

**MINUTES – WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, NOVEMBER 28, 2007**

**DATE:** November 28, 2007  
**TIME:** 4:30 p.m.  
**PLACE:** City Commission Chambers  
City Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
151 SE Osceola Ave.  
Ocala, Florida 34471

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Joyce Valentino, Citrus County Commissioner  
Dennis Damato, Citrus County Commissioner  
Rose Rocco, Hernando County Commissioner  
Richard Hoffman, Sumter County Commissioner  
Randy Mask, Sumter County Commissioner  
Dale Swain, Bushnell City Councilman

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Gary Bartell, Citrus County Commissioner  
Phillip Price, Crystal River City Councilman  
Kent Guinn, Ocala City Councilman  
Daniel Owen, Ocala City Councilman  
David Russell, Hernando County Commissioner  
Diane Rowden, Hernando County Commissioner  
Christopher Kingsley, Hernando County Commissioner  
Joe Bernardini, Brooksville City Councilman

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Jack Sullivan, Executive Director  
Larry Haag, WRWSA Attorney  
Barbara Sullivan, Recording Secretary  
Dale Ravencraft, Hernando County Utilities  
Diane Salz, WRWSA Legislative Liaison  
Peter Rocco, Hernando County  
Robert Knight, Citrus County Utilities  
Jimmy Brooks, SWFWMD  
Brian Armstrong, SWFWMD  
Henry Hicks, Ocala Utilities  
Trey Arnett, Arnett Environmental  
Troy Kuphal, Marion County Water Resources Manager  
Cliff Harrison, Enhydro  
Al Grubman, TOO FAR, Citrus County  
Jan Grubman, TOO FAR, Citrus County  
Gus Krayner, Citrus County Council  
Pete Hubbell, Water Resources Associates  
Josh Schmidt, Water Resources Associates  
Mr. & Mrs. Ehmick from Senator Charlie Dean's Office

**Agenda Item #1      Call to Order**

Vice-Chair Rose Rocco called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.

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**Agenda Item #2      Roll Call**

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

**Agenda Item #3      Introductions and Announcements**

Mr. Sullivan introduced the public members in attendance and Vice-Chair Rocco welcomed them to the meeting.

**Agenda Item #4      Approval of Minutes of October 17, 2007 Meeting**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY RICHARD HOFFMAN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 17, 2007 MEETING. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY DALE SWAIN AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Agenda Item #5      WRWSA Planning & Implementation Program – Phase II: Water Supply Feasibility Analyses: Overview of Tech Memo #2 – Prioritize Water Supply Projects ... Pete Hubbell, Water Resources Associates**

Mr. Hubbell presented an overview of where the Phase II study currently stands. The timing for completion of the Technical Memorandums has been held up because of continued discussions between WRA's groundwater modeling consultants and the SWFWMD over the results of the Northern District Model (NDM). Consequently, without more detailed information on the results of groundwater modeling and whether groundwater will be able to supply demand within the region, other water sources, such as alternative water supplies, may become necessary sooner and move up in the priority list. Mr. Hubbell said that he hoped the groundwater component would be ready by mid-January. He mentioned that as the groundwater modeling proceeds, that by using the NDM, the consultants will be preparing change maps of impacts to the Surficial Aquifer and the Upper Floridan Aquifer.

<<Joyce Valentino joined the meeting at 4:48 p.m.>>

Mr. Hubbell generally discussed the background on Technical Memorandum #1 and what had been studied. He said that when the first part of Phase II was complete, he and Jack Sullivan would then begin the process of looking for partners to participate in the various projects agreed upon in the first part of Phase II.

Mr. Hubbell then discussed in more detail a new project added to the program called the North Sumter Project. This project looked at a "conjunctive use" between groundwater and water from the Withlacoochee taken near the Lake Panasoffkee outfall. The project envisions possibly developing water from wellfields in north Sumter County, but only using them when flows from the Withlacoochee were not available. He said that the problem with such a project is low flows on the Withlacoochee River.

Mr. Hubbell also discussed the use of "proxy" MFLs in the groundwater modeling phase of the study. Since MFLs had not been set on most of the springs along the west coast, the consultants would use "proxy" MFLs worked out with the SWFWMD staff that would give us a good approximation of the impact those MFLs would have on future availability of groundwater.

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Mr. Hubbell stated that after the feasibility analyses had been completed that the final portion of the work program called for prioritizing all of the projects collectively. Although most of the projects have been prioritized, the lack of results from groundwater modeling has held up the final listing of all projects in a priority format. In addition, the groundwater wells targeted for Citrus and Sumter Counties had not been designed yet because of the continued lack of groundwater modeling. He felt that the issues with SWFWMD would be worked out during the next month and the final priority list of projects would be available within the next month or so.

The Board had a number of questions of Mr. Hubbell and then Chair Rocco opened the meeting for any questions or comment from the public on this agenda item. Al Grubman of TOO FAR discussed the Trilby Aquifer Recharge Project and the new project in Sumter County near the Lake Panasoffkee outfall. He stated that he was concerned about the interruption of flow from the Withlacoochee before it had a chance to flow into and refill Lake Tsala Apopka. He said it was the historic function of Lake Tsala Apopka to take the overflow from the Withlacoochee River and if these projects interfered with that function, TOO FAR would be opposed to those projects. Pete Hubbell responded that these projects are only part of an array of projects and in the final analysis, they may be eliminated from final approval. Commissioner Damato wanted to know why the consultants didn't just look at Lake Rousseau where we know adequate water is available instead of wasting time looking at these other alternatives. Brian Armstrong, SWFWMD representative, stated that we need to look at all alternatives. If we don't, it is certain that some citizen will ask why that was not looked at. A similar example is why we don't use off-shore springs for water supply. Consequently, as part of the regional analysis, we looked at that alternative, even though it had been looked at before by the Water Management District and determine to not be feasible.

Gus Krayner, Citrus Citizens Council, questioned MFLs based on average readings that do not take into account that the average may be widely variable. He asked how far do we go from the mean and would the variability destroy the resource? Brian Armstrong responded that the District has not established MFLs on the Withlacoochee River yet. However, he said that MFLs are not just based on the mean readings on the river. The major indicator for setting the MFL is the "critical ecological item" that supports the ecology and that is needed to support the flow regime. The critical ecological item is determined by scientists that are on staff at the SWFWMD and the process is an involved and structured one. Once the MFL and the basis for that MFL has been tentatively determined, the entire analysis is then sent out for "peer review" by scientists that are expert in the fields used to make the MFL determination.

**Agenda Item #7 Executive Director's Report ... Jack Sullivan, WRWSA**

**a. Bills to be Paid**

Mr. Sullivan stated that the bills for November had been handed out separately. They total \$64,587.37.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY JOYCE VALENTINO AND SECONDED BY DALE SWAIN TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 28, 2007 BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$64,587.37. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**b. Report on Water Resources Development Fund Account**

Mr. Sullivan reported he had provided statements of the WRDF for October in the Board package. The account earned \$5,136.13 in October. The account balance as of October 31, 2007 was \$1,043,994.93.

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**c. Hydrologic Report**

Mr. Sullivan stated that he had downloaded the October Hydrologic Report from the SWFWMD web page. The lakes, Withlacoochee River and the aquifer are still below normal throughout the region. We still are about 8-9 inches below historic rainfall amounts through October.

**d. Correspondence**

Mr. Sullivan said that he had seven pieces of correspondence to bring to the Board's attention. First was a letter from Dr. Martin Kelly regarding moving up setting MFLs on the Lower Withlacoochee River and also the Homosassa Spring and River. Mr. Kelly said the District staff was not recommending those changes because they did not have the necessary data and analysis yet to set MFLs that early. Second and third was a letter from Citrus County to Kirby Green, E.D. of SJRWMD, opposing the transfer of any local water outside the basin. The City of Brooksville had also sent a resolution they passed on the same issue. Mr. Sullivan said he had handed out separately a resolution from Sumter County also opposing inter-district transfers. Fourth was a letter from our Attorney to our auditors, Purvis Gray, stating that the Authority had no pending or potential litigation against it. Fifth, was a short note to the Authority from Nancy Robinson, former Board member. Sixth was a letter from Governor Crist to the Secretary of State regarding the reduction in funding from the Water Protection and Sustainability Program for alternative water supplies. Seventh was a memo from Troy Kuphal asking Mr. Sullivan to participate in a Regional Water Forum. Mr. Sullivan said he had originally agreed and then had some health issues come up that precluded him from being present at the forum.

Mr. Sullivan also reported that he, Robert Knight and Commissioner Gary Bartell, along with David Moore of SWFWMD, met with Mr. Jeffery Lyash, President of Progress Energy and several of his staff to discuss co-location of a desalination plant at the Crystal River power plant. Mr. Sullivan reported that the meeting was very cordial and successful in getting cooperation from Progress Energy.

**e. News Articles**

Mr. Sullivan said he had provided some news articles for the Board to read at its leisure.

**Agenda Item #7 Attorney's Report ... Larry Haag, WRWSA Attorney**

Mr. Haag stated that his only item to report was that the revised contracts had now been all secured, signed and will be sent back to each local government.

**Agenda Item #8 Legislative Consultant's Report**

Ms. Salz mentioned that during the upcoming legislative session in 2008, some major issues will be a sunset review of water management districts, Senate confirmation of water management

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district executive directors, and a complete review of Chapter 373. In addition, the Century Commission will report on its recommendation on water. She also mentioned that bills had been filed on springs protection and desalination.

**Agenda Item #9 Other Business**

There was no other business to be brought up by Board members.

**Agenda Item #10 Public Comments**

Chair Valentino asked for any additional public comment. Al Grubman, TOO FAR stated that he was proud of the local officials of this area as well as State Senator Dean and Representative Ron Schultz for standing up against the proposal by SJRWMD to use the Withlacoochee River for inter-district transfers.

**Agenda Item #12 Next Meeting Time and Location**

Mr. Sullivan stated that the December meeting had been cancelled and the next Board meeting on January 16, 2008 would be in Sumter County. However, the County Commission has moved their meeting chambers to a new location in a renovated shopping center building. The address for the new location is 910 North Main Street in Bushnell. Mr. Sullivan said when he sends out the Board Package for the January meeting, he will also send a map of the new location.

Vice-Chair Rocco then stated that the next meeting would take place on January 16, 2008, at 4:30 p.m., Sumter County Commission Chambers, 910 North Main Street, Bushnell, Florida 33513.

**Agenda Item #13 Adjournment**

**WITH NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, VICE-CHAIR ROCCO ASKED FOR A MOTION TO ADJOURN. A MOTION WAS MADE BY JOYCE VALENTINO AND SECONDED BY DALE SWAIN TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 6:10 P.M. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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Joyce Valentino, Chair

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Jackson E. Sullivan, Executive Director