



WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY

Board Meeting Package

July 9, 2025
3:30 p.m.

Meeting Location:

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

Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority

Board of Directors

Effective March 2025

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

Jurisdiction	Board Members
Citrus County	The Honorable Janet Barek
	The Honorable Jeff Kinnard
Hernando County	The Honorable Ryan Amsler
	The Honorable Jerry Campbell
Marion County	The Honorable Kathy Bryant
	The Honorable Michelle Stone
	The Honorable Carl Zalak
Sumter County	The Honorable Todd Coon
	The Honorable Don Wiley
City of Belleview	The Honorable Robert “Bo” Smith
City of Brooksville	The Honorable Thomas Bronson
City of Wildwood	The Honorable Marcos Flores
City of Crystal River	The Honorable Robert Holmes

Meeting Dates

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

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

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



July 1, 2025

MEMORANDUM

To: Water Supply Authority Board of Directors and Interested Parties

From: Suzannah J. Folsom, Executive Director

Subject: Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority Board of Directors Meeting

The Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority will hold a regular business meeting on **Wednesday, July 9, 2025 3:30 p.m., at the Lecanto Government Center Building, Room 166, 3600 Sovereign Path, Lecanto, FL 34461.**

Enclosed for your review are the following items:

- Agenda
- Minutes of May 21, 2025
- Board Package*

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

Enclosures

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

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

From Brooksville:

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

From Ocala

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

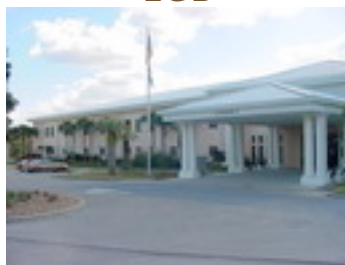
From Bushnell

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

From Wildwood

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

LGB



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

A G E N D A

July 9, 2025 -- 3:30 p.m.

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

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

PAGE

1. **Call to Order** . . . Jerry Campbell, Chair
2. **Pledge of Allegiance** . . . Led by the Board
3. **Roll Call** . . . Suzy Folsom, WRWSA Executive Director
4. **Additions/Deletions to the Agenda** . . . Suzy Folsom, WRWSA
5. **Public Comment**
6. **Consent Agenda** . . . Jerry Campbell, Chair
 - a. **Approval of Minutes** [May 21, 2025] 9
 - b. **Bills to be Paid** [ratify June bills; approve July bills provided at the meeting] 15
 - c. **2025-2026 Regulatory Plan** [approve plan as provided by staff for publication] 17
7. **Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Financial Audit** . . . Purvis Gray & Company 19
8. **Water Supply and Conservation Grants Program – Approval of Awards** . . . Suzy Folsom, WRWSA 21
9. **Resolution 2025-05 Adoption of Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026** . . . Suzy Folsom, WRWSA 53
10. **Regional Water Supply Plan** . . . Suzy Folsom, WRWSA 63
11. **Legislative Report** . . . Suzy Folsom, WRWSA 65
12. **Attorney’s Report** . . . Rob Batsel, WRWSA Attorney 67
13. **Executive Director’s Report** . . . Suzy Folsom, WRWSA
 - a. **Water Use Permit Demand Summary** 71
 - b. **Water Management Information System Water Use Permit Notifications** 73
 - c. **Residential Irrigation Evaluation Programs Update** 75
 - d. **Correspondence** 77
 - e. **News Articles** 87
 - f. **Florida Water Loss Program – Free Water Loss Audits for Utilities** 93
14. **Other Business**
15. **Next Meeting** . . . September 17, 2025; 3:30 p.m.; Lecanto Government Building, Room 166
16. **Adjournment**

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

Item 6.a.

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes

DRAFT

WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Minutes of the Meeting May 21, 2025

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

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

1. Call to Order

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

2. Roll Call

Chair Campbell asked each attendee to introduce themselves. Ms. Suzannah Folsom, WRWSA Executive Director, noted that a quorum was needed to consider Item 7 which will be achieved when Ms. Bryant arrives.

BOARD MEMBER PRESENT

Jerry Campbell, *Chair*, Hernando Co Commissioner
Don Wiley, *Vice Chair*, Sumter County Commissioner
Marcos Flores, *Treasurer*, Wildwood City Councilor
Ryan Amsler, Hernando County Commissioner
Janet Barak, Citrus County Commissioner
Kathy Bryant, Marion County Commissioner
Todd Coon, Sumter County Commissioner
Robert Holmes, Crystal River City Councilor
Jeff Kinnard, Citrus Co Commissioner

BOARD MEMBER(S) ABSENT

Thomas Bronson, Brooksville City Councilor
Michelle Stone, Marion County Commissioner
Robert “Bo” Smith, Belleview Commissioner
Carl Zalak, Marion County Commissioner

BOARD ALTERNATE(S) PRESENT

None

WRWSA STAFF PRESENT

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

WRWSA STAFF ABSENT

Robert W. Batsel, Jr., General Counsel

OTHERS PRESENT

Carrieann Adkins, SWFWMD Govt Affairs Reg Mgr
Alys Brockway, Hernando Co Water Resource Mgr
Debra Burden, Citrus Co Water Conservation Mgr
Trevor Knight, Marion Co Water Resources Liaison
Lisa Krentz, Hazen and Sawyer
Joseph Quinn, SWFWMD Water Supply Project Mgr
Paige TaraCruz, SWFWMD Environmental Prj Mgr

- 3. Introductions and Announcements** – Mrs. Folsom noted that are no additions or deletions to the agenda.
- 4. Pledge of Allegiance** – Chair Campbell led those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 5. Public Comment** – There being no members of the audience requesting to address the Board, Chair Campbell closed public comment.
- 6. Consent Agenda**
- a. Approval of Minutes** [approved [March 19, 2025 minutes] – **Mr. Wiley moved, second Mr. Kinnard, to approve Consent Agenda Item 6.a as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**
 - b. Bills to be Paid** [ratified April bills; approved May bills provided at the meeting] – **Mr. Kinnard moved, second Mr. Wiley, to approve Consent Agenda Item 6.b as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

- c. **Phase 7 Irrigation System Audit Program – Extend Contract** [Approve extension of the Phase 7 Irrigation evaluation contract with EcoLand Design, LLC for the first of two optional 12-month extensions starting from September 2025] – **Mr. Kinnard moved, second Mr. Coon, to approve Consent Agenda Item 6.c as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**
- d. **Staff Travel to the Florida Chamber of Commerce Environmental Permitting Summer School, July 15-18, 2025** [Approve Ms. Folsom, WRWSA Executive Director, to attend this year's Environmental Permitting Summer School at an estimated cost of \$695.00] – Ms. Folsom suggested that the General Counsel's office may consider attending this event in the future. **Mr. Kinnard moved, second Mr. Homes, to approve Consent Agenda Item 6.d as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

At this time, Item 8 was considered out of order of the agenda.

8. **Regional Water Supply Plan Update – Status Report**

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

Ms. Krentz presented the project goals and objectives:

- Goal is to assist public utilities by identifying regional water supply opportunities across four counties
- Objectives
 - Quantify public water supply demand
 - Assess water conservation and reuse potential
 - Identify water resource availability to meet demand
 - Evaluate economic constraints
- Plan is cooperatively funded by SWFWMD in support of 2025 RWSP for Northern Region

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

Ms. Krentz reviewed the next steps for this project:

- Refine spatial overlay of supply and demand timing
- Identify and screen candidate regional project concepts
- Evaluate benefits to Minimum Flows and Levels (MFLs) of using alternative water supplies (Gum Slough and Withlacoochee)
- Develop cost estimates for alternative projects
- Coordinate with District and partners (July - September)
- Finalize Report

Ms. Folsom reviewed the map showing Florida's designated Water Use Caution Areas.

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

Ms. Bryant entered the meeting at 3:44 p.m. With a quorum now present, Item 7 was considered.

7. **Establishment of Proposed Fiscal Year 2025-26 Budget Components**

Ms. Folsom presented the following items.

a. **Grant Funding Amount and Guidelines**

Since 2005, the Authority has funded an annual grants program that provides matching funds for water conservation and water supply development projects. Member governments and

other utilities in the region have applied for and received cooperative grants for projects of mutual benefit. The 2025-26 grants cycle will begin with an announcement to be sent to utility directors and water conservation coordinators in the region regarding the Authority's Local Government Grant Program.

For the current fiscal year 2024-25 budget, the Board approved a budget amount of \$180,000. Staff requests the same amount of \$180,000 for the Grant Program for fiscal year 2025-26.

Ms. Bryant moved, second Mr. Kinnard, to approve setting the total allocation of funds in fiscal year 2025-26 budget for the Local Government Grant Program at \$180,000 for water supply and conservation projects. Motion carried unanimously.

b. FY 2025-26 Per Capita Rate Election of Board Officers

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

In the coming fiscal year, a per capita rate of \$0.19 will generate total revenue of \$181,067, an increase of \$5,167 or approximately 2.9% from the current fiscal year. The assessments are billed quarterly to each county at a rate of 25% of the amount listed above.

County	BEER Population (April 1, 2024)	FY 2024-2025 Assessment
Citrus	166,151	\$31,569
Hernando	210,577	\$40,010
Marion	419,510	\$79,707
Sumter	156,743	\$29,781
Total	952,981	\$181,067

Ms. Bryant moved, second Mr. Wiley, to approve no change in the per capita rate of \$0.19 for preparation of the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Budget. Motion carried unanimously.

c. Draft Proposed FY 2025-26 Budget

Ms. Folsom noted that included as Exhibit A to this item is the draft FY 2025-26 budget for the Board's review. The budget has been prepared in a conservative manner to keep costs in check and enhance efficiencies for the member governments. She said that included as Exhibit B is a description of the Authority's FY 2025-26 work program that is supported by the proposed budget.

No motion was required as this item was provided for review and will be presented, incorporating any comments received, at the July 9, 2025 Board Meeting for approval.

9. Legislative Report

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

Ms. Folsom reviewed bills that WRWSA staff has been tracking which are noted in the exhibit to this item as provided in the Board's meeting materials.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Holmes, Ms. Folsom will report at the next meeting on mitigation permitting.

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

10. **Attorney's Report** – Mr. McKay noted there was nothing to report. He said he will review the EcoLand Design contract and prepare a 12-month extension to the agreement as approved earlier in Item 6c.
11. **Executive Director's Report** – Ms. Folsom presented the following items which required no action and highlighted items which had activity since last Board meeting.
 - a. **Water Use Permit Demand Summary** – A summary was in the Board's meeting materials.
 - b. **Water Use Permit Activity Report (WMIS Notifications)** – A list of notifications was included in the Board's meeting materials.
 - c. **Residential Irrigation Evaluation Programs Update** – Ms. Folsom noted the Phase 7 program began in December 2022, with 77% of the planned evaluations completed in the evaluation timeframe, which was complete in July 2024. Now the focus of the program is on follow-ups to 25% of the core evaluation participants, a comparison of pre- and post-evaluation water usage, a satisfaction survey and a report. This program will be complete in December 2025. She also noted that the Phase 8 program began in May 2025 and will be completed utilizing grant funding from the SWFWMD WISE program.
 - d. **Correspondence** – Item(s) were included in the meeting materials.
 - e. **News Articles** – Article(s) were included in the meeting materials.
12. **Other Business**
 - Ms. Folsom noted that Ms. Bryant's presentation at the January Legislative Delegation regarding Marion County's priorities was very enlightening and well presented. She thanked Ms. Bryant for mentioning water supply as a priority.
 - The meeting of the new Board officers to sign the bank check card was earlier today at 1:30 p.m.
 - Reminder: It is that time of year to complete financial disclosures.
13. **Next Meeting Time and Location**
 - The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for July 9, 2025, at 3:30 p.m. at the Lecanto Government Building, Room 166. Meeting date earlier due to Environmental Permitting Summer School attendance by the Executive Director and an event that County board members may be attending.
 - Reminder: An elected representative from each County needs to be present for budget approval at the July meeting.
14. **Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 4:23 p.m.

Jerry Campbell, Chair

Suzannah J. Folsom, Executive Director

Item 6.b.

Consent Agenda

Bills to be Paid

**April bills in the meeting materials;
May bills to be provided at meeting.**

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

Bills For Payment
5/21/2025

<u>Administrative Invoices</u>	<u>Invoice Number(s)</u>	<u>Invoice Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Suzannah J. Folsom, PE, Executive Director	1401	4/30/2025	\$8,049.21
Rob Batsel, General Counsel			\$0.00
C. LuAnne Stout, Admin Asst (Admin Services)	4-Apr-2025	5/5/2025	\$3,518.00
Nature Coast Web Design & Marketing (Contract/Monthly)	18977	5/1/2025	\$200.00
Truist Bank Business Card Statement		5/2/2025	\$1,405.91
Total Administrative Invoices			\$13,173.12

<u>Water Supply Studies and Facilities</u>	<u>Contract/ Budget</u>	<u>Balance Remaining</u>	<u>Current</u>
2025 General Services Contract	\$20,000.00		
Work Order 2025-01 CHA	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	
Work Order 2025-02 Cardno (now Stantec)	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	
FY24-25 Water Conservation Grants Program	\$180,000.00	\$180,000.00	
Citrus County	\$47,000.00	\$47,000.00	
Hernando County	\$46,250.00	\$46,250.00	
Marion County	\$13,327.50	\$13,327.50	
Sumter County	\$73,512.50	\$73,512.50	
Regional Water Supply Plan Update (Q324)	\$350,000.00	\$134,235.00	
SJRWMD Irrigation Audits (East I-75)	\$60,000.00	\$40,224.25	
Phase 7 Irrigation Program (Q306)	\$102,000.00	\$35,845.95	\$750.00 (1)
FY23-24 Total Project Invoices	\$712,000.00	\$410,395.20	\$750.00

Total Bills to be Paid			\$13,923.12
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State Board of Administration	Transfer from SBA2 to SBA1	\$13,173.12
State Board of Administration	Transfer from SBA1 to Truist Bank	\$13,923.12
Truist Bank Deposit	Transferred from SBA1	\$13,923.12

Notes:

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

Jack Overdorff, ECO Land Design \$750.00 Invoice 789

Item 6.c.

Consent Agenda

2025-2026 Regulatory Plan

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

A. RULEMAKING TO IMPLEMENT NEW LAWS

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

None

B. OTHER RULEMAKING

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

None

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

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

D. CERTIFICATIONS

Certification of Chairman of WRWSA Board of Directors:

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

Jerry Campbell
Chair

Date: July 9, 2025

Certification of the WRWSA General Counsel

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

Robert W. Batsel, Jr.
General Counsel

Date: July 9, 2025

Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Financial Audit

Ms. Katheryn Eno, Partner with Purvis Gray & Company, LLP, will present this item.

Purvis Gray and Company has prepared the annual audit of the Authority's financial statements for the Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2024.

Included as an exhibit in the Board's meeting materials is the Authority's financial position provided to Purvis Gray & Company.

See the following exhibits which are included as separate documents:

- A. June 12, 2025 letter from Purvis Gray and Company;
- B. Financial Statements and Independent Auditors' Report for Fiscal Year 2023-2024.

Staff Recommendation:

Board approval of the Financial Statements and Independent Auditors' Report for Fiscal Year 2023-2024, dated June 7, 2024, as presented at the meeting and submittal of this report to the Auditor General and to the Florida Department of Financial Services.

Water Supply and Conservation Grants Program – Approval of Awards

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

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

The applications received reflect continuations of member government proven effective water conservation programs. Staff analysis of the applications indicates all of the proposed water conservation programs meet the Authority's grant program requirements.

Representatives of each of the applicants have been invited to attend the meeting and answer any Board questions regarding their respective water conservation grant applications.

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

See Exhibits:

- Citrus County Water Supply and Conservation Grant Application (page 22)
- Hernando County Water Supply and Conservation Grant Application (page 25)
- Marion County Water Supply and Conservation Grant Application (page 33)
- Sumter County Water Supply and Conservation Grant Application (page 40)
- Belleview Water Supply and Conservation Grant Application (page 44)

Staff Recommendation:

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

**FY 2025-26 WRWSA Grant Applications
and Staff Recommendations**

Applicant	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
Citrus County	\$47,175.00	\$47,175.00
Hernando County	\$47,000.00	\$47,000.00
Marion County	\$18,285.00	\$18,285.00
Sumter County	\$180,000.00	\$65,040.00
City of Belleview	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
Total	\$274,960.00	\$180,000.00



FY 2025-26

WATER SUPPLY AND CONSERVATION GRANT APPLICATION FORM:

Name of applicant:

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

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

The Citrus County water conservation program will offer monetary incentives to its customers for replacing non-functioning rain sensors and upgrading to WaterSense® (WS) labeled toilets and WS labeled irrigation controllers. Additionally, the county intends to carry out Phase 9 of its WS labeled irrigation controller install initiative geared toward high-water use residential sites. Additionally, the County will host a WS labeled toilet direct installation program, if cost-benefit is favorable. The county will supply free indoor retrofit items to customers, such as WS labeled showerheads and faucet aerators. The County places a high priority on education and includes water conservation bill inserts, educational workshops, promotional items, billboard(s), radio, print and other forms of media in its program to raise awareness and increase water-saving behaviors throughout the community.

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

- \$47,000 scheduled to complete September 30, 2025
- \$40,170 completed by September 30, 2024
- \$35,075 completed by September 30, 2023

Attachments to application:

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

Return Application to:

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

Deadline: July 1, 2025, 5:00 p.m. EST

Exhibit 'A'
FY24-25 Scope of Service

Project: Incentives to Install Water-Saving Fixtures

Objective: Reduce water consumption by providing incentive to install water-efficient fixtures and irrigation system components.

Tasks: Provide three rebate opportunities to Citrus County Utilities water customers: irrigation controllers, rain sensors and toilets. Coordinate a Water Sense labeled irrigation controller installation initiative at sites with high water consumption, typically greater than 20,000 per month on an annual average. Distribute faucet aerators and showerheads to customers. Incentivize installation of rain barrels.

Estimated
QTY

SWFWMD WISE - WaterSense® labeled irrigation controller installation. High water use sites.

WaterSense® labeled irrigation controller account credit. All sites connected to utility for irrigation are eligible, regardless of consumption.

Rain sensor replacement account credit

WaterSense® labeled toilet account credit

Rebate application printing
WaterSense® labeled faucet aerators & showerheads

Rain barrel incentive

WaterSense® labeled toilet installation

Subtotal:

COST PER	County	WRWSA	SWFWMD	Total Cost
\$600.00	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00	\$9,000.00	\$18,000.00
\$100.00	\$1,750.00	\$1,750.00	n/a	\$3,500.00
\$50.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	n/a	\$1,000.00
\$25 to \$100	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	n/a	\$4,000.00
\$1,975.00	\$1,975.00	\$1,975.00	n/a	\$3,950.00
	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	n/a	\$2,000.00
\$75.00	\$1,875.00	\$1,875.00	n/a	\$3,750.00
\$500.00	\$3,125.00	\$3,125.00	\$6,250.00	\$12,500.00
	\$16,725.00	\$16,725.00	\$15,250.00	\$48,700.00

Project: Water Conservation Education

Objective: Reduce water consumption through water conservation education to community youth and adults.

Task: Create and print nine newsletter bill inserts promoting water-saving behaviors.

Task: Print and distribute water conservation related educational materials.

Task: Coordinate student poster contest, toilet leak detection challenge and other youth education initiatives.

Task: Purchase and distribute promotional items such as bags, pens, pencils, dish scrapers, leak detection dye tables and rain gauges.

Task: Promote water conservation awareness through community workshops and other educational opportunities.

Task: Promote water conservation awareness through print, email, radio, billboard, survey, and other media.

Estimated
QTY

Utility bill inserts

Educational printing

Youth education

Promotional water conservation items

Water conservation workshops

Media

Subtotal:

COST PER	County	WRWSA	SWFWMD	Total Cost
\$2,600.00	\$11,700.00	\$11,700.00	n/a	\$23,400.00
	\$1,250.00	\$1,250.00	n/a	\$2,500.00
	\$1,250.00	\$1,250.00	n/a	\$2,500.00
	\$4,250.00	\$4,250.00	n/a	\$8,500.00
	\$750.00	\$750.00	n/a	\$1,500.00
	\$11,250.00	\$11,250.00	n/a	\$22,500.00
	\$30,450.00	\$30,450.00	\$0.00	\$60,900.00

Programming will begin October 1, 2025. Citrus County will expend all grant funding by September 30, 2026.

TOTAL:

County	WRWSA	SWFWMD	Total Cost
\$47,175.00	\$47,175.00	\$15,250.00	\$109,600.00

RESOLUTION NO. 2025 - 043

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Citrus County Board of County Commissioners supports the application to the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority for the FY 2025-26 Water Supply and Conservation Grant and agrees to budget funds as identified in Scope of Services.

ATTEST:

Traci Perry
for TRACI PERRY, CLERK



CITRUS COUNTY, FLORIDA, A POLITICAL
SUBDIVISION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA

BY:

Rebecca Bays
REBECCA BAYS, CHAIRMAN

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

Denise A. Dymond Lyn
DENISE A. DYMOND LYN
COUNTY ATTORNEY

APPROVED

JUN 10 2025

BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS



FY 2025-26

WATER SUPPLY AND CONSERVATION GRANT APPLICATION FORM:

Name of applicant:

Hernando County Utilities Department

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

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

Projects:

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

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

FY 2021/22 Closed September 30, 2022

FY 2022/23 Closed September 30, 2023

FY 2023/24 Closed September 30, 2024

*FY 2024/25 will close September 30, 2025

Attachments to application:

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

Return Application to:

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

Deadline: July 1, 2025, 5:00 p.m. EST

FY 2026 Conservation Project Budget

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

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

Water resource and conservation education
Curriculum assistance.

Total: **\$9,500**

Promotional Items & Workshops

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

Total **\$23,500**

Conservation Advertising Campaign

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

Total **\$19,000**

HCUD Resource Programs

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

Total **\$39,000**

Presentation/Workshop Equipment

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

Total **\$3,000**

TOTAL PROPOSED BUDGET
WRWSA portion/share (50%)

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

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

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED PROJECT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026

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

Overview

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

Information is collected from Hernando County residents and other water conservation program participants on types of programs that they believe are the most vital and important. We use this information to produce materials, presentations, workshops, and seminars. Much of our educational programming to virtual platforms. We will continue bringing in-person educational presentations and workshops the public in 2026. We have monthly rain barrel workshops in person. And our Florida Friendly Landscaping program has monthly virtual presentations on a variety of important topics.

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

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

PURPOSE & PROPOSED INITIATIVES

Major elements of the program consist of:

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

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

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

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

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

Water Conservation media messaging campaign:

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

Water Conservation and Resource Protection Promotion and Workshops

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

protection education to the public. (Budget Item: Rain barrels, informational guides, workshops, signs)

HCUD Water Resource Programs:

Hernando County Utilities Department encourages our customers to conserve our valuable water supply through water bill rebates (and other incentives). Incentive programs: HE Washing Machine Rebate (\$100), Rain Sensor Rebate Program (\$75.00), Low-Flow Toilet Replacement Program (\$125.00) and promotion of Florida Friendly Landscaping workshop, where customer attendees receive a “tuition” reimbursement on their water bill. Incentives also help further the promotion of Hernando County’s Florida Friendly Landscaping (FFL) program. Customer rebates include a \$30 rebate for participating in the FFL rain barrel workshops and another \$25 rebate is available for certifying their landscape as a Florida Friendly Landscape. Outdoor water conservation projects/programs/incentives may include professional leak detection project, sprinkler checkup program, high efficiency irrigation nozzles, water sense timer replacements and/or potential pilot project for sustainability through inclusion of soil amendments incentive and local groundwater monitoring pilot project.

CONCLUSION

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

IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

All the above projects and initiatives will be ongoing throughout Fiscal Year 2026. Funds from the current (FY2025) WRWSA assistance program will be encumbered by September 30, 2025. This meets the requirement to submit funding request for 2025 fiscal year. The water conservation initiatives for FY 2026 will begin October 1, 2025 and conclude with all grant assistance funds being encumbered by September 30, 2026.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025- 106

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ADOPTED IN REGULAR SESSION THIS 24th DAY OF JUNE 2025 IN BROOKSVILLE, FLORIDA.

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

Attest Hindi Prasse, Deputy Clerk
for Douglas A. Chorvat, JR.
Clerk of Court &
Comptroller

By: Brian Hawkins
Chairman

(SEAL)
HERNANDO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA

Approved for Form and
Legal Sufficiency

By: Victoria Anderson
County Attorney's Office

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

Marion County Board of County Commissioners

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

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

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

2024= \$13,237.50 to be completed by September 30, 2025
2023 = \$9,160.06 completed September 30, 2024.
2022 = \$14,081.25 completed September 30, 2023.

Attachments to application:

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

Return Application to:

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

Deadline: July 1, 2025, 5:00 p.m. EST

Marion County WRWSA FY 2025/2026 Grant Application Attachments
Program Description

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

The following is a breakdown of the costs of the various projects that Marion County requests grant funding for during fiscal year 2025/26:

Program	Total Cost	County Cost Share	WRWSA Cost Share
Educational Outreach	\$5,000	\$2,500	\$2,500
Utility Bill Inserts on Water Use Efficiency	\$3,000	\$1,500	\$1,500
Educational Print Media	\$1,000	\$500	\$500
Low-Flow Toilet Rebates (Non-MCU Customers East of I-75)	\$450	\$225	\$225
Low-Flow Toilet Rebates (Non-MCU Customers West of I-75)	\$450	\$225	\$225
Water Conservation Kits and Rain Sensors	\$6,100	\$3,050	\$3,050
Water Conservation Billboards	\$10,570	\$5,285	\$5,285
Smart Irrigation Controller Rebates	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
Total Project Costs	\$36,570	\$18,285	\$18,285

These projects represent only a portion of the County's on-going Water Use Efficiency Program. A cost-share of \$18,285 will help to offset the costs of performing incentive-based water conservation programs as well as conducting public outreach. The remainder of the program costs will be funded by the Marion County Board of County Commissioners and other cooperative partners.

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

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

Utility Bill Inserts on Water Use Efficiency: Billing inserts are distributed on a bimonthly basis by Marion County Utilities. These inserts are used to educate citizens on water use efficiency and to promote the County's incentive-based programs. Message topics in FY2025/26 will include: informing citizens of the change back to the once a week watering schedule, how to conduct a routine check on an irrigation system, how to identify common household leaks, and other topics related to water use. These inserts are a big driver for participation in the County's water use efficiency initiatives.

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

Low-Flow Toilet Rebates: The toilet rebate program offers unincorporated Marion County residents up to \$100 (or \$180 if two toilets are replaced) to replace a conventional high-volume toilet (3.5 gallons per flush or greater) with a dual flush or high-efficiency toilet (1.28 gallons per flush or less). This is an ongoing program that has been in place since October, 2011. This grant would provide for approximately 100 toilet rebates in unincorporated Marion County for residents that are not Marion County Utilities customers. It is estimated that the replacement of these toilets will save an estimated 25.1million gallons total over their 20-year lifespan at a cost of approximated \$1.01per thousand gallons saved. The County is expected to have a grant with the Southwest Florida Water Management District to cooperatively fund rebates as well for Marion County Utilities customers. This will be the fourth phase of this program.

Water Conservation Kits and Rain Sensors: Low flow retrofit kits are distributed for free at the Marion County Utilities office to customers, as well as at various events throughout the year. These kits contain low-flow fixtures and devices to reduce both indoor and outdoor water use. Each kit fully installed has the potential to save 25,000 gallons of water a year. They will be distributed to both non-utilities and utilities customers. Rain sensors are required on all irrigation systems installed after May 1, 1991



FY 2025-26

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

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

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

Grant Timeline

Education Outreach

Conduct education outreach campaigns 10/1/2025-9/30/2026
Give presentations at summer camps across the county 6/1/2026-9/1/2026

Educational Materials

Develop, print, and distribute materials 10/1/2025- 9/30/2026

Low-Flow Toilet Rebates

Enroll participants 10/1/2025-9/1/2026
Perform inspections and issue rebates 10/1/2025-9/30/2026

Water Conservation Kits and Rain Sensors

Order conservation kits and sensors 10/1/2025- 8/1/2026
Distribute and track conservation kits and sensors 12/1/2025- 9/30/2026



FY 2025-26

Utility Bill Inserts on Water Use Efficiency

Develop, print, and distribute materials 10/1/2025- 9/30/2026

Water Conservation Billboards

Develop and run billboard campaigns 11/1/2025-9/30/2026

Smart Irrigation Controller Rebates

Enroll participants 10/1/2025-9/1/2026

Perform inspections and issue rebates 10/1/2025-9/30/2026

RESOLUTION NO. 25-R-193

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA, TO SUPPORT THE GRANT APPLICATION FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT WATER SUPPLY FUNDING ASSISTANCE FROM THE WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY FOR LOCAL WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM EFFORTS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Marion County Board of County Commissioners (Board) recognizes the importance of efficient water use to protect and sustain its local water supply and related natural resources; and

WHEREAS, the Board is required by permit to promote water conservation initiatives, which include but are not limited to conservation rate structures, a countywide landscape irrigation Ordinance, homeowner workshops, and irrigation evaluation and education services; and

WHEREAS, the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (Authority), through its own recognition of the importance of water use efficiency, has created a local government water supply assistance grant program which provides funding to member governments specifically for water conservation projects; and

WHEREAS, the Board is seeking a grant through the Authority's funding assistance program for low-flow toilet rebates, low-flow retrofit kits, and homeowner education elements of its overall water conservation programming in Fiscal Year 2024/2025; and

WHEREAS, the Board is required, according to the terms of the Authority's funding assistance program, to budget and expend matching funds equal to or greater than fifty percent (50%) of the amount of the requested grant;

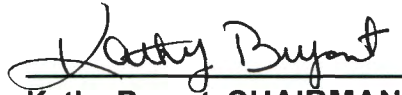
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA:

1. The above recitals are true and correct and are hereby incorporated herein by reference.

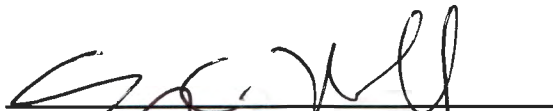
2. Marion County Board of County Commissioners supports and approves the application to the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority for local grant program funding for the 2025/2026 fiscal year.
3. Marion County Board of County Commissioners agrees to budget \$36,570.00 as part of its on-going Water Use Efficiency program and to expend its matching funds as required by the grant funding program.
4. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AND DULY ADOPTED this 17TH day of June, 2025

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA**

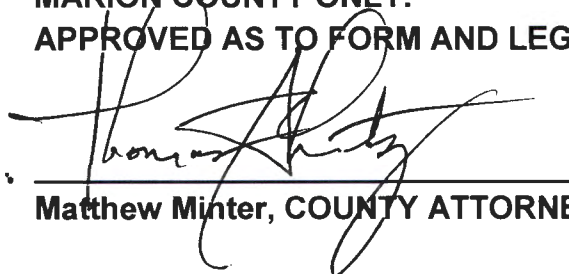

Kathy Bryant, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:


Gregory C. Harrell, CLERK

**FOR THE USE AND RELIANCE OF
MARION COUNTY ONLY.**

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

for: 
Matthew Minter, COUNTY ATTORNEY



FY 2025-26

WATER SUPPLY AND CONSERVATION GRANT APPLICATION FORM:

Name of applicant:

Sumter County Public Works - Jail Dorms Water Systems Retrofit

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

Please see the attached Project Description, Estimated Costs, Schedule, and Previously Awarded WRWSA Grants.

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

Please see the attached Project Description, Estimated Costs, Schedule, and Previously Awarded WRWSA Grants.

Attachments to application:

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

Return Application to:

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

34461 Deadline: June 30, 2025, 5:00 p.m. EST

WATER SUPPLY AND CONSERVATION GRANT APPLICATION FORM
FY 25-26 Scope of Work

Project: Monetary Incentives	Components	Estimated Quantities	County	WRWSA	Total Cost
The objective is to reduce water consumption by installing water efficient I-Con controls in Sumter County Detention Center Alpha-Building - (A-pod, B-pod, C-Pod, D-Pod, Booking, Control, Male and Female Medical ISOs and Wards, Juvenile 1 and 2, and Medical.)	I-CON controls for Alpha building; all pods, dorms, medical ISOs and wards, and Envisage computer.	1 Computer	\$514,140.00	\$180,000.00	\$694,140.00
		51 Toilet Flush Valves			
		51 Lavatory Valves			
		37 Shower Valves			

Tasks

Reduce water consumption by installing I-CON water controls in the existing Alpha Building - (A-pod, B-pod, C-Pod, D-Pod, Booking, Control, Male and Female Medical ISOs and Wards, Juvenile 1 and 2, and Medical.) This will be the final phase of the project.

4.1 Schedule

One month for Sole Source Publication.
Two to three weeks for approval and for the Board of County Commissioners' (BOCC) regular meeting agenda.
Construction timeframe includes lead-time six to ten weeks and construction of six to eight weeks.

Previous Grants Received from WRWSA

- 2023/24 Grant Year - \$80,000.00 WRWSA \$126,180.00 Sumter County
- 2024/25 Grant Year - \$73,512.50 WRWSA \$164,797.50 Sumter County

Submitted By:

Sumter County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC)
Public Works Department
7375 Powell Road
Wildwood, FL 34785
352-689-4400

Deborah L. Snyder, P.E., PTOE

Public Works Director/County Engineer
Mobile 352-303-8236

RESOLUTION NO. 2025 - 33

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

WHEREAS, the Sumter County Board of County Commissioners recognizes and support the County's efforts in water conservation; and

WHEREAS, the Sumter County Public Works Department, Facilities and Parks Division is responsible for the operation and maintenance of facilities of the county; and,

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

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

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

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

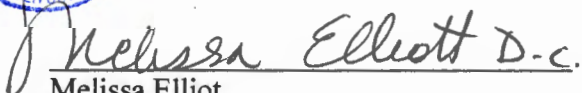
Sumter County Board of County Commissioners supports the application to the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority for the FY 2025-2026 Local Government Water Supply Funding Assistance program and agrees to budget funds as identified in Exhibit "A".

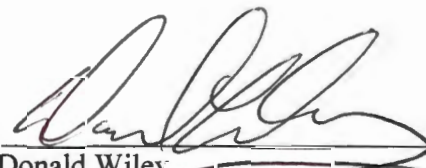
DONE AND RESOLVED THIS 10th DAY of June 2025.

SUMTER COUNTY, FLORIDA, A
POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OF THE
STATE OF FLORIDA



Attest: Erin Munz, Clerk and Auditor


Melissa Elliott
DEPUTY CLERK

BY: 
Donald Wiley
Chairman

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

City of Belleview

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

The City of Belleview will man a booth at the next Founder's Day event on May 2, 2026, with projected attendance of 2500 – 3000 people. The City will prepare presentation material in the form of a slideshow or video presentation to educate our citizens on water conservation. Topics will include the importance of irrigation best practices, practical things to do at home to reduce water usage, and why backflow prevention is important. The City employees will interact with residents and hand out information brochures and water conservation merchandise.

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

The City of Belleview participated in the Irrigation Evaluation Program with WRWSA & SJRWMD for 2023 - 2025.

Attachments to application:

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

Return Application to:

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

Deadline: July 1, 2025, 5:00 p.m. EST



CITY OF BELLEVIEW

City with Small Town Charm

www.belleviewfl.org

Public Works

5525 SE 119th St.

Bellevue, FL 34420

Office: 352-245-7021

Fax: 352-307-7708

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

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED PROJECT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026

CITY OF BELLEVIEW PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT – UTILITIES WATER CONSERVATION

Overview

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

Recently, the City of Belleview has experienced a significant amount of growth. New residential developments will add ~ 2000 homes in the next five years, and commercial development has boomed with over a dozen new retail facilities opening or scheduled to open in the next year alone.

With the City of Belleview's population expected to rise dramatically over the next few years, the need for education and water conservation efforts are at an all time high. The assistance of the WRWSA grant will allow the City of Belleview to promote water conservation at a focused event that sees thousands of residents each year. Going forward, the City hopes to develop more permanent water conservation initiatives to ensure a sustainable drinking water source for our residents.

Project Tasks/Scope of Services

The City of Belleview annually hosts Founder's Day, where the City celebrates the historic 1885 incorporation of the City. The celebration occurs around Lake Lillian, where the City of Belleview recruits various local businesses and vendors for family-friendly activities such as a craft fair, food trucks, a kids' zone, and live entertainment. The City uses this opportunity to interact with our residents to not

only provide education on the history of our City, but to focus on relevant future City priorities. With the current construction of a new potable water plant, we feel that additional education on water conservation is pertinent to sustainable stewardship of our water resources.

Founder's Day will be on May 2, 2026. The Public Works Department will set up a booth in the midst of the celebration, where residents can interact with City employees. The theme of the City booth will focus on educating and informing residents of water conservation practices.

The City of Bellevue will focus on the following to promote water conservation to our residents:

- a) City staff will either design their own water conservation educational brochures/pamphlets, or we will use (with permission) brochures/pamphlets from others (e.g. SJRWMD). Brochures/pamphlets will be printed and available to residents.

Projected Cost: \$1000 (to print a variety of materials)

- b) The City of Bellevue will have a tv at the booth that plays water conservation tips, with potential topics including:
 - proper use of irrigation systems
 - i. what days and times irrigation systems should run
 - ii. rain sensors for irrigation systems
 - iii. focused vs. general irrigation practices
 - iv. Irrigating a lawn
 - Low flow features for homes
 - i. Shower heads
 - ii. Toilets
 - iii. Faucet aerators
 - Check for leaks on plumbing
 - i. Faucets
 - ii. Toilets
 - iii. Backflows
 - Testing backflows to keep them in proper working order
 - i. biennially (residential)
 - ii. annually (non-residential)
- c) The City will work with vendors on our Preferred Backflow Testers List to offer an enticing coupon for residential backflow testing so that residents will want to stop by the booth.

Projected Cost: \$200 (to print coupons)

- d) The City will purchase water conservation items to entice residents to the booth. By having residents stop by, we will have the opportunity to talk to them one-on-one to convey information for water-saving measures.

Projected Cost: \$3800

Total Project Cost: \$5000

\$2500 to be paid by City of Bellevue; \$2500 to be paid by WRWSA

Projected Timeline of Events

October 2025 – January 2026

Create pamphlets and brochures to use for the event –OR—research and find appropriate literature to use from other sources. Complete printing of educational material.

November 2025

Order Merchandise from Vendors (to get 2025 pricing)

January - April 2026

Find all videos and presentations to play at booth. Arrange for equipment to be present at booth during the event.

Contact companies on our Preferred Backflow Testers List to see who would be willing to offer a coupon for backflow testing services. Design and print coupon.

May 2026

Completion of the project will be **Founders Day May 2, 2026.**

Materials that are left over will be displayed at City Hall and the Dennis Monroe Complex lobby.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-02

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

effect of any other section or part of this Resolution.

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

PASSED AND RESOLVED by a 5 to 0 vote of the City Commission of the City of Belleview, Florida on the 1st day of July, 2025



CHRISTINE DOBKOWSKI

Mayor

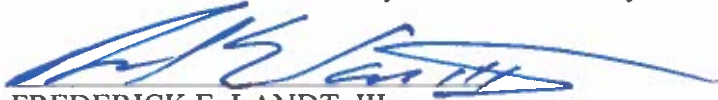
Attest:



LEZLI MERRITT
City Clerk



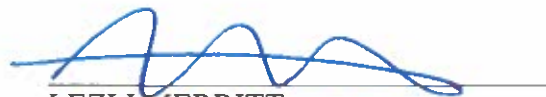
Approved as to Form and Legal Sufficiency for
the use and Benefit of the City of Belleview Only:



FREDERICK E. LANDT, III
City Attorney

CERTIFICATE OF POSTING

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



LEZLI MERRITT
City Clerk



CITY OF BELLEVIEW

City with Small Town Charm

www.bellevuefl.org

Public Works

5525 SE 119th St.

Bellevue, FL 34420

Office: 352-245-7021

Fax: 352-307-7708

Suzannah J. Folsom, PE, PMP
Executive Director
Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority
Lecanto Government Building
3600 W Sovereign Path, Suite 228
Lecanto, FL 34461

June 26, 2025

Dear Ms. Folsom,

Enclosed is the City of Belleview's application for the FY 2025-26 WRWSA Local Government Water Supply and Conservation Funding Assistance Program. The City of Belleview looks forward to furthering water conservation goals through public education and outreach.

As per your phone conversation with Bob Titterington on Tuesday, June 24th 2025, the Resolution will be ratified on the evening of July 1st 2025 at the next City of Belleview Commission Meeting. Upon completion of the meeting, the Resolution will be sent to you promptly.

Sincerely,

Laura Gary

Cross Connection & IP/FOG Coordinator

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

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

Included as Exhibit A to this item is the proposed FY 2025-2026 budget. A draft budget was included in the May 2025 agenda packet and presented at the May 21, 2025 board meeting.

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

See Exhibits included in the Board's meeting materials:

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

Staff Recommendation:

Approve Resolution 2025-05 adopting the FY 2025-2026 budget including anticipated revenues of \$523,068, expenditures in the amount of \$508,611, budgeted reserves in the amount of \$2,500,056, as presented in Exhibit A, for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2025 and ending September 30, 2026.

WITHLACOCOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY

Fiscal Year 2025-26 Budget

Final April 25, 2025

	4/1/2024 Population Estimate	Comments	Fiscal Year 2025-26	Fiscal Year 2024-25	\$ Change	% Change
Revenues: Administrative						
Assessments:		Official BEBR Population Estimates				
Citrus	166,151	3,911 person increase	\$31,569	\$30,826	\$743	2.4%
Hernando	210,577	6,312 person increase	\$40,010	\$38,811	\$1,199	3.1%
Marion	419,510	15,544 person increase	\$79,707	\$76,754	\$2,953	3.8%
Sumter	156,743	1,425 person increase	\$29,782	\$29,511	\$271	0.9%
Total Population/Assessments @ 19¢/Capita	952,981		\$181,068	\$175,902	\$5,166	2.9%
Administrative Revenue from Citrus Contract		Based on Citrus County contract and Board direction	\$15,543	\$25,703	-\$10,160	-39.5%
Subtotal			\$196,611	\$201,605	-\$4,994	-2.5%
Carryover Administration Reserve Funds (FYE 24/25 Estimate) (SBA1)		See Attachment 2	\$856,046	\$930,802	-\$74,755	-8.0%
Total Administrative Revenue Available			\$1,052,657	\$1,132,407	-\$79,749	-7.0%
Revenues: Water Resource Development (WRD) Projects						
2024 RWSP Update Matching Funds		50% of Remaining Project Budget (25%)	\$0	43,750	-\$43,750	-100.0%
SJRWMD Irrigation Audit Program SJRWMD Matching Funds		0% of Total Project Budget	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%
SJRWMD Irrigation Audit Program Cooperator Matching Funds		0% of Total Project Budget	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%
Phase 8 Irrigation Audit Program SWFWMD Matching Funds		0% of Total Project Budget	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$0	0.0%
Phase 7 Irrigation Audit Program Cooperator Matching Funds		0% of Total Project Budget	\$10,000	\$11,970	-\$1,970	-16.5%
Phase 7 Irrigation Audit Program SWFWMD Matching Funds		24 followups	\$0	\$1,500	-\$1,500	-100.0%
Phase 7 Irrigation Audit Program Cooperator Matching Funds		24 followups	\$0	\$750	-\$750	-100.0%
Annual Citrus WRD Payments (SBA2)		Based on CAB wellfield monthly average revenues of \$26,000 minus funds allocated to administrative revenue above	\$296,457	\$286,297	\$10,160	3.5%
Subtotal			\$326,457	\$364,267	-\$37,810	-10.4%
Carryover WRD Reserve Funds (FYE 24/25 Estimate) (SBA2)		See Attachment 2	\$1,629,553	\$1,385,454	\$244,099	17.6%
Total Water Resource Development Revenue Available			\$1,956,010	\$1,749,721	\$206,289	11.8%
Total Revenues Available			\$3,008,667	\$2,882,127	\$126,540	4.4%

WITHLACOCOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY Fiscal Year 2025-26 Budget <i>Final April 25, 2025</i>					
	Fiscal Year 2025-26	Fiscal Year 2024-25	\$ Change	% Change	
Expenditures: General Administration					
Executive Director	\$97,560	\$94,716	\$2,844	3.0%	
Administrative Assistant	\$43,488	\$42,216	\$1,272	3.0%	
Legal Services					
Monthly Meetings @ \$235/hr	\$4,230	\$4,230	\$0	0.0%	
Other Services @ \$235/hr.	\$11,280	\$16,920	-\$5,640	-33.3%	
Advertising	\$600	\$700	-\$100	-14.3%	
Audit	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$0	0.0%	
Bookkeeping Services	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$0	0.0%	
Liability Insurance	\$3,280.00	\$5,000	-\$1,720	-34.4%	
Office Supplies	\$1,500	\$1,250	\$250	20.0%	
Postage	\$800	\$800	\$0	0.0%	
Printing and Reproduction	\$2,000	\$1,600	\$400	25.0%	
Publications/Software	\$150	\$150	\$0	0.0%	
Rent (Lecanto Gov't Bldg)	\$2,048	\$2,048	\$0	0.0%	
Registrations/Dues	\$1,200	\$1,500	-\$300	-20.0%	
State Fees/Assessments	\$175	\$175	\$0	0.0%	
Telephone	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$0	0.0%	
Travel (Board Members & Staff)	\$2,000	\$3,000	-\$1,000	-33.3%	
Web Page / Computer Maintenance / Software	\$5,000	\$6,000	-\$1,000	-16.7%	
Contingencies	\$2,100	\$2,100	\$0	0.0%	
Subtotal - General Administration Expenditures	\$196,611	\$201,605	-\$4,994	-2.5%	
Fund Balance for Admin. Reserves FYE 25/26	\$856,046	\$930,802	-\$74,755	-8.0%	
Expenditures: Water Resource Development Projects					
General Services Contracts	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$0	0.0%	
CAB Engineering Analysis	\$42,000	\$0	\$42,000	N/A	
Local Government Grant Program	\$180,000	\$180,000	\$0	0.0%	
2024 RWSP Update	\$0	\$87,500	-\$87,500	-100.0%	
SJRWMD Pilot Irrigation Audit Program	\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A	
SWFWMD Phase 7 Irrigation Audit Program	\$0	\$3,000	-\$3,000	-100.0%	
SWFWMD Phase 8 Irrigation Audit Program	\$40,000	\$47,880	-\$7,880	-16.5%	
Subtotal - Water Resource Development Projects	\$312,000	\$368,380	-\$56,380	-15.3%	
Fund Balance for Water Resource Development Reserves FYE 25/26	\$1,644,010	\$1,381,341	\$262,669	19.0%	
Total Administration and WRD Expenses	\$508,611	\$569,985	-\$61,374	-10.8%	
Total Administration and WRD Fund Balances at FYE 24/25	\$2,500,055	\$2,309,892	\$190,163	8.2%	
Combined FYE 25/26 Expenditures and Fund Balances	\$3,008,666	\$2,879,877	\$128,789	4.5%	

ATTACHMENT 1

CALCULATION OF REVENUE FOR 2025-26 AND CALCULATION OF AMOUNT OF FUNDS NEEDED FROM RESERVES Final April 25, 2025

Revenue	4/1/2024 Population	
LOCAL ASSESSMENTS @ 19¢ PER CAPITA		
Citrus	166,151	\$31,569
Hernando	210,577	\$40,010
Marion	419,510	\$79,707
Sumter	156,743	\$29,781
Subtotal	952,981	\$181,067
CHARLES A. BLACK WATER SUPPLY FACILITY		
\$26,000 per month * 12 months		\$312,000
Subtotal		\$312,000
MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS FOR STUDIES		
SWFWMD Match for RWSP Update		\$0
SWFWMD Match for Phase 7 Irrigation Audit Program		\$0
Local Cooperator Match for Phase 7 Irrigation Audit Program		\$0
SWFWMD Match for Phase 8 Irrigation Audit Program		\$20,000
Local Cooperator Match for Phase 8 Irrigation Audit Program		\$10,000
SJRWMD Match for Irrigation Pilot Evaluation Program		\$0
Local Cooperator Match for Irrigation Pilot Evaluation		\$0
Subtotal		\$30,000
TOTAL REVENUE FOR FY 2025-26		\$523,067
Less: 20254-26 Administration Expense		-\$196,611
Less: 2025-26 WRD Cost		-\$312,000
Funds from WRWSA Reserves (+to, -from)		\$14,456

ATTACHMENT 2

ANALYSIS OF BEGINNING FUND BALANCES FY 2025 - 2026 Final April 25, 2025

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

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

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

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

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

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

PROJECTED FUND BALANCES AT END OF FY 2025-26

Total Fund Balances beginning of FY 2024-25:	\$2,485,599
Add: 2024-25 Revenues	\$523,067
Deduct 2024-25 Expenses:	-\$508,611
Projected Fund Balances at end of FY 2025-26:	\$2,500,055

Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority

Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Work Program

1. 2024 Regional Water Supply Plan Update

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

6. Springs Protection and Restoration

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

7. Program Development and Technical Assistance

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

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

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

WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY

RESOLUTION 2025-05

ADOPTION OF FINAL BUDGET
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-26

WHEREAS, pursuant to the requirements of Section 189.016(4), Florida Statutes, the Board of Directors of the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority held a public meeting on July 9, 2025, on the final budget and assessment rate for general administrative, operating and project expenses for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2025 and ending September 30, 2026; and

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

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

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

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

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

ADOPTED in regular session this ninth day of July 2025.

WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER
SUPPLY AUTHORITY

BY: Jerry Campbell, Chair

Attest:

Suzannah J. Folsom, Executive Director

Regional Water Supply Plan Update

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

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

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

This project is behind schedule due to some delays in the availability of the Central Springs Model. The model has been received now and the project is progressing. The revised project schedule is shown below.

Task Summary

Task	Description	Schedule	% Complete
1	Project Management and Stakeholder Engagement	February 2023 – September 2025	85%
2	Data Collection and Processing	February 2023 – January 2024	Complete
3	Population and Demand Estimates	February 2023 – June 2024	Complete
4	Water Conservation and Reuse Evaluation	February 2023 – November 2024	95%
5	Water Sources Evaluation	April 2024 – June 2025	50%
6	Water Supply Project Options	October 2024 – July 2025	50%
7	Recommendations	December 2024 – August 2025	0%
8	Draft and Final Report	February 2025 – September 2025	20%

This project budget is 62% expended. A summary of the billing and SWFWMD reimbursement received to date is provided below.

Project Billing Summary

Hazen and Sawyer Contract Amount	Billed To Date	Remaining	SWFWMD Reimbursement Received
\$350,000.00	\$215,764.00	\$134,236.00	\$98,290.93

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

A summary of the bills that WRWSA staff have been tracking that passed during the session is provided as an Exhibit to this item. A more detailed presentation on the SB 492 / HB 1175 Mitigation Banks Bill will be given.

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

Exhibit: Bill Tracking

Staff Recommendation:

This is an information item, no action is required.

WRWSA Summary of Florida State Legislative Issues for Tracking

Updated July 1, 2025

Status of Relevant Bills that Passed

Bill Title	Significance	Bill	Sponsors	Status
Emergency Preparedness and Response	- Revises provisions relating to emergencies including tenant rights, elections held after emergency, planning & preparedness for election emergencies, emergency management plans, training, government offices, National Flood Insurance Program participation, replacement structures, reporting, assessment of property, shelters, medical care, comprehensive plans, powers & duties of DEM, notification, financial assistance & funding, grant programs, contracts for emergency services, hurricane recovery, transportation of essentials, debris management, & hoisting equipment. - Emergencies; Prohibiting certain local governments from adopting ordinances for substantial improvements or repairs to a structure which include cumulative substantial improvement periods; prohibiting certain entities from assessing impact fees for specified replacement structures; revising public hurricane shelter funding prioritization requirements for the Division of Emergency Management; authorizing certain servicemembers to provide medical care in specified circumstances; revising requirements for the state comprehensive emergency management plan, etc.	SB 180	DeCeglie	Approved by the Governor (6/26/2025)
		HB 1535	McFarland	
Municipal Water and Sewer Utility Rates	Requires municipality to charge consumers receiving its utility services in another municipality the same rates, fees, & charges as it charges consumers within its own municipal boundaries.	SB202	Jones	Signed by Officers and presented to the Governor (6/18/2025)
		HB11	Robinson	Approved by the Governor (6/26/2025)
Mitigation Banks	Revising the schedule to which the Department of Environmental Protection and water management districts are required to adhere for the release of credits awarded by a mitigation bank permit; prohibiting the release of mitigation credits until certain criteria are met; authorizing certain projects or activities to use credits released from a bank to offset impacts if certain requirements are met, etc.	SB492	Stan McClain	Approved by the Governor (6/26/2025)
		HB 1175	Duggan	

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

Item 12

Attorney's Report

To be provided at meeting

Item 13.a.

Executive Director's Report

Water Use Permit Demand Summary

Summary of Major Water Use Permits in WRWSA Service Area

Updated 06/23/2025

Water Use Permit #	Applicant/Permittee Name	Permit Expiration Date	Permitted Average GPD	Actual 12-Month Rolling Average GPD*	Actual 5-Year Rolling Average GPD**	Actual Use / Permit Capacity	WRWSA RWSP Projection for 2025 GPD	RWSP Accuracy for 2025 +/-%
Citrus County								
207.007	City of Crystal River	3/27/2032	919,000	845,198	868,446	92.0%	750,000	-11.3%
419.013	City of Inverness	5/18/2031	1,535,000	1,268,071	1,183,108	82.6%	1,160,000	-8.5%
1118.008	Floral City Water Association, Inc.	2/28/2038	395,000	421,995	371,575	106.8%	310,000	-26.5%
2842.011	Citrus County	8/25/2035	4,780,000	3,587,968	2,983,058	75.1%	2,730,000	-23.9%
4153.015	Rolling Oaks Utilities, Inc.	8/20/2038	1,573,000	1,819,918	1,675,346	115.7%	1,510,000	-17.0%
4406.009	Homosassa Special Water District	8/25/2032	951,000	801,778	820,915	84.3%	770,000	-4.0%
7121.007	Citrus County - Charles A Black	8/22/2043	7,181,900	5,980,271	5,289,715	83.3%	3,840,000	-35.8%
9791.011	Citrus County - Sugarmill Woods	11/17/2025	2,435,300	2,892,805	2,499,325	118.8%	2,430,000	-16.0%
11839.008	Walden Woods	4/23/2039	187,900	157,767	166,645	84.0%	140,000	-11.3%
Hernando County								
5789.015	Hernando County	1/23/2041	24,360,000	22,079,759	20,809,482	90.6%	19,670,000	-10.9%
7627.007	City of Brooksville	8/5/2044	1,709,000	2,555,951	1,592,757	149.6%	1,160,000	-54.6%
Marion County - SWFWMD								
1156.013	Bay Laurel Community Development District	2/23/2041	7,560,900	4,676,633	4,171,809	61.9%	2,770,000	-40.8%
5643.008	Utilities, Inc. of Florida - Golden Hills	2/23/2036	188,400	131,913	132,525	70.0%	160,000	21.3%
6151.015	Marion County Utilities Consolidated WUP	12/13/2042	9,365,800	11,154,222	7,859,684	119.1%	5,500,000	-50.7%
8020.008	Association of Marion Landing Owners	9/9/2040	152,100	131,024	131,805	86.1%	160,000	22.1%
8339.008	FGUA - Dunellon	3/21/2035	1,117,100	1,215,751	1,338,919	108.8%	980,000	-19.4%
Marion County - SJRWMD								
2993-12	CSWR-Florida Utility Operating Company - South Marion Regional Water System	5/27/2042	231,000	185,117	192,008	80.1%	240,000	29.6%
2995-8	CSWR-Florida Utility Operating Company - Tradewinds Utilities Inc	2/27/2035	227,000	209,158	122,021	92.1%	100,000	-52.2%
3016-4	Ocala East Villas Inc	8/27/2031	107,000	67,674	86,793	63.2%	100,000	47.8%
3021-5	Rolling Greens Communities	9/13/2025	610,000	473,912	424,585	77.7%	350,000	-26.1%
3043-7	Florida Governmental Utility Authority - Ocala Oaks	1/6/2040	194,000	148,598	145,648	76.6%	190,000	27.9%
3130-6	CSWR-Florida Utility Operating Company - Sunray Estates	8/17/1940	195,000	173,849	152,603	89.2%	150,000	-13.7%
3137-7	City of Belleview	10/11/2036	1,022,000	1,267,253	1,107,452	124.0%	900,000	-29.0%
4578-9	Marion County Utilities Consolidated CUP	9/10/2023*	8,812,000	6,701,364	6,417,364	76.0%	6,890,000	2.8%
50324-9	City of Ocala	8/7/2027	17,540,000	13,785,641	12,703,026	78.6%	11,620,000	-15.7%
Sumter County								
1368.009	Lake Panasoffkee Water Assoc Inc	10/21/2044	410,000	296,003	288,508	72.2%	380,000	28.4%
6519.01	City of Bushnell	3/29/2031	1,366,800	647,370	507,677	47.4%	850,000	31.3%
7185.007	City of Webster	5/23/2043	386,200	118,698	102,441	30.7%	210,000	76.9%
8135.016	City of Wildwood	3/31/2035	4,583,200	3,674,642	2,634,050	80.2%	5,560,000	51.3%
8193.006	City of Center Hill	11/18/2042	150,000	74,422	71,030	49.6%	210,000	182.2%
13005.012	Village Center Community Development District	1/23/2038	19,345,900	15,371,474	13,556,256	79.5%	24,810,000	61.4%
21031.001	Blue Goose Utility Company	4/7/2054	5,836,600	0	n/a	0.00%	n/a	n/a
20901.002	Gibson Place Utility Company	1/26/2041	3,985,700	885,400	n/a	22.2%	n/a	n/a
20721.003	South Sumter Utility Company	2/2/2038	2,600,000	1,681,460	1,459,864	64.7%	n/a	n/a
12-month Rolling Average for most recent available data								
5-year Rolling Average for most recent available data								
*Renewal submitted; Permitted GPD represents WUP request; utility has extension granted through May 28, 2025; revision number updated to reflect submittal								

Item 13.b.

Executive Director's Report

WMIS WUP Notifications

Summary of Recent Water Use Permit Activity in WRWSA Service Area

Updated June 23, 2025

Water Use Permit #	Applicant/Permittee Name	Activity Type	Date	Avg GPD	Peak GPD	Use Type	Status
Citrus County							
11931.003	Citrus Hills Investment Properties	Letter Modification	2/17/2025	46,500	133,800	Landscape Recreation	In Review
13279.007	Cabot Citrus Farms CDD / Attn: Shirley Conley	Ownership Transfer	5/24/2025	763,900	1,645,000	Public Supply Recreation	In Review
Hernando County							
13279.007	Cabot Citrus Farms CDD / Attn: Shirley Conley	Ownership Transfer	5/24/2025	763,900	1,645,000	Public Supply Recreation	In Review
Marion County - SWFWMD							
3374.008	Larry R Brown	Letter Modification	4/24/2025	476,600	927,800	Agricultural	Completed 5/19/2025
Sumter County							
21252.000	Meadowbrook Acres of South Central FL	New	4/30/2025	15,600	20,600	Agricultural	In Review
7646.008	Anna Jameson	Renewal	5/28/2025	27,000	48,100	Agricultural	In Review
8211.006	Flowerwood Nursery	Letter Modification	6/23/2025	387,800	847,000	Agricultural	In Review

Item 13.c.

Residential Irrigation Evaluation Programs Update

Suzy Folsom, Executive Director, will present this item.

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

Phase 7 Residential Irrigation Evaluation Program – SWFWMD

This program began in December 2022, with 77% of the planned evaluations completed in the evaluation timeframe, which was complete in July 2024. Now the focus of the program is on follow-ups to 25% of the core evaluation participants, a comparison of pre- and post-evaluation water usage, a satisfaction survey and a report. This program will be complete in December 2025.

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

The program includes follow-ups with 25% of the core evaluation locations by July 2025. Eleven of the 24 target follow-ups have been completed as of the end of May 2025. Staff will collect pre and post usage data for the Phase 7 Report from Utilities in July.

Phase 8 Residential Irrigation Evaluation Program – SWFWMD

This program began in May 2025 and will be completed utilizing grant funding from the SWFWMD WISE program. The first application for Phase 8a will include 57 evaluations and will be completed within 12 months. Once the funds for the 8a phase application have been expended a second WISE funding application for phase 8b will be submitted.

Participating Utility	Total Evaluations To-date		Target # of Evaluations for Phase 8a and 8b	Percent of Target Evaluations Completed
	Core	Enhanced		
Citrus	2	2	20	20%
Hernando	0	0	60	0%
Marion (West of 75)	0	0	20	0%
Villages VCCDD-LSSA	0	0	8	0%
Villages NSCUDD-VWCA	0	0	16	0%
Total	2	2	124	3.2%

Item 11.c.

Residential Irrigation Evaluation Program Pilot – SJRWMD

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

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

Item 13.d.

Executive Director's Report

Correspondence



May 28, 2025

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

Subject: WRWSA Budget for FY 2025-26

Dear Mr. Howard:

The Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority draft budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-26 was presented at its May 21, 2025 meeting. Enclosed is a copy of the budget and the Authority's FY 2025-26 Work Program. The budget is based upon, in part, maintaining the current \$0.19 per capita contribution from each County, resulting in Citrus County contributing \$31,569 in per capita revenues. The other counties will contribute a total of \$149,499 in per capita contributions and Citrus County will contribute an additional minimum amount of \$224,000 for the purchase of water from the Authority's Charles A. Black wellfield.

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

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

Sincerely,

Suzannah J. Folsom, PE, PMP
Executive Director

Enclosures

cc: WRWSA Board Members
Barbara Luckman, Interim Management and Budget Director
Ken Cheek, Water Resources Director
Gary Loggins, Operations Division Director
Debra Burden, Water Conservation Manager



May 28, 2025

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

Subject: WRWSA Budget for FY 2025-26

Dear Mr. Rogers:

The Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority draft budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-26 was presented at its May 21, 2025 meeting. Enclosed is a copy of the budget and the Authority's FY 2025-26 Work Program. The budget is based upon, in part, maintaining the current \$0.19 per capita contribution from each County, resulting in Hernando County contributing \$40,010 in per capita revenues. The other counties will contribute a total of \$141,058 in per capita contributions and Citrus County will contribute an additional minimum amount of \$224,000 for the purchase of water from the Authority's Charles A. Black wellfield.

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

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

Sincerely,

Suzannah J. Folsom, PE, PMP
Executive Director

Enclosures

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



May 28, 2025

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

Subject: WRWSA Budget for FY 2025-26

Dear Mr. Bouyounes:

The Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority draft budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-26 was presented at its May 21, 2025 meeting. Enclosed is a copy of the budget and the Authority's FY 2025-26 Work Program. The budget is based upon, in part, maintaining the current \$0.19 per capita contribution from each County, resulting in Marion County contributing \$79,707 in per capita revenues. The other counties will contribute a total of \$101,361 in per capita contributions and Citrus County will contribute an additional minimum amount of \$224,000 for the purchase of water from the Authority's Charles A. Black wellfield.

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

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

Sincerely,

Suzannah J. Folsom, PE, PMP
Executive Director

Enclosures

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



May 28, 2025

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

Subject: WRWSA Budget for FY 2025-26

Dear Mr. Arnold:

The Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority draft budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-26 was presented at its May 21, 2025 meeting. Enclosed is a copy of the budget and the Authority's FY 2025-26 Work Program. The budget is based upon, in part, maintaining the current \$0.19 per capita contribution from each County, resulting in Sumter County contributing \$29,782 in per capita revenues. The other counties will contribute a total of \$151,286 in per capita contributions and Citrus County will contribute an additional minimum amount of \$224,000 for the purchase of water from the Authority's Charles A. Black wellfield.

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

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

Sincerely,

Suzannah J. Folsom, PE, PMP
Executive Director

Enclosures

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

DRAFT

Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority

Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Work Program

1. 2024 Regional Water Supply Plan Update

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

6. Springs Protection and Restoration

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

7. Program Development and Technical Assistance

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

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

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



GREGORY C. HARRELL
CLERK OF COURT AND COMPTROLLER – MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA
FINANCE DEPARTMENT

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

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

June 12, 2025

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

RE: Submission of Audit Report for Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2024

Dear Mr. Owen:

Enclosed is a copy of the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report of Marion County, Florida for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024. This document contains the report of our Independent auditors, Purvis Gray & Company, CPA's, on federal awards and state financial assistance received by Marion County during the reporting period.

The Single Audit portion of the report, located on pages 228-239, of the Compliance Section, was prepared by our auditors in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; Title 2 U.S. Code of *Federal Regulations* Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance); and Chapter 10.550, *Rules of the Auditor General*. As required, it includes the Independent Auditors' Reports on Compliance and Internal Control, the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards and State Financial Assistance, and a Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs.

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

Sincerely,

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

Tina Novinger
Controller
Enclosures

TRUIST
OPERATIONS CENTER
POST OFFICE BOX 819
WILSON, NC 27894-0819

June 13, 2025



3002
Withlacoochee Region
Ste 228
3600 W Sovereign Path
Lecanto, FL 34461-7718

**N0005768

Congratulations - your business credit limit has increased to \$5,000.

Dear Withlacoochee Region,

Nicely done! You've managed your Truist Business credit card responsibly and we've increased your business credit limit to \$5,000.

Your updated credit limit is available for use today.

If you have more than one card under your business account, you can adjust individual cardholder limits by accessing Business Card Management in Truist Online Banking or by visiting your Truist branch.

Have questions or want to keep your original credit limit? We're happy to help. Please give us a call at 844-4-TRUIST (844-487-8478).

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Item 11.e.

Executive Director's Report

News Articles

Florida investing in new AI emergency alert system ahead of hurricane season

By Cody Butler Channel News 7
May 26, 2025

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (WCTV/Gray Florida Capital Bureau) - Hurricane season is something the Florida Division of Emergency Management thinks about all year.

"This is going to be a central point that we can send all of that messaging to, and it's on a constant loop as people would want to listen to it," Guthrie said.

Guthrie said this will help get the message out to people faster.

"We've got to be as fast as we can, and have the most accurate information we can. We need to help control that message so people don't get a snippet," he said.

Guthrie said every county in the state is part of the network. The city of High Springs in North Central Florida was one of the first communities to use the new technology, according to city spokesperson, Kevin Mangan.

"The important part about our job as public safety communicators is getting the right information to the right people at the right time. This project BEACON enables us to do that. It's another tool in the toolbox," Mangan said.

The state is also looking at more flood prevention during the storms. Last year was the first time the state put dams around critical infrastructure like power substations and wastewater treatment plants, and it worked during every storm.

"We're to help mitigate the impacts of a disaster. The impacts of a disaster, in this case, is flood or storm surge. It's not realistic to think we're going to be able to elevate every home, every business, two, three or four feet," Guthrie said.

The state has several resources online to help people make a plan for this hurricane season. You can find that information at <https://www.floridadisaster.org/>.

A judge has ordered more help for Florida's ailing manatees

WFSU | By The News Service of Florida
May 20, 2025

A federal judge Monday ordered the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to take a series of steps aimed at protecting manatees in the northern Indian River Lagoon, including requiring it to go through a federal permitting process and temporarily preventing new septic tanks in the area.

U.S. District Judge Carlos Mendoza also ordered establishment of programs to conduct biomedical-health assessments and supplemental feeding for manatees.

Mendoza's order came after he ruled April 11 that the state violated the Endangered Species Act in the northern Indian River Lagoon, which is primarily in Brevard County but also goes into southern Volusia County.

Mendoza sided with the environmental group Bear Warriors United, which argued that wastewater discharges into the lagoon led to the demise of seagrass, a key food source for manatees, and resulted in deaths and other harm to manatees.

While the state has appealed the April 11 ruling to the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, Mendoza on Monday issued a permanent injunction designed to carry out his decision.

A key part of the order is for the state to seek what is known as an "incidental take" permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. That process would include the state developing a conservation plan, which could provide "permanent protection and management of habitat for the species," according to information about such permits on the federal agency's website.

While the incidental-take permit request is pending, Mendoza ordered the Department of Environmental Protection to not issue permits for constructing and installing septic systems in a northern Indian River Lagoon watershed. That moratorium will start July 17 and continue until the incidental-take permit is issued, according to the order.

Septic tanks discharge nitrogen, which can cause harmful algae blooms. Bear Warriors United asked Mendoza to halt construction of new septic systems until an incidental-take permit was in place.

"New residential and commercial construction that use (septic tanks) will only exacerbate nitrogen loading into the North IRL (Indian River Lagoon)," the group's attorneys wrote in an April 25 court document. "The court has already held that continuing high levels of nitrogen loading into the North IRL has caused the collapse of seagrasses, resulting in ongoing take of manatees that occupy the North IRL."

But in a May 6 response, Department of Environmental Protection attorneys said such a moratorium would "improperly bind parties" that are not in the case.

The department's attorneys wrote that Bear Warriors United was seeking an "injunction that, on its face, prohibits anyone from undertaking residential or commercial construction using onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems. Needless to say, the independent landowners and builders whose property rights would be curtailed by such an order are not parties to this action."

Until the state receives an incidental-take permit, Mendoza also ordered the establishment of biomedical-assessment and supplemental-feeding programs for manatees in the area. He directed that the programs be overseen by "manatee experts" and that quarterly reports about the programs be made public.

Bear Warriors United filed the lawsuit in 2022, after Florida had a record 1,100 manatee deaths in 2021, with the largest number, 358, in Brevard County. Many deaths were linked to starvation.

The state had 800 manatee deaths in 2022, before the number dropped to 555 in 2023 and 565 in 2024, according to Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission data. As of May 9, 363 manatees deaths had been reported this year, including 75 in Brevard County.

Manatees are classified by the federal government as a threatened species.

UF researchers and other scientists developing algae bloom alert system

By: Drew Dixon

May 25, 2025

Some studies on project around Lake Okeechobee waters have shown signs of efficacy in system designed to raise alerts on algae blooms.

Algae blooms in Florida waters can happen quickly and become rather disgusting with little warning. But University of Florida (UF) researchers along with other scientists at other universities are developing a system to help alert officials to where the environmental phenomena break out.

Algae blooms are an unsightly, blue-green and slimy mess that produce a slick film that covers the surface of water. But they are also toxic to many animals, including humans and can cause environmental damage. UF scientists in partnership with the University of South Florida (USF) and North Carolina State University are in the process of developing a next-day prediction modeling system that could alert water management officials to outbreaks of algae blooms.

The project is getting \$4.4 million in funding from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. David Kaplan, a UF Professor at the Engineering School of Sustainable Infrastructure and Environment is leading much of the research along with USF Associate Professor Mauricio Arias. Kaplan said early indications show the alert system poses notable efficacy.

Using water samples and computer algorithms, the team developed prediction models based on two water sources feeding the Caloosahatchee River: Lake Okeechobee and the river's watershed – the water run-off from the surrounding land.

"For watershed-dominated conditions, the model was able to predict 49% of the variation in next-day chlorophyll-a, which isn't bad, but for lake-dominated conditions, the model was much better, explaining 78% of the variation in next-day chlorophyll-a in the water," Kaplan said.

The initial project is called Coupling Lake, Estuarine, and Watershed Models for the Caloosahatchee River and Estuary (CLEW) – designed data- and model-driven guidance for Lake Okeechobee water releases.

"The overall motivation is that Lake Okeechobee is a challenging natural resource to manage, particularly deciding when and how much water to discharge from the lake to either estuary," Kaplan said. "There are many competing needs surrounding management of the lake, which has only so much volume. We don't want to cause flooding or other ecological harm."

Algae blooms have been the bane for South Florida waterways surrounding Lake Okeechobee for decades since many of the shallow channels were deepened in man-made projects for about 100 years. The blooms can not only destroy marine life and can adversely affect water supplies.

Sumter County approves fertilizer restrictions aimed at protecting ground water

By Marv Balousek
May 14, 2025

After eight years, Sumter County commissioners Tuesday night approved a fertilizer ordinance mandated by the state as of July 1, 2017.

The ordinance, which applies to non-agricultural applications, is designed to reduce nutrient runoff into surface waters and leaching into ground water.

Counties are required to have basin management action plans that comply with maximum daily loads adopted by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

The Sumter County plan discourages the use of phosphorus, already present in many area soils, and encourages slow-release nitrogen, which is more easily absorbed by plants.

The ordinance prohibits nitrogen application before seeding or sodding a site. It also does not allow application of nitrogen or phosphorus unless a soil or tissue deficiency has been verified.

Fertilizer application is not permitted on impervious surfaces and spills on these surfaces must be cleaned up immediately.

"In no case shall fertilizer be washed, swept or blown off impervious surfaces into storm water drains, ditches, conveyances or water bodies," the ordinance states.

County Administrator Bradley Arnold said the mandate caused counties to enact a variety of ordinances and that it is important for them to be consistent so providers don't have to adjust their practices from county to county.

Now, he said, the state could punish Sumter County for the absence of an ordinance.



Florida Water Utilities,

We're excited to announce that the **Florida Water Loss Program (FWLP)** is expanding to offer utilities (newcomers and existing participants!) more training and technical support, at no cost to the utility. Read on to see what we're offering and what you need to do to take advantage of these opportunities.

Building on the success of our previous statewide effort to tackle water loss, this enhanced program is designed for both new learners (those new to water auditing or loss control) and advanced learners (those with prior audit submissions through the program). No matter your level of experience, there's something here for you.

Why participate?

- Get free, hands-on training to improve your system's water loss control practices
- Learn how to obtain a validated water audit and use it to drive smarter decisions
- Receive free direct technical assistance (supply meter testing, billing data analysis, real loss component analysis, customer meter test design/analysis, and leak detection)
- Set meaningful system-specific economic water loss targets to guide water loss control intervention
- Connect with peers across Florida working toward more efficient water systems

Participants will be ushered through the process over a structured timeline, with sessions kicking off this summer.

Ready to join?



Scan the code to Enroll now!

Have questions? Check out our list of Frequently Asked Questions.



Sincerely, Your Florida Water Loss Team



The Florida Water Loss Program is made possible through a grant agreement with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. A special thanks to FDEP for bringing this opportunity to water utilities across the state!

