

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

**DATE:** February 18, 2009  
**TIME:** 4:30 p.m.  
**PLACE:** Withlacoochee Regional Planning Council  
Headquarters Conference Room  
1241 SW 10<sup>th</sup> Street (SR 200)  
Ocala, Florida 34474-0323

**Agenda Item #1 Call to Order**

Chairman Dennis Damato called the meeting to order at 4:33 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  
Winn Webb, Citrus County Commissioner  
Richard Hoffman, Sumter County Commissioner  
Stan McClain, Marion County Commissioner  
Christine Dobkowski, Belleview City Commissioner  
Jim Adkins, Hernando County Commissioner  
Phillip Price, Crystal River City Councilman

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Randy Mask, Sumter County Commissioner  
Joe Bernardini, Brooksville City Councilman  
Kent Guinn, Ocala City Councilman  
Daniel Owen, Ocala City Councilman  
Dale Swain, Bushnell City Councilman  
Gary Bartell, Citrus County Commissioner  
John Druzbeck, Hernando County Commissioner  
Mike Amsden, Marion County Commissioner  
Barbara Fitos, Marion County Commissioner  
Jeff Stabins, Hernando County Commissioner

**Agenda Item #3 Introductions and Announcements**

Mr. Sullivan introduced others in the audience.

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**OTHERS PRESENT**

Jack Sullivan, WRWSA Executive Director  
Larry Haag, WRWSA Attorney  
Diane Salz, Legislative Liaison, WRWSA  
Peter Rocco, Hernando County  
Troy Kuphal, Marion County Water Resources Manager  
Andy Neff, Marion County Utilities Director  
John Ferguson, SWFWMD  
Brian Armstrong, SWFWMD  
Doug Sanders, SWFWMD  
Pete Hubbell, Water Resource Associates  
Josh Schmitz, Water Resource Associates  
Robert Knight, Citrus County Utilities  
Jeff Halcomb, City of Ocala Utilities  
Connie Mullis, Aid to Senator Evelyn Lynn  
Al Grubman, TOO FAR  
Emily Moore, Black & Veatch  
Barbara Sullivan, Bookkeeper  
Darlene Johnson, Recording Secretary

Mr. Sullivan introduced new Board member, Hernando County Commissioner Jim Adkins.

Mr. Sullivan reminded the Board that they are scheduled to hold a joint meeting with the SWFWMD Governing Board on Monday April 27, 2009 to begin at 2:00 p.m. A tour of the Villages for both Boards prior to the workshop has been scheduled for 11:30 a.m. This will be hosted by Trey Arnett and Doug Tharp. A tour bus will pick up and drop off participants at the Wildwood Community Center. In addition, lunch will be provided. He asked that any Board member wanting to go on the tour let him know so that he could make arrangements.

**Agenda Item #4 Approval of Minutes of November 19, 2008 Meeting**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY ROSE ROCCO TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 21, 2009 MEETING. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY STAN McCLAIN AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Agenda Item #5 Update on Phase II and VII Water Supply Planning and Groundwater Modeling . . . Pete Hubbell and Josh Schmitz, Water Resources Associates**

Pete Hubbell, discussed population projections updated through January 2008 using BEBR mid-range projections. The new projections reflect the current slowdown lasting

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5-10 years in the 4-county area. Beyond that period, growth for Citrus and Hernando counties is higher than the previous BEBR estimate. Mr. Hubbell stated that Phase II demand estimates, which reflect SWFWMD estimates, are conservative and did not reflect changes anticipated from implementing conservation. Member utilities will vary in the reduction of demand by conservation. The district desires that all utilities be within 150 gpcd by 2018. Concern over Domestic Self Supply Wells (DSS) was raised.

Josh Schmitz introduced a timeline for project implementation and suggested categorizing projects as short-term, mid-term, and long-term. He stated that AWS would not be needed for 20-30 years. He suggested implementing the Sumter County wellfield by 2015 instead of 2025. The project initially provided water supply to the Villages and Wildwood, but is now considering additional partners in southern Marion County, including Stonecrest, Belleview and Summerglen. The supply lines built for the distribution system could eventually be utilized as AWS transmission lines.

Mr. Schmitz introduced a “decentralized option” for the Citrus County wellfield. After meeting with Citrus County Utilities, he accepted that transmission lines were too long to connect fragmented service areas in a single project. Individual wells were suggested as a short-term project, interconnects as a mid-term, and connection to an AWS would be long-term. Mr. Schmitz noted that AWS may be needed sooner for Hernando County, as they have the highest projected demand increase but are a long way from the proposed Citrus AWS facilities.

Mr. Schmitz discussed possible incentives that could be offered to utilities developing their own groundwater systems to make them compatible with long-term demands. He suggested that Authority-endorsed projects could potentially receive permit durations longer than the standard 6 years. Criteria would be applied on an individual basis and may be influenced by the utilities’ reuse upgrades and conservation.

Mr. Hubbell then discussed the update to the Marion County Compendium. He stated that we are waiting on the review of water demand projections from SJRWMD. He also wanted to continue dialogue between the Districts on comparing groundwater modeling results. Within Marion County, water supply options under current consideration were two wellfields, including one in each District; surface water treatment from the Withlacoochee or lower Ocklawaha rivers; desalination projects from Crystal River or Coquina Coast, and; reclaimed water projects. Mr. Hubbell noted that Phase II work had been accomplished for the Crystal River project.

Mr. Schmitz commented on the SJRWMD’s recent statement that wellfields in Marion County would not likely be viable. In recent communication, Mr. Schmitz explained that proposed wellfields would draw approximately 10 mgd. The SJRWMD’s original assumption was that high production 40-50 mgd wellfields were being considered, and they may be willing to investigate a smaller approach.

Mr. Hubbell said he had asked the TRC to have any comments on the proposed options by March 18, 2009.

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**Agenda Item #6 Legislative Report . . . Diane Salz, Legislative Consultant**

Ms. Salz gave a legislative update on two fronts: Federal and State. Ms. Salz's comments included the following points:

**Federal Update: American Recovery & Reinvestment Act**

- The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund was set at \$2 billion of which Florida will get \$100 million;
- No EPA guidance on the use of the funds was forthcoming yet;
- Projects must be either under contract or under construction within 12 months or the money will be reallocated;
- DEP doesn't know what a lot of the bill means...but existing programs have not been waived, therefore, interested local governments should apply now;
- DEP is expecting another appropriation next summer of \$25-30 million, plus there will be repayment on existing loans;
- Also, many projects on DEP's current project list may no longer be viable for a variety of reasons.

**Florida Legislative Update**

- The budget forecasts for 2010 is very bleak;
- The Legislature is looking to stimulate the economy by reducing regulation, eliminating duplication in agencies, cutting agency budgets further;
- Sales tax exemption for bottled water is being considered for repeal as is a severance fee on water for bottling and replacing the documentary surtax as a funding source for water supply development & restoration;
- Many bills have been filed for 2009 Regular Session some of which are "shell" bills;
- Some of the unfinished business from last session include: WMD reauthorization; springs protection; water conservation; SWFWMD ED Senate confirmation; Chapter 373 rewrite (Part 7)
- Ms. Salz will keep the WRWSA Board Members apprised of legislative developments by e-mail reports during the Legislative Session.

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

**a. Bills to be Paid**

Mr. Sullivan presented the bills for payment for February in the amount of \$47,538.77.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY PHILLIP PRICE TO APPROVE THE  
FEBUARY BILLS FOR PAYMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$47,538.77.**

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**THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY STAN McCLAIN AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

The latest statement as of January 31, 2009 showed that the Water Resources Development Fund contains \$1,196,328.52.

**c. Orientation of New Board Members**

Mr. Sullivan said that he had handed out a booklet of the slides he will be showing if anyone wants to make notes of any questions to ask at the end of or during the presentation.

Mr. Sullivan then gave an in depth power point presentation about the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority including:

- Brief History of Formation
- Organization Membership and Representation, Revenue & Expenditures
- Comparison of WMDs, Basin Boards and WSAs
- Current Planning Efforts and Proposed Water Supply Projects
- Future Work Efforts

**d. Hydrologic Report**

Mr. Sullivan summarized the January 2009 hydrologic report from SWFWMD's Water Resources Monthly Update found on the District's web page for the northern part of the District. It shows a continuing decline in the water resources in the area.

- i. Aquifer levels** in the Florida Aquifer in the below normal range.
- ii. Rainfall** for January has been below the historic level for the month.
- iii. Lake levels** have continued to decline from last month and are still below normal.
- iv. Streamflow** in the Withlacoochee River is just barely within the normal range.

**e. Correspondence**

Mr. Sullivan received two pieces of correspondence that he included in the Board Package. He said he wanted to concentrate on the correspondence from Kirby Green and his response. The essence of Mr. Green's letter is that St. Johns WMD feels the Authority should not be looking at any additional groundwater in Marion

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County. If we do, we should only use St. Johns groundwater modeling and water demand assessments.

Mr. Sullivan is concerned because Marion County is divided between two Districts and we need to work out the difference between the Districts in the way they manage water resources.

For example, he felt that the St. Johns' staff should work with Southwest Florida's staff to come up with some hybrid modeling tools in Marion County that we could use across the County rather than use different groundwater models for each District's jurisdiction. Mr. Sullivan felt that the Authority has a duty to look at groundwater availability in Marion County before the county would have to go to higher cost AWS.

Mr. Sullivan said he had penned a letter back to Kirby Green that essentially says three (3) things:

1. The Authority believes not looking at possible groundwater use in Marion is a significant omission and disservice to our member governments. Therefore, the Authority plans to evaluate groundwater development in Marion County as part of our planning process.
2. The Authority encourages St. Johns to work closely with SWFWMD to resolve boundary issues in Marion County that are causing uncertainties in water planning and project development.
3. The Authority hopes Southwest Florida and St. Johns Districts will revive the North Central Florida coordination effort for not only Marion County but also for Northeast Sumter and Northwest Lake Counties as well.

**f. News Articles**

Mr. Sullivan provided several news articles on water supply and water resources from around the region and the State that the Board can read at its leisure.

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

Mr. Haag said that he had a public records request from someone in Miami who thought the WRWSA was a Community Development District and asked for information. He sent a letter back telling them that the Authority was not a Community Development District but a water authority pursuant to Chapter 373 of the Florida Statutes. He has not heard anything back from them.

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**Agenda Item #9 Other Business**

There was no other business by the Board.

**Agenda Item #10 Public Comments**

Al Grubman, President of TOO FAR from Citrus County, objected to use of Federal or State dollars to take water from the Withlacoochee River that should be allowed to replenish Lake Tsala Apopka.

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

Chairman Damato stated that the next meeting will take place on March 18, 2009, 4:30 p.m., at the Southwest Florida Water Management District Headquarters Governing Board Room, 2309 Broad Street (US 41South) Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899.

**Agenda Item #12 Adjournment**

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:29 p.m.

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**Dennis Damato, Chairman**

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**Jackson E. Sullivan, Executive Director**