

**WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
November 18, 2009**

TIME: 4:30 p.m.
PLACE: Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street (SR 41)
Brooksville, Florida 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 4:32 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
John Druzbeck, Hernando 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
Gary Bartell, Citrus County Commissioner
Joe Bernardini, Brooksville City Councilman
Christine Dobkowski, Belleview City Commissioner
Ken Hinkle, Inverness City Councilman
Stan McClain, Marion County Commissioner
Mary S. Rich, Ocala City Councilman
Rose Rocco, Hernando County Commissioner
Dale Swain, Bushnell City Councilman

MEMBERS ABSENT

Randy Mask, Sumter County Commissioner
Jeff Stabins, Hernando County Commissioner
Winn Webb, Citrus 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
Peter Hubbell, Water Resource Associates
Granville Kinsman, SWFWMD
John Ferguson, SWFWMD
Ken Herd, SWFWMD
Cara Martin, SWFWMD
Doug Sanders, SWFWMD
Todd Petrie, Marion County Utilities
Alys Brockway, Hernando County Utilities
Robert Moresi, P.G., Black & Veatch
Steven King, E.I., Black & Veatch
Jeff Halcomb, City of Ocala
Darryl Muse, City of Ocala
Janey Baldwin, Withlacoochee River Basin Board
Tom Baldwin, Hernando County Citizen
Peter Rocco, Hernando County Citizen
Bernadine Flood-Nichols, Citrus County
Connie Mullis, Legislative Assistant Senator Evelyn Lynn
Tahla Paige, Recording Secretary

4. Approval of Minutes of October 21, 2009 Meeting

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. Amsden to approve the minutes for the October 21, 2009 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hinkle and carried unanimously.**

Mr. Sullivan noted a schedule of the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (WRWSA) Board Meetings for 2010 was enclosed in their packets and asked for a vote to approve next year's meeting schedule.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. Amsden to approve the meeting schedule for calendar year 2010. The motion was seconded by Mr. McClain and carried unanimously.**

5. Hydrologic Conditions Report

Mr. Grainville Kinsman, Manager, Hydrologic Data Section, SWFWMD, gave a presentation on the current hydrologic conditions. In summary, he stated there had been little rainfall for the month of November and all indicators were declining. However, forecasts continue to reflect the El Nino effect for rainfall this winter, and unless above-normal rainfall occurs, further declines are expected through May.

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

6. Report on Evaluation of Charles Black Water Supply Facility

Mr. Robert Moresi, P.G., Senior Hydrogeologist, Black & Veatch, gave an update on the engineering evaluation of CAB-1 & 2. Black & Veatch conducted a site visit on July 22, 2009; reviewed permitting compliance and discussed overall system performance, operation and maintenance; reported on standby generators; and, discussed property surrounding CAB-1. Black & Veatch recommended the following:

- a. Perform an evaluation to determine if there are valid reasons (hydraulic or electrical) to not operate Wells 3 and 4 simultaneously. The ability to operate these wells simultaneously would provide more flexibility in well operations, provide more well pumping capacity, and provide more redundancy if other wells are temporarily taken off-line.
- b. Continue to monitor the intermittent small leak at the ground storage tank at CAB-1, and correct the leak issue the next time that the tank is taken offline and drained for scheduled maintenance or cleaning.
- c. Closely monitor the AADF rates from the wells. When more water is needed, utilize wells which have a lower AADF (compared to its limit). Similarly, closely monitor the Peak Month rates for the wells. When necessary, utilize wells which have a lower Peak Month flow (compared to its limit).
- d. Apply for an increase from SWFWMD in the permit limitations restricted in the Water Use Permit (WUP) on the individual wells and for the Peak Month and AADF for the whole system, when necessary, to accommodate projected future increases in water demands.
- e. Continue to update water demand projections regularly to identify potential needs to expand water supply, treatment or transmission facilities in the future. If the high service pumping capacity at the CAB-1 facility is expanded in the future, it is recommended that the generator at CAB-1 be replaced as part of the future CAB-1 expansion project.
- f. Investigate the potential plans and routes for any new pipelines that would be required to handle the increased CAB-1 capacity envisioned in the C & D report, so that land and easement acquisitions can be planned in advance of an expansion.

Mr. Sullivan stated full detailed copies of the report were available for the Board's review. He added Citrus County Utilities would be applying for an updated water use permit that is a joint permit with Citrus County and the WRWSA, which would require extensive coordination. Mr. Sullivan stated meetings would be scheduled with Citrus County, consultants, and himself to discuss the various recommendations and funding for the facility. Mr. Adkins asked for a follow up on the operation of Wells 3 and 4. Mr. Sullivan replied the current generator could not power both pumps, they had not been wired for public use, and he intended to discuss these issues in the upcoming meetings with Citrus County.

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

7. WRWSA Regional Irrigation Audit and Education Pilot Project

Ms. Salz gave a presentation on the Regional Residential Irrigation Audit and Education Pilot Program. She stated it consisted of three elements:

- a. Training and certification of irrigation auditors to ensure that qualified auditors are available to undertake the 250 audits envisioned in the program.
- b. Field audits of residential irrigation systems and water conservation education through recommendations of the auditors and prepared conservation materials distributed to the homeowners.
- c. Follow-up surveys to determine whether the recommendations by the auditors and water conservation measures have been implemented.

She explained the funding would be obtained as follows:

- a. Hernando, Citrus and Marion Counties – The WRWSA currently provides grants to each of these counties. A portion of each county grant (\$12,500) would go toward the pilot program and matched by each county with \$12,500. The balance of the WRWSA grant and county match would go toward the county's current water conservation programs as in the past.
- b. The Village Center Community Development District (VCCDD) in Sumter County would contribute \$12,500 toward the pilot program. The WRWSA would match this with a \$12,500 grant to the VCCDD. The WRWSA attorney has provided a legal opinion that the WRWSA can contract with a Community Development District.
- c. The local funds plus the WRWSA's match for the pilot program equals \$100,000. This amount would be matched 50% - 50% with the SWFWMD's Cooperative Funding Initiative Program. The total program funding would be \$200,000.
- d. The auditor training cannot be funded through the Cooperative Funding Initiative. Therefore, it was recommended the WRWSA include in its FY2011 budget an amount to fund one training/certification session for irrigation auditors. The charge by the training entity is \$300 per student with a minimum of 10 students or \$3,000. To provide some allowance for more than 10 students, it was recommended \$5,000 be set aside for training. The conservation coordinators and Ms. Salz felt to secure buy-in from prospective attendees that a \$50 charge for each student be levied upon application.

Ms. Salz explained the WRWSA Board needed to approve sending in an application for Cooperative Funding Initiative, as the deadline for applying is December 4, 2009. She made the following recommendation to the Board for approval.

The Cooperative Funding Initiative and submittal of the application to SWFWMD for funding consideration and submittal of the cover letter that states this project is the WRWSA's number one Cooperative Funding Initiative priority and include it in the WRWSA's 2011 fiscal year (FY) budget.

Ms. Rich asked if the funding came from the cities or just the counties. Mr. Sullivan replied currently just the counties. Mr. Bartell asked if approving the application would commit the local governments for funding. Ms. Salz said no, that the cover letter would indicate it is an application of the WRWSA. Mr. Bartell asked if it would impede local government funding from SWFWMD. Ms. Fitos and Ms. Rocco were deeply concerned the various county commissioners were not informed about the program and how the funding would be obtained before requesting approval for the application. The rest of the members agreed. Mr. Druzbeck asked if the application was submitted and approved did the WRWSA have to accept the funding. Mr. Sullivan said no.

Public comment was made by Ms. Janey Baldwin. She felt the program was premature and should have gone before the local county commissions first.

Mr. Damato stated everyone on the WRWSA Board represented a county or some government entity, and Mr. Sullivan wanted a motion to move forward with intent to approve the process. There was no guarantee it will be put into place, and he asked Mr. Sullivan if it was possible to opt out of the permit process. Ms. Fitos added she did not want to make a commitment for the county she represented, and there was a possibility the county would not be able to fund the project due to the current budget constraints. Mr. Damato wanted to know if a county could opt out to apply for funding for their own irrigation program if they did not want to participate in the WRWSA program. Mr. Sullivan stated he would ask Mr. Brent White, SWFWMD, about the rules for cooperative funding programs. After extensive discussion it was agreed the application could be submitted contingent on approval of funding from the counties and VCCDD.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. Amsden to approve the Cooperative Funding Initiative and submit the application to SWFWMD for funding consideration and submit a cover letter that states this project is the WRWSA number one Cooperative Funding Initiative priority and this to be included in the WRWSA 2010 FY budget. And this would be contingent on the participation of the three counties and VCCDD. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bartel and carried unanimously.**

8. Executive Director's Report

a. Bills to be Paid

Mr. Sullivan passed a handout to the Board detailing November 2009 bills which totaled \$36,198.16. Mr. Sullivan requested the Board approve the payment of those bills.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. McClain to approve payment of the October bills totaling \$36,198.16. The motion was seconded by Ms. Fitos and carried unanimously.**

b. Correspondence

Mr. Sullivan stated there was only one piece of correspondence included in the packet, and reviewed additional correspondence in the hand-outs. Included were a copy of The Florida Senate Interim Report 2010-114 on Chapter 373, F.S., Water Resources, for a creation of a statewide water board, articles on the subject and a letter written to the Governor by Mr. Bartell against such action. Mr. Bartell urged the WRWSA members to monitor this bill and encouraged them to also write the Governor. Mr. Sullivan stated he was invited to attend the Florida Section of the American Water Works Association (FSAWWA) to be one of 50 water ambassadors at the Water Summit on November 30, 2009, but he was uncomfortable about attending this meeting when the FSAWWA supports this bill.

c. News Articles

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

9. Governmental Consultant Report

Diane Salz informed the WRWSA members there were a variety of bills that would be monitored and there were several that were placeholders for future bills.

10. Attorney's Report

Mr. Haag, Esq., stated he was asked at the previous meeting to research if the WRWSA could enter in an agreement with a Community Development District. In his opinion under Section 373.1962, Florida Statutes, there was no legal impediment to the WRWSA contracting with the VCCDD. Mr. Haag added the WRWSA could even add them as a member of the WRWSA.

11. Other Business

Mr. McClain suggested the WRWSA send a letter to the Senate President to object changing Chapter 373, F.S., Water Resources, for the creation of a statewide water board.

Following consideration, a motion was made by Mr. McClain to send a letter objecting to changes to Chapter 373, F.S., Water Resources, for a creation of a statewide water board, giving Mr. Sullivan permission to draft and have the Chair sign the letter for the WRWSA. The motion was seconded by Ms. Fitos and carried unanimously.

Mr. Sullivan recommended cancelling the December 18, 2009 WRWSA meeting due to lack of business to discuss.

Following consideration, a motion was made by Mr. Druzbeck to cancel the December 18, 2009 WRWSA meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. McClain and carried unanimously.

12. Public Comment

None.

13. Next Meeting Time and Location

Next meeting is scheduled for January 20, 2010, at 4:30 p.m. at the Southwest Florida Water Management District Headquarters, Governing Board Room, 2379 Broad Street (US 41 South), Brooksville, FL 34604.

14. Adjournment

Chairman Damato announced there was no further business or discussion to come before the Board and adjourned the meeting at 6:24 p.m.

Dennis Damato, Chairman

Jackson E. Sullivan, Executive Director