



WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY

Board Meeting Package

January 24, 2024
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 January 2024

Office	Board Members
Chair	The Honorable Jeff Kinnard
Vice Chair	The Honorable Eliza-BETH Narverud
Treasurer	The Honorable Craig Estep

Jurisdiction	Board Members
Citrus County	The Honorable Rebecca Bays
	The Honorable Jeff Kinnard
Hernando County	The Honorable Jerry Campbell
	The Honorable Eliza-BETH Narverud
Marion County	The Honorable Kathy Bryant
	The Honorable Michelle Stone
	The Honorable Carl Zalak
Sumter County	The Honorable Craig Estep
	The Honorable Don Wiley
City of Belleview	The Honorable Robert “Bo” Smith
City of Brooksville	The Honorable David Bailey
City of Bushnell	The Honorable Dale Swain
City of Inverness	The Honorable Gene Davis

Meeting Dates

The schedule of meetings for the 2023-2024 fiscal year are as follows:

November 8, 2023
January 24, 2024
March 20, 2024

May 15, 2024
July 24, 2024
September 18, 2024



January 12, 2024

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, January 24, 2024 3:30 p.m., at the Lecanto Government Center Building, Room 166, 3600 Sovereign Path, Lecanto, FL 34461.**

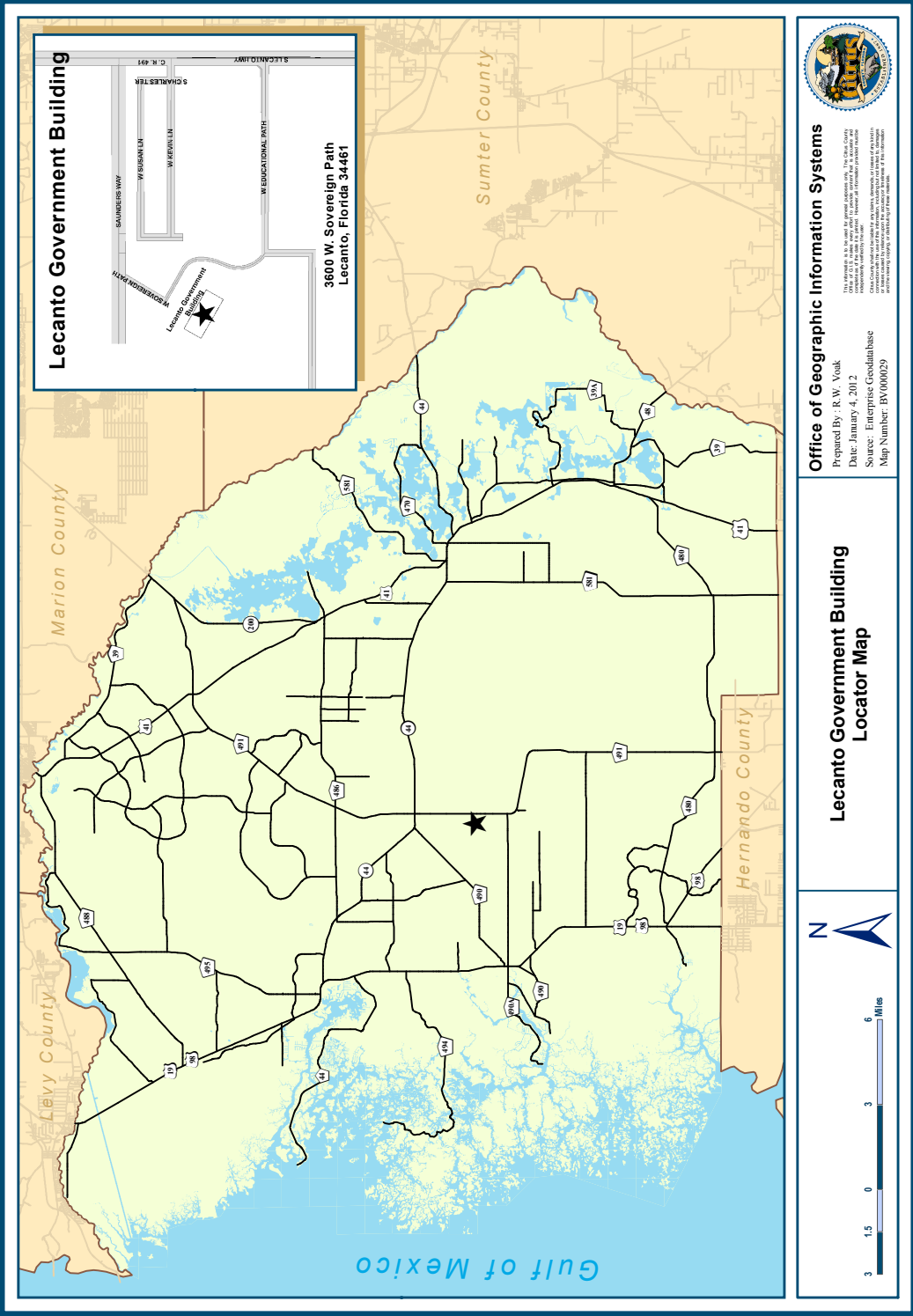
Enclosed for your review are the following items:

- Agenda
- Minutes of November 8, 2023
- 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

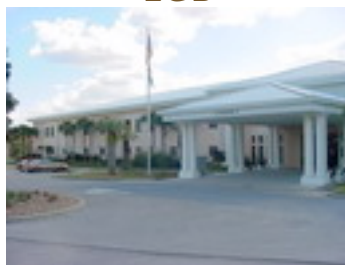
From Bushnell

- 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

**January 24, 2024 -- 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** . . . Chair
2. **Roll Call** . . . Suzy Folsom, WRWSA Executive Director
3. **Introductions and Announcements** . . . Suzy Folsom, WRWSA
4. **Pledge of Allegiance** . . . Led by the Board
5. **Public Comment**
6. **Consent Agenda** . . . Chair
 - a. **Approval of Minutes** [September 20, 2023 and November 8, 2023] 9
 - b. **Bills to be Paid** [October, November and December bills included; January bills provided at the meeting] 19
7. **Election of Board Officers** . . . Board Members 23
8. **Charles A. Black Wellfield Renewal and Replacement Fund Annual Report** . . . Suzy Folsom, WRWSA 31
9. **Residential Irrigation System Evaluation Project Phase VI – Final Report** . . . Suzy Folsom, WRWSA 33
10. **Regional Water Supply Plan Update – Status Report** . . . Lisa Krentz, Hazen and Sawyer 35
11. **Legislative Report** . . . Suzy Folsom, WRWSA 37
12. **Attorney’s Report** . . . Rob Batsel, WRWSA Attorney 39
13. **Executive Director’s Report** . . . Suzy Folsom, WRWSA
 - a. **Water Use Permit Demand Summary** 41
 - b. **Water Management Information System Water Use Permit Notifications** 43
 - c. **Residential Irrigation Evaluation Programs Update** 45
 - d. **Correspondence** 47
 - e. **News Articles** 57
14. **Other Business**
15. **Next Meeting** . . . March 20, 2024; 3:30 p.m.; Lecanto Government Building, Room 166
16. **Adjournment**

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

Item 6.a.

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes

DRAFT

WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Minutes of the Meeting September 20, 2023

TIME: 3:31 p.m.
PLACE: Lecanto Government Building
ADDRESS: 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Room 280, Lecanto, Florida 34461

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

1. Call to Order

Mr. Swain as the Board's most senior member called the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (WRWSA) Board of Directors meeting to order at 3:31 p.m. and requested a roll call.

4. Pledge of Allegiance – Mr. Swain led those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call

Ms. Suzannah Folsom, WRWSA Executive Director, called the roll and a quorum was declared present.

BOARD MEMBER PRESENT

David Bailey, Brooksville City Councilor
Rebecca Bays, Citrus County Commissioner
Ken Brown, Crystal River City Councilor
Jerry Campbell, Hernando County Commissioner
Robert "Bo" Smith, Belleview City Commissioner
Dale Swain, Bushnell City Councilor
Don Wiley, Sumter County Commissioner

BOARD ALTERNATE(S) PRESENT

Jody Kirkman, Marion County Utilities Dir

BOARD MEMBER(S) ABSENT

Jeff Kinnard, *Chair*, Citrus Co Commissioner
Beth Narverud, *Vice Chair*, Hernando County Commissioner
Craig Estep, *Treasurer*, Sumter County Commissioner
Kathy Bryant, Marion County Commissioner
Michelle Stone, Marion County Commissioner
Carl Zalak, Marion County Commissioner

3. Introductions and Announcements

WRWSA STAFF PRESENT

Suzannah J. Folsom, PE, PMP, Executive Dir
Robert W. Batsel, Jr., General Counsel
LuAnne Stout, Administrative Asst.

WRWSA STAFF ABSENT – None

OTHERS PRESENT

Debra Burden, Citrus Co Water Conservation Mgr
Trevor Knight, Marion Co Water Resources Liaison
Liza Kreutz, Hazen and Sawyer
Ron Patel, Hernando County
Joseph Quinn, SWFWMD Water Supply Project Mgr
Sharon Simington, Hazen and Sawyer

- Ms. Folsom requested approval for consideration of two additional items. **Mr. Kirkman moved, seconded by Mr. Brown, for the Board to consideration the following two items. Motion carried unanimously.**

(a) Marion County requested that \$3,168.75 of WRWSA reimbursement be shifted from the Landscape & Irrigation Rebate Program line item to the Water Conservation Billboards line item. **Ms. Bays moved, seconded by Mr. Smith, to approve this item. Motion carried unanimously.**

(b) Staff requested approval to sign the new Website Services Contract (\$1,000 website design and \$200 monthly maintenance). **Mr. Swain moved, seconded by Mr. Kirkman, to approve this item. Motion carried unanimously.**

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

6. **Consent Agenda**

- a. **Approval of Minutes** – The July 26, 2023, draft minutes were provided in the Board’s meeting materials and recommended for approval as presented.
- b. **Public Officials Liability Insurance Policy** – Staff recommended approval of the renewal policy.
- c. **Bills to be Paid** – Staff recommended ratification of August (\$22,492.6) and approval for September (\$89,750.34).
- d. **Third Quarter Financial Report** – Staff recommended acceptance of the report.
- e. **Fiscal Year 2023-24 Calendar of Board Meeting Dates** – Staff recommended approval of the following dates: November 8, 2023; January 24, 2024; March 20, 2024; May 15, 2024, July 24, 2024; and September 18, 2024. Meetings will be held at 3:30 p.m. in the Lecanto Government Building, Room 166, 3600 West Sovereign Path, Lecanto, Florida 34461.

Mr. Swain moved, seconded by Mr. Smith, to approve the Consent Agenda Items 6.a., 6.b., 6.c., 6.d. and 6.e., as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

7. **As-Needed Technical and Engineering Services – Authorization to Issue . . .**

Ms. Suzannah Folsom, WRWSA Executive Director, presented this item. Staff recommends issuance of the following Work Orders for the General Engineering and Technical Services:

Applied Sciences Consulting, Inc. – The purpose of this Work Order is to provide general engineering and technical support services to the Authority Board and Executive Director on an as-needed basis. The Work Order amount is \$10,000.

Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. – The purpose of this Work Order is to continue ongoing representation of the Authority on the Springs Coast Technical Advisory Board. The Work Order amount is \$10,000.

A copy of each proposed Work Order was included as Exhibits to this item in the Board’s meeting materials.

Mr. Swain moved, seconded by Mr. Kirkman, to authorize the Executive Director to issue (1) Work Order 2024-01 to Applied Sciences Consulting, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$10,000 for the period through September 30, 2024; and (2) Work Order 2024-02 to Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$10,000 for the period through September 30, 2024. Motion unanimously approved.

8. **Legislative Report – Information of the Expanded State of Florida Water Quality Funding Program**

Ms. Suzannah Folsom, Executive Director, introduced this item. In the 2023 legislative session, HB 1379 / SB 1632 Environmental Protection passed. It included an expansion of the Wastewater Grant Funding program, renaming it as the Water Quality Grant Funding Program, with a larger funding budget to help municipalities address many of the new environmental protection requirements in the Bill.

Ms. Sharon Simington, Southeast Regional Funding Program Leader at Hazen and Sawyer, presented on this expanded funding program and how it can be utilized. She addressed questions raised by the Board.

This item was for the Board’s information only and no action was required.

9. Regional Water Supply Plan Update – Status Report

Ms. Lisa Krentz with Hazen and Sawyer presented this status report. The Authority entered into a cooperative funding agreement with the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) in December 2022 (23CF0004079) for Regional Water Supply Plan Update project. The Authority entered into a contract with Hazen and Sawyer in January 2023 to undertake the project.

With the assistance of the SWFWMD, St. Johns River Water Management District, and a Technical Advisory Committee comprised of representatives from member governments and public supply utilities in the four-county region, the Plan Update is being coordinated. A kickoff meeting for the project was held on March 2, 2023. The consultant has been working on population and demand projections, and conservation reuse evaluations.

Task	Description	Schedule	% Complete
1	Project Management and Stakeholders Engagement	February 2023 – September 2024	25
2	Data Collection and Processing	February 2023 – January 2024	75
3	Population and Demand Estimates	February 2023 – July 2023	20
4	Water Conservation and Reuse Evaluation	February 2023 – August 2023	10
5	Water Sources Evaluation	February 2023 – September 2023	0
6	Water Supply Project Options	October 2023 – January 2024	0
7	Organization, Funding and Governance Requirements	February 2024 – April 2024	0
8	Recommendations	February 2024 – September 2024	0

Ms. Krentz presented the Population and Demand projections at the September Board of Directors meeting and addressed the Board's questions.

This item was for information only and no action was required.

10. Attorney's Report – Mr. Batsel had no report to provide.

11. Executive Director's Report – Ms. Folsom presented the following items which required no action.

- a. **Charles A. Black Water Use Permit Renewal** – The Wellfield WUP number 7121.006 was approved and issued for the quantity and duration requested.
- b. **Water Use Permit Demand Summary** - A summary was in the Board's meeting materials. .
- c. **Water Management Information System Water Use Permit Notifications** – A list of notifications was included in the Board's meeting materials.
- d. **Irrigation Audit Program – Status Report** – A progress update on the three residential irrigation evaluation programs that WRWSA is currently ongoing:
 - (1) Phase 6 Residential Irrigation Evaluation Program – SWFWMD (final report will be completed by December 2023),
 - (2) Phase 7 Residential Irrigation Evaluation Program – SWFWMD (26 percent of the planned evaluation have been completed to date and program to be completed in December 2025); and
 - (3) Residential Irrigation Evaluation Program Pilot – SJRWMD – WRWSA has received approval for the program from the SJRWMD and is preparing to start in October 2023. WRWSA will be working with Marion County (40 participants) and the City of Belleview (20 participants) to identify the highest residential users to be a part of this program.
- e. **Correspondence** – Several items were included in meeting materials.
- f. **News Articles** – Several articles were included in meeting materials.

12. Other Business – Ms. Folsom informed the Board that the FS/AWWA Region IV Best Tasting Drinking Water contest and barbecue is scheduled for Friday, October 27 at the FWC Crystal River National Wildlife Center. Judges are needed if anyone would like to volunteer.

13. Next Meeting Time and Location

- Next Regular Board Meeting – November 8, 2023, at 3:30 p.m. at the Lecanto Government Building, Room 166. (*Meeting moved one week earlier due to Florida Association of Counties Legislative Conference being held November 15- 17.*)

14. Adjournment – Mr. Swain moved, seconded by Mr. Campbell, to adjourn and it carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 4:42 p.m.

Jeff Kinnard, Chair

Suzannah J. Folsom, Executive Director

DRAFT

WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Minutes of the Meeting November 8, 2023

TIME: 3:30 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

Treasurer Estep called the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (WRWSA) Board of Directors meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. and requested a roll call.

2. Roll Call

Ms. Suzannah Folsom, WRWSA Executive Director, called the roll and a quorum was declared not present. Ms. Folsom noted that Item 6, Consent Agenda, will be considered at the January 24, 2024 meeting.

BOARD MEMBER PRESENT

Craig Estep, *Treasurer*, Sumter County Commissioner
David Bailey, Brooksville City Councilor
Robert “Bo” Smith, Belleview City Commissioner

BOARD ALTERNATE(S) PRESENT

Ken Frink, Crystal River Assistant City Manager
Jody Kirkman, Marion County Utilities Director

BOARD MEMBER(S) ABSENT

Jeff Kinnard, *Chair*, Citrus Co Commissioner
Beth Narverud, *Vice Chair*, Hernando County Commissioner
Rebecca Bays, Citrus County Commissioner
Ken Brown, Crystal River City Councilor
Jerry Campbell, Hernando County Commissioner
Kathy Bryant, Marion County Commissioner
Michelle Stone, Marion County Commissioner
Dale Swain, Bushnell City Councilor
Don Wiley, Sumter County Commissioner
Carl Zalak, Marion County Commissioner

3. Introductions and Announcements

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

Debra Burden, Citrus Co Water Conservation Mgr
Trevor Knight, Marion Co Water Resources Liaison
Lisa Krentz, Hazen and Sawyer
Ron Patel, Hernando County
Joseph Quinn, SWFWMD Water Supply Project Mgr
Doug Leeper, SWFWMD Minimum Flows and Levels
Randy Smith, SWFWMD Bureau Chief for Natural Systems and Restoration
Paige TaraCruz, SWFWMD Project Manager

4. Pledge of Allegiance – Treasurer Estep led those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

6. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of Minutes** – The September 20, 2023, draft minutes were provided in the Board’s meeting materials.
- b. Bills to be Paid** – October and November 2023 will be provided at the Board’s next meeting.

Board took no action as a quorum was noted presented. Items 6.a. and 6.b. will be presented that the Board’s next meeting.

7. Irrigation Audit Program Phase 6 – Review of Draft Report

Mrs. Suzannah Folsom, WRWSA, presented this item. Phase VI of the Authority’s Regional Irrigation System Evaluation Program began in December 2020 as part of the Authority’s ongoing water conservation initiative. Phase VI of the Irrigation Audit Program was funded by and completed in cooperation with the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD), Citrus, Hernando, and Marion counties and the North Sumter County Utility Dependent District (NSCUDD) and the Villages Community Center Development District (VCCDD).

The draft report details the number of evaluations completed, the estimated water saved, and the cost effectiveness of this phase of the program. Phase VI is on time and within budget. A summary of the major findings of the Phase VI effort will be presented at the January meeting. The Phase VI draft report is provided as an exhibit for review and comment. It has also been provided to the cooperating utilities and SWFWMD for review. A final report will be submitted to SWFWMD by the end of December.

Board took no action. Staff will incorporate any comments received by the Board, the cooperating utilities, and SWFWMD into a final report. Staff will incorporate comments on this draft report into a final report and submit it to SWFWMD by December 31, 2023.

8. Charles A. Black Wellfield Fiscal Year 2022-23 Revenues

Mrs. Suzannah Folsom, WRWSA Executive Director, will presented this item. The end of Fiscal Year 2022-23 represented the sixth full year operating under the revised Water Supply Contract with Citrus County. The purpose of this agenda item is to report to the Board the status of water sales to Citrus County and corresponding revenues for the fiscal year. The FY 2022-23 budget included the minimum contract charge of \$240,000. The revenue received reflects a surplus revenue of \$64,760.

The following table summarizes quantities of water sold water and revenues for FY 2022-23.

Month	Pumpage Reported by Citrus Co.	Rate	Amount Billed	Payment	Payment Date
Oct	155,079,000	0.1487	\$23,060.25	\$23,060.25	11/3/2022
Nov	159,326,200	0.1487	\$23,691.81	\$23,691.81	12/2/2022
Dec	167,725,000	0.1487	\$24,940.71	\$24,940.71	1/4/2023
Jan	155,287,000	0.1487	\$23,091.18	\$23,091.18	2/2/2023
Feb	148,855,000	0.1487	\$22,134.74	\$22,134.74	3/2/2023
Mar	187,912,000	0.1487	\$27,942.51	\$27,942.51	4/3/2023
Apr	195,405,000	0.1487	\$29,056.72	\$29,056.72	5/4/2023
May	191,571,000	0.1487	\$28,486.61	\$28,486.61	6/5/2023
Jun	172,460,000	0.1487	\$25,644.80	\$25,644.80	7/5/2023
Jul	172,361,000	0.1487	\$25,630.08	\$25,630.08	8/4/2023
Aug	173,185,000	0.1487	\$25,752.61	\$25,752.61	9/3/2023
Sep	170,331,000	0.1487	\$25,328.22	\$25,328.22	10/4/2023
Total	2,049,497,200	0.1487	\$304,760.23	\$304,760.23	

This was an information item only and no Board action was required.

9. Minimum Flows and Levels – Priority Lists and Schedules

Mrs. Suzannah Folsom, WRWSA Executive Director, introduced Mr. Doug Leeper with the Southwest Florida Water Management District Natural Systems Restoration Department who presented a status report to the Board of the establishment of minimum flows and levels (MFLs) in the Authority's four-county area.

Chapter 373, Florida Statutes, requires each of the water management districts to have a Priority List and Schedule for the establishment of MFLs. This Priority List and Schedule identifies water bodies for which the District plans to establish minimum flows and levels and also identifies planned water reservations. Minimum flows and levels are limits set by the District Governing Board for surface waters and groundwater systems that are intended to prevent significant harm to the water resources or ecology of the area that may be caused by water withdrawals. Reservations set aside water from withdrawals for the protection of fish and wildlife or public health and safety.

The Districts are required to update this List and Schedule each year and provide the updated List to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) by November 15th. Included as exhibits to this item are the MFLs that have been established to-date, and the proposed Priority Lists and Schedules for waterbodies within the WRWSA four-county area that are to be approved by the District Governing Boards for submittal to the DEP in November. A GIS map of the MFL locations and the current status of the MFL are provided by the DEP Office of Water Policy.

The Water Management Districts will use these MFLs to assess the health of the environment and will limit the issuance of future water supply permits based on monitoring these locations. All MFLs are currently being met except for the Silver Spring MFL, which is listed as "Prevention" which means that the SJRWMD has a Prevention Strategy in place to bring it back to "Meeting" the MFL. This strategy includes conservation, aquifer recharge with the Ocala wetland aquifer recharge park, relocating supply to the lower Floridan aquifer, and increasing use of reclaimed for irrigation.

The most relevant upcoming MFLs to be set will be four locations along the Withlacoochee River, three of which were "rescheduled from 2024 to 2025 based on delayed acquisition of topographic data necessary for hydrologic model development" and the fourth (Lower segment) rescheduled from 2024 to 2026 "to allow for acquisition of critical environmental data necessary for hydrological modeling of the estuarine portion of the river".

The Withlacoochee River has been identified as a potential alternative water supply source for the region, but the potential quantities that could be available cannot be determined until the minimum flows are set. WRWSA will continue to monitor and report on efforts to set these MFLs.

This item was for information only and no Board action was required.

10. Legislative Report

Ms. Suzannah Folsom, WRWSA Executive Director, presented this item. The 2024 Florida Legislative Session is scheduled to start January 9, 2024 and end March 8, 2024. Staff will gather information on relevant bills that are related to conservation and water supply from SWFWMD, 1000 Friends of Florida, and the Florida Engineering Society's Conservation and Environmental Quality Committee, and the House and Senate websites. Hernando County and Sumter County both held their local legislative delegation meetings on October 26, 2023.

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

11. Attorney's Report – Mr. Batsel was not present and Mr. James Hartley was introduced as his assistant. No report provided at this time.

12. Executive Director's Report – Ms. Folsom presented the following items which required no action.

- a. **Water Use Permit Demand Summary** - A summary was in the Board's meeting materials. .
- b. **Water Management Information System Water Use Permit Notifications** – A list of notifications was included in the Board's meeting materials.
- c. **Residential Irrigation Evaluation Programs Update** – Residential irrigation evaluations are great tools to promote water conservation, and help municipalities meet their per capita water usage goals. This was a progress update on the three residential irrigation evaluation programs that WRWSA is currently ongoing.
- d. **Regional Water Supply Plan Update** - The Authority entered into a cooperative funding agreement with the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) in December 2022 (23CF0004079) for Regional Water Supply Plan Update project. With the assistance of the SWFWMD, St. Johns River Water Management District, and a Technical Advisory Committee comprised of representatives from member governments and public supply utilities in the four-county region, the Plan Update is being coordinated. The consultant has been working on population and demand projections, and conservation reuse evaluations.
- e. **Correspondence** – Several items were included in meeting materials.
- f. **News Articles** – Several articles were included in meeting materials.

12. Other Business – Ms. Folsom noted Mr. Brown was not here to receive a plaque honoring his 10 years of service on the Board. Mr. Frink will present the plaque to him at the City of Crystal River's next council meeting.

13. Next Meeting Time and Location

- Next Regular Board Meeting – January 24, 2024, at 3:30 p.m. at the Lecanto Government Building, Room 166. (*Meeting moved one week later due to Florida Association of Counties Legislative Day in Tallahassee on January 17.*)

14. Adjournment – Treasurer Estep adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Jeff Kinnard, Chair

Suzannah J. Folsom, Executive Director

Item 6.b.

Consent Agenda

Bills to be Paid

**October, November and December 2023
bills in the meeting materials.**

January 2024 bills to be provided at meeting.

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

Bills For Payment
10/18/2023

<u>Administrative Invoices</u>	<u>Invoice Number(s)</u>	<u>Invoice Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Suzannah J. Folsom, PE, Executive Director	1277	10/2/2023	\$7,581.68
Rob Batsel, General Counsel	7258	9/30/2023	\$540.50
C. LuAnne Stout, Admin Asst (Admin Services)	9-Sep-23	10/2/2023	\$3,315.00
David Bailey (Sept Bd Travel)		9/20/2023	\$19.58
Robert "Bo" Smith (Sept Bd Travel)		9/20/2023	\$36.49
Dale Swain (Sept Bd Travel)		9/20/2023	\$27.59
Don Wiley (Sept Bd Travel)		9/20/2023	\$27.59
FL Dept of Economic Opportunity (Special District Fee)	88556	10/2/2023	\$175.00
Nature Coast Web Design & Marketing (Contract/Monthly)	17477/17511	9/7,25/2023	\$1,200.00
Citrus Chronicle (Yearly Cal Bd Mtgs)	199DDC1	10/1/2023	\$67.55
Tampa Bay Times (Yearly Cal Bd Mtgs)	309562	10/1/2023	\$78.00
Truist Bank Business Card Statement	10.2.2023	10/2/2023	\$580.80
Total Administrative Invoices			\$13,649.78

<u>Water Supply Studies and Facilities</u>	<u>Contract/ Budget</u>	<u>Balance Remaining</u>	<u>Current</u>
2023 General Services Contract	\$20,000.00		
Work Order 2023-01 INTERA Incorporated	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	
Work Order 2023-02 Hazen and Sawyer	\$10,000.00	\$1,850.00	
FY22-23 Water Conservation Grants Program	\$140,000.00		
Citrus County	\$35,075.00	\$35,075.00	
Hernando County	\$49,750.00	\$49,750.00	
Marion County	\$14,081.25	\$5,739.17	
Sumter County	\$23,000.00	\$23,000.00	
Regional Water Supply Plan Update (Q324)	\$350,000.00	\$243,081.40	
Phase 7 Irrigation Program (Q306)	\$102,000.00	\$62,396.25	\$7,105.00 (1)
FY22-23 Total Project Invoices	\$612,000.00	\$430,891.82	\$7,105.00

Total Bills to be Paid	\$20,754.78
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State Board of Administration	Transfer from SBA2 to SBA1	\$13,649.78
Deposit to Truist (Citrus BOCC Q306 Coop Match)	Subtract from SBA1 Transfer	\$1,630.50
State Board of Administration	Transfer from SBA1 to Truist Bank	\$19,124.28

Notes:

(1) Phase 7 (Q306) - Irrigation Audits

Jack Overdorff, ECO Land Design	\$6,255.00	Invoice 577
C. LuAnne Stout, Admin Services	\$850.00	Invoice 9-Sep-Q306-2023
	<u>\$7,105.00</u>	

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

Bills For Payment
11/16/2023

<u>Administrative Invoices</u>	<u>Invoice Number(s)</u>	<u>Invoice Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Suzannah J. Folsom, PE, Executive Director	1286	11/1/2023	\$7,844.35
Rob Batsel, General Counsel	8645	10/31/2023	\$164.50
C. LuAnne Stout, Admin Asst (Admin Services)	10-Oct-23	11/1/2023	\$3,415.00
Nature Coast Web Design & Marketing (Contract/Monthly)	17627	11/1/2023	\$200.00
Purvis & Gray Co (FIN Statement Qtr ended 6/20/2023)	58385	10/18/2023	\$750.00
Citrus Co BoCC (Rent Lease for WRWSA Ofc)	RLEX001104	10/19/2023	\$2,047.68
FL Div of Administration (Advertise FY2023 Mtg Dates)	141448	11/9/2023	\$40.46
Truist Bank Business Card Statement	11.02.2023	11/2/2023	\$604.63
Total Administrative Invoices			\$15,066.62

<u>Water Supply Studies and Facilities</u>	<u>Contract/ Budget</u>	<u>Balance Remaining</u>	<u>Current</u>
2023 General Services Contract	\$20,000.00		
Work Order 2023-01 INTERA Incorporated	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	
Work Order 2023-02 Hazen and Sawyer	\$10,000.00	\$1,850.00	
FY22-23 Water Conservation Grants Program	\$140,000.00		
Citrus County	\$35,075.00	\$2,718.50	\$32,356.50 (1)
Hernando County	\$49,750.00	\$49,750.00	
Marion County	\$14,081.25	\$5,739.17	
Sumter County	\$23,000.00	\$23,000.00	
Regional Water Supply Plan Update (Q324)	\$350,000.00	\$200,577.00	\$42,504.40 (2)
Phase 7 Irrigation Program (Q306)	\$102,000.00	\$53,854.20	\$8,542.05 (3)
FY22-23 Total Project Invoices	\$612,000.00	\$347,488.87	\$83,402.95

Total Bills to be Paid	\$98,469.57
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State Board of Administration	Transfer from SBA2 to SBA1	\$15,066.62
Deposit to Truist (SWFWMD Q306 Inv 1 & 2 Reimbursement)	Subtract from SBA1 Transfer	\$11,378.87
State Board of Administration	Transfer from SBA1 to Truist Bank	\$87,090.70

Notes:

(1) Marion County Water Conservation Program	\$32,356.50	Invoice WCL-2023-05 11/01/2023
(2) RWSP Update - Hazen and Sawyer Project 41173-000	\$42,504.40	Invoice 0000004 11/3/2023
(3) Phase 7 (Q306) - Irrigation Audits		
Jack Overdorff, ECO Land Design	\$7,592.05	Invoice 583
C. LuAnne Stout, Admin Services	\$950.00	Invoice 10-Oct-Q306-2023
	<u>\$8,542.05</u>	

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

Bills For Payment
12/20/2023

<u>Administrative Invoices</u>	<u>Invoice Number(s)</u>	<u>Invoice Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Suzannah J. Folsom, PE, Executive Director	1291	11/30/2023	\$7,763.98
Rob Batsel, General Counsel	6143	11/30/2023	\$587.50
C. LuAnne Stout, Admin Asst (Admin Services)	11-Nov-23	12/1/2023	\$3,415.00
David Bailey (Bd Travel)		11/8/2023	\$19.58
Craig Estep (Bd Travel)		11/8/2023	\$27.59
Robert "Bo" Smith (Bd Travel)		11/8/2023	\$36.49
Nature Coast Web Design & Marketing (Contract/Monthly)		12/1/2023	\$200.00
Gannett LocalIQ (Advertise 2024 Board Calendar)	598469	11/20/2023	\$353.82
Alliance for Water Efficiency (Membership Renewal)	10067	1/1/2024	\$525.00
Truist Bank Business Card Statement	12.02.2023	12/2/2023	\$988.50
Total Administrative Invoices			\$13,917.46

<u>Water Supply Studies and Facilities</u>	<u>Contract/ Budget</u>	<u>Balance Remaining</u>	<u>Current</u>
2023 General Services Contract	\$20,000.00		
Work Order 2023-01 INTERA Incorporated	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	
Work Order 2023-02 Hazen and Sawyer	\$10,000.00	\$5.00	\$1,845.00 (1)
FY22-23 Water Conservation Grants Program	\$140,000.00		
Citrus County	\$35,075.00	\$2,718.50	
Hernando County	\$49,750.00	\$9,486.53	\$40,263.47 (2)
Marion County	\$14,081.25	\$5,739.17	
Sumter County	\$23,000.00	\$23,000.00	
Regional Water Supply Plan Update (Q324)	\$350,000.00	\$200,577.00	
SJRWMD Irrigation Audits (East I-75)	\$60,000.00	\$55,223.70	\$4,776.30 (3)
Phase 7 Irrigation Program (Q306)	\$102,000.00	\$51,039.75	\$3,164.45 (4)
FY22-23 Total Project Invoices	\$612,000.00	\$302,565.95	\$50,049.22

Total Bills to be Paid	\$63,966.68
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State Board of Administration	Transfer from SBA2 to SBA1	\$13,917.46
Deposit to Truist (Citrus Co 2024 First Qtr Assmnt)	Subtract from SBA1 Transfer	\$7,505.50
State Board of Administration	Transfer from SBA1 to Truist Bank	\$56,461.18

Notes:

- | | | |
|--|-------------------|------------------------------|
| (1) Hazen and Sawyer Irrigation Evaluations Prject 41173-001 | \$1,845.00 | Invoice 002 12/18/2023 |
| (2) Hernando County Water Conservation Program | \$40,263.47 | Invoice UTY23-060 11/17/2023 |
| (3) SJRWMD Irrigation Audits (East I-75) | | |
| Jack Overdorff, ECO Land Design | \$4,376.30 | Invoice 596 |
| C. LuAnne Stout, Admin Services | \$400.00 | Invoice 11-Nov-SJR East-2023 |
| | <u>\$4,776.30</u> | |
| (4) Phase 7 (Q306) - Irrigation Audits | | |
| Jack Overdorff, ECO Land Design | \$2,814.45 | Invoice 597 |
| C. LuAnne Stout, Admin Services | \$350.00 | Invoice 11-Nov-Q306-2023 |
| | <u>\$3,164.45</u> | |

Election of Board Officers

The Board of the WRWSA annually elects its Board officers, including a Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer at its January meeting. The Executive Director is the Board Secretary who serves in an ex-officio capacity. Pursuant to the Election of Officers Policy, included as an exhibit to this item, the Board may entertain nominations for individual officers or a slate of officers. Typically, the current Vice Chair is nominated to become Chair and the current Treasurer is nominated to become Vice Chair. The office of Treasurer is customarily filled by a Board member from the county without a representative as an officer in the current slate of officers. This practice is informal, and circumstances may warrant nominations and elections to deviate from this practice. Also, pursuant to the Board Policy, the current Chair will chair the complete January meeting. The new officers will take their respective seats 24 hours before the next Board meeting.

Citrus County Commissioner Jeff Kinnard Bryant is currently the Board Chair.

The natural succession would have Commissioner Narverud move into the Chair position, Commissioner Estep move to the Vice Chair position, and a Marion County Commissioner nominated to be in the Treasurer Position. Officers can serve two consecutive one-year terms and Commissioner Kinnard is willing to serve another term as Chair.

The next officer election will be scheduled in January 2025.


SECTION VIII. – Officers: The officers of the Governing Board shall be as follows:

1. A Chairman, who shall preside at meetings of the Governing Board; sign, as authorized by the Governing Board, any contracts or other instruments which are deemed to be in the best interest of the Authority; and perform such other duties incident to the office as may be prescribed by the Governing Board.
2. A Vice Chairman, who shall act in the Chairman's absence. The Vice Chairman shall perform such other functions as the Governing Board may from time to time assign.
3. A Treasurer, who shall be entrusted with the receipt, care and disbursement of Authority funds in accordance with fiscal policies and regulations adopted by the Governing Board.
4. If none of the above officers are present at a Board meeting where there is otherwise a quorum, the Authority Board may elect a chairman pro-tem for the duration of the meeting.

See Exhibits

Staff Recommendation:

Board election of officers.

BOARD POLICY WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY			
TITLE: BOARD MEMBER DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES			
NUMBER: 2015-03		PAGE: 1 OF 4	
APPROVED BY: 	AL BUTLER, CHAIR	EFFECTIVE DATE: 3-18-15	SUPERSEDES:

The purpose of this Policy is to clarify and facilitate the duties and responsibilities of members of the Board of Directors.

The WRWSA's Board of Directors is comprised of thirteen (13) members who are appointed by the respective member governments governing bodies. Annually in January, members of the Board elect three (3) officers: Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer, who serve in their respective offices for one year. The following is an outline of the duties and responsibilities of the three Board Officers and the general duties of all Board members.

1. CHAIR

The Board Chair has the duties and responsibilities historically associated with the presiding officer in an organizational setting, as governed by Robert's Rules of Order, as well as certain other specific duties established by Board Policy. The duties of the Board Chair include, but may not be limited to, the following:

- a. Presiding over all meetings of the Board, which includes keeping order, being fair and impartial, enforcing the rules and decorum of debate and protecting the rights of all Board members;
- b. Being familiar with the basic rules of calling a meeting to order and declaring a meeting adjourned, establishing and following an agenda and the proper steps in making, debating and voting on motions;
- c. Recognizing Board members who wish to speak; no member may speak to a subject under discussion or introduce a motion without recognition by the Chair. When more than one member requests recognition at the same time, the order of speakers will be determined as fairly as possible by the Chair;
- d. Using the Chair's prerogative, when appropriate, to limit member debate by enacting time limits in accordance with Board Policy;
- e. Using the Chair's prerogative, when appropriate, to grant exception to the three-minute time limit allowed to members of the public wishing to address the Board;
- f. Ruling out of order any member of the public who speaks out of order, who fails to address the Board according to Board Policy or who is making profane, irrelevant or inflammatory statements;
- g. Presiding over annual elections by accepting nominations and motions to nominations, putting the nominations to vote and announcing the results in accordance with Board Policy;

BOARD POLICY WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY			
TITLE: BOARD MEMBER DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES NUMBER: 2015-03		PAGE: 2 OF 4	
APPROVED BY:	AL BUTLER, CHAIR	EFFECTIVE DATE: <u>3-18-15</u>	SUPERSEDES:

- h. Annually appointing members, committee chairs, committee vice chairs and Board liaisons to any Board and other committees that may be established, after seeking input from Board members.
- i. Signing the official minutes of Board meetings, Board Policies and other documents;
- j. Signing (along with the Executive Director or, in the absence of the Executive Director, another Board officer) Authority checks, either manually or by facsimile signature;
- k. Approving non-scheduled travel outside the Authority or travel to attend conferences or conventions outside the Authority by Board members or the Executive Director, as required by the Authority's Travel Policy when travel is expected to occur prior to the Board's ability to approve such travel;
- l. Concurring with the Executive Director and General Counsel in the initiation of legal action initiated in advance of full Board approval, if necessary, in the best interest of the Authority;
- m. Consulting with the Executive Director and General Counsel in the procurement of outside legal services necessary to adequately represent the Board and the Authority;
- n. Executing certain documents on behalf of the Board, including agreements for the recruitment, selection and compensation of the Executive Director, Board Policies, Settlement Agreements and certain other documents where signature authority has not been delegated to the Executive Director;
- o. Making final legislative policy decisions in the event that time frames preclude formal Board action as it pertains to any pending legislation, and reporting the same to the full Board at the next regularly scheduled meeting; and
- p. Other such duties as may be required on behalf of the Board of Directors.

2. VICE CHAIR

The office of the Board Vice Chair generally involves assuming all the duties and responsibilities of the Chair, including presiding at Board of Director meetings, when the Chair is unable to be physically present at a meeting or if the office of the Chair is vacated for any reason. In the case of disability, resignation, non-reappointment or death of the Chair, the Vice Chair shall become the Chair for the remainder of the Chair's term. The Vice Chair may have other duties as assigned by the Chair on behalf of the Board.

BOARD POLICY WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY			
TITLE: BOARD MEMBER DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES NUMBER: 2015-03		PAGE: 3 OF 4	
APPROVED BY:	AL BUTLER, CHAIR	EFFECTIVE DATE: 3-18-15	SUPERSEDES:

3. TREASURER

The Board Treasurer has specific duties and responsibilities as expressed by Robert's Rules of Order and by Board Policy. The duties of the Board Treasurer include, but may not be limited to, the following:

- a. Signing, in the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair, either manually or by facsimile signature, all checks issued by the Authority, which are counter-signed by the Executive Director or another Board Officer;
- b. Signing, as primary signatory, either manually or by facsimile signature, all Authority financial account documents, documents to alter account structure or close accounts, and other financial reporting documents required by statute;
- c. Receiving the Authority's monthly report on cash and investments;
- d. Consulting with the Executive Director and staff in the preparation of the annual budget and annual third-party financial audit;
- e. Presiding over meetings, and assuming all of the duties of the Chair, in the event that the Chair and the Vice Chair are unable to physically be present at a meeting, if the Chair and the Vice Chair have to step down for any reason, or if the offices of the Chair and the Vice Chair are vacated for any reason;
- f. Customarily presiding over Budget Hearings conducted pursuant to Sections 200.065 and 373.536, Florida Statutes, at the prerogative of the Chair; and
- g. Assuming other such duties as assigned by the Chair and on behalf of the Board of Directors.

4. MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Each Board member has certain duties and responsibilities in the public trust, as set forth generally in Robert's Rules of Order, and as further established by Board Policy, to wit:


- a. Regularly attending meetings, hearings and workshops;
- b. Adequately preparing for meetings, hearings and workshops by reviewing the Agenda and Board Packet and being versed on the issues to come before the Board;
- c. Knowing the rules of order and debate, having an adequate knowledge of the various motions and parliamentary procedure and participating in debate as appropriate;

<p style="text-align: center;">BOARD POLICY WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY</p>
<p>TITLE: BOARD MEMBER DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES NUMBER 2015-03</p> <p style="text-align: right;">PAGE: 4 OF 4</p>
<p>APPROVED BY: AL BUTLER, CHAIR EFFECTIVE DATE: 3-18-15 SUPERSEDES:</p>

- d. Accepting Board Committee and other committee assignments as assigned by the Chair and performing assigned tasks in a timely manner;
- e. Complying with laws governing public service, including Florida's Government-in-the Sunshine law and the Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees, as well as the financial reporting requirements found in Chapter 112, Florida Statutes and the Florida Constitution;
- f. Calling out a Point of Order only when a serious breach of the rules of debate has taken place;
- g. Voting on all issues before the Board except in the case of a voting conflict of interest pursuant to Section 112.3143, Florida Statutes, which requires that a Board member recuse him or herself in the event of conflicts of interest as outlined therein; and
- h. Other such duties as may be assigned by the Chair of the Board of Directors.

AUTHORITY: Chapter 373, Florida Statutes
Chapter 112, Florida Statutes
Section 200.065, Florida Statutes

REFERENCE: Board Policy 2015-01, Election of Board Officers
Board Policy 2015-02, Conduct of Board Meetings
Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, Eleventh Edition (2011)

BOARD POLICY	
WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY	
TITLE: ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS	
NUMBER 2015-01	PAGE: 1 OF 2
APPROVED BY:  JIM ADKINS, CHAIR	EFFECTIVE DATE: 01-21-2015 SUPERSEDES: N.A.

The purpose of this Policy is to clarify and facilitate the election process for Board of Directors Officers.

1. Officer Elections

The Board of Directors shall elect officers from its members in the following order:

- Chair
- Vice Chair
- Treasurer

The Executive Director shall serve as the non-voting Secretary for the Board.

2. Schedule for Elections

Election of officers shall occur annually in January. Elections will take place during the beginning of the Board meeting. New officers will assume offices twenty-four (24) hours prior to the next Board meeting.

3. Procedure for Election of Officers

- a. Separate elections shall be held for each office. The Board shall complete all voting on each individual office before proceeding to vote on the next office. Notwithstanding, a nomination for a slate of officers (Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer) may be made prior to the Chair accepting nominations for the office of Chair.
- b. Nominations for new officers shall be made orally.
- c. When everyone has had a reasonable opportunity to nominate, the Chair will accept a motion to close nominations.
- d. The Chair shall then proceed to put the nomination(s) to vote. If there is only one nomination for an individual office, or a slate of officers (Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer) is nominated, the Chair shall call for a vote orally. If there is more than one nomination for an office, the Chair shall call for a vote by ballot. Ballots must be signed by each member when voting.
- e. The Executive Director, with the assistance of the General Counsel, shall count the ballots, and the Chair will announce the results.
- f. Elections shall be determined by a majority.
- g. Should no candidate receive a majority on the first ballot, voting will continue with subsequent ballots until one candidate is elected. In the event three or more candidates are on the ballot, the names of all candidates will remain on subsequent ballots.
- h. If a candidate is present and does not decline, or if a candidate is absent but has consented to the candidacy, the candidate is elected. If the candidate is absent, has not consented to be a candidate and does not immediately decline upon being notified, the

BOARD POLICY WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY		
TITLE: ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS NUMBER 2015-01		PAGE: 2 OF 2
APPROVED BY:	JIM ADKINS, CHAIR	EFFECTIVE DATE: 01-21-2015 SUPERSEDES: N.A.

candidate is elected. If a person declines election, there is a failure to elect, and the Board may proceed to continue the election.

- i. Elections will be held in accordance with *Robert's Rules of Order*, except as otherwise specified above.

4. Terms of Office

Board members elected to office will hold office until the next election of officers is held, unless the office is vacated. Officers serve one-year terms. No officer shall serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office.

5. Filling Vacancies

A vacancy in any office shall be filled at the meeting of the Board of Directors at which the vacancy occurs or the next meeting after the vacancy occurs unless delayed to a date certain by action of the Board. In case of disability, resignation, non-reappointment or death of the Chair, the Vice Chair shall become the chair for the remainder of the Chair's term.

6. Practice of Rotating Offices

It is the practice of the Board to rotate offices among the Board representatives from each county, such that three of the four counties comprising the Authority have a representative as an officer (Chair, Vice Chair or Treasurer) of the Board. Typically, the current Vice Chair is nominated to become Chair and the current Treasurer is nominated to become Vice Chair. The office of Treasurer is customarily filled by a Board member from the county without a representative as an officer in the current slate of officers. This practice is informal and circumstances may warrant nominations and elections to deviate from this practice.

AUTHORITY: Chapter 373, Florida Statutes

REFERENCE: Section 286.011, Florida Statutes (Government in the Sunshine Law)
Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, Eleventh Edition (2011)

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

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

Citrus County has submitted to the Authority the annual report for the Charles A. Black (CAB) Wellfield Renewal and Replacement (R&R) Fund, documenting deposits and expenditures for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2023, which is included as an exhibit to this item.

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

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

The R&R Fund was credited with \$270,000 in deposits from Citrus County and \$95,865.76 in interest revenue. Expenditures for totaled \$94,970.05 for permit renewal, flow meter repairs, breaker repairs at Well #7, generator tank repairs, motor soft starter, other repairs at Well #7. The R&R Fund balance increased from \$2,036,485.32 to \$2,307,381.03.

See Exhibit

Staff Recommendation:

Board acceptance of Citrus County's annual report for the CAB R&R Fund, documenting expenditures and deposits for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2023.



ANGELA VICK
EX-OFFICIO CLERK
TO THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Citrus County, Florida



110 North Apopka Avenue, Inverness, FL 34450
(352) 341-6424 • Fax (352) 341-6458
ssullivan@citrusclerk.org

January 8, 2024

Ms. Suzannah Folsom
Withlacoochee River Water Supply Authority
3600 West Sovereign Path – Suite 228
Lecanto, Florida 34461

Dear Ms. Folsom:

Enclosed is a listing of the interest revenue and transfers to as well as expenditures Citrus County made from the renewal and replacement fund for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2023. These expenditures were allowed by the Water Supply Contract between Withlacoochee Water Supply Authority and Citrus County, Florida, dated October 12, 2016. This information is provided so that your records may accurately reflect the change in the amount of this fund. The following is a summary of the transactions in the renewal and replacement fund:

Beginning Balance 10/1/2022	\$2,036,485.32
Deposit	270,000.00
Interest Revenue	95,865.76
Less: Expenses	<u>(94,970.05)</u>
Ending Balance 9/30/2023	<u>\$2,307,381.03</u>

A detailed report of the above activity is attached along with copies of the individual invoices. If you have any questions regarding these transactions, please call me at 352-341-6464.

Sincerely,

Susan Sullivan, CPA
Senior Financial Analyst

Enclosures

Cc via e-mail: Steve Howard, County Administrator
Ken Cheek, Water Resources Director

Item 9

**Residential Irrigation
System Evaluation
Project Phase VI –
Final Report (Q138)**

Regional Irrigation System Evaluation Project Phase VI – Final Report

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

Phase VI (Q138) of the Authority's Regional Irrigation System Evaluation Program began in December 2020 as part of the Authority's ongoing water conservation initiative. Phase VI of the Irrigation Audit Program was funded by and completed in cooperation with the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD), Citrus, Hernando, and Marion counties and the North Sumter County Utility Dependent District (NSCUDD) and the Villages Community Center Development District (VCCDD).

The final report details the number of evaluations completed, the estimated water saved, and the cost effectiveness of this phase of the program. Phase VI was completed on time and within budget. A summary of the major findings of the Phase VI effort will be presented at the meeting. The Phase VI final report is provided as an exhibit.

See Exhibit – Final Report (separate document)

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the Board accept the final report, and authorizes staff to submit it to SWFWMD.

Regional Water Supply Plan Update – Status Report

Ms. Lisa Krentz, Hazen and Sawyer, will present this item.

Hazen and Sawyer will present on the Population and Demand projections that will be used as part of the 2024 Regional Water Supply Plan Update.

The Authority entered into a cooperative funding agreement with the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) in December 2022 (23CF0004079) for Regional Water Supply Plan Update project. The Authority entered into a contract with Hazen and Sawyer in January 2023 to undertake the project.

With the assistance of the SWFWMD, St. Johns River Water Management District, and a Technical Advisory Committee comprised of representatives from member governments and public supply utilities in the four-county region, the Plan Update is being coordinated.

Task Summary

Task	Description	Schedule	% Complete
1	Project Management and Stakeholder Engagement	February 2023 - November 2024	60%
2	Data Collection and Processing	February 2023 – January 2024	Complete
3	Population and Demand Estimates	February 2023 – December 2023	80%
4	Water Conservation and Reuse Evaluation	February 2023 – January 2024	80%
5	Water Sources Evaluation	February 2023 – February 2024	0%
6	Water Supply Project Options	October 2023 – April 2024	0%
7	Recommendations	February 2024 – June 2024	0%
8	Draft and Final Report	February 2024 – September 2024	0%

Project Billing Summary

Hazen and Sawyer Contract Amount	Billed To Date	Remaining	SWFWMD Reimbursement Received
\$350,000.00	\$179,474.00	\$170,526.00	\$21,998.50

Staff Recommendation:

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

Legislative Report

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

The 2024 Legislative Regular Session began on January 9, 2024 and is scheduled to end March 8, 2024. Staff will gather information on relevant bills that are related to conservation and water supply from SWFWMD, 1000 Friends of Florida, and the Florida Engineering Society's Conservation and Environmental Quality Committee, and the House and Senate websites.

A summary of the bills that WRWSA staff are tracking is provided as an Exhibit to this item. Please let us know if there are any addition items that we should be tracking, and if there is any additional information that we can provide.

See Exhibit – Bill Tracking

Staff Recommendation:

This in an information item, no action is required.

Bill Title	Significance	Bill	Sponsors	Status
Saltwater Intrusion Vulnerability Assessments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Authorizes FDEP to provide coastal counties with Resilient Florida Grant Program grants for saltwater intrusion vulnerability assessments Requires FDEP to update and publicize the comprehensive statewide flood vulnerability and sea level rise data set 	SB 298	Sen Polsky	In Fiscal Policy Committee 12/6/23
		HB 1079	Rep McFarland	Filed on 12/30/23
Statewide Environmental permitting Rules	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revises the requirement for slopes along stormwater ponds 	HB 406	Rep Rodriguez	On Environment and Natural Resources Committee Agenda for 1/10/24
Land Acquisition Trust Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides an annual appropriation to FDEP to implement the 2017 Heartland Headwaters Protection and Sustainability Act 	SB 452	Sen Burton	On Environment and Natural Resources Committee agenda for 1/10/24
		HB 451	Rep Bell	In Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee as of 11/22/23
Excise Tax on Water Extracted for Commercial or Industrial Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Imposes an excise tax on extractions of water from waters of the state for commercial or industrial use (agricultural use exempt) for use in the FDEP's Water Protection and Sustainability Program 	SB 510	Sen Stewart	Referred to Environment and Natural Resources, Finance and Tax, and Appropriations Committees on 12/5/23
Environmental Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Entitlement to recover costs and attorney fees against FDEP Stormwater Pond maximum steepness of 1:4 slope Coastal permitting process review to increase efficiency and allow for improved storm recovery 	SB 738	Sen Burgess	On Environment and Natural Resources Committee Agenda for 1/10/24
		HB 789	Rep Overdorf	in Water Quality, Supply & Treatment Subcommittee as of 12/27/23
Department of Environmental Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expansion of Aquatic Preserves with no Vessel restrictions Defines "Florida Flood Hub" a public private partnership as part of ongoing resilience efforts Requires FDEP to enforce violations of onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems (septic tanks) Requires certain facilities and systems to include a domestic wastewater treatment plan as part of a BMAP for nutrient TMDL 	SB 1386	Sen. Calatayud	Bill Filed on 1/4/24

Item 12

Attorney's Report

To be provided at meeting

Item 13.a.

Executive Director's Report

Water Use Permit Demand Summary

Updated 01/03/2024

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 2023 GPD	RWSP Accuracy for 2023 +/-%
Citrus County								
207.007	City of Crystal River	3/27/2032	919,000	817,051	835,874	88.9%	746,000	-8.7%
419.013	City of Inverness	5/18/2031	1,535,000	1,186,405	1,117,595	77.3%	1,144,000	-3.6%
1118.008	Floral City Water Association, Inc.	2/28/2038	395,000	382,096	357,586	96.7%	306,000	-19.9%
2842.011	Citrus County	8/25/2035	4,780,000	3,156,767	2,718,883	66.0%	2,654,000	-15.9%
4153.015	Rolling Oaks Utilities, Inc.	8/20/2038	1,573,000	1,869,732	1,615,514	118.9%	1,510,000	-19.2%
4406.009	Homosassa Special Water District	8/25/2032	951,000	828,099	828,302	87.1%	766,000	-7.5%
7121.007	Citrus County - Charles A Black	8/22/2043	7,181,900	5,566,696	5,008,102	77.5%	3,788,000	-32.0%
9791.011	Citrus County - Sugarmill Woods	11/17/2025	2,435,300	2,816,251	2,280,405	115.6%	2,374,000	-15.7%
11839.01	GCP Walden Wds. One & Two, LLC, c/o Sun Communities, Inc.	4/23/2039	187,900	159,501	167,654	84.9%	140,000	-12.2%
Hernando County								
5789.014	Hernando Co. BOCC, Wiscon Maintenance Compound/Attn: Landis Legg	1/23/2041	24,360,000	21,752,715	19,426,608	89.3%	19,396,000	-10.8%
7627.005	City of Brooksville	2/25/2024	2,448,000	1,423,380	1,388,371	58.1%	1,144,000	-19.6%
Marion County - SWFWMD								
1156.013	Bay Laurel Community Development District	2/23/2041	7,560,900	4,575,433	3,840,438	60.5%	2,722,000	-40.5%
5643.008	Utilities, Inc. of Florida - Golden Hills	2/23/2036	188,400	133,835	136,687	71.0%	160,000	19.5%
6151.014	Marion County Utilities Consolidated WUP	1/22/2043	9,323,500	8,689,721	6,327,250	93.2%	5,352,000	-38.4%
8020.008	Association of Marion Landing Owners, Inc.	9/9/2040	179,400	129,928	132,688	72.4%	160,000	23.1%
8339.008	Florida Governmental Utility Authority-Dunellon	3/21/2035	1,117,100	1,332,544	1,282,843	119.3%	952,000	-28.6%
Marion County - SJRWMD								
2993-12	CSWR-Florida Utility Operating Company - South Marion Regional	5/27/2042	231,000	273,223	184,752	118.3%	236,000	-13.6%
2995-7	Tradewinds Utilities Inc	2/27/2035	227,000	90,992	94,417	40.1%	100,000	9.9%
3016-4	Ocala East Villas Inc	8/27/2031	107,000	84,337	90,801	78.8%	100,000	18.6%
3021-5	Rolling Greens Communities	9/13/2025	610,000	473,912	424,585	77.7%	350,000	-26.1%
3043-7	Florida Governmental Utility Authority - Ocala Oaks	1/6/2040	194,000	161,357	140,615	83.2%	182,000	12.8%
3137-6	City of Belleview	10/11/2036	1,022,000	1,136,060	1,002,788	111.2%	884,000	-22.2%
4578-8	Marion County Utilities Consolidated CUP	9/10/2023	7,090,000	6,839,488	6,178,825	96.5%	6,782,000	-0.8%
50324-9	City of Ocala	8/7/2027	17,540,000	12,908,359	11,996,390	73.6%	11,556,000	-10.5%
Sumter County								
1368.008	Lake Panasoffkee Water Assoc Inc	8/22/2024	410,000	317,959	285,634	77.6%	344,000	8.2%
6519.01	City of Bushnell	3/29/2031	1,366,800	504,836	463,394	36.9%	730,000	44.6%
7185.007	City of Webster	5/23/2043	386,200	104,398	92,559	27.0%	190,000	82.0%
8135.015	City of Wildwood	3/31/2035	4,344,800	3,306,620	2,298,263	76.1%	4,916,000	48.7%
8193.006	City of Center Hill	11/18/2042	150,000	72,362	69,149	48.2%	186,000	157.0%
13005.01	Village Center Community Development District	1/23/2038	19,345,900	16,446,864	12,944,521	85.0%	24,646,000	49.9%
20721	South Sumter Utility Company	2/2/2038	2,600,000	1,700,973	not enough data	65.4%	n/a	n/a
12-month Rolling Average for most recent available data								
5-year Rolling Average for most recent available data								

Item 13.b.

Executive Director's Report

WMIS WUP Notifications

Updated January 8, 2024

Water Use Permit #	Applicant/Permittee Name	Activity Type	Date	Avg GPD	Peak GPD	Use Type	Status
Citrus County							
3467.004	StoneMor Florida, LLC - The Fountains Memorial Park	Renewal	8/14/2023	45,400	133,200	Landscape/ Recreation	In Review
21162.000	Brentwood Farms, LLC - Davis Reserve	New	11/27/2023	29,860	80,140	Landscape/ Recreation	Withdrawn 12/13/2023
12431.003	Brentwood Farms, LLC - Brentwood	Modification	12/11/2023	81,400	218,500	Landscape/ Recreation	In Review
13279.006	<i>Cabot Citrus OpCo, LLC - World Woods Golf Club*</i>	Modification	12/12/2023	734,800	1,645,000	Landscape/ Recreation	In Review
Hernando County							
5789.015	Hernando County BOCC - Hernando County Water System	Renewal	8/10/2022	24,360,000	31,911,600	Public Supply	Issued 12/12/2023
4430.004	Hernando County BOCC - Ernie Wever Park	Modification	5/22/2023	49,400	143,700	Landscape/ Recreation	In Review
7627.007	City of Brooksville	Renewal	9/6/2023	2,448,000	3,672,000	Public Supply	In Review
12517.002	Silverthorn Associates, LLC - Silverthorn Golf Club	Renewal	12/28/2023	421,700	1,042,000	Landscape/ Recreation	In Review
Marion County - SWFWMD							
9497.003	The Deltona Corporation - Marion Oaks Country Club	Renewal	3/23/2023	133,600	307,600	Landscape/ Recreation	In Review
5424.012	Secret Promise, Ltd.	Modification	12/14/2023	958,600	3,071,500	Agricultural	In Review
Sumter County							
21031.000	Blue Goose Utility Company, LLC	New	4/4/2022	5,836,600	8,500,000	Public Supply	In Review
21039.000	Blue Goose Water Conservation Authority, LLC	New	5/9/2022	3,835,200	19,358,900	Landscape/ Recreation	Issued 12/12/2023
20949.002	Gibson Place Water Conservation Authority	Modification	1/18/2023	4,466,000	22,341,000	Landscape/ Recreation	Issued 12/12/2023
20901.002	Gibson Place Utility Company, LLC	Modification	7/11/2023	3,985,700	5,800,000	Public Supply	In Review
8135.016	<i>City of Wildwood**</i>	Modification	9/19/2023	4,583,200	6,870,400	Public Supply	Issued 11/7/2023
6793.008	Old Florida Springs, LLLP	Transfer	10/13/2023	224,400	557,400	Landscape/ Recreation	In Review
20687.010	Wildwood Utility Dependent District	Modification	11/29/2023	2,632,700	16,578,400	Landscape/ Recreation	In Review
11259.004	A.C.M.S., Inc.	Renewal	12/4/2023	48,600	110,100	Industrial/ Commercial	Issued 1/4/2024
3374.007	13441 N. US Hwy. 301 Prop. Holdings, LLC**	Modification	12/11/2023	476,600	927,800	Agricultural	In Review
*WUP is located in both Citrus and Hernando Counties							
**WUP is located in both Sumter and Marion Counties							

Item 13.c.

Executive Director's Report

Residential Irrigation Evaluation Programs Update

Item 13.c.

Residential Irrigation Evaluation Programs Update

Suzy Folsom, Executive Director, will present this item.

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

Phase 6 Residential Irrigation Evaluation Program – SWFWMD

All of the evaluations have all been completed for this program phase. The Final Report is included in this Board Packet. A summary of the evaluations planned and completed is listed below:

Participating Utility	Total Evaluations To-date	Target # of Evaluations	Percent Complete
Citrus	57	53	108%
Hernando	60	44	136%
Marion	70	71	99%
Villages VCCDD-LSSA	20	16	125%
Villages NSCUDD-VWCA	25	32	78%
Total	232	216	107%

Phase 7 Residential Irrigation Evaluation Program – SWFWMD

This program began in December 2022. 66% of the planned evaluation have been completed to date. This program will be complete in December 2025.

Participating Utility	Total Evaluations To-date	Target # of Evaluations	Percent Complete
Citrus	18	29	62%
Hernando	33	44	75%
Marion	13	71	18%
Villages VCCDD-LSSA	36	16	225%
Villages NSCUDD-VWCA	27	32	84%
Total	127	192	66%

Residential Irrigation Evaluation Program Pilot – SJRWMD

WRWSA started this new program in October 2023. WRWSA has been working with Marion County and the City of Belleview to identify the highest residential users. A mailing has been completed and evaluations have started for high water users in Marion County (east of Interstate 75 in the SJRWMD district area). A mailing for the high users in the City of Belleview has also been prepared, and evaluations are expected to begin in late January 2024. 22% of the planned evaluations have been completed in the first quarter.

Participating Utility	Total Evaluations To-date	Target # of Evaluations	Percent Complete
City of Belleview	0	20	0%
Marion County (East of 75)	13	40	33%
Total	0	60	22%

Item 13.d.

Executive Director's Report

Correspondence

ACCOUNT NUMBER	ESCROW CODE	MILLAGE CODE
2610271		0000

R

See reverse side for important information.

RECEIVED NOV 06 2023

69
5 - 24064WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER
SUPPLY AUTHORITY
3600 W SOVEREIGN PATH STE 228
LECANTO FL 34461-77181700 N BLUE JAY TER HERNANDO 344
WELL SITE #1- COM AT SE COR OF S
W1/4 OF NW1/4, TH N 0 DEG 4M 4S
W AL E LN OF SW1/4 OF NW1/4 545.
19 FT, TH S 89 DEG 55M 56S W 24.
40 FT TO POB, TH S 89 DEG 55M 56
See Additional Legal on Tax RollExemptions:
SWFWMD

MAILING ADDRESS: 210 N. APOPKA AVE., SUITE 100 • INVERNESS, FL 34450-4298 • (352) 341-6500

AD VALOREM TAXES					
TAXING AUTHORITY	ASSESSED VALUE	EXEMPTION AMOUNT	TAXABLE VALUE	MILLAGE RATE	TAXES LEVIED
General County	68,830	68,830	0	6.9951	0.00
Transportation Trust	68,830	68,830	0	.9860	0.00
Health Department	68,830	68,830	0	.0564	0.00
Library	68,830	68,830	0	.3147	0.00
Fire District	68,830	68,830	0	0.0000	0.00
Stormwater	68,830	68,830	0	0.0000	0.00
Fire Rescue EMS	68,830	68,830	0	.5780	0.00
Schools Local Req'd Effort	68,830	68,830	0	3.1960	0.00
Schools Capital Outlay	68,830	68,830	0	1.5000	0.00
Schools Discretionary	68,830	68,830	0	.7480	0.00
SWFWMD General	68,830	68,830	0	.2043	0.00
Mosquito Control	68,830	68,830	0	.3958	0.00
TOTAL				14.9743	\$0.00

NON-AD VALOREM ASSESSMENTS	
LEVYING AUTHORITY	AMOUNT
Avoid waiting in line-Pay ONLINE at www.citrustc.us	
TOTAL	
\$0.00	

COMBINED TAXES AND ASSESSMENTS	\$0.00
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IF POSTMARKED BY	Nov 30 2023 .00	Dec 31 2023 .00	Jan 31 2024 .00	Feb 29 2024 .00	Mar 31 2024 .00
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ACCOUNT NUMBER	ESCROW CODE	MILLAGE CODE
2610271		0000

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WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER
SUPPLY AUTHORITY
3600 W SOVERIGN PATH STE 228
LECANTO, FL 344611700 N BLUE JAY TER HERNANDO 344
WELL SITE #1- COM AT SE COR OF S
W1/4 OF NW1/4, TH N 0 DEG 4M 4S
W AL E LN OF SW1/4 OF NW1/4 545.
19 FT, TH S 89 DEG 55M 56S W 24.
40 FT TO POB, TH S 89 DEG 55M 56
See Additional Legal on Tax Roll

PAY IN U.S. FUNDS (NO POST DATED CHECKS) TO JANICE A. WARREN, TAX COLLECTOR • 210 N. APOPKA AVE., SUITE 100 • INVERNESS, FL 34450-4298

IF POSTMARKED BY	Nov 30 2023 .00	Dec 31 2023 .00	Jan 31 2024 .00	Feb 29 2024 .00	Mar 31 2024 .00
------------------	--------------------	--------------------	--------------------	--------------------	--------------------

UNDER MINIMUM TAX - DO NOT PAY

RETAIN THIS PORTION FOR YOUR RECORDS.
WALK-IN CUSTOMERS,
PLEASE BRING FOR RECEIPT.

DO NOT WRITE ON BOTTOM PORTION

****PLEASE READ IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS AND INFORMATION****

1. If you have **sold the real property** described in this notice, please send this notice to the new owners or return it to the Tax Collector's office immediately. If you **sold the tangible personal property**, but were the owner on January 1st of the tax year, you are responsible for the tax.
2. **E-Billing** – To receive your tax notice(s) by email please visit our website at www.citrusc.us > SEARCH & PAY ONLINE > Property Tax > Search
3. The COMBINED TAXES AND ASSESSMENTS reflect the full/base tax amount as indicated in the box if payment is made in March. Early payments are entitled to a discount, per F.S. 197.162. The discount has been deducted and is reflected in the November – February boxes.
4. Avoid waiting in line by using these payment options:
 - ONLINE at www.citrusc.us
 - MAIL in the envelope provided
 - DROP BOX at either location listed below
 - PHONE (credit cards only), please call (352) 341-6500

Please note a 2.5% processing fee will be added to all phone and online payments (minimum charge is \$2.50).

Postdated checks will be returned.

****PLEASE DO NOT SEND CASH BY MAIL****

Make checks payable to:

Janice A. Warren, Tax Collector

Payment must be in U.S. Dollars drawn on a U.S. Bank. Please note, your taxes are not "paid" until your check clears the bank.

5. The upper portion of this notice explains the ad valorem and non-ad valorem assessments on your property, which you may keep for your records. To obtain a receipt, return the bottom portion of your bill with a self-addressed stamped envelope. Your cancelled check may also serve as your receipt. When making an inquiry, please refer to the account number shown on your statement.
6. If you have not received notices for ALL of your Citrus County properties, please contact our office at (352) 341-6500. Pursuant to Section 197.122, Florida Statutes, "all owners of property are held to know that taxes are due and payable annually and are responsible for ascertaining the amount of current and delinquent taxes and paying them before April 1 of the year following the year in which taxes are assessed."
7. Please **verify the description, owner name and address** of the property. If any errors are found, notify the Property Appraiser at (352) 341-6600 or (352) 564-7130 as soon as possible. This tax notice covers taxes and non-ad valorem assessments for the calendar year January 1 through December 31, as shown on the front.

8. **TAXES BECOME DELINQUENT APRIL 1ST**. If postmark indicates payment was mailed on or after April 1st (delinquent date), the amount due is determined by the date payment is received by the Tax Collector. **Payments postmarked or received after March 31st are considered delinquent and will be returned if the correct amount is not remitted.**

For **real estate and non-ad valorem taxes**, beginning April 1st, interest of 3% is added per F.S. 197.172(1). Mid-April, advertising fees are added per F.S. 197.402(1). Tax Certificates will be sold on all unpaid accounts on or before June 1st, resulting in additional charges per F.S. 197.402 (3).

For **tangible personal property taxes**, beginning April 1st, interest of 1.5% per month is added per F.S. 197.172(3), along with a collection fee of \$10 per F.S. 197.413(10). Late April, advertising fees are added per F.S. 197.413(1). Tax Warrants are issued on all unpaid accounts for levy and seizure of personal property per F.S. 197.413.

9. **TAX COLLECTOR** (352) 341-6500- Responsible for preparation and mailing of tax notices based on information contained on the current tax roll, certified by the Property Appraiser, and Non-Ad Valorem assessments, provided by the levying authorities
10. **PROPERTY APPRAISER** (352) 341-6600 OR (352) 564-7130 - Responsible for preparations of the current ad valorem tax rolls, assessed value, exemptions, taxable value, assessed owner(s) name and address, address changes, and legal property description. Visit their website at www.citruspa.org
11. **CLERK OF COURT** (352) 341-6424 - For questions regarding recording a deed, including fees, or information on non-ad valorem assessments, please contact their office or visit their website at www.citrusclerk.org
12. **TOURIST TAX** Any person who rents or leases any accommodations for six months or less is subject to Tourist Tax. For more information concerning this tax, please contact the Florida Department of Revenue's Leesburg office at (352) 315-4470
13. **OFFICE LOCATIONS & OFFICE HOURS:**
Monday-Friday 8:30a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Main Office: Courthouse Annex
210 N Apopka Ave, Suite 100
Inverness, FL 34450
(352) 341-6500
Drive Thru available at this location

Branch Office: West Citrus Center
1540 N Meadowcrest Blvd
Crystal River, FL 34429
(352) 341-6500



RECEIVED NOV 06 2023

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT of STATE

RON DESANTIS
Governor

CORD BYRD
Secretary of State

November 1, 2023

Mrs. Suzannah Folsom
Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority
Lecanto Government Building
3600 West Sovereign Path, Suite 228
Lecanto, Florida 34461

Dear Mrs. Folsom:

As a Florida public agency, you are required by Rule 1B-24.003(11), *Florida Administrative Code*, to submit annually to the Division of Library and Information Services "a signed statement attesting to the agency's compliance with records disposition laws, rules, and procedures." Based on annual statements submitted for fiscal year 2022, we were pleased to report to the Legislature and the Executive Office of the Governor a total of 795,152 cubic feet of records disposed, resulting in a cost avoidance of \$75.2 million for the state of Florida.

For your convenience, enclosed is your agency's *Records Management Compliance Statement* for fiscal year ending 2023. Please report your agency's compliance status in **Section I**, the Compliance Certification. In **Sections II and III**, make any necessary additions or corrections to your agency and RMLO information. Please return **one signed copy** of the Compliance Statement form to the **mailing address or email address** indicated at the bottom of the form by **December 31, 2023**.

We appreciate your prompt attention to this matter. If we can be of service to your agency, please do not hesitate to contact us at 850.245.6750 or recmgt@dos.myflorida.com.

Sincerely,

Amy L. Johnson, Director
Division of Library and Information Services

ALJ/btl
Enclosure

Fiscal Year 2022 - 2023

Agency ID: N0000702

Section 257.36(5), Florida Statutes: "For the purposes of this section, the term 'agency' shall mean any state, county, district, or municipal officer, department, division, bureau, board, commission, or other separate unit of government created or established by law. It is the duty of each agency to: (a) Cooperate with the division in complying with the provisions of this chapter and designate a records management liaison officer. (b) Establish and maintain an active and continuing program for the economical and efficient management of records."

2 **Rule 1B-24.003(9), Florida Administrative Code:** "Public records may be destroyed or otherwise disposed of only in accordance with retention schedules established by the Division. Photographic reproductions or reproductions through electronic recordkeeping systems may substitute for the original or paper copy, per Section 92.29, F.S. Photographic or electronic copies. . . . Prior to records disposition, agencies must ensure that all retention requirements have been satisfied. For each record series being disposed of, agencies shall identify and document the following: 1. Records retention schedule number; 2. Item number; 3. Record series title; 4. Inclusive dates of the records; 5. Volume in cubic feet for paper records, for electronic records, record the number of bytes and/or records and/or files if known, or indicate that the disposed records were in electronic form; and 6. Disposition action (manner of disposition) and date."

Please complete and return this compliance statement by **December 31, 2023** (submit *one copy only*, please) to:

Department of State

Records Management Program, Mail Station 9E
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250

OR

recmgt@dos.myflorida.com

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING
RECORDS MANAGEMENT COMPLIANCE STATEMENT
Fiscal Year 2022-2023**

If the addressee is no longer at your agency, please forward to your current records management coordinator.

1. Make sure you check **Yes** or **No** as to whether you are in compliance with records management requirements. **If you do not mark a response to this question, your agency will be recorded as not in compliance.**
2. Records disposed.
 - a. Indicate the volume of records disposed during **your agency's fiscal year 2022-2023.**
 - Local government agencies - report cubic feet **destroyed** during the period of **October 1, 2022, to September 30, 2023, regardless of the dates of the records themselves.**
 - State government agencies - report cubic feet **destroyed** during the period of **July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023, regardless of the dates of the records themselves.**
 - b. Record the volume of records disposed in terms of the number of **cubic feet**, not some other measurement such as weight or number of trees saved. Rule 1B-24.003(9)(d)5, *Florida Administrative Code*, requires disposal of records to be recorded in cubic feet.
 - c. Check **Yes** or **No** as to whether you disposed of any records in electronic form. It is not necessary to indicate volume of electronic records disposed.
 - d. If you did not dispose of any public records during fiscal year 2022-2023, write "0." **This does not mean you are not in compliance.**
3. Make sure your agency head or their designee **signs the form** as required by Rule 1B-24.003(11), *Florida Administrative Code*.
4. Make any necessary changes to your agency's information or RMLO contact information in the area provided. Please do not erase or cover the information already listed on the statement.
5. Make sure you have an RMLO designated on the form. Section 257.36(5)(a), *Florida Statutes*, **requires public agencies to designate a Records Management Liaison Officer (RMLO).**
6. Indicate on the form if your agency:
 - a. Reports for other agencies, for example, a city reporting for a special district.
 - b. Is reported for by another agency.
 - c. Merged with another agency or was dissolved.
7. **Return only the compliance statement** to our agency. Please do not include **our** cover letter or copies of your disposition documents. Feel free to include a cover letter or memorandum if you are seeking assistance or need to provide additional explanation regarding your compliance statement. **Return the form by email or U.S. mail to the address provided on the form. Do not fax the form.**
8. Records Management Compliance Statement forms are customized for each agency and so are not available on our website. If for any reason you need another copy of your compliance statement, please let us know. We will be glad to send you another copy.
9. To ensure your agency is included in our annual report to the governor and legislature, please return the compliance statement **no later than December 31, 2023.**

Please contact us if you need further assistance completing your agency's compliance statement.



October 18, 2023

RECEIVED NOV 06 2023

0006177 76134 *****AUTO**ALL FOR AADC 320

Withlacoochee Regional Water S

3600 W Sovereign Path Ste 228

Lecanto, FL 34461-7718



Re: New W9 and Remittance Name update

Dear Advertiser:

We would like to thank you for your advertising business with the Winter Haven News Chief, the Lakeland Ledger, the Sarasota Herald Tribune, the Gainesville Sun, the Ocala Star-Banner, the Panama City News Herald, the Fort Walton Northwest Florida Daily News, the Destin Log, the Walton Sun, the Leesburg Daily Commercial, the Palm Beach Post, the Jacksonville Times Union, and the St. Augustine Record. As part of the family of Gannett's USA Today Network, you're included in a company-wide initiative to improve advertising billing processes. Starting with your October 2023 invoice, we are pleased to announce the following changes:

- **Federal Tax id:** We have an updated W-9 attached with the updated Federal Tax id and information you need to help expedite payment.
- **Updated Remit to Name [address remains the same]:**

*****PLEASE UPDATE YOUR PAYMENT RECORDS TO REFLECT:**

Gannett Florida LocaliQ

PO Box 631244

Cincinnati, Ohio 45263-1244

Please reference your October 2023 invoice which will include this updated information, remittance name update, logo, and tax id.

We are always striving to improve our customer experience and are confident you will enjoy these improvements. Your patience through this transition is greatly appreciated and we ask that you please contact the payment center if you have any questions now or after you receive your new monthly statement. We value your business and look forward to continuing our successful relationship in the future.

Best Regards,

Gannett Billing Team
Gannett Florida LocaliQ

Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification

► Go to www.irs.gov/FormW9 for instructions and the latest information.

Give Form to the
requester. Do not
send to the IRS.

Print or type. See Specific Instructions on page 3.	1 Name (as shown on your income tax return). Name is required on this line; do not leave this line blank. Gannett Media Corp	
	2 Business name/disregarded entity name, if different from above Gannett Florida LocaliQ	
	3 Check appropriate box for federal tax classification of the person whose name is entered on line 1. Check only one of the following seven boxes. <input type="checkbox"/> Individual/sole proprietor or single-member LLC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C Corporation <input type="checkbox"/> S Corporation <input type="checkbox"/> Partnership <input type="checkbox"/> Trust/estate <input type="checkbox"/> Limited liability company. Enter the tax classification (C=C corporation, S=S corporation, P=Partnership) ► Note: Check the appropriate box in the line above for the tax classification of the single-member owner. Do not check LLC if the LLC is classified as a single-member LLC that is disregarded from the owner unless the owner of the LLC is another LLC that is not disregarded from the owner for U.S. federal tax purposes. Otherwise, a single-member LLC that is disregarded from the owner should check the appropriate box for the tax classification of its owner. <input type="checkbox"/> Other (see instructions) ►	
	4 Exemptions (codes apply only to certain entities, not individuals; see instructions on page 3): Exempt payee code (if any) 5 Exemption from FATCA reporting code (if any) E <small>(Applies to accounts maintained outside the U.S.)</small>	
	5 Address (number, street, and apt. or suite no.) See instructions. REMIT ADDRESS: PO BOX 631244	Requester's name and address (optional)
	6 City, state, and ZIP code Cincinnati, OH 45263-1244	
	7 List account number(s) here (optional)	

Part I Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN)

Enter your TIN in the appropriate box. The TIN provided must match the name given on line 1 to avoid backup withholding. For individuals, this is generally your social security number (SSN). However, for a resident alien, sole proprietor, or disregarded entity, see the instructions for Part I, later. For other entities, it is your employer identification number (EIN). If you do not have a number, see *How to get a TIN*, later.

Note: If the account is in more than one name, see the instructions for line 1. Also see *What Name and Number To Give the Requester* for guidelines on whose number to enter.

Social security number								
			-				-	
or								
Employer identification number								
4	7		-	2	3	9	0	9 8 3

Part II Certification

Under penalties of perjury, I certify that:

1. The number shown on this form is my correct taxpayer identification number (or I am waiting for a number to be issued to me); and
2. I am not subject to backup withholding because: (a) I am exempt from backup withholding, or (b) I have not been notified by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) that I am subject to backup withholding as a result of a failure to report all interest or dividends, or (c) the IRS has notified me that I am no longer subject to backup withholding; and
3. I am a U.S. citizen or other U.S. person (defined below); and
4. The FATCA code(s) entered on this form (if any) indicating that I am exempt from FATCA reporting is correct.

Certification instructions. You must cross out item 2 above if you have been notified by the IRS that you are currently subject to backup withholding because you have failed to report all interest and dividends on your tax return. For real estate transactions, item 2 does not apply. For mortgage interest paid, acquisition or abandonment of secured property, cancellation of debt, contributions to an individual retirement arrangement (IRA), and generally, payments other than interest and dividends, you are not required to sign the certification, but you must provide your correct TIN. See the instructions for Part II, later.

Sign Here	Signature of U.S. person ► 	Date ► 6/12/2023
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General Instructions

Section references are to the Internal Revenue Code unless otherwise noted.

Future developments. For the latest information about developments related to Form W-9 and its instructions, such as legislation enacted after they were published, go to www.irs.gov/FormW9.

Purpose of Form

An individual or entity (Form W-9 requester) who is required to file an information return with the IRS must obtain your correct taxpayer identification number (TIN) which may be your social security number (SSN), individual taxpayer identification number (ITIN), adoption taxpayer identification number (ATIN), or employer identification number (EIN), to report on an information return the amount paid to you, or other amount reportable on an information return. Examples of information returns include, but are not limited to, the following.

- Form 1099-INT (interest earned or paid)

- Form 1099-DIV (dividends, including those from stocks or mutual funds)
- Form 1099-MISC (various types of income, prizes, awards, or gross proceeds)
- Form 1099-B (stock or mutual fund sales and certain other transactions by brokers)
- Form 1099-S (proceeds from real estate transactions)
- Form 1099-K (merchant card and third party network transactions)
- Form 1098 (home mortgage interest), 1098-E (student loan interest), 1098-T (tuition)
- Form 1099-C (canceled debt)
- Form 1099-A (acquisition or abandonment of secured property)
Use Form W-9 only if you are a U.S. person (including a resident alien), to provide your correct TIN.
If you do not return Form W-9 to the requester with a TIN, you might be subject to backup withholding. See What is backup withholding, later.

RECEIVED NOV 29 2023

ATTN: AGENCY REAL PROPERTY CUSTODIAN/MANAGER

The Florida Resources and Environmental Analysis Center (FREAC), under contract with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, has prepared the Florida Public Lands Inventory for 2023-2024. This publication is in partial compliance with Sections 253.03 and 195.073, Florida Statutes, relating to accounting and documentation of public land ownership.

This year the data pertaining to the public land ownership(s) are available through the Public Lands Research Program's website at:

<http://floridapli.net>

On the website, select the button, *PLI Code Look-Up* and type in the name of your agency. Select the four-digit PLI code that corresponds to your agency's name to view the results. Your agency's four-digit code can **also** be found in parenthesis on the address label of the envelope that enclosed this letter. To use this code to look up your agency's ownership data on the website, select the second button, *Agency Data by PLI Code*, then enter your four-digit code on the screen.

The ownership data are derived from Florida Department of Revenue's tax roll data. These data are provided to facilitate compliance with the statutory requirement. Each public agency is asked to provide county property appraisers with corrective data relating to their real property ownership annually (Section 193.085, Florida Statutes, and Ad Valorem Tax Administration Rule (12D-1.04). Please note that the parcel data provided are taken directly from tax roll information supplied to the Department of Revenue by each county property appraiser's office.

Each public owner should review the ownership data and communicate any changes to the appropriate property appraiser's office so that the tax roll records will accurately reflect your agency's real property ownership.

Should you require a printed copy of your agency's public land ownership data, our office will discuss options for you to obtain a hard copy.

If you have any questions relating to the Florida Public Lands Inventory data, please contact:

The Public Lands Research Program
(850) 644-9292

or write to:

The Public Lands Research Program
Florida State University
Room C6140 UCC
296 Champions Way
P. O. Box 3062640
Tallahassee, FL 32306-2640

Sincerely,

Anthony K. (Tony) Roberts
Research Scientist, Public Lands Research Program
aroberts@fsu.edu

2024-085 State Board of Administration - Local Government Surplus Funds Trust Fund (Florida PRIME) - (An External Investment Pool) - Financial Audit

FLAUDGEN_AUDRPT <FLAUDGEN_AUDRPT@aud.state.fl.us>

Mon 12/11/2023 11:09 AM

To:LSHAUD@WSRE.ORG <LSHAUD@WSRE.ORG>;LSNEAD@LONGWOODFL.ORG <LSNEAD@LONGWOODFL.ORG>;LSPOCK@RIZZETTA.COM <LSPOCK@RIZZETTA.COM>;LSTAFFORD@STJOHNSCLERK.COM <LSTAFFORD@STJOHNSCLERK.COM>;LSTELZER@VENICEGOV.COM <LSTELZER@VENICEGOV.COM>;lstout wrwsa.org <lstout@wrwsa.org>;LSTOVER@PASCOCLERK.COM <LSTOVER@PASCOCLERK.COM>;LSTUMPF@MANALAPAN.ORG <LSTUMPF@MANALAPAN.ORG>;LSVENDSE@SJRWMD.COM <LSVENDSE@SJRWMD.COM>;LTHOMAS@FSCJ.EDU <LTHOMAS@FSCJ.EDU>;LTYLER@DUNEDINFL.NET <LTYLER@DUNEDINFL.NET>;LUCASK@JUPITERINLETCOLONY.ORG <LUCASK@JUPITERINLETCOLONY.ORG>;LUCY.CARMICHAEL@WCSDSCHOOLS.COM <LUCY.CARMICHAEL@WCSDSCHOOLS.COM>;LUIS.VIERA@TAMPAGOV.NET <LUIS.VIERA@TAMPAGOV.NET>;LUOPE@COLLIERSCHOOLS.COM <LUOPE@COLLIERSCHOOLS.COM>;LUZ.MCQUISTON@MANATEECLERK.COM <LUZ.MCQUISTON@MANATEECLERK.COM>;LVILLED@PPINES.COM <LVILLED@PPINES.COM>;lwalenti@irsc.edu <lwalenti@irsc.edu>;LWEBB@KUA.COM <LWEBB@KUA.COM>;lweinber@sfwmd.gov <lweinber@sfwmd.gov>

The following report has been released by the Auditor General and may be viewed and printed by accessing our Web site ([FLAuditor.gov](https://www.flauditor.gov)):

State Board of Administration - Local Government Surplus Funds Trust Fund (An External Investment Pool) – Financial Audit (Report No. 2024-085)

In an effort to promote efficiency in government, we hope that you find that the provided Web site access meets your needs. However, should you desire a hard copy of this or any Auditor General report, please contact us by e-mail at flaudgen@aud.state.fl.us; by telephone at (850) 412-2722; or by mail at G74 Claude Pepper Building, 111 West Madison Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1450.

Resident Call

Padgett, Jamie <Jamie.Padgett@vikuswater.com>

Wed 11/1/2023 4:03 PM

To: ecolandfl@gmail.com <ecolandfl@gmail.com>

Cc: Suzannah Folsom <sfolsom@wrwsa.org>; lstout wrwsa.org <lstout@wrwsa.org>

Good Afternoon Jack,

I wanted to let you know I received a call from a resident yesterday just to let me know how amazing you are. He said you were extremely knowledgeable and provide such a great service! He said he will be making all of the recommendations you gave him.

Well done Jack!!

Thank you,

Jamie Padgett

Vikus Water

Phone: 352-753-4747

Email: Jamie.Padgett@VikusWater.com

1038 Lake Sumter Landing

The Villages, FL 32162



Item 13.e.

Executive Director's Report

News Articles

Drought vs deluge: Florida's unusual rainfall totals either too little or too much on each coast

By CURT ANDERSON

Dec 12, 2023



Dan Durica checks the mulch in a garden at the Sweetwater Community Farm Wednesday, Dec. 6, 2023, in Tampa.

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — In Florida, this year has been a tale of two states as far as rainfall totals, with the southeast coast deluged by sometimes-record rainfall and much of the Gulf of Mexico coast facing a drought.

Counties up and down Florida's west side are under new water use restrictions, especially in one area where the water table has gotten so low that wells could dry up. Now Florida's wettest season is over until late spring.

What's happening in Florida could soon become a reality elsewhere, as farmers and residents increasingly have to deal with changes in weather patterns because of climate change. This means hotter temperatures in summer, more powerful hurricanes and other heavier rainstorms and droughts during unexpected seasons.

"You know, as the climate changes, we're going to have to adapt to these extremes," said Dan Durica, a board member at Tampa's Sweetwater Organic Community Farm. "And so you have to know how to deal with like the boom and bust of the, like, climate chaos."

For most people, the restrictions affect lawn and landscape watering, which accounts for about half the water used daily in the affected areas. For example, in three counties around Tampa Bay watering is only allowed one day a week depending on a resident's address and only then before 8 a.m. or after 6 p.m.

"The whole western coast of Florida has been impacted by this deficit rainfall during the rainy season," said Mark Elsner, water supply bureau chief for the South Florida Water Management District. "With the west coast having a deficit about 30%, we didn't get that recharge that we expected. And as a result, we have lower groundwater levels starting the dry season."

The main driver of the precipitation divide was a weaker than typical high pressure system this summer over the western Atlantic Ocean that led to persistently lighter easterly winds, said Robert Molleda of the National Weather Service office in Miami.

"This wind pattern tends to focus most of the precipitation over the interior and eastern side of the peninsula, rather than a more typical east wind pattern which would focus a lot of the daily summer thunderstorms over the western half of the peninsula," Molleda said in an email.

Indeed, in mid-November a no-name storm with wind gusts approaching tropical storm strength lashed Miami, Fort Lauderdale and nearby areas with readings approaching a foot of rain over three days. In the Florida Keys, the city of Marathon set an all-time daily record for November when 6.68 inches of rain fell in a single day.

In April, a storm that sat over Fort Lauderdale dumped nearly 25 inches of rain in some areas, causing many neighborhoods to flood. And just during the past 90 days, many parts of South Florida have been inundated again with between 150% and 200% of average rainfall totals, according to the weather service.

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"All wasteful water use such as hosing down driveways and impervious surfaces, allowing water to flow unattended and using water in a grossly inefficient manner, is prohibited," the Southwest Florida Water Management District website says.

Violators can be fined varying amounts depending on the jurisdiction. In Hillsborough County, where Tampa is located, fines range from \$100 for an initial offense to \$500 for repeated violations, although a warning is given first.

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“Today, they’re drilling those wells deeper because we’ve seen water level declines. So those shallower wells are most susceptible to drying out,” he said, noting that more than 100 permits for deeper replacement wells have been issued in Cape Coral during the past couple of years.

Farmers have many methods to reduce water use. Practices include slow-drip irrigation, deep mulching and watering at night when there is less evaporation, Durica said.

Even with all the water conservation efforts, Florida's west coast will need rain to truly ease the water shortage.

Forecasters say it's likely Florida will experience heavier rainfall than usual over the typically drier winter months because of a weather phenomenon known as El Nino, which occurs when waters in the eastern Pacific Ocean grow warmer, impacting climate worldwide.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration predicts a 55% chance of a strong El Niño this winter.

“The hope is that with increased rainfall compared to normal this winter and spring, drought conditions would be alleviated,” Molleda said. “The latest drought outlook calls for a likely removal of drought conditions along the Florida Gulf coast sometime between December and February.”

Wildwood turns to industry veteran as growth spurs urgency for sewage expansion

By Marv Balousek
Villages-News.com
November 28, 2023

Wildwood commissioners Monday night designated Garney Construction as construction manager at risk to build the city's new wastewater treatment plant.

Commissioners authorized City Manager Jason McHugh to begin contract negotiations with the company.

PC Construction, the project's previous construction manager, was fired by commissioners last month.

Boosted by home construction in the Villages of Southern Oaks, apartment projects and new businesses, rapid growth has fueled Wildwood's need for more wastewater treatment capacity. One of the fastest growing cities in the nation, Wildwood's population nearly doubled in three years to 30,327, according to a University of Florida estimate earlier this year.

To reduce construction costs, estimated at \$150 million, city officials decided to build a smaller plant and continue operating the existing plant. The two plants will be capable of processing about 5.5 million gallons of wastewater daily.

The only bidder on the project, Garney Construction received 435 of a possible 500 points during a staff team review.

Based locally in Winter Garden, Garney Construction is a national company with offices in a dozen states that specializes in wastewater plant and water treatment projects, including a recent Villages project and the River Oaks Diversion Project in Tampa. In September, the company announced the promotion of three new top officials, including CEO and two division presidents.

Garney is the nation's largest contractor for pipeline projects and one of the leading contractors for water and wastewater projects.

PC Construction was fired after completing upgrades to the existing plant, increasing its capacity to 3.55 million gallons daily. City Manager Jason McHugh said company officials and city staff failed to reach agreement on a permanent contract.

Timetable to replace lead water pipes could be accelerated

By: Erik Waxler, abc Action News

Nov 30, 2023

TAMPA, Fla. — Lead exposure in children is still a problem.

Experts said it can come from paint in older homes or aging water pipes.

Pediatrician Dr. Rachel Dawkins is with Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital in St. Petersburg.

She said there is added danger for children, whose brains and nervous systems are growing and developing, so any exposure to lead can be concerning.

"We think about lead exposure in kids causing neurodevelopment disabilities, so it might cause some problems with learning. Some problems with behavior. It can cause lower IQs," said Dawkins.

Many cities have older water pipes made from lead.

Now, the Environmental Protection Agency is proposing a new rule that would require them to be replaced within ten years.

That's speeding progress toward a goal from the Biden Administration to remove all lead pipes.

The EPA said Florida has the most lead water lines in the nation.

Dr. Dawkins said she hasn't seen lead exposure create a major issue locally, but it has in other places.

"We've seen in cities like Detroit where this is a huge problem a few years back that children are having a high problem with lead toxicity, and when they traced it back, it was to the water supply for the city. So I think it's important for cities to be proactive in improving the infrastructure of how our water is supplied," said Dawkins.

Children are usually screened for lead when they turn one and again at two years old.

Doctors said excessive lead exposure is also bad for adults, increasing the risk for cancer, stroke, and kidney disease.

The City of Tampa is spending millions of dollars a year to replace pipes. Some are more than a hundred years old.

What does an El Niño winter mean for Florida red tide?

By Jack Prator, Max Chesnes, Tampa Bay Times

Published Nov. 24, 2023

Florida's Gulf Coast is approaching the end of an above-average hurricane season and record marine heat, but it's been a lackluster fall for what's become a common beachgoers' experience: red tide.

Last year, Tampa Bay-area red tide outbreaks started in November and lasted through the winter. The toxic algae kept many people off local beaches and resulted in a series of fish kills.

But this fall's absence of *Karenia brevis*, the algae that causes red tide, has puzzled researchers.

An El Niño weather pattern, like the ongoing one, usually brings more rainfall to the Southeast. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is predicting a 70% chance of above-average rainfall there this winter.

In Florida, that can mean more rainwater mixes with nutrients and becomes polluted before it dumps into waterways such as Tampa Bay, the Caloosahatchee River and Sarasota Bay, among others along the Gulf of Mexico.

A growing body of scientific research suggests that red tide-causing organisms feed off that rain runoff pollution, potentially making blooms more intense.

Even if this year's El Niño does become rainier in the coming months, it doesn't mean an El Niño would cause a red tide, explained Bob Weisberg, the former director of the University of South Florida's Ocean Circulation Lab.

"El Niño's effect is relatively minor in regards to red tide. The origin of the red tide tends to be from offshore and moves towards the beach. If it starts killing fish, it can actually make its own nutrients and it doesn't need the runoff from rain to grow," Weisberg told the Tampa Bay Times.

But runoff from extra rainfall can make the problem worse, Weisberg added.

"As winter progresses, and if we get more rainfall, yeah, it might add to an existing appearance of red tide," Weisberg said. "But it's not going to cause it."

Weisberg pointed to 2016, an El Niño year that brought plenty of moisture to the Tampa Bay area. That year, the region's stormwater infrastructure was stretched to the limit and millions of gallons of sewage dumped into area waters.

Red tide flared up that year, defying forecasters and researchers who expected a mild year. This year, the opposite has held true: Weisberg expected an intense red tide in October but it didn't pan out. And overall, it's been a quiet fall compared to last year.

One theory for why? Hurricane Idalia.

“Idalia went right over the continental shelf where we believe red tide forms,” Weisberg said.

When red tide cells rupture, or break, they release toxins into the air. That’s what you feel in your throat when a red tide is blooming at the beach.

But turbulent water, like the angry seas caused by Idalia, can help rupture those red tide cells earlier. That could mean less red tide makes it to shore, according to Weisberg.

“Idalia really stirred up the water this year,” he said.

That turbulent water is expected to last through the winter, as El Niño’s westerly winds increase storm chances.

But this windy weather is far weaker than the strength of hurricane winds, and El Niño’s effects won’t reach the scale whipped up by Idalia, said Ben Kirtman, an Earth sciences professor at the University of Miami’s Rosenstiel School of Marine, Atmospheric and Earth Science.

“I would expect our winter season to be more windy, so I would expect more turbulence in the ocean,” Kirtman said. “Is it enough to really break up the risk of red tides? I don’t know.”

Climate models show the current El Niño has entered its peak, which is expected to run through January. But the weather pattern likely won’t be fully gone until June.

This year’s El Niño is partly to blame for the summer marine heatwave, Kirtman said. And while surface temperatures are cooling, they are still higher than normal.

In the Gulf of Mexico and along Florida’s east coast, water temperatures are still 1 to 2 degrees Fahrenheit above average for this time of year, Kirtman said.

This lasting heat could help fuel red tide if an algal bloom does break out.

A 2019 study published by Florida State University researchers found that warmer waters resulted in increased growth rates for *Karenia brevis*. Another study showed the algae may release more toxins in warmer climates.

On paper, heat combined with runoff provided by increased rainfall created ripe conditions for red tide to proliferate. Still, researchers aren’t sure how a red tide event and a strong El Niño would interact this winter.

Kate Hubbard, who leads the harmful algal bloom program at the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission’s research institute, said there is an ecological window where red tide benefits most from nutrients provided by runoff.

An algae bloom would have to happen “in the right place at the right time” for El Niño to have an effect on a red tide outbreak, she said.

With no coastal blooms yet this fall and six months left in the current El Niño cycle, Hubbard said it’s anyone’s guess what might happen.

“It makes it even more difficult to assess since we are still waiting to see how intense either will be,” she said.

How to stay safe near the water:

- Do not swim around dead fish.
- Those with chronic respiratory problems should be careful and stay away from places with a Red Tide bloom. Leave if you think Red Tide is affecting you.
- Do not harvest or eat mollusks or distressed and dead fish from the area. Fillets of healthy fish should be rinsed with clean water, and the guts thrown out.
- Pet owners should keep their animals away from the water and from dead fish.
- Residents living near the beach should close their windows and run air conditioners with proper filters.
- Beachgoers can protect themselves by wearing masks.

Source: Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County

Current Projects Funded by RESTORE Act

By **Lisa MacNeil, Hernando Sun**

November 9, 2023

Aquatic Services Manager Carla Burrmann updated the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) on projects that are currently funded by the RESTORE Act Oil Spill Impact Allocation. RESTORE is the acronym for “Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States.”

In July 2012, President Obama passed the RESTORE Act, which directs 80 percent of civil and administrative Clean Water Act penalties levied in connection with the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, which occurred on April 10, 2010. The funds collected are placed in a Restoration Trust Fund (RTF) and then channeled through five different “pots” of funding. Funding will be complete for the RESTORE Act in 2031.

Hernando County receives funding from Pots 1 and 3. Pot 1 is a Multi-Year Implementation Plan (MYIP) and is administered by the United States Treasury Department. Projects receiving funding from this mechanism require a grant application to be submitted.

The total of Pot 1 allocated to Hernando County through Fiscal Year 2031 is \$4,644,045.

The main funding source for Hernando County is Pot 3 Funds. These projects have already been approved as part of a State Expenditure Plan (SEP). For this, Hernando County receives \$12,660,000. This amount of funding will not increase.

Projects that qualify for RESTORE Act funds include mitigation, restoration, and protection of natural resources, marine, coastal, and conservation plans, improvements to affected state parks, and promotion of tourism, seafood consumption, workforce development and job creation.

Projects funded by Pot 1 are the current Linda Pedersen Park improvement project (\$561,000) and Bayou Drive Improvements (\$737,500). There is currently \$1,229,054 in remaining funds that may be allocated to other projects. To use these funds, another project will need to be identified and approved.

Commissioner Brian Hawkins suggested eelgrass restoration to protect coastal areas while using existing funding. Chairman John Allocco recommended the Pine Island canal dredging be considered, a project that has been deferred in previous years. No decisions were made during this meeting, and discussions will continue.

Pot 3 is the Spill Impact Allocation, which currently funds the artificial reef project (\$2,405,070). Other projects funded through this allocation are Coastal Habitat (\$807,421), Waterway/Gulf Access Program (\$4,478,025), Septic to Sewer Conversion (\$2,582,410) and Calienta Street (\$4,682,788).

County Administrator Jeff Rogers expects to see projects removed from Pot 3 as costs for these projects continue to rise. "Not all of those projects will be able to stay (on the list)."

