

**WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
September 16, 2009**

TIME: 4:30 p.m.
PLACE: Southwest Florida Water Management District Headquarters
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, FL 34604

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

1. Call to Order

Chairman Dennis Damato called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m. and asked for a roll call.

2. Roll Call

Mr. Sullivan, Executive Director, called the roll and a quorum was declared present.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dennis Damato, Chairman, Citrus County Commissioner
Richard Hoffman, Vice-Chairman, Sumter County Commissioner
Barbara Fitos, Treasurer, Marion County Commissioner
Jim Adkins, Hernando County Commissioner
Mike Amsden, Marion County Commissioner
Christine Dobkowski, Belleview City Commissioner
Randy Mask, Sumter County Commissioner
Stan McClain, Marion County commissioner
Mary S. Rich, Ocala City Councilman
Rose Rocco, Hernando County Commissioner
Charles Ruse, Ocala City Councilman
Dale Swain, Bushnell City Councilman
Winn Webb, Citrus County Commissioner

MEMBERS ABSENT

Gary Bartell, Citrus County Commissioner
Joe Bernardini, Brooksville City Councilman
John Druzbeck, Hernando County Commissioner
Ken Hinkle, Inverness City Councilman
Jeff Stabins, Hernando County Commissioner

3. Introductions and Announcements

Mr. Sullivan introduced others in the audience.

OTHERS PRESENT

Jack Sullivan, WRWSA Executive Director
Larry Haag, WRWSA Attorney
Diane Salz, WRWSA Legislative Liaison
Judy Whitehead, SWFWMD Governing Board
Janey Baldwin, Withlacoochee Basin Board
Tom Baldwin, Hernando County
Bernadine Flood-Nichols, Citrus County Utilities
Pete Hubbell, Water Resource Associates
Jimmy Brooks, SWFWMD
John Ferguson, SWFWMD
Ken Herd, SWFWMD
Ed Hobin, SWFWMD
Cara Martin, SWFWMD
Miki Renner, SWFWMD
Brent White, SWFWMD
Jeff Halcomb, City of Ocala
Jeff Broser, City of Ocala
Todd Petrie, Marion County Utilities
Connie Mullis, Assistant to Senator Evelyn Lynn, District 7
Laura Donaldson, Manson Law Group
Al Grubman, TOO FAR
Alys Brockway, Hernando County Utilities
Tahla Paige, Recording Secretary

Mr. Sullivan introduced the new Board Members, Mr. Charles Ruse and Ms. Mary Rich, from the City of Ocala.

Mr. Jeff Halcomb, Director of the Water and Sewer Department, City of Ocala, wanted to thank the WRWSA Board for the grant the City received for a conservation garden using drought-tolerant plants. The garden was placed in front of the Department's Customer Service Office, so the public could be educated or made aware of the different possibilities for water conservation. Mr. Halcomb stated a ribbon cutting ceremony was planned for October 1, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. and that the Board would be sent invitations to attend.

4. Approval of Minutes of July 15, 2009 Meeting

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. McClain to approve the minutes of the July 15, 2009 meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Rocco and carried unanimously.**

5. 2010 Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) Regional Water Supply Plan and Demand Overview

Ms. Tammy Bader, Water Conservation Analyst, SWFWMD, gave an update on the Regional Water Supply Plan (RWSP) highlighting Regional Hydrologic Resources, Demand Projections by Category, Source Projects, and Potential Funding Mechanisms.

Ms. Bader indicated projections for Agriculture showed a future reduction and the largest increase was projected to be Public Supply. The current schedule is for SWFWMD staff to complete an internal draft by October 2009 and production drafts for circulation by April 2010.

Ms. Dobkowski asked why the Public Supply Demands for Lake County were zero. Ms. Bader explained Lake County does not have any public supply utilities and there is a small portion of domestic self-supply, but it equals less than one million gallons a day.

Mr. McClain asked if conservation was included in the projection figures. Ms. Bader replied standard models did not include conservation, but later chapters in the report show conservation as a supply reduction option.

Mr. Webb asked where the reduction in agricultural use would occur. Ms. Bader replied the reduction was expected in Polk County and Hillsborough County areas.

Ms. Rose Rocco reiterated conservation was a paramount issue to address for input on the numbers and the conservation programs that various counties have put into place have been very productive. Ms. Bader said there would be a chapter on conservation and this year work started on a model that takes into account utility conservation programs.

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

6. Northern County Utility Technical Assistance Project

Mr. Ed Hobin, Outreach Project Coordinator, SWFWMD, outlined the purpose and background/history of SWFWMD partnering with the Florida Rural Water Association (FRWA) to move the northern district utilities towards adhering to more stringent water conservation standards and lowering of per capita water use. Examples of typical FRWA "Water Audit" activities and recommendations include:

- a. Meet with water system managers and review water system management, billing practices, and promote effective water rates to suggest conservation practices;
- b. Field test production and a representative sampling of billing meters, make recommendations for meter testing, calibrations and replacement to increase water efficiency;
- c. Review non-revenue uses of water, and make recommendations for identification of water uses for flushing, lubrication, leak repairs and fire hydrant testing, etc;
- d. Identify current irrigation practices and make recommendations for using readily available guidance materials for effective irrigation of turf and landscaping; and
- e. Engage water system managers and operators in identifying inefficient water use procedures, assist systems by providing technical assistance and guidance materials to improve water operating practice.

Chairman Damato asked who regulated the small water and wastewater systems that are members of the FRWA. Mr. Hobin replied the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) regulates them, and permits have to be issued by DEP. Also, they are issued Water

Use Permits (WUP), which are reviewed by SWFWMD. Chairman Damato asked if well drillers were members of the FRWA. Mr. Hobin stated FRWA has associate members that are well drillers.

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

7. **Update on Progress of Marion Compendium and Phase II & VII of Master Plan**

Mr. Hubbell gave an update and reviewed the WRWSA Master Regional Water Supply and Implementation Program. He stated Phase II would be completed this fall along with portions of Phase VII. He reviewed the following phases:

Phase I – WRWSA Master Plan 2005

Phase II – Water Supply Feasibility Analysis – Traditional, Alternative Water Supply (AWS), Reclaimed and Conservation Projects

Phase III – Detailed Design of Selected Traditional, AWS and Conservation Water Supply Projects

Phase IV and V – Construction and Implementation of Recommended Projects

Phase VI – Maintenance of the WRWSA Regional Water Supply Plan

Phase VII – Northern District Groundwater Modeling and Technical Support for Local Communities

He said the next step would be to add Marion County in the groundwater modeling. Mr. Hubbell stated that in the permitting process the feasibility of alternative water supply needs to be considered to determine if these projects are beneficial to local governments.

Ms. Rocco stated she supports regional organization and participation, but the public has concerns about the validity and purpose of the WRWSA. She suggested a workshop take place in Hernando County to give full understanding to the County Commission and the public. Mr. Adkins stated he has heard concerns voiced that, if a DRI was created in neighboring county, Hernando as part a regional area would have to supply the water.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Ms. Rocco to approve scheduling a workshop involving Mr. Sullivan, Mr. Hubbell and SWFWMD representatives to be held at the Hernando County Board of County Commission Chambers. The motion was seconded by Mr. Adkins and carried unanimously.**

Ms. Fitos stated there are credibility issues with constituents for several reasons; including the fact different agencies have different forms of measurements. A regional concept will only work with everyone coordinating together. She added a lot of studies and data have been done, but education of the public is an essential part of the process. Mr. Hubbell replied boundaries have always been an issue, but it has been a plus with Marion County, which is divided between two water management districts participating on the WRWSA. Chairman Damato said regionalization should be viewed as a broad stroke concept and WRWSA has included different cities and counties from inland to coastal areas. He felt it needed time to become productive. Discussion continued.

Mr. McClain clarified that the planning process would not be completed until the end of the year and the workshop should be completed after the recommendation was finalized. Ms. Rocco agreed and said there was no set date in the motion for the workshop and it should be held after the completion of the planning process. Mr. Sullivan agreed to schedule the workshop at the appropriate time.

8. Executive Director's Report

a. Bills to be Paid for August and September 2009

Mr. Sullivan and Vice-Chairman Hoffman signed August bills. These bills totaled \$46,609.12. Mr. Sullivan requested the Board ratify the payment of those bills.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Ms. Fitos to approve payment of the August bills totaling \$46,609.12. The motion was seconded by Ms. Rocco and carried unanimously.**

Mr. Sullivan also submitted September's bills of \$27,239.42 for the Board's review.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Ms. Fitos to approve payment of the September bills of \$27,239.42 as submitted. The motion was seconded by Mr. McClain and carried unanimously.**

b. Third Quarter Financial Report

Mr. Sullivan gave a review to the Board of the Third Quarter Financial Report.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Ms. Fitos to approve the report as given. The motion was seconded by Ms. Rocco and carried unanimously.**

c. Contract for General Services with Water Resource Associates

Mr. Sullivan presented a sole source contract of \$25,000 with Water Resource Associates to provide continuing engineering, hydrologic and planning support to continue work on the Master Plan. Mr. Hubbell had reviewed the contract and agreed with the terms.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. McClain to approve awarding the contract for an additional year to Water Resource Associates. The motion was seconded by Ms. Fitos and carried unanimously.**

d. Correspondence

Mr. Sullivan reviewed points of interest on correspondence that was received since the previous Board meeting.

First, was a letter sent by Mr. Sullivan to SWFWMD asking that \$25,000 in the budget for the Master Plan be moved from Phase VII to Phase II to bring the plan forward from 2025 to 2030 to make it concurrent with the SWFWMD's Water Supply Plan. Mr. John Ferguson, Project Manager, SWFWMD, responded this line item adjustment had been approved by SWFWMD.

Second, Mr. Sullivan received the original Resolution of Support of the Regional Framework concept from Marion County. He also received a Resolution of Support from Sumter County, which is included in the handouts. The Sumter Commission had concerns about implementation of the Regional Framework and its cost to the County. They support the planning effort, but wanted more information on the cost to local government before endorsing the balance of the program.

Third, Mr. Sullivan included a letter from Ms. Judy Whitehead, Governing Board, SWFWMD thanking Commissioner McClain for his letter describing Marion County's water conservation efforts.

e. News Articles

Mr. Sullivan provided news articles on water supply issues relating to areas both regional and statewide.

9. Governmental Consultant Report

Ms. Salz stated that Mr. Sullivan had asked her to bring the WRWSA stakeholders together, develop a regional water conservation program and apply for SWFWMD cooperative funding for FY 2011. She gave a brief update on the progress made and stated a full presentation would be given to the Board at the November meeting.

Chairman Damato asked if there is any legislation for statewide fertilizer regulations. Ms. Salz stated there was some legislation tied to the Florida Friendly Program, but it was not mandatory. Chairman Damato asked her to research the subject and bring a full report back to the Board at the next meeting.

10. Attorney's Report

a. Local Government Contracts

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Ms. Rocco to approve local government water conservation contracts for Hernando County, Citrus County, Marion County, City of Ocala, City of Belleview and the City of Crystal River. The motion was seconded by Mr. McClain and carried unanimously.**

b. Other

Mr. Haag requested the Board approve a letter of compliance with the Administrative Procedures Act requirements to be sent to the Legislature.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Ms. Rocco to approve sending the letter of compliance. The motion was seconded by Ms. Fitos and carried unanimously.**

11. Other Business

There was no other business.

12. Public Comment

Mr. Al Grubman, TOO FAR, expressed support for water conservation and money conservation. He felt regional water conservation coordination would be better when regional water supplies were put in place, such as a desalination plant. He also expressed concerns that current regional water conservation would include removing water from one county for another. Mr. Grubman stated the WRWSA was an unnecessary expense at this point for the taxpayers.

Ms. Janey Baldwin, Withlacoochee River Basin Board Member, representing herself, stated she felt the WRWSA was duplication of the SWFMWD and was an unnecessary expense for the taxpayer, which they cannot afford in today's economic climate. Ms. Baldwin felt the WRWSA is a great idea and the think tank concept was great, but it duplicated SWFMWD. Ms. Baldwin asked for the length of the contract approved for the payment to Mr. Hubbell. Mr. Sullivan replied the contract was for one year. Ms. Baldwin reiterated conservation was important. She stated Brooksville was left out of the funding last month, asked who the stakeholders were, said Mr. Grubman made excellent comments, and stressed economics were important.

Ms. Judy Whitehead, SWFMWD Governing Board Member, stated she supported the WRWSA Board and felt it was a necessary part of developing regional water conservation. She encouraged the WRWSA Board members to contact her if they had any questions.

13. Next Meeting Time and Location

Next meeting is scheduled for October 21, 2009, at 4:30 p.m. at the Withlacoochee Regional Planning Council Headquarters Conference Room, 1241 SW 10th Street (SR 200), Ocala, Florida 34474-0323

14. Adjournment

Chairman Damato announced there was no further business or discussion to come before the Board and adjourned the meeting at 6:10 p.m.

Dennis Damato, Chairman

Jackson E. Sullivan, Executive Director