

**MINUTES – WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, NOVEMBER 19, 2008**

**DATE:** November 19, 2008  
**TIME:** 4:30 p.m.  
**PLACE:** Citrus County Courthouse, Commission Chamber  
First Floor, 110 N. Apopka Ave.  
Inverness, FL 34450

**Agenda Item #1 Call to Order**

Chairwoman Rose Rocco called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m. and asked for a roll call.

**Agenda Item #2 Roll Call**

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Rose Rocco, Hernando County Commissioner  
Dennis Damato, Citrus County Commissioner  
Richard Hoffman, Sumter County Commissioner  
Dale Swain, Bushnell City Councilman  
Stan McClain, Marion County Commissioner (arrived at 5:00)

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Phillip Price, Crystal River City Councilman  
Joe Bernardini, Brooksville City Councilman  
David Russell, Hernando County Commissioner  
Kent Guinn, Ocala City Councilman  
Daniel Owen, Ocala City Councilman  
Barbara Fitos, Marion County Commissioner  
Mike Amsden, Marion County Commissioner  
Gary Bartell, Citrus County Commissioner  
Randy Mask, Sumter County Commissioner

**Agenda Item #3 Introductions and Announcements**

Mr. Sullivan introduced others in the audience.

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Jack Sullivan, WRWSA Executive Director  
Larry Haag, WRWSA Attorney  
Diane Salz, Legislative Liaison, WRWSA  
David Hamilton, Hernando County Administrator

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Joe Stapf, Hernando County Utilities Director  
Alys Brockway, Hernando County Utilities  
Troy Kuphal, Marion County Water Resources Manager  
Andy Neff, Marion County Utilities Director  
Jimmy Brooks, SWFWMD  
John Ferguson, SWFWMD  
Pete Hubbell, Water Resource Associates  
Robert Knight, Citrus County Utilities  
Josh Schmitz, Water Resource Associates  
Brian Huston, R. W. Beck  
Connie Mullis, Aid to Senator Evelyn Lynn  
Janey Baldwin, Withlacoochee River Basin Board  
Mr. Baldwin  
Al Grubman, TOO FAR  
Jan Grubman, TOO FAR  
Barbara Sullivan, Recording Secretary  
Darlene Johnson, Recording Secretary

Mr. Sullivan stated that he had one announcement to make. SWFWMD is holding a workshop on November 21 on the status of water resources in the Southwest Florida Water Management District area. One of the items on the agenda is a panel of Regional Water Supply Authorities, on which he will be participating. Mr. Sullivan said he was not sure of everyone from our region that has signed up so far, but he did have confirmations from Chairwoman, Rose Rocco, David Hamilton, Joe Stapf from Hernando County and Commissioner Richard Hoffman from Sumter County. He said that Board members could still sign up even though the deadline has past. Mr. Sullivan provided in the board packet a map showing the location of the hotel in Tampa.

**Agenda Item #4 Approval of Minutes of October 15, 2008 Meeting**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY RICHARD HOFFMAN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 15, 2008 MEETING. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY DALE SWAIN AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Agenda Item #5 Report on Marion County Re-Entry Study . . . Pete Hubbell, Water Resource Associates**

Mr. Sullivan stated that there was a Technical Review Committee meeting earlier that day that reviewed the current status of the Master Water Supply Planning and Implementation Program. Phase II of the Program, which addresses possible wellfields in Citrus and Sumter counties, was near completion when Marion County rejoined the Authority on September 8, 2008. The Phase II program was postponed to work on a Compendium that would bring Marion County's technical information into the Authority's Regional Water Supply Plan. However, the work on the wellfields in Sumter

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and Citrus counties had been completed and was reported upon. Mr. Sullivan went on to explain the seven phases of the Master Water Supply Planning and Implementation program.

**Phase I** is an update to the Regional Water Supply Plan (RWSP). This was completed in November 2006, but is being amended through development of a Compendium for Marion County.

**Phase II** is a feasibility analysis of possible projects discussed in the plan. Projects originally covered three counties and the city of Ocala. This Project Phase has now been amended to include Marion County.

**Phase III** is the detailed design of chosen projects, and is expected to commence in 2010.

**Phases IV and V** provide for the construction and/or implementation of the chosen projects.

**Phase VI** is the re-evaluation of the Water Supply Plan to update population and water demand calculations

**Phase VII** is currently being conducted, and involves the groundwater analysis and setting of proxy MFL's for the Authority's water resources.

Pete Hubbell, WRA, provided an update of progress on the Compendium. He said that the Compendium is being developed like the RWSP but deals exclusively with Marion County. The primary source for the Compendium was Marion's Water Resource Assessment and Management Study (WRAMS). According to Marion County, projected public supply demand from 2005 to 2025 will increase from 20 mgd to 31 mgd, and domestic self-supply will increase from 33 mgd to 39 mgd. To meet these demands, the Compendium has identified future wellfields in both the northern or western portions of the county. Research is also being done to determine the percentage of usage that could be served by a utility distributing from a new wellfield, as growth radiates outward from Ocala. The Compendium has included these WRAMS projects.

Two potential surface water projects are listed for consideration in the Compendium: the Ocklawaha and Withlacoochee Rivers. The St. Johns River was considered, but was less favorable due to its distance from Marion County water demand areas, and treatment issues, because of brackish water quality at low flows. The Lower Ocklawaha River, which is located in the SJRWMD, may provide up to 106 mgd of good quality water, however use of the river as a supply source will likely be controversial. A MFL for the river developed by the SJRWMD is anticipated in 2011.

Two seawater desalination sources will be considered for future alternative projects that may provide potable supplies to Marion County. On the Gulf Coast, a desalination facility may potentially be collocated at the Crystal River Power Plant in Citrus County.

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From the Atlantic Coast, Marion County may benefit from SJRWMD's Coquina Coast Desalination Project.

Mr. Hubbell addressed the need for coordination between the two WMDs and Marion County. He felt that the WRWSA could be a vehicle for communication between the two districts and Marion County concerning planning criteria.

Josh Schmitz, WRA, offered an update on Chapters 4 and 5 of the Phase 2 study. This portion of the study contains a groundwater resource assessment of the impact from proposed wellfields in Citrus and Sumter Counties. The assessment utilized the District's Northern District Groundwater Model, which provided greater resolution than the Sepulveda (Mega) model used in Phase I. Extensive collaboration between WRA and the District went into the calibration and accepted use of the model. The model identified potential upper Floridan aquifer drawdown of over 1 foot by 2025 in the Villages area of Sumter County and the Spring Hill portion of Hernando County. Mr. Schmitz introduced two wellfield projects that would reduce the localized impact of groundwater withdrawals to acceptable levels. A 15 mgd wellfield located in the Withlacoochee State Forest in Citrus County could help meet the demands of western Hernando county and other surrounding communities, at a conceptual unit cost of \$1.12 per thousand gallons (ptg). A 10 mgd wellfield in Northern Sumter County could help meet the demands of The Villages and the City of Wildwood, at a conceptual cost of \$1.11 ptg.

Pete Hubbell added that some existing groundwater use permits in Sumter County have provisions requiring the future use of alternative water sources. However, wellfield production was a practical quick fix for meeting short-term demands. Mr. Hubbell also noted that the SWFWMD might not want to cooperatively fund wellfield development because groundwater is considered a traditional water source and not alternative water supply.

Mr. Schmitz noted that the projects listed in the Phase II study would be updated to include Marion County's demands. The next technical review meeting for Phase II will be on February 18, 2009.

Mrs. Rocco invited public comments. A question from the audience asked if the projected demands for Citrus County to 2025 included the district estimates for demand reduction from conservation. Mr. Schmitz replied that current conservation and reuse reductions were considered, but projected conservation measures were not.

Al Grubman, Too Far Inc., noted that in Phase II no aquifer recharge projects were selected for initial design. Mr. Grubman also stated that the Tsala Apopka lake chain was the natural runoff for the Withlacoochee River, and that any surface water projects that would take high water off the river would deny water that originally went to the lakes.

Mr. Sullivan responded to clarify that the surface water project at Holder would be downstream of the lake chain, and that any surface water project would have to be viable within the District's MFLs. He assured Mr. Grubman that the Authority would not

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pursue the projects otherwise. Mr. Grubman concluded by endorsing the seawater desalination projects.

**Agenda Item #6 Executive Director's Report . . . Jack Sullivan, WRWSA**

**a. Bills to be Paid**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY DALE SWAIN TO APPROVE THE BILLS PRESENTED FOR NOVEMBER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$76,612.23. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY RICHARD HOFFMAN AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**b. Report on Water Resources Development Account and Status of Local Government Investment Pool (LGIP)**

Mr. Sullivan provided in the Board Packet several articles released by the Local Government Investment Pool, Mr. Sullivan said that it appears that the Authority is in pretty good shape under the circumstances. He mentioned that out of the \$202,997.10 that the State Board of Administration diverted to a Fund B, only \$62,304.98 remains unpaid. Almost 70% of the restricted funds had been returned to the Authority. Mr. Sullivan handed out the latest statement as of October 31 and it showed that the Water Resources Development Fund contains \$1,194,352.02.

**c. Hydrologic Report**

Mr. Sullivan summarized the hydrologic report from SWFWMD's Water Resources Monthly Update found on the District's web page for the northern part of the District.

- i.** Aquifer levels in the Florida Aquifer have just recently moved into the normal range.
- ii.** Rainfall for October has been below the historic level for the month. Through September of this year rainfall was about one inch below the historic January through September average.
- iii.** Lake levels have continued to decline from last month and are still below normal.
- iv.** Streamflow in the Withlacoochee River is within the normal range.

**d. Correspondence**

Mr. Sullivan received one piece of correspondence that he wanted to bring to the Board's attention. He received a letter from David Moore, Executive Director of SWFWMD, in which the District is asking all of its project cooperators that have projects to expedite them so that the public monies can be used beneficially to get

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people back to work as quickly as possible. The Authority does not have any projects that are under consideration this year, and does not have any construction projects that can be moved forward. All of its projects are for future planning at this point in time.

**e. News Articles**

Mr. Sullivan provided a number of news articles from around the region and the State for the Board to read at its leisure.

**f. December Board Meeting**

Mr. Sullivan stated that historically the Board has not met in December because of lack of business and he feels the December meeting could be cancelled again this year if the Board is so inclined. Chair Rocco asked for a consensus from the Board concerning the December meeting, and the consensus was to cancel the December meeting.

**Agenda Item #7 Legislative Report . . . Diane Salz, Legislative Consultant**

Ms. Salz gave a brief summary of her Legislative report. She said that this week the Legislature convened in Tallahassee for an organization session. The organizational session is largely ceremonial when new members are sworn in and the Senate President and House Speaker are formally elected. On Friday, November 21, the Revenue Estimating Conference will convene to announce newly adjusted revenue projections for the coming year. At that time, Senate President Jeff Atwater, House Speaker Ray Sansom, and Governor Charlie Crist will make a determination as to whether a special session is necessary to once again reduce the current year budget. Within the next few weeks, legislative committee and council chairs will be announced and interim committee meetings are scheduled for the second and third weeks in December.

Ms. Salz said there are many unresolved issues from last session: Water Management District Sunset Review; SWFWMD Executive Director, Dave Moore's Senate Confirmation; Springs Protection; and a rewrite of part VII of Chapter 373, Florida Statutes, which would essentially reorganize all of the existing water supply responsibilities including planning, permitting, funding, and transfer of water. In addition, Ms Salz said that she is not expecting any funding for alternative water supply, but plenty of policy issues will be taken up for consideration.

Other areas under consideration will likely include: defining the "public interest" test used for granting water use permits; jurisdiction and control over reuse of water; and, incentives for promoting public-private partnerships for stormwater storage.

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**Agenda Item #8 Attorney's Report . . . Larry Haag, WRWSA Attorney**

Mr. Haag commented if the Legislature were going to completely rewrite 373, it would be a rather expensive proposition, because he is sure every water management district is going to have to rewrite all of their rules. He felt this was a bad time to have government spending enormous sums of money to take on this project at this time.

Ms. Salz elaborated on her comments by saying that what the Legislature indicated they are not changing anything but just rearranging it by moving provisions from one section into another. She believes this does in fact have wide-ranging implications that could change the meaning of current statutes.

**Agenda Item #9 Other Business**

Stan McClain told the Board that yesterday in the regular Marion County Board meeting Commissioner Jim Peyton resigned his position from the Authority Board, and in his place Mr. Mike Amsden, was appointed as his replacement to this Board.

**Agenda Item #10 Public Comments**

No public comments.

**Agenda Item #11 Next Meeting and Location**

Chairwoman Rocco stated that the December meeting would be cancelled. The next meeting would take place on January 21, 2009, 4:30 p.m., Southwest Florida Water Management District Headquarters, Governing Board Room, First Floor, 2379 Broad Street, US 41 South, Brooksville, FL 34604.

**Agenda Item #12 Adjournment**

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:44 p.m.

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**Rose Rocco, Chairman**

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**Jackson E. Sullivan, Executive Director**