carryover WRD Reserve Funds (FYE 25/26 Estimate) (SBA2)		See Attachment 2	\$1,741,585	\$1,629,553	\$112,032	6.9%
Total Water Resource Development Revenue Available			\$2,138,731	\$1,954,260	\$184,471	9.4%
Total Revenues Available			\$3,182,710	\$3,008,667	\$174,043	5.8%

WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY					
Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget					
Draft July 7, 2026					
		Fiscal Year 2026-27	Fiscal Year 2025-26	\$ Change	% Change
Expenditures: General Administration					
Executive Director	3% increase	\$100,488	\$97,560	\$2,928	3.0%
Administrative Assistant	3% increase	\$44,796	\$43,488	\$1,308	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	\$11,280	\$0	0.0%
Advertising	Based on FY 2023-24 actual	\$600	\$600	\$0	0.0%
Audit	Engagement Letter Email 09/30/25	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$0	0.0%
Bookkeeping Services	3x \$1250/qtr per Engagement Letter 08/29/25	\$3,750	\$3,750	\$0	0.0%
Liability Insurance	FY 23/24 actual plus 5%	\$3,280	\$3,280	\$0	0.0%
Office Supplies	Based on FY 2023-24 actual	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$0	0.0%
Postage	Based on FY 2023-24 actual	\$1,000	\$800	\$200	25.0%
Printing and Reproduction	Based on FY 2023-24 actual	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0	0.0%
Publications/Software	Based on FY 2023-24 actual	\$150	\$150	\$0	0.0%
Rent (Lecanto Gov't Bldg)	New lease not yet obtained, may change	\$2,500	\$2,048	\$452	22.1%
Registrations/Dues	Based on FY 2023-24 actual	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$0	0.0%
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	\$2,000	\$0	0.0%
Web Page / Computer Maintenance / Software	\$200/mo+\$85/mo+\$200/yr	\$3,620	\$6,000	-\$2,380	-39.7%
Contingencies	double FY 25-26 contingency	\$4,200	\$2,100	\$2,100	100.0%
Subtotal - General Administration Expenditures		\$202,969	\$198,361	\$4,608	2.3%
Fund Balance for Admin. Reserves FYE 26/27					
	FYE25/26 Admin Funds Bal + FY26/27 Admin Rev's - FY26/27 Admin Exp's	\$841,010	\$856,046	-\$15,036	-1.8%
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	\$0	\$42,000	-\$42,000	N/A
Local Government Grant Program	Approved 5/20/2026	\$185,000	\$180,000	\$5,000	2.8%
2024 RWSP Update	0% of Project Budget	\$0	\$0	\$0	--
SJRWMD Irrigation Audit Program Ph2	100% of project Budget	\$30,000	\$0	\$30,000	N/A
SWFWMD Phase 9 Irrigation Audit Program	100% of Project Budget	\$80,000	\$0	\$80,000	--
SWFWMD Phase 8 Irrigation Audit Program	0% of Project Budget	\$0	\$40,000	-\$40,000	-100.0%
Subtotal - Water Resource Development Projects		\$345,000	\$312,000	\$33,000	10.6%
Fund Balance for Water Resource Development Reserves FYE 26/27					
	FYE25/26 WRD Funds Bal + FY26/27 WRD Rev's - FY26/27 WRD Exp's	\$1,793,731	\$1,642,260	\$151,471	9.2%
Total Administration and WRD Expenses		\$547,969	\$510,361	\$37,608	7.4%
Total Administration and WRD Fund Balances at FYE 26/27	See Attachment 2 for detail	\$2,634,741	\$2,498,305	\$136,436	5.5%
Combined FYE 26/27 Expenditures and Fund Balances		\$3,182,710	\$3,008,666	\$174,044	5.8%

ATTACHMENT 1

CALCULATION OF REVENUE FOR 2026-27 AND CALCULATION OF AMOUNT OF FUNDS NEEDED FROM RESERVES

Draft July 7, 2026

Revenue	4/1/2025 Population	
LOCAL ASSESSMENTS @ 19¢ PER CAPITA		
Citrus	166,500	\$31,635
Hernando	212,849	\$40,441
Marion	433,765	\$82,415
Sumter	162,493	\$30,874
Subtotal	975,607	\$185,365
CHARLES A. BLACK WATER SUPPLY FACILITY		
\$28,000 per month * 12 months		\$336,000
Subtotal		\$336,000
MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS FOR STUDIES		
SWFWMD Match for RWSP Update		\$0
SWFWMD Match for Phase 9 Irrigation Audit Program		\$40,000
Local Cooperator Match for Phase 9 Irrigation Audit Program		\$20,000
SWFWMD Match for Phase 8 Irrigation Audit Program		\$0
Local Cooperator Match for Phase 8 Irrigation Audit Program		\$0
SJRWMD Match for Irrigation Phase 2 Evaluation Program		\$7,500
Local Cooperator Match for Irrigation Phase 2 Evaluations		\$11,250
Subtotal		\$78,750
TOTAL REVENUE FOR FY 2026-27		\$600,115
Less: 2026-27 Administration Expense		-\$202,969
Less: 2026-27 WRD Cost		-\$345,000
Funds from WRWSA Reserves (+to, -from)		\$52,146

ATTACHMENT 2

ANALYSIS OF BEGINNING FUND BALANCES FY 2026 - 2027 Draft July 7, 2026

ESTIMATE OF WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT FUND BALANCE AT END OF FY 2025-26

07/07/26 WRDF Balance (SBA2)	\$1,765,742
FY 2025-26 Remaining WRD Fund Revenues	
5 Citrus Co. Payments @ \$26,000/month minus administrative component below	\$125,677
2024 RWSP SWFWMD Revenue	\$13,119
Phase 8 Irrigation Audit Local Cooperator Revenue	\$19,225
Phase 8 Irrigation Audit SWFWMD Revenue	\$38,450
Phase 7 Irrigation Audit Local Cooperator Revenue	\$0
Phase 7 Irrigation Audit SWFWMD Revenue	\$0
SJRWMD Pilot Program Revenue Cooperator Revenue	\$0
SJRWMD Pilot Program SJRWMD Revenue	\$0
Revenues Subtotal	\$196,471
Less: FY 2025-26 Remaining Contract Expenditures:	
2025-26 Citrus Water Conservation Program	\$47,175
2025-26 Hernando Water Conservation Program	\$47,000
2025-26 Marion Water Conservation Program	\$18,285
2025-26 Sumter County Water Conservation Program	\$65,040
2025-26 General Services Contracts	\$31,900
2024 RWSP	\$0
Phase 7 Irrigation Audit Program	\$0
Phase 8 Irrigation Audit Program	\$11,228
Expenditures Subtotal	\$220,628
Total WRD Funds at end of FY 2025-26	\$1,741,585

ESTIMATE OF ADMINISTRATIVE FUND BALANCE AT END OF FY 2025-26

07/07/2026 Admin Bal (SBA1)	\$841,010
Admin Revenue from CAB WSF	\$4,323
Admin Revenue from Per Capita Contributions	\$45,267
Less remaining FY Admin costs for 6 months	-\$49,590
Total Administrative Funds at end of FY 2025-26	\$841,010

ESTIMATE OF TOTAL FUND BALANCE AT END OF FY 2025-26

Total WRD Funds at end of FY 2025-26	\$1,741,585
Total Administrative Funds at end of FY 2025-26	\$841,010
Total Fund Balance at end of FY 2025-26	\$2,582,595

PROJECTED FUND BALANCES AT END OF FY 2026-27

Total Fund Balances beginning of FY 2026-27:	\$2,582,595
Add: 2026-27 Revenues	\$600,115
Deduct 2026-27 Expenses:	-\$547,969
Projected Fund Balances at end of FY 2026-27:	\$2,634,741

Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority

Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Work Program

1. 2024 Regional Water Supply Plan Update

The 2024 Regional Water Supply Plan update is complete. It included population and demand projections, evaluation of water supply sources, conservation and reuse alternatives, and an evaluation of alternative water supply options. This work was co-funded by SWFWMD, and coordinated with their 2025 Northern Region Regional Water Supply Plan, and SJRWMD 2026 Central Springs/East Coast Regional Water Supply Plan update. WRWSA will continue to track water demands and promote water conservation. WRWSA will also continue to track the MFLs within the region and the progress on setting the MFL's for the Withlacoochee River.

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 2026-27 proposed budget includes \$185,000 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

These ongoing programs provide 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. 1457 audits have been conducted as part of SWFWMD 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 26% has been achieved for the locations that have been audited.

For Phase 8, the program was shifted from the CFI process to the WISE program for SWFWMD funding. This water conservation initiative helps participating utilities meet and surpass the maximum 150 gallons per person per day that is required by the SWFWMD. Phase 9 will continue in FY 2026-27 in the WISE program.

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 targeted 60 enhanced evaluations, however only 35 were completed. We have included budget of \$30,000 to move forward with Phase 2 in FY 2026-27.

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.

In FY 2025-2026 an updated Engineering Analysis will be completed identifying a Renewal and Replacement Annual amount of \$300,000 to begin in October 2027.

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. Results from this model were presented in the WRWSA 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) Track the public supply water usage and compare it to permitted quantities and estimated demands in the Regional Water Supply Plan Update.
- g) 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.
- h) Monitor and report on activities within the WRWSA service area that may be a concern to the water quality or quantity for public supply usage.
- i) State Legislative tracking will be completed each State legislative session. Relevant bills related to utility operations, water quality, water permitting, land use, and pollution will be tracked and reported on in the WRWSA Board Meetings.

WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY

RESOLUTION 2026-05

**ADOPTION OF FINAL BUDGET
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026-27**

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 July 15, 2026, on the final budget and assessment rate for general administrative, operating and project expenses for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2026 and ending September 30, 2027; 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, 2026 and ending September 30, 2027, 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 fifteenth day of July 2025.

WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER
SUPPLY AUTHORITY

BY: _____
Don Wiley, Chair

Attest:

Suzannah J. Folsom, Executive Director

Legislative Report

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

The 2026 Legislative Regular Session began on January 13, 2026 and ended on March 13, 2026. Additional Special Sessions included:

- Congressional Redistricting from April 28 – May 1, 2026
- Budget May 12 – 29, 2026
- Property Taxes June 1 – June 3, 2026

Staff has gathered updated information on relevant bills that are related to conservation and water supply from SWFWMD, 1000 Friends of Florida, and the Florida Engineering Society's legislative tracking, and the House and Senate websites.

As of July 7, 2026, seven of the eight bills that we were tracking has been signed by the Governor, and one has been vetoed by Governor. A summary of the bills that WRWSA has been tracking is provided as an Exhibit to this item.

Exhibit: Bill Tracking

Presentation: HB 1F – Save our Homes from Excessive Property Taxes

Staff Recommendation:

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

Bills that have passed

Bill Title	Significance	Bill	Sponsors	Status
Conservation Lands	- Requires Division of State Lands to publish certain information on its website before Board of Trustees of Internal Improvement Trust Fund meets to review proposed sale of conservation lands; - requires that certain parcels proposed for exchange be appraised in accordance with certain criteria; - removes provisions requiring division to submit certain requests to Acquisition & Restoration Council for review; - removes provisions requiring division to provide certain recommendations to board; - requires division to publish certain information on its website before council meets to review proposed land exchange; - requires division to submit certain requests to council for review & requiring council to provide recommendations to division in certain circumstances; - requires division to provide certain recommendations to board of trustees in certain circumstances; - requires governing board of water management district to publish certain information on its website before meeting to review proposed sale or exchange of certain lands.	SB 546	Mayfield	Approved by the Governor 4/22/2026
		HB 441	Kendall Tant Benarroch Black Campbell Eskamani Gosset-Seidman Tenrich Weinberger	
Special District Funding	- Revising agency agreements that provide state financial assistance to recipients or subrecipients to include certain special districts as an entity to which such agency may provide for the payment of invoices under specified circumstances - revising the definition of “rural community” to include certain special districts	SB 214	McClain	Approved by the Governor 6/26/2026
		HB 273	Johnson	

Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances	- Prohibits, beginning on specified date, certain use & sale, purchase, or distribution of aqueous film-forming foam; - requires, beginning on specified date, certain entities to submit aqueous film-forming foam inventories & disposal plans to DEP; - prohibits, beginning on specified date, possession & use of aqueous film-forming foam; authorizes DEP to administer certain grants or cost share programs; provides penalties & injunctive relief; - requires certain public entities disposing of domestic wastewater biosolids and treated effluent to quarterly conduct specified samplings & submit results to DEP; - limits purpose such samplings until specified standards are established by EPA & adopted by DEP.	SB 1230	Harrell Truenow Berman	Approved by the Governor 6/16/2026
		HB 1019	Conerly Blanco	
Onsite Sewage Treatment and Disposal System	- Prohibits municipality from requiring construction permits from DEP for single family residences as condition of issuing building or plumbing permits; - requires such owners & builders to provide certain proof to municipality	SB 698	Martin	Approved by the Governor 5/6/2026
		HB 589	Nix	
Stormwater Treatment	- Defining the terms “compensating stormwater treatment” and “total land area”; requiring compensating stormwater treatment to comply with certain provisions unless certain circumstances exist; - explaining the types of mitigation measures for compensating stormwater treatment that the Department of Environmental Protection or a water management district governing board must consider under certain circumstances; - authorizing mitigation measures or enhancement credits intended to address certain impacts to be generated by certain entities and sold only to certain environmental resource permit applicants, etc.	SB 848	Truenow	Approved by the Governor 5/6/2026
		HB 1457	Gonzalez Pittman Overdorf	
Data Centers	- Specifying that local governments maintain authority to exercise power and responsibility over comprehensive planning and land development regulations relating to large load customers; - requiring public utilities to provide certain minimum tariff and service requirements for large load customers; - prohibiting the governing board of a water management district or the Department of Environmental Protection from issuing a permit for the consumptive use of water to a large-scale data center under certain circumstances; - requiring the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability to contract for a study relating to the construction and operation of large-scale data centers, etc.	SB 484	Avila	Approved by the Governor 5/7/2026
		HB 1007	Griffits	

Claims and Suits Against the Government	• These bills increase the statutory liability limits for tort claims against governmental entities. • Raises sovereign immunity caps in multiple phases, reaching as high as \$600,000 per individual claim and \$1.2 million per incident after Oct. 1, 2031. • Empowers local governments to settle claims in excess of these limits without legislative action. • Shortens from three years to 18 months the timeframe for presenting tort claims to an agency and reduces the statute of limitations for negligence suits from four years to two years.	SB 1366	Brodeur	Vetoed by the Governor on 6/30/2026
		HB 145	McFarland	
Utility Services	• Requiring that a new agreement, or an extension, renewal, or material amendment of an existing agreement, to provide certain utility services at retail be in writing; • requiring that certain public meetings be held as a condition precedent to the effectiveness of a new or extended agreement under which a municipality will provide specified utility services in other municipalities or unincorporated areas; • revising provisions relating to permissible rates, fees, and charges imposed by municipal water and sewer utilities on consumers located outside the municipal boundaries; • requiring municipalities that provide specified utility services to report certain information by a specified date, and annually thereafter, to the Florida Public Service Commission	SB 1724	Martin	Approved by the Governor 6/12/2026
		HB 1451	Busatta	

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Item 11

Attorney's Report

To be provided at the meeting.

Item 12.a.

Executive Director's Report

Water Use Permit Demand Summary

Summary of Major Water Use Permits in WRWSA Service Area

Updated 7/1/2026

Water Use Permit #	Applicant/Permittee Name	Permit Expiration Date	Permitted Average GPD	Actual 12-Month Rolling Average GPD*	Actual 5-Year Rolling Average GPD**	Actual Use / Permit Capacity	WRWSA RWSP Projection for 2026 GPD	2024 RWSP Accuracy for 2026 +/- %
Citrus County								
207.007	City of Crystal River	3/27/2032	919,000	848,993	895,252	92.4%	762,000	-10.2%
419.013	City of Inverness	5/18/2031	1,535,000	1,304,923	1,213,795	85.0%	1,016,000	-22.1%
1118.008	Floral City Water Association, Inc.	2/28/2038	395,000	392,753	378,832	99.4%	342,000	-12.9%
2842.011	Citrus County	8/25/2035	4,780,000	3,839,446	3,241,957	80.3%	3,124,000	-18.6%
4153.015	Rolling Oaks Utilities, Inc.	8/20/2038	1,573,000	1,781,238	1,714,940	113.2%	1,602,000	-10.1%
4406.009	Homosassa Special Water District	8/25/2032	951,000	785,699	806,026	82.6%	792,000	0.8%
7121.007	Citrus County - Charles A Black	8/22/2043	7,181,900	6,169,015	5,589,844	85.9%	5,446,000	-11.7%
9791.012	Citrus County - Sugarmill Woods	6/12/2046	3,688,300	2,871,302	2,638,591	77.8%	2,434,000	-15.2%
11839.008	Walden Woods	4/23/2039	187,900	168,253	165,359	89.5%	150,000	-10.8%
Hernando County								
5789.015	Hernando County	1/23/2041	24,360,000	22,596,921	21,441,429	92.8%	21,448,000	-5.1%
7627.007	City of Brooksville	8/5/2044	1,709,000	1,544,492	1,436,908	90.4%	1,416,000	-8.3%
Marion County - SWFWMD								
1156.013	Bay Laurel Community Development District	2/23/2041	7,560,900	5,311,546	4,599,538	70.3%	4,820,000	-9.3%
5643.008	Utilities, Inc. of Florida - Golden Hills	2/23/2036	188,400	134,003	131,888	71.1%	150,000	11.9%
6151.015	Marion County Utilities Consolidated WUP	12/13/2042	9,365,800	10,260,509	8,814,091	109.6%	8,844,000	-13.8%
8020.008	Association of Marion Landing Owners	9/9/2040	152,100	128,307	127,879	84.4%	140,000	9.1%
8339.008	FGUA - Dunellon	3/21/2035	1,117,100	1,086,499	1,231,751	97.3%	1,176,000	8.2%
Marion County - SJRWMD								
2993-12	CSWR-Florida Utility Operating Company - South Marion Regional Water System	5/27/2042	231,000	206,583	202,922	89.4%	170,000	-17.7%
2995-8	CSWR-Florida Utility Operating Company - Tradewinds Utilities Inc	2/27/2035	227,000	305,569	162,736	134.6%	100,000	-67.3%
3016-4	Ocala East Villas Inc	8/27/2031	107,000	67,205	81,346	62.8%	100,000	48.8%
3021-8	Rolling Greens Communities ***	9/13/2025	610,000	576,946	***	94.6%	400,000	-30.7%
3043-7	Florida Governmental Utility Authority - Ocala Oaks	1/6/2040	194,000	118,380	136,119	61.0%	130,000	9.8%
3130-6	CSWR-Florida Utility Operating Company - Sunray Estates	8/17/1940	195,000	182,949	163,012	93.8%	150,000	-18.0%
3137-7	City of Belleview	10/11/2036	1,022,000	1,363,205	1,183,917	133.4%	1,054,000	-22.7%
4578-9	Marion County Utilities Consolidated CUP****	9/10/2023	8,812,000	7,362,230	6,697,915	83.5%	7,042,000	-4.3%
50324-10	City of Ocala	8/7/2027	17,540,000	14,797,673	13,330,966	84.4%	13,240,000	-10.5%
Sumter County								
1368.009	Lake Panasoffkee Water Assoc Inc	10/21/2044	410,000	287,641	290,456	70.2%	328,000	14.0%
6519.01	City of Bushnell	3/29/2031	1,366,800	603,468	536,640	44.2%	794,000	31.6%
7185.007	City of Webster	5/23/2043	386,200	110,714	106,146	28.7%	128,000	15.6%
8135.017	City of Wildwood	3/31/2035	4,583,200	3,947,644	2,929,845	86.1%	3,456,000	-12.5%
8193.006	City of Center Hill	11/18/2042	150,000	69,205	70,775	46.1%	86,000	24.3%
13005.012	Village Center Community Development District	1/23/2038	19,345,900	16,055,477	14,272,764	83.0%	19,350,000	20.5%
21031.003	Blue Goose Utility Company	4/7/2054	5,776,400	0	n/a	0.00%	n/a	n/a
20901.002	Gibson Place Utility Company	1/26/2041	3,985,700	1,148,074	n/a	28.8%	712,000	-38.0%
20721.003	South Sumter Utility Company	2/2/2038	2,600,000	1,710,367	1,628,477	65.8%	1,666,000	-2.6%
*12-month Rolling Average for most recent available data								
**5-year Rolling Average for most recent available data, n/a when insufficient data								
***No data reported Jan 2023-June 2024, Renewal submitted as 3021-8								
****Renewal submitted; Permitted GPD represents WUP request								

Item 12.b.

Executive Director's Report

WMIS WUP Notifications

Summary of Recent Water Use Permit Activity in WRWSA Service Area

Updated June 30, 2026

Water Use Permit #	Applicant/Permittee Name	Activity Type	Date	Avg GPD	Peak GPD	Use Type	Status
Citrus County							
9791.012	Sugarmill Woods Water System	Renewal	11/17/2025	3,688,300	5,217,000	Public Supply	Completed 6/4/2026
Hernando County							
9461.004	Mirror Lake	Letter Modification	8/18/2025	81,800	410,200	Agricultural	In Review
21309.000	Glen Lakes HOA	New	3/25/2026	7,100,000	8,700,000	Landscape/ Recreation	In Review
368.013	Golf and Country Club at the Heather	Renewal	4/10/2026	59,700	143,700	Landscape/ Recreation	In Review
8833.010	Seville Development	Letter Modificaion	4/30/2026	452,800	795,000	Landscape/ Recreation	Issued 6/2/2026
5789.017	Hernando County	Modification	5/29/2026	27,719,700	34,649,625	Public Supply	In Review
Marion County - SWFWMD							
13197.002	Shade Tree Farms	Letter Modification	6/25/2026	202,000	308,000	Agriculture	In Review
Sumter County							
21305.000	Wahoo Farm	New	3/10/2026	55,800	142,600	Agriculture	Issued 6/2/2026
21313.000	Buffalo Hide and Calttle Company LLC - Temporary Dewatering	New	4/13/2026	171,919	616,811	Mining/ Dewatering	In Review

Item 12.c.

Residential Irrigation Evaluation Programs Update

Suzy Folsom, Executive Director, will present this item.

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

Phase 8b Residential Irrigation Evaluation Program – SWFWMD

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

Participating Utility	Total Evaluations To-date		Target # of Evaluations for Phase 8a and 8b	Percent of Target Evaluations Completed
	Core	Enhanced		
Citrus	14	10	20	120%
Hernando	3	63	60	110%
Marion (West of 75)	0	11	20	55%
Villages VCCDD-LSSA	8	0	8	100%
Villages NSCUDD-VWCA	9	0	16	56%
Total	34	84	124	95%

WRWSA is budgeting for a Phase 9 with the SWFWMD and Phase 2 with SJRWMD for FY 2026-27.

Item 12.d.

Executive Director's Report

Correspondence



GREGORY C. HARRELL

CLERK OF COURT AND COMPTROLLER – MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA
FINANCE DEPARTMENT

CLERK OF COURT
RECORDER OF OFFICIAL RECORDS
CLERK AND ACCOUNTANT OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
CUSTODIAN OF COUNTY FUNDS AND COUNTY AUDITOR

POST OFFICE BOX 1030
OCALA, FLORIDA 34478-1030
TELEPHONE (352) 671-5520
WWW.MARIONCOUNTYCLERK.ORG

May 11, 2026

Mr. Richard Owen
WRWSA
3600 West Sovereign Path
Suite 228
Lecanto, FL 34461

RE: Submission of Audit Report for Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2025

Dear Mr. Owen:

Enclosed is a copy of the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report of Marion County, Florida for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025. This document contains the report of our independent auditors, Purvis Gray & Company, CPA's, on federal awards and state financial assistance received by Marion County during the reporting period.

The Single Audit portion of the report, located on pages 232-243, of the Compliance Section, was prepared by our auditors in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance); and Chapter 10.550, *Rules of the Auditor General*. As required, it includes the Independent Auditors' Reports on Compliance and Internal Control, the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards and State Financial Assistance, and a Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs.

I trust this information will fulfill your requirements. Should you have any questions or require any additional information concerning the report, please contact me at the address listed above or by telephone at (352) 671-5520.

Sincerely,

Gregory C. Harrell
Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller
Marion County, Florida

Tina Novinger
Controller
Enclosures



May 26, 2026

Mr. Steve L. Howard
Citrus County Administrator
110 North Apopka Avenue
Inverness, Florida 344501

Subject: WRWSA Budget for FY 2026-27

Dear Mr. Howard:

The Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority draft budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026-27 was presented at its May 20, 2026 meeting. Enclosed is a copy of the budget and the Authority's FY 2026-27 Work Program. The budget is based upon, in part, maintaining the current \$0.19 per capita contribution from each County, resulting in Citrus County contributing \$31,635 in per capita revenues. The other counties will contribute a total of \$153,730 in per capita contributions and Citrus County will contribute an additional minimum amount of \$318,116 for the purchase of water from the Authority's Charles A. Black wellfield.

The Authority's Work Program for the fiscal year calls for continued development and implementation of its regional work program to ensure our member governments' long-range water supply needs are met in a cost-effective and sustainable manner. We have maintained our local government grants program and our residential irrigation audit program to assist our member governments in water conservation. We continue to monitor and engage with the water management districts, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and other state agencies, and the State Legislature to stay abreast of water management activities that may affect this region and to advocate for the interests of our member governments and public supply water needs within our region.

I hope this information is sufficient for your budgetary needs. If you need further information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Suzannah J. Folsom, PE, PMP
Executive Director

Enclosures

cc: WRWSA Board Members
Tammy Wilson, MBA CGFO, Management and Budget Director
Ken Cheek, Water Resources Director
Gary Loggins, Operations Division Director
Debra Burden, Water Conservation Manager



May 26, 2026

Mr. Jeff Rogers, PE
Hernando County Administrator
20 N. Main Street, Rm 263
Brooksville, Florida 34601

Subject: WRWSA Budget for FY 2026-27

Dear Mr. Rogers:

The Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority draft budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026-27 was presented at its May 20, 2026 meeting. Enclosed is a copy of the budget and the Authority's FY 2026-27 Work Program. The budget is based upon, in part, maintaining the current \$0.19 per capita contribution from each County, resulting in Hernando County contributing \$40,441 in per capita revenues. The other counties will contribute a total of \$145,194 in per capita contributions and Citrus County will contribute an additional minimum amount of \$318,116 for the purchase of water from the Authority's Charles A. Black wellfield.

The Authority's Work Program for the fiscal year calls for continued development and implementation of its regional work program to ensure our member governments' long-range water supply needs are met in a cost-effective and sustainable manner. We have maintained our local government grants program and our residential irrigation audit program to assist our member governments in water conservation. We continue to monitor and engage with the water management districts, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and other state agencies, and the State Legislature to stay abreast of water management activities that may affect this region and to advocate for the interests of our member governments and public supply water needs within our region.

I hope this information is sufficient for your budgetary needs. If you need further information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Suzannah J. Folsom, PE, PMP
Executive Director

Enclosures

cc: WRWSA Board Members
Toni Brady, Deputy County Administrator
Albert Bertram, Office of Management and Budget Director
Brad Smith, Interim Utilities Director
Grace Sheppard, Finance Manager, HCUD
Alys Brockway, Water Resource Manager



May 26, 2026

Mr. Mounir Bouyounes
Marion County Administrator
601 SE 25th Avenue
Ocala, Florida 34471

Subject: WRWSA Budget for FY 2026-27

Dear Mr. Bouyounes:

The Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority draft budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026-27 was presented at its May 20, 2026 meeting. Enclosed is a copy of the budget and the Authority's FY 2026-27 Work Program. The budget is based upon, in part, maintaining the current \$0.19 per capita contribution from each County, resulting in Marion County contributing \$82,415 in per capita revenues. The other counties will contribute a total of \$102,950 in per capita contributions and Citrus County will contribute an additional minimum amount of \$318,116 for the purchase of water from the Authority's Charles A. Black wellfield.

The Authority's Work Program for the fiscal year calls for continued development and implementation of its regional work program to ensure our member governments' long-range water supply needs are met in a cost-effective and sustainable manner. We have maintained our local government grants program and our residential irrigation audit program to assist our member governments in water conservation. We continue to monitor and engage with the water management districts, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and other state agencies, and the State Legislature to stay abreast of water management activities that may affect this region and to advocate for the interests of our member governments and public supply water needs within our region.

I hope this information is sufficient for your budgetary needs. If you need further information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Suzannah J. Folsom, PE, PMP
Executive Director

Enclosures

cc: WRWSA Board Members
Angel Roussel, Assistant County Administrator
Michael McCain, Executive Director, Internal Services
Steven Cohoon, Office of the County Engineer
Trevor Knight, Water Resources Liaison



May 26, 2026

Mr. Bradley Arnold
Sumter County Administrator
& County Budget Officer
7375 Powell Road
Wildwood, Florida 34785

Subject: WRWSA Budget for FY 2026-27

Dear Mr. Arnold:

The Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority draft budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026-27 was presented at its at its May 20, 2026 meeting. Enclosed is a copy of the budget and the Authority's FY 2026-27 Work Program. The budget is based upon, in part, maintaining the current \$0.19 per capita contribution from each County, resulting in Sumter County contributing \$30,874 in per capita revenues. The other counties will contribute a total of \$154,471 in per capita contributions and Citrus County will contribute an additional minimum amount of \$318,116 for the purchase of water from the Authority's Charles A. Black wellfield.

The Authority's Work Program for the fiscal year calls for continued development and implementation of its regional work program to ensure our member governments' long-range water supply needs are met in a cost-effective and sustainable manner. We have maintained our local government grants program and our residential irrigation audit program to assist our member governments in water conservation. We continue to monitor and engage with the water management districts, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and other state agencies, and the State Legislature to stay abreast of water management activities that may affect this region and to advocate for the interests of our member governments and public supply water needs within our region.

I hope this information is sufficient for your budgetary needs. If you need further information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Suzannah J. Folsom, PE, PMP
Executive Director

Enclosures

cc: WRWSA Board Members
Erin C. Munz, Clerk of Court

WITHLACOCOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY					
Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget					
Draft May 26, 2026					
		Fiscal Year 2026-27	Fiscal Year 2025-26	\$ Change	% Change
Expenditures: General Administration					
Executive Director	3% increase	\$100,488	\$97,560	\$2,928	3.0%
Administrative Assistant	3% increase	\$44,796	\$43,488	\$1,308	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	\$11,280	\$0	0.0%
Advertising	Based on FY 2023-24 actual	\$600	\$600	\$0	0.0%
Audit	Engagement Letter Email 09/30/25	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$0	0.0%
Bookkeeping Services	3x \$1250/qtr per Engagement Letter 08/29/25	\$3,750	\$3,750	\$0	0.0%
Liability Insurance	FY 23/24 actual plus 5%	\$3,280.00	\$3,280	\$0	0.0%
Office Supplies	Based on FY 2023-24 actual	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$0	0.0%
Postage	Based on FY 2023-24 actual	\$1,000	\$800	\$200	25.0%
Printing and Reproduction	Based on FY 2023-24 actual	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0	0.0%
Publications/Software	Based on FY 2023-24 actual	\$150	\$150	\$0	0.0%
Rent (Lecanto Gov't Bldg)	New lease not yet obtained, may change	\$2,500	\$2,048	\$452	22.1%
Registrations/Dues	Based on FY 2023-24 actual	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$0	0.0%
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	\$2,000	\$0	0.0%
Web Page / Computer Maintenance / Software	\$200/mo	\$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		\$203,249	\$198,361	\$4,888	2.5%
Fund Balance for Admin. Reserves FYE 26/27					
	FYE25/26 Admin Funds Bal + FY26/27 Admin Rev's - FY26/27 Admin Exp's	\$625,709	\$856,046	-\$230,337	-26.9%
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	\$0	\$42,000	-\$42,000	N/A
Local Government Grant Program	Discussed 3/18/26	\$185,000	\$180,000	\$5,000	2.8%
2024 RWSP Update	0% of Project Budget	\$0	\$0	\$0	#DIV/0!
SJRWMD Irrigation Audit Program Ph2	100% of project Budget	\$30,000	\$0	\$30,000	N/A
SWFWMD Phase 9 Irrigation Audit Program	100% of Project Budget	\$80,000	\$0	\$80,000	#DIV/0!
SWFWMD Phase 8 Irrigation Audit Program	0% of Project Budget	\$0	\$40,000	-\$40,000	-100.0%
Subtotal - Water Resource Development Projects		\$345,000	\$312,000	\$33,000	10.6%
Fund Balance for Water Resource Development Reserves FYE 26/27					
	FYE25/26 WRD Funds Bal + FY26/27 WRD Rev's - FY26/27 WRD Exp's	\$1,985,284	\$1,642,260	\$343,025	20.9%
Total Administration and WRD Expenses		\$548,249	\$510,361	\$37,888	7.4%
Total Administration and WRD Fund Balances at FYE 26/27	See Attachment 2 for detail	\$2,610,994	\$2,498,305	\$112,689	4.5%
Combined FYE 26/27 Expenditures and Fund Balances		\$3,159,243	\$3,008,666	\$150,577	5.0%

WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY

Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget

Draft May 26, 2026

	4/1/2025 Population Estimate	Comments	Fiscal Year 2026-27	Fiscal Year 2025-26	\$ Change	% Change
Revenues: Administrative						
Assessments:		Official BEBR Population Estimates				
Citrus	166,500	349 person increase	\$31,635	\$31,569	\$66	0.2%
Hernando	212,849	2,272 person increase	\$40,441	\$40,010	\$431	1.1%
Marion	433,765	14,255 person increase	\$82,415	\$79,707	\$2,708	3.4%
Sumter	162,493	5,750 person increase	\$30,874	\$29,782	\$1,092	3.7%
Total Population/Assessments @ 19¢/Capita	975,607		\$185,365	\$181,068	\$4,297	2.4%
Administrative Revenue from Citrus Contract		Based on Citrus County contract and Board direction	\$17,884	\$17,293	\$591	3.4%
Subtotal			\$203,249	\$198,361	\$4,888	2.5%
Carryover Administration Reserve Funds (FYE 25/26 Estimate) (SBA1)		See Attachment 2	\$625,709	\$856,046	-\$230,337	-26.9%
Total Administrative Revenue Available			\$828,958	\$1,054,407	-\$225,449	-21.4%
Revenues: Water Resource Development (WRD) Projects						
SJRWMD Irrigation Audit Program SJRWMD Matching Funds		0% of Total Project Budget	\$7,500	\$0	\$7,500	100.0%
SJRWMD Irrigation Audit Program Cooperator Matching Funds		0% of Total Project Budget	\$11,250	\$0	\$11,250	100.0%
Phase 8 Irrigation Audit Program SWFWMD Matching Funds		0% of Total Project Budget	\$0	\$20,000	-\$20,000	-100.0%
Phase 8 Irrigation Audit Program Cooperator Matching Funds		0% of Total Project Budget	\$0	\$10,000	-\$10,000	-100.0%
Phase 9 Irrigation Audit Program SWFWMD Matching Funds		50% of Total Project Budget	\$40,000	\$0	\$40,000	#DIV/0!
Phase 9 Irrigation Audit Program Cooperator Matching Funds		25% of Total Project Budget	\$20,000	\$0	\$20,000	#DIV/0!
Annual Citrus WRD Payments (SBA2)		Based on CAB wellfield monthly average revenues of \$28,000 minus funds allocated to administrative revenue above	\$318,116	\$294,707	\$23,409	7.9%
Subtotal			\$396,866	\$324,707	\$72,159	22.2%
Carryover WRD Reserve Funds (FYE 25/26 Estimate) (SBA2)		See Attachment 2	\$1,933,418	\$1,629,553	\$303,866	18.6%
Total Water Resource Development Revenue Available			\$2,330,284	\$1,954,260	\$376,025	19.2%
Total Revenues Available			\$3,159,243	\$3,008,667	\$150,576	5.0%

ATTACHMENT 1

CALCULATION OF REVENUE FOR 2026-27 AND CALCULATION OF AMOUNT OF FUNDS NEEDED FROM RESERVES

Draft May 26, 2026

Revenue	4/1/2025 Population	
LOCAL ASSESSMENTS @ 19¢ PER CAPITA		
Citrus	166,500	\$31,635
Hernando	212,849	\$40,441
Marion	433,765	\$82,415
Sumter	162,493	\$30,874
Subtotal	975,607	\$185,365
CHARLES A. BLACK WATER SUPPLY FACILITY		
\$28,000 per month * 12 months		\$336,000
Subtotal		\$336,000
MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS FOR STUDIES		
SWFWMD Match for RWSP Update		\$0
SWFWMD Match for Phase 9 Irrigation Audit Program		\$40,000
Local Cooperator Match for Phase 9 Irrigation Audit Program		\$20,000
SWFWMD Match for Phase 8 Irrigation Audit Program		\$0
Local Cooperator Match for Phase 8 Irrigation Audit Program		\$0
SJRWMD Match for Irrigation Phase 2 Evaluation Program		\$7,500
Local Cooperator Match for Irrigation Phase 2 Evaluations		\$11,250
Subtotal		\$78,750
TOTAL REVENUE FOR FY 2026-27		\$600,115
Less: 2026-27 Administration Expense		-\$203,249
Less: 2026-27 WRD Cost		-\$345,000
Funds from WRWSA Reserves (+to, -from)		\$51,866

ATTACHMENT 2

ANALYSIS OF BEGINNING FUND BALANCES FY 2026 - 2027 Draft May 26, 2026

ESTIMATE OF WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT FUND BALANCE AT END OF FY 2025-26

05/26/26 WRDF Balance (SBA2)	\$2,003,696
FY 2025-26 Remaining WRD Fund Revenues	
5 Citrus Co. Payments @ \$26,000/month minus administrative component below	\$121,354
2024 RWSP SWFWMD Revenue	\$13,199
Phase 8 Irrigation Audit Local Cooperator Revenue	\$19,225
Phase 8 Irrigation Audit SWFWMD Revenue	\$38,450
Phase 7 Irrigation Audit Local Cooperator Revenue	\$0
Phase 7 Irrigation Audit SWFWMD Revenue	\$1,981
SJRWMD Pilot Program Revenue Cooperator Revenue	\$0
SJRWMD Pilot Program SJRWMD Revenue	\$0
Revenues Subtotal	\$194,208
Less: FY 2025-26 Remaining Contract Expenditures:	
2025-26 Citrus Water Conservation Program	\$47,175
2025-26 Hernando Water Conservation Program	\$47,000
2025-26 Marion Water Conservation Program	\$18,285
2025-26 Sumter County Water Conservation Program	\$65,040
2025-26 General Services Contracts	\$61,678
2024 RWSP	\$10,058
Phase 7 Irrigation Audit Program	\$0
Phase 8 Irrigation Audit Program	\$15,250
Expenditures Subtotal	\$264,486
Total WRD Funds at end of FY 2025-26	\$1,933,418

ESTIMATE OF ADMINISTRATIVE FUND BALANCE AT END OF FY 2025-26

05/26/2026 Admin Bal (SBA1)	\$625,709
Admin Revenue from CAB WSF	\$8,647
Admin Revenue from Per Capita Contributions	\$90,534
Less remaining FY Admin costs for 6 months	-\$99,181
Total Administrative Funds at end of FY 2025-26	\$625,709

ESTIMATE OF TOTAL FUND BALANCE AT END OF FY 2025-26

Total WRD Funds at end of FY 2025-26	\$1,933,418
Total Administrative Funds at end of FY 2025-26	\$625,709
Total Fund Balance at end of FY 2025-26	\$2,559,128

PROJECTED FUND BALANCES AT END OF FY 2026-27

Total Fund Balances beginning of FY 2025-26:	\$2,559,128
Add: 2025-26 Revenues	\$600,115
Deduct 2025-26 Expenses:	-\$548,249
Projected Fund Balances at end of FY 2026-27:	\$2,610,994

Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority

Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Work Program

1. 2024 Regional Water Supply Plan Update

The 2024 Regional Water Supply Plan update is complete. It included population and demand projections, evaluation of water supply sources, conservation and reuse alternatives, and an evaluation of alternative water supply options. This work was co-funded by SWFWMD, and coordinated with their 2025 Northern Region Regional Water Supply Plan, and SJRWMD 2026 Central Springs/East Coast Regional Water Supply Plan update. WRWSA will continue to track water demands and promote water conservation. WRWSA will also continue to track the MFLs within the region and the progress on setting the MFL's for the Withlacoochee River.

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 2026-27 proposed budget includes \$185,000 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

These ongoing programs provide 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. 1457 audits have been conducted as part of SWFWMD 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 26% has been achieved for the locations that have been audited.

For Phase 8, the program was shifted from the CFI process to the WISE program for SWFWMD funding. This water conservation initiative helps participating utilities meet and surpass the maximum 150 gallons per person per day that is required by the SWFWMD. Phase 9 will continue in FY 2026-27 in the WISE program.

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 targeted 60 enhanced evaluations, however only 35 were completed. We have included budget of \$30,000 to move forward with Phase 2 in FY 2026-27.

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.

In FY 2025-2026 an updated Engineering Analysis will be completed identifying a Renewal and Replacement Annual amount of \$300,000 to begin in October 2027.

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. Results from this model were presented in the WRWSA 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) Track the public supply water usage and compare it to permitted quantities and estimated demands in the Regional Water Supply Plan Update.
- g) 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.
- h) Monitor and report on activities within the WRWSA service area that may be a concern to the water quality or quantity for public supply usage.
- i) State Legislative tracking will be completed each State legislative session. Relevant bills related to utility operations, water quality, water permitting, land use, and pollution will be tracked and reported on in the WRWSA Board Meetings.

Angela McCourt

7716 S Shore Acres Pt

Floral City, FL 34436

angiemccourt99@outlook.com

813-523-7143

5/28/2026

RE: Formal Objection to Proposed Deep Injection Well at the Heart of Florida Landfill Near Lake Panasoffkee

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to formally object to the proposed deep injection well at the Heart of Florida Landfill near Lake Panasoffkee. I request this letter be included in the official public record and fully considered as part of any permitting, review, or approval process related to this proposal.

This proposal would involve drilling approximately 3,000 feet into the Floridan Aquifer system to dispose of landfill leachate underground. The long-term environmental, public health, and economic risks to Central Florida are too significant and too uncertain to justify moving forward with this project.

The Floridan Aquifer is not an isolated or insignificant water source. It is one of the most productive aquifer systems in the world and serves as the primary drinking water source for most of Central and North Florida. Nearly 10 million people rely on the Floridan Aquifer, and millions of Floridians depend on private wells that are directly vulnerable to groundwater contamination. The proposed injection site sits in an environmentally sensitive region connected to springs, wetlands, rivers, and Lake Panasoffkee itself.

Lake Panasoffkee is an Outstanding Florida Water and one of the largest spring-fed lakes in west-central Florida. Scientific studies show the lake is heavily influenced by groundwater movement from the Floridan Aquifer. Any contamination pathway into the aquifer therefore presents a direct threat to the lake, surrounding wetlands, fisheries, and downstream ecosystems.

Supporters of the project claim that the injected waste will remain permanently isolated. However, the scientific record does not support such certainty. Multiple U.S. Geological Survey studies in Florida have documented upward migration and movement of injected waste fluids within the Floridan Aquifer system. One USGS study found evidence that injected waste migrated upward into shallower monitoring zones in South Florida after deep-well injection operations began. Another study documented that pressure effects from deep injection extended outward for more than 25 miles. These findings demonstrate that underground migration pathways, fractures, karst geology, and hydraulic connections can create risks that are difficult or impossible to fully predict over decades.

Central Florida's geology is especially vulnerable because it is dominated by porous limestone, sinkholes, fractures, and underground conduits. Even small failures in confining layers can allow contaminants to move into drinking water zones. Once groundwater contamination occurs, cleanup is often impossible or extraordinarily expensive.

Landfill leachate is not harmless wastewater. It can contain PFAS "forever chemicals," heavy metals, ammonia, volatile organic compounds, pharmaceuticals, industrial chemicals, and carcinogenic substances. Many of these compounds are resistant to breakdown and can persist in groundwater for decades. Exposure to contaminated drinking water has been linked in numerous studies to increased risks of

cancers, liver damage, kidney disease, endocrine disruption, developmental disorders, and immune system impacts.

The public is being asked to trust that these contaminants will remain permanently trapped underground despite the fact that Florida has a documented history of groundwater contamination events involving karst geology and deep injection systems. The consequences of failure would not be temporary. Aquifer contamination could affect generations of Floridians.

This proposal becomes even more alarming in light of the major expansion of landfill operations tied to the Miami-Dade waste contract. Public reporting indicates the landfill is expected to receive approximately 4,800 tons of trash per week—nearly 250,000 tons annually—from Miami-Dade County. Reports further indicate that the agreement may continue through 2035 with options extending operations through 2055. This means local communities could face decades of increased landfill activity, leachate production, truck and rail traffic, odor, methane emissions, and groundwater risk.

As landfill volume increases, leachate generation inevitably increases. More waste means more contaminated liquid requiring disposal. Instead of reducing environmental risk, the proposed injection well appears designed to facilitate long-term expansion of imported waste disposal operations in rural Central Florida.

The impacts extend beyond water contamination alone.

Residents already report concerns about odors and declining air quality near the landfill. Additional imported waste will likely increase methane emissions, hydrogen sulfide odors, diesel exhaust from transportation, and airborne contaminants associated with landfill operations. Poor air quality has been associated with respiratory illnesses, cardiovascular disease, headaches, and reduced quality of life.

Wildlife and ecosystems are also at risk. Springs, wetlands, and connected aquatic systems support fish populations, birds, turtles, amphibians, manatees, and numerous protected species. Nutrient and chemical contamination of groundwater-fed ecosystems can contribute to algal blooms, habitat degradation, oxygen depletion, reproductive disruption in aquatic life, and long-term ecosystem collapse.

The economic risks are substantial and should not be ignored. Lake Panasoffkee and surrounding areas depend heavily on fishing, boating, ecotourism, outdoor recreation, and small local businesses. Property owners have invested their lives into this community because of its natural beauty and water resources. The perception—or reality—of groundwater contamination threatens property values, tourism revenue, recreation industries, and business investment throughout the region.

The burden of risk is being placed on rural communities that receive little benefit while absorbing decades of environmental liability. Residents should not be expected to sacrifice their water, health, environment, and economy so large metropolitan areas can dispose of increasing amounts of garbage elsewhere.

At a minimum, this proposal requires:

- A fully independent hydrogeologic review by outside experts with no financial ties to the landfill operator;
- Comprehensive cumulative impact studies evaluating long-term aquifer migration risks;
- Full public disclosure of all chemicals and contaminants expected in the leachate stream;

- Long-term independent groundwater monitoring extending far beyond the landfill property;
- Independent public health assessments;
- A complete environmental impact statement evaluating impacts to springs, lakes, wetlands, wildlife, tourism, and local economies.

Until these studies are completed and independently verified, the permit process should be halted.

Florida's groundwater is not replaceable. Once contaminated, it cannot simply be rebuilt or restored. Future generations will live with the consequences of decisions made today.

I respectfully urge you to oppose the proposed injection well and protect the Floridan Aquifer, Lake Panasoffkee, and the health and future of Central Florida communities.

Sincerely,

Angela McCourt

Floral City, Florida

cc: Governor DeSantis

cc: Congressman Gus Bilirakis

cc: Senator Rick Scott

cc: Florida State Senator Ralph E. Massullo, Jr.

cc: Florida State House of Representatives J.J. Grow

cc: Blaise Ingoglia, Florida Chief Financial Officer

cc: Sumter County Board of County Commissioners & County Administrator & County Attorney

Deborah K. Butterfield

Andrew Bilardello

Todd Coon

Jeffrey A. Bogue

Don Wiley

Bradley Arnold, County Administrator

The Hogan Law Firm (aka County Attorney)

cc: Citrus County Board of County Commissioners & County Administrator & County Attorney

Holly Davis

Jeff Kinnard

Janet Barek

Rebecca Bays

Diana Finegan

Steve Howard, County Administrator
Denise A. Dymond Lyn, County Attorney

cc: Sumter County Planning Department & Development Services
Planning & Zoning
Building Services

cc: FDEP, Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Alexis A. Lambert, Secretary of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Underground Injection Control (UIC) Program
Aquifer Protection Program
Springs Protection staff
Environmental Resource Permitting staff

cc: Southwest Florida Management District (SWFWMD) Governing Board Officers & Public Records
Jack Bispham (Chair)
Ashley Bell Barnett
John Hall
Dustin Rowland
Peggy Meinhardt (Custodian of Public Records)

cc: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)
Greg Workman, Northeast Regional Director
Matt Hortman, Assistant Regional Biologist
Scott Bisping, Regional Fisheries Administrator
Chris Wynn, North Central Regional Director
Allen Martin, Regional Fisheries Administrator
Matt Pollock, Regional Wildlife Administrator

cc: St John's River Water Management District
Tim Miller, Bureau Chief (Water Quality Data)
Dean Dobberfuhl, Bureau Chief (Environmental Sciences)
Rob Brooks, Supervising Hydrologist (Groundwater)
Wei Jin, Sr Engineer Scientist PG/PE (Ground Water Modeling)
Deirdre Irwin, Water Conservation Coordinator

cc: Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority

cc: Withlacoochee Regional Planning Council
Sean T. Sullivan, Tampa Bay – Executive Director of the TBRPC
Tara McCue, Executive Director AICP Planning Director, East Central Florida
Elizabeth Payne, CEO Northeast Florida Regional Council

cc: Florida Department of Transportation
District 5 Office

Secretary Jared W. Perdue, P.E.

cc: Florida Department of Health – Environmental Health Division

Given the regional importance of the Floridan Aquifer and Lake Panasoffkee, I am copying relevant environmental agencies, water management officials, and community stakeholders to ensure broad public awareness and review.

cc: Citrus County key stakeholders

Ken Cheek, Water Resources Director

Gary Loggins - Utility Operations

Debra Burden – Water Conservation Manager

Carlton Hall - Public Works Director

Andrew Owens - Aquatic Services

Terri Moore - Parks & Recreation

Steven Baham - Economic Development Director

Avis Cole, Tourism Director - Visitors & Convention Bureau

Michael Bridges - Records Management

cc: Environmental & Public Interest Groups

Save the Manatees Club

Florida Springs Council

Sierra Club Florida Chapter

Center for Biological Diversity

Suncoast Waterkeeper

Our Santa Fe River

Resources:

Key factual sources supporting points in the letter include USGS studies documenting upward migration and pressure effects from deep-well injection in the Floridan Aquifer, regional hydrology studies showing Lake Panasoffkee's dependence on groundwater flow, and recent reporting on the Miami-Dade waste contract expansion.

<https://www.usgs.gov/publications/upward-migration-deep-well-waste-injection-fluids-floridan-aquifer-south-florida>

https://pubs.usgs.gov/publication/70232496?utm_source=chatgpt.com

<https://www.usgs.gov/publications/hydrogeochemical-effects-injecting-wastes-a-limestone-aquifer-near-pensacola-florida>

<https://www.usgs.gov/publications/quality-water-recovered-a-municipal-effluent-injection-well-floridan-aquifer-system>

https://www.usgs.gov/publications/hydrology-lake-panasoffkee-sumter-county-florida?utm_source=chatgpt.com

<https://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/residents/education/h2o-zone/the-floridan-aquifer-system>

<https://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/projects/swim/lake-panasoffkee>

https://hoodline.com/2026/04/trash-trains-from-miami-headed-straight-for-bushnell-s-backyard/?utm_source=chatgpt.com

<https://www.wesh.com/article/miami-dade-sending-trash-small-central-florida-town/71137930>

<https://www.villages-news.com/2026/04/15/officials-increasingly-concerned-about-landfills-threat-to-aquifer/>

<https://www.villages-news.com/2026/04/19/state-representative-pens-letter-detailing-fears-of-threat-to-local-drinking-water/>



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Southwest Florida Water Management District

2379 Broad Street, Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899

(352) 796-7211 or 1-800-423-1476 (FL only)

WaterMatters.org

Bartow Office

170 Century Boulevard
Bartow, Florida 33830-7700
(863) 534-1448 or
1-800-492-7862 (FL only)

Sarasota Office

78 Sarasota Center Boulevard
Sarasota, Florida 34240-9770
(941) 377-3722 or
1-800-320-3503 (FL only)

Tampa Office

7601 U.S. 301 North
Tampa, Florida 33637-6759
(813) 985-7481 or
1-800-836-0797 (FL only)

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Executive Director

May 26, 2026

Ms. Suzannah Folsom

Executive Director

Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority

3600 West Sovereign Path, Suite 228

Lecanto, Florida 34461

Subject: 2025 Regional Water Supply Plan Notice

Dear Ms. Folsom:

In December 2025, the Governing Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District (District) approved the 2025 Regional Water Supply Plan (RWSP). The RWSP encompasses the entire District and is divided into four major planning regions (Heartland, Northern, Southern, and Tampa Bay). The RWSP contains an assessment of projected water demands and potential sources of water to meet those demands through 2045.

This letter is being sent pursuant to Section 373.709(8)(a), Florida Statutes (F.S.), which requires water management districts to notify by certified mail those water supply entities identified in the RWSP as the parties responsible for implementing the various project options listed in the plan. While it is not required that your entity implement any of the options from the RWSP, there are statutory provisions that require additional action on your part, pursuant to Section 373.709(8)(b), F.S. Namely, your entity shall consider the information in the RWSP and provide the District, in writing, the following information no later than one year after receipt of this letter:

- 1) The alternative water supply projects or options identified in the RWSP, which you have developed or intend to develop, if any. If you do not intend to develop one or more of the alternative water supply project options identified in the RWSP you can propose one or more alternative water supply project options sufficient to address your future water needs as identified in the RWSP. You may request that the District consider the other project or projects for inclusion in the RWSP.
- 2) A status report of alternative water supply project implementation, including:
 - a) the quantity of water to be produced;
 - b) development of a financial plan;
 - c) facilities master planning;
 - d) permitting; and
 - e) efforts in coordinating multijurisdictional projects, if applicable.

Ms. Suzannah Folsom
Subject: 2025 Regional Water Supply Plan Notice
Page 2
May 26, 2026

As a reminder, annual progress reports from water supply entities regarding the status of project implementation must be submitted to the District by November 15 of each year (Section 373.709(8)(b), F.S.).

In addition, each local government is required to update the water supply facilities work plan of its comprehensive plan within 18 months after Governing Board approval of a RWSP pursuant to Section 163.3177(6)(c)4, F.S. The water supply facilities work plan must cover at least a 10-year planning period and identify alternative and traditional water supply development projects, conservation activities, and reuse activities needed to meet the projected future water demands. For local governments that are wholly or partially in the SWFWMD RWSP area, work plans must be updated by June 2027.

Please visit WaterMatters.org/RWSP to access the 2025 RWSP and associated regional plans for information regarding the alternative water supply projects or project options. If you have any questions or need additional information regarding this matter, please contact Cassidy Hampton at (352) 269-5183.

Sincerely,



Jay Hoecker, PMP
Bureau Chief
Water Resources Bureau

CLH:tta



TRACI PERRY, CPM

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT AND COMPTROLLER
CITRUS COUNTY, FLORIDA

110 North Apopka Avenue, Inverness, Florida 34450
www.citrusclerk.org | @CitrusFLClerk

Telephone: (352) 341-6424
Fax: (888)-974-1491

WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY
3600 W SOVEREIGN PATH STE 228
LECANTO, FL 34461

June 10, 2026

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter serves to notify you that the Citrus County Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2025, is now available on the Clerk's website. The web address is www.citrusclerk.org and the ACFR can be found under the Finance Services tab.

If you require a hard copy, please contact Chief Financial Officer, Susan Sullivan, either by e-mail at ssullivan@citrusclerk.org or by phone at 352-341-6464.

Sincerely,

Traci Perry, CPM,
Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller

Item 12.e.

Executive Director's Report

News Articles

SWFWMD extends water shortage restrictions through Oct. 1

by Villages-News Staff Report

June 25, 2026

The Southwest Florida Water Management District has extended one-day-per-week water shortage restrictions through Oct. 1.

The extension is necessary due to ongoing drought conditions and below-average rainfall across the region. The SWFWMD recorded a 13.7-inch rainfall deficit when the Modified Phase III was declared, and the deficit remained significant at 11.4 inches as of May 2026. Water levels in rivers, lakes and public water supplies continue to decline, with many resources at severely below-normal levels.

The restrictions apply to the following:

- All of Citrus, DeSoto, Hardee, Hernando, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Sarasota and Sumter counties.
- Portions of Charlotte, Highlands and Lake counties.
- The City of Dunnellon and The Villages in Marion County.
- The portion of Gasparilla Island in Charlotte County.

When can you water?

Lawn and landscape watering remains limited to a one day per week schedule. Residents should check with their city or county for their allowable watering times.

Standard watering days are based on the last digit of your address:

0 or 1 – Monday

2 or 3 – Tuesday

4 or 5 – Wednesday

6 or 7 – Thursday

8 or 9 – Friday

The restriction apply to properties served by public water and private wells. Reclaimed water users are only subject to voluntary watering hours, unless restricted by the local rules.

If you'd like more information on the Modified Phase III "Extreme" Water Shortage click <https://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/business/epermitting/district-water-restrictions>

Voices grow in opposition of plan to store runoff water under Sumter landfill

By David Jones

WESH

June 17, 2026

Lake County is latest entity in region to voice opposition to planned deep injection well to dispose of leachate at Sumter County landfill

BUSHNELL, Fla. —

A deep injection well that is under construction at the site of a Sumter County landfill has drawn the ire of area residents for months.

While entities like neighboring Citrus County or Rep. Samantha Scott have voiced concerns or outright opposition, as reported by WESH 2 News, now Lake County has joined in the chorus of opposition.

"I would take it from concern to opposition," Lake County Commissioner Leslie Campione said at a recent county commission meeting, asking county staff to draft a letter to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

Prior to the requested letter, the Lake County Water Authority's hydrologist Blanche Hardy and the county's solid waste director gave a presentation on leachate, how it's treated, what's known publicly about how a disposal well would function, and what the risks would be.

WESH 2 News has told you about the Heart of Florida landfill in Bushnell and the landfill's under-construction deep injection well to dispose of leachate.

Leachate, in the simplest terms, is stormwater runoff mixed with waste. The leachate is collected in the liners below the waste and can be disposed of in a number of manners, like trucking it off site to a wastewater treatment plant.

WESH 2 had asked Heart of Florida to respond to a litany of questions about the well but has never received a response.

Hardy said it's her opinion that the landfill is currently paying more to truck the leachate off site, and a deep injection well — while it would be expensive up front — would likely pay off long term, especially if leachate is brought in from other landfills.

She showed a map of deep injection wells and where they currently exist in Florida, with the vast majority being along the coast where there is less potable water beneath the surface.

"If you put one in Sumter County, it's not going to just contaminate groundwater if there's an accident," Hardy said. "It's going to contaminate the drinking water supply."

The process to get a deep injection well into operation is a long one. Currently, Heart of Florida is at the phase of drilling an exploratory well and has told officials it plans to reach a depth of 3,200 feet below the surface.

No leachate is being injected yet, and the landfill would need to file for a new permit to shift the well from an exploratory phase to a construction phase to an operational phase.

"They actually have to get data from their specific location and give it back to DEP. If they would drill to the depth they said and they were anywhere near the potable drinking water supply, that would probably not go well with DEP," she said. "If the exploratory well is okay and it's in the (dry layer of ground), then they go for the (operational permit), anything that happens between land surface and the bottom of that boring is in our drinking water supply."

Both the landfill and FDEP have said rigorous testing is needed before the well can receive a permit.

Nearby residents said they want more transparency and accountability when it comes to what sort of tests are performed and how any data collected is used.

"We want accountability, we want proof that this is not going to contaminate our aquifer," said Debra Arcus, director of Tracy's Point HOA.

Tracy's Point is a neighborhood in Lake Panasoffkee, which sits just down the road from the landfill.

Arcus and the HOA recently sent a letter to FDEP highlighting concerns residents have brought forward.

"This is not a region for that. We don't want that here. The residents don't want it. The risks are too high," Arcus said. "Their loss and their gain for finances is not my problem. My problem is keeping us safe."

Commentary: Floridan Aquifer is the bleeding heart of Florida

May 8, 2026

Orlando Sentinel

Bob Knight



A scene from the Suwannee River near the Gulf of Mexico.

Florida's "Springs Heartland" covers an estimated 5,664 square miles of the Suwannee River basin. Plentiful rain falling on porous karst geology collects and feeds groundwater to more than 300 artesian springs. These springs feed life-nourishing groundwater to the Suwannee River — immortalized in song and legend.

And yet, the Suwannee River is now listed as one of the 10 most endangered rivers in the United States. How did we allow this tragedy?

At the beginning of the last century, the Springs Heartland boasted the highest regional spring flow in Florida (and the U.S.), with an estimated predevelopment average discharge of 4.75 billion gallons per day (BGD).

That historic flow accounted for half of all artesian spring flows in Florida — the "Land of a Thousand Springs." But, within a 70-year period of increasing groundwater extractions through wells, the combined flows of all of Florida's 1,000-plus springs had dropped by one third. Surprisingly, in the Suwannee Heartland, which has the second-lowest groundwater extraction rate, average spring flows had declined by 2.3 BGD.

Why did the region with the second-lowest population and number of wells have the lion's share of the springs flow depletion? The answer is as clear as a healthy spring: All Florida's springs share a common groundwater source — the Floridan Aquifer.

You can think of the interconnected aquifer as a giant Slurpee cup. Put in a few straws and everyone is happy. Put in 20,000 of the largest wells (straws) and liquid levels fall, even with "free refills" (rain). Add another 950,000 smaller groundwater extraction wells, and you have the currently depleted Floridan Aquifer.

The result is more than 1,000 formerly pristine springs without healthy flows.

The fundamental principle is that water is conserved. Rainwater that recharges the Floridan Aquifer is equal to the sum of groundwater losses from the aquifer through spring flows, water storage and extractions through wells.

The Springs Heartland provides the greatest volume of recharge to the Floridan Aquifer (more than two times as much as any other groundwater basin), but groundwater extractions from the two more intensively developed regions (in the St. Johns and Southwest Florida water management districts) pump the lion's share of North Florida's groundwater.

Just like a Slurpee cup with multiple straws, whoever sucks the hardest gets the most.

A 2025 review of water management district (WMD) water use permits found the following:

- St. Johns River WMD currently has about 2,109 permits for 9,171 large wells, authorizing up to 1.31 BGD of groundwater withdrawals from the Floridan Aquifer.
- The Southwest Florida WMD currently has 1,279 permits for a total of 4,298 wells, authorized to pump 0.98 BGD.
- Suwannee River WMD currently has 1,205 large groundwater use permits, authorizing pumping up to 0.52 BGD from 4,550 wells.
- The Northwest Florida WMD has 413 large groundwater withdrawal permits, including 2,256 wells, and a groundwater allocation of 0.32 BGD.

These four WMDs have 20,275 large wells permitted to pump up to 3.13 BGD. This number does not include the pumping from hundreds of thousands of private self-supply and landscape irrigation wells in these four WMDs.

Floridan Aquifer levels and resulting spring flows are highly influenced by groundwater withdrawals throughout the aquifer. Groundwater recharged in one water management district can move to another water management area in response to pumping.

The first conclusion is that all groundwater users pumping from the Floridan Aquifer are in part responsible for declining flows at the many hundreds of artesian springs in Florida.

The second conclusion is that some groundwater users are more responsible than others.

Florida's laws mandate protection of minimum aquifer levels and spring flows that do not result in significant harm to aquatic and human use values. Florida's WMDs are not managing our groundwater resources in compliance with state law.

The winners in this charade are the for-profit permit holders who multiply the inherent value of free water into private corporate profits.

The losers are the public who see the degradation of springs and other surface waters held by the state of Florida in public trust.

Robert L. Knight is president of the Howard T. Odum Florida Springs Institute in High Springs. This opinion piece was distributed by The Invading Sea website (www.theinvadingsea.com), which publishes news and commentary on climate change and other environmental issues affecting Florida.

