

**MINUTES – WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, JANUARY 17, 2007**

**DATE:** January 17, 2007  
**TIME:** 4:30 p.m.  
**PLACE:** Hernando County Government Center  
County Commission Chambers  
20 N. Main Street, Brooksville, FL 34601

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Joyce Valentino, Citrus County Commissioner  
Dennis Damato, Citrus County Commissioner  
Richard Hoffman, Sumter County Commissioner  
Joe Bernardini, Brooksville City Councilman  
Mike Francis, Sumter County Commissioner

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Gary Bartell, Citrus County Commissioner  
Sophia Diaz-Fonseca, Inverness City Councilwoman  
Daniel Owen, Ocala City Councilman  
Nancy Robinson, Hernando County Commissioner  
Christopher Kingsley, Hernando County Commissioner  
Jeff Stabins, Hernando County Commissioner  
Dale Swain, Bushnell City Councilman  
Kent Guinn, Ocala City Councilman

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Jack Sullivan, Executive Director  
Larry Haag, WRWSA Attorney  
Barbara Sullivan, Recording Secretary  
Alys Brockway, Hernando County Water Conservation Coordinator  
Robert Knight, Citrus County Utilities  
Pete Hubbell, Water Resources Associates  
Josh Schmidt, Water Resources Associates  
Terry Clark, SJRWMD Liaison  
Doug Sanders, SWFWMD  
David Rathke, SWFWMD  
Charles Rust, TOO FAR, Citrus County  
Frank Heath, TOO FAR, Citrus County  
Al Grubman, TOO FAR, Citrus County  
Jan Grubman, TOO FAR, Citrus County  
W. Duane Brooks, TOO FAR, Citrus County  
Wayne Sawyer, TOO FAR, Citrus County  
Janet Masaoy, Citizens Opposed to the Suncoast Tollway  
Jose Masaoy, Citizens Opposed to the Suncoast Tollway

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**Agenda Item #1      Call to Order**

Vice-Chair Joyce Valentino called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

**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 Richard Hoffman, Sumter County Commissioner replacing Randy Mask on the Authority. The members of the public were introduced and were welcomed to the meeting.

**Agenda Item #4      Approval of Minutes of December 13, 2006 Meeting**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY DENNIS DAMATO TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE  
DECEMBER 13, 2006 MEETING. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY JOE BARNARDINI AND  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Agenda Item #5      Election of Officers for 2007 ... Chair and Board of Directors,  
WRWSA**

Mr. Sullivan outlined for the Board the procedure for electing new officers for the Board of Directors. He stated that the Authority is organized under an Interlocal agreement between the member governments. This agreement sets forth the officers for the Authority. As the Executive Director, Mr. Sullivan is the ex officio Secretary for the Authority, responsible for taking, preparing and distributing the minutes. He serves at the pleasure of the Board of Directors. There are three other officers required by the Interlocal agreement: a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman and a Treasurer. These three positions are elected each year at the January meeting. Mr. Sullivan stated that the current officers are: Chairman Nancy Robinson, Hernando County Commissioner; Vice-Chair is Joyce Valentino, Citrus County Commissioner and the Treasurer is Mike Francis, Sumter County Commissioner. Mr. Sullivan then went over the list of current Board members.

Ms. Valentino then asked if there were any nominations for Chair. Joe Bernardini nominated Joyce Valentino. Dennis Damato seconded the nominations. Chairwoman Valentino asked if there were any further nominations. There were none. Ms. Valentino called for a vote. Ms. Valentino was elected Chair by acclamation.

Ms. Valentino then called for nominations for Vice Chair. Dennis Damato nominated Mike Francis and Joe Bernardini seconded the motion. No further nominations were made. The Chair

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called for a vote and Mike Francis was elected by acclamation as Vice-Chair. Nominations were then requested for Treasurer. Mike Francis nominated Dennis Damato. Joe Bernardini seconded the nomination. No further nominations were made. The Chair called for a vote and Dennis Damato was elected by acclamation as Treasurer.

**Agenda Item #6      Presentation of Final Report on Impact of Lake MFLs on  
Groundwater in Sumter and Citrus Counties ... Pete Hubbell, Water  
Resources Associates**

Pete Hubbell, Water Resources Associates gave some background on the genesis of the study prepared for the Authority and the purpose for establishing minimum flows and levels by the water management districts. Mr. Hubbell stated that the SWFWMD proposed minimum levels on several lakes in Sumter County and Citrus County. It appeared that the proposed levels would have a negative impact on current development especially in Sumter County. The Authority contracted with WRA to study the proposed levels and determine the impact of those levels on further water withdrawals in both Sumter and Citrus Counties. During the period of studying the proposed levels, SWFWMD extended the period for approving the proposed levels and reexamined the methodology used in establishing the levels and made several changes in the methodology. SWFWMD subsequently adopted the guidance levels for the lakes in Sumter and Citrus Counties. Mr. Hubbell then turned over the presentation to Josh Schmidt, WRA, to discuss the impact of the established levels.

Mr. Schmidt discussed the methodology used by SWFWMD in using modeling to establish historical records for some of the lakes that did not have long periods of record gathering. He then discussed the two guidance levels established by the District – the high management level that should be exceeded 10% of the time and the low management level which should not be exceeded more than 50% of the time. Lakes can fluctuate, but should stay between the two management levels most of the time.

Mr. Schmidt summarized his findings by pointing out that in southern Hernando County, the influence of groundwater pumping at the Cross Bar wellfield in Pasco County was causing concern that lakes in southern Hernando County may exceed the management levels in the future. However, based on the projected groundwater demands in Sumter County, Lakes Okahumpka and Miona showed exceedance of the minimum levels established for those lakes. The conclusion of the report is that future additional groundwater supplies in proximity to those lakes would be unlikely to be permitted.

**Agenda Item #7      Legislative Session Preview ... Diane Salz, Legislative Consultant**

Diane Salz referred Board members to the information provided in the Board Package. She said she wanted to make sure that Board members knew the legislators from our region that held leadership positions within the Legislature. She specifically pointed out that Dennis Baxley, representative from Ocala was selected as House Speaker Pro Tempore, a very influential position in the House. She also pointed out that we continue to have Senators Mike Fasano,

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Nancy Argenziano and Paula Dockery in leadership positions in the Senate. Ms. Salz then discussed some of the issues that would be coming up in this session including enhancing the funding for alternative water supplies, sunset review for the water management districts in 2008 and Spring Protection. She also touched on the replacement appointments made by Governor Christ for water management districts. She said that reappointment of current Board members Jerry Rice and Judy Whitehead of SWFWMD had not been withdrawn and hopefully, they would be confirmed by the Senate.

**Agenda Item #8 Executive Director's Report ... Jack Sullivan, WRWSA**

**a. Bills to be Paid**

Mr. Sullivan stated that the bills for January had been handed out separately. They total \$39,307.92. The invoices included a bill from Sumter County for a final payment on their Water Conservation Program.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY DENNIS DAMATO AND SECONDED BY MIKE FRANCIS TO PAY THE JANUARY 17, 2007 BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$39,307.92. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

Mr. Sullivan reported that the Water Resources Development Fund earned \$5179.39 in interest during December. The fund balance on December 31, 2006 was \$1,136,888.24.

**c. Board Member Information Handbook Updates**

Mr. Sullivan stated that a number of the new members had received a copy of the updated Authority Information Handbook. He had sent out copies of this to the new Board members. Mr. Sullivan said he had updated the handbook through the beginning of this year. He had his Secretary make new complete inserts for old Board members so they can just remove the old information and insert this new version.

**d. Extension of Contract with SWFWMD for 2005 RWSP Update**

Because of the holidays and the length of the 2005 Master Plan Update, Mr. Sullivan said he had to extend the review period for the study into January 2007. However, the contract period ended on December 31, 2006. Mr. Sullivan notified SWFWMD that the contract needed to be extended. SWFWMD is currently in the process of sending the Authority an amendment extending the contract period to the end of March 2007. Mr. Sullivan said when he receives it, he will send it on to Larry Haag and it will be presented to the Board for signature.

**e. Progress on Phase II & VII Contracts**

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Mr. Sullivan stated that we are in the process of finalizing a contract with SWFWMD on the 2007 Phases II and VII work program. He had received a draft contract that Larry Haag, Diane Salz and Mr. Sullivan had reviewed and commented on. Mr. Sullivan said he is not sure when this contract will come forward, but in the meantime, we have asked Pete Hubbell to begin putting together a Scope of Services for the Phase II and Phase VII work programs that we can attach to his contract. Mr. Sullivan said he felt that both the SWFWMD contract and the Authority's contract with WRA will be ready for the February Board meeting.

**f. 2005-06 Audit Progress**

Mr. Sullivan reported that the field work on the audit has been completed and it is currently in internal review at Purvis Gray. Mr. Sullivan said the audit report should be ready for presentation to the Board at the February 21 meeting.

**d. Hydrologic Report**

Mr. Sullivan said he downloaded the hydrologic report from SWFWMD's web page. The hydrologic report through January shows that aquifer levels continue to fall because rainfall levels have been very low for the year. He stated that historically rainfall in our area is about 53.5 inches per year. The actual rainfall in 2006 was 38.9 inches. For 2006, our area is about 14.6 inches below normal.

**g. Correspondence**

Mr. Sullivan said he had no correspondence to report this month.

**i. News Articles**

Mr. Sullivan said he included a number of news articles that the Board can read at its leisure.

**Agenda Item #9 Attorney's Report ... Johnnye Friedrich, WRWSA Attorney**

Ms. Friedrich stated that she had no report for the meeting, but that several contracts would be forthcoming at the next Board meeting.

**Agenda Item #8 Other Business**

No Board member had any additional business to bring up at the meeting.

**Agenda Item #9 Public Comments**

Joyce Valentino

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**a. Discussion of Maps in 2005 Member Briefing Package**

Chair Valentino opened the discussion by pointing out that in February 2005, Mr. Sullivan had provided a briefing to new Board members and as part of the briefing had provided a package of information. Within this information was a map illustrating transfer of water from the Withlacoochee region to Tampa Bay. Ms. Valentino said that this map is no longer part of any governmental plan that she was aware of and would like to make it known that water transfer from the Withlacoochee region to Tampa Bay is no longer an option and the map is not valid.

She said she had talked with Robert Knight of Citrus County Utilities and asked him to comment on this. Mr. Knight stated to the Board that a number of years ago he had worked with a group called Progress Energy. The purpose of this group was to analyze the cost differential between pumping water from Lake Rousseau in Citrus County to the Cross Bar Ranch facility in Pasco County and the cost of desalinating water for use by governments in the Tampa Bay area. He said even using the high cost of desalination, the cost of pumping and transporting water from Lake Rousseau to Pasco County was higher and therefore his group concluded it was uneconomical to transfer water from the Withlacoochee region to Tampa Bay.

Chair Valentino then recognized Jack Sullivan to provide more background on the map provided at the Board member briefing. Mr. Sullivan said that at the February 2005 Board meeting, he provided a briefing package for new Board members. As part of the historical information, he included a map of the original Water Resources Management Study that showed some of the water transfer alternatives being considered by the Corps of Engineers and later from the West Coast Regional Water Supply Authority. This map was provided merely as historical context for the new Board members to know why this Authority was formed and what it did in its early years. He said that the WCRWSA continued to maintain in its Master Plan the possibility of water transfer from outside its region – especially from the Weekiwachee River and Lake Rousseau up through its 1995 Master Plan.

After the 1997 legislature passed the “Local Sources First” legislation, the WCRWSA dropped the alternative of going outside its 3-county region. In 1998, SWFWMD signed its “Partnership Agreement” with the local governments in Tampa Bay to provide over \$100 million to the reconstituted Tampa Bay Water Authority, if they would consolidate their water supply wells under TBW and begin developing alternative water supplies, which Tampa Bay Water has done through its desal plant and its 15 billion gallon reservoir. Mr. Sullivan stated that as far as he knew, there are no plans at this time to transfer water out of the Withlacoochee Region to any other locations within the State – especially Tampa Bay.

Ms. Valentino then opened up the meeting to public input. Ms. Janet Masaoy of Citizens Opposed to the Suncoast Tollway (COST) presented information from a 1979 study by the Corps of Engineers called the Four Rivers Basin Study that showed a number of alternatives for transferring water from Citrus County to Tampa Bay. Mr. Sullivan stated that this is the same study he referenced to the Authority Board in his briefing and that the study was no longer being used to support water transfer to Tampa Bay. Ms. Masaoy then stated that the proposed pipeline in the map coincided with the route of the Suncoast Tollway. Mr. Sullivan said in his opinion this was probably just a coincidence. At this time a number of members of the TOO FAR organization made comments on water transfer and water resources in general.

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With no further comments from the public, the public comment portion of the meeting was closed.

**Agenda Item #10 Next Meeting Time and Location**

Vice-Chair Valentino stated that the next meeting would take place on February 21, 2007, 4:30 p.m., Citrus County Courthouse, Commission Chamber, First Floor, 110 N. Apopka Ave., Inverness, FL 34450

**Agenda Item #11 Adjournment**

With no further business to come before the Board, a motion was made by Joe Bernardini and seconded by Dennis Damato to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

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Joyce Valentino, Vice-Chair

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Jackson E. Sullivan, Executive Director