

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

DATE: March 18, 2009
TIME: 4:30 p.m.
PLACE: Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, FL 34604

Agenda Item #1 Call to Order

Chairman Dennis Damato called the meeting to order at 4:35 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
Christine Dobkowski, Belleview City Commissioner
John Druzbeck, Hernando County Commissioner
Joe Bernardini, Brooksville City Councilman

MEMBERS ABSENT

Randy Mask, Sumter County Commissioner
Richard Hoffman, Sumter County Commissioner
Kent Guinn, Ocala City Councilman
Daniel Owen, Ocala City Councilman
Dale Swain, Bushnell City Councilman
Gary Bartell, Citrus County Commissioner
Mike Amsden, Marion County Commissioner
Barbara Fitos, Marion County Commissioner
Stan McClain, Marion County commissioner
Jeff Stabins, Hernando County Commissioner
Jim Adkins, Hernando County Commissioner
Phillip Price, Crystal River City Councilman

Agenda Item #3 Introductions and Announcements

Mr. Sullivan introduced others in the audience.

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Jack Sullivan, WRWSA Executive Director
Larry Haag, WRWSA Attorney
Peter Rocco, Hernando County
John Ferguson, SWFWMD
Ken Herd, SWFWMD
Lou Kavouras, SWFWMD
Pete Hubbell, Water Resource Associates
Josh Schmitz, Water Resource Associates
Jeff Trommer, Leggett, Brashears and Graham
Connie Mullis, Aid to Senator Evelyn Lynn
Dale Jenkins, Black & Veatch
Al Grubman, TOO FAR
Jan Grubman, TOO FAR
Janey Baldwin, Withlacoochee Basin Board, SWFWMD
Mr. Baldwin, Hernando County
Alys Brockway, Hernando County Utilities
Emilie Moore, TetraTech
Darlene Johnson, Recording Secretary

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 4:00 p.m. A tour of The Villages' water supply and water conservation systems prior to the workshop has been scheduled for both Boards. Trey Arnett, Water Resources Director for The Villages and Doug Tharp, Sumter County SWFWMD Governing Board member, will host the tour. A tour bus will pick up and drop off participants at the Wildwood Community Center. In addition, lunch will be provided. Mr. Sullivan 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 February 18, 2009 Meeting.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY ROSE ROCCO TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 18, 2009 MEETING. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY JOE BERNARDINI AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Agenda Item #5 Discussion of Future Regional Water Supply Framework . . .
Pete Hubbell, Water Resource Associates and Jack Sullivan,
WRWSA**

Mr. Sullivan introduced Peter Hubbell and Josh Schmitz who had worked on the Authority's Master Plan and would be available after the presentation for any follow up questions the Board may have. Mr. Sullivan explained at the last meeting in Ocala the consultants and he surfaced the strategy for a phased process of moving toward a regional interconnected water supply system as part of the Authority's water supply Master Plan.

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

Mr. Sullivan said that he and the consultants had termed this process the “Regional Framework.” Mr. Sullivan then presented a PowerPoint presentation on the proposed Regional Framework for Future Water Supply Development. He provided the Board with a hand out of the slides he presented. After the presentation, the Chair asked if there were any questions from the Board.

Rose Rocco asked if Mr. Sullivan wanted her to take this back to her board for the next meeting. Mr. Sullivan said yes.

Winn Webb asked about what appeared to be a weak link in the system in Northeast Marion County and South Sumter in that no alternative water supplies were being channeled to those locations. Mr. Sullivan said in South Sumter County there are not the water demand requirements as there is in northeast Sumter County and he doesn't believe they need to bring alternative water supplies to south Sumter County. However, over time alternative supplies will be needed in northeast Sumter County with the huge amount of growth that is going to occur in Wildwood and the amount of growth that has already occurred and still can occur in the Villages. Mr. Sullivan also said that most of northeast Marion County was in the Ocala National Forest and therefore had little growth projected and did not need alternative water supplies.

Chair Damato ask Mr. Hubbell since the development of alternative water supplies is expensive, is it allowed in water rate use studies to set aside an escrow fund based on current consumption and put it aside for the day when we would have to provide for alternative water supplies. Mr. Hubbell said he did not know the answer to that question, but would get back to Chair Damato with an answer.

John Druzbeck asked about alternative water sources and wondered if any other options had been considered beside desalination or the rivers at this point? Mr. Hubbell said that they had looked at all the different alternatives including off shore springs, desal not co-located with the power plant and traditional ground water sources. The sources most probable were surface water primarily from the rivers, and a desal facility co-located with the Crystal River power plant, which provided the ability to discharge waste brine water from the desal process. Mr. Druzbeck asked whether reclaimed water had been considered. Mr. Hubbell indicated that they had inventoried all of the wastewater facilities that had the potential to beneficially reuse effluent to reduce potable water use.

Chair Damato said that in the development of future water supplies we have ground water but it is not drinking water as it comes of out the ground. He asked if there is any technology that would allow us to use some of this water as an alternative water supply. Mr. Hubbell asked whether he meant for non-potable or potable uses? Chair Damato said for either non-potable or potable use. Mr. Hubbell said the answer revolves around the cost of treatment.

The Chair then asked the public if they had any questions.

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

Al Grubman, representing TOO FAR, said his organization very strongly objected to use of Federal or State dollars to take water from the Withlacoochee River that should be allowed to replenish Lake Tsala Apopka.

Janey Baldwin, a member of the Withlacoochee River Basin Board, requested the PowerPoint packet that Mr. Sullivan gave to the Board. She thought that it would be a great thing to take back to Hernando County as an educational tool because people have many questions about water.

Chair then thanked Mr. Sullivan for his presentation and told the Board members to move forward and schedule meetings with their respective Boards.

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

a. Bills to be Paid

Mr. Sullivan presented the bills for payment for March in the amount of \$28,659.12.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY ROSE ROCCO TO APPROVE THE MARCH BILLS FOR PAYMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$28,659.12. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY JOHN DRUZBICK AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

The latest statement as of February 28, 2009 showed that the Water Resources Development Fund contains \$1,196,340.90.

c. 1st Quarter Financial Report

Mr. Sullivan gave the 1st Quarter Financial Report, and referred to the report in the Board Packet. After presenting the financial report, Mr. Sullivan recommended the Board approve the report.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY ROSE ROCCO TO ACCEPT THE 1ST QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY JOE BERNARDINI AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

d. Consulting Engineering Firm to Evaluate CAB Citrus Facility

Mr. Sullivan stated it was time that an evaluation of the Charles A. Black Citrus Water Supply Facility should be prepared. The cost of doing the evaluation was budgeted this year at \$12,000. This amount was too low to go through long and expensive process of competitive negotiations. In 2005, Mr. Sullivan asked the Board to place the firms that had submitted qualifications to do the Regional Water Supply Plan update on a non-competitive negotiations list to do small engineering tasks. He said Mr. Haag indicates

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

the statutes allow non-competitive awards for work under \$25,000. The Authority has provided work for three of the firms and the next firm in line is Black & Veatch. He recommended that the Board direct him to negotiate a contract with Black and Veatch to evaluate the Charles A. Black facility. The contract would be brought back to the Board for approval at a subsequent meeting.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY ROSE ROCCO TO CONTACT BLACK & VEATCH FOR A PROPOSAL TO EVALUATE THE CHARLES A. BLACK WATER SUPPLY FACILITY. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY WINN WEBB AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

e. Hydrologic Report

Mr. Sullivan summarized the February 2009 hydrologic report from SJRWMD as well as SWFWMD. He took the hydrologic report for SWFWMD from its 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 February 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 below the normal range.

Mr. Sullivan said that information from the SJRWMD web page is somewhat different from that at SWFWMD. The information was more graphic with less narrative. He summarized the graphics found on the SJRWMD web page as follows:

- Rainfall in January 2009 in eastern Marion County ranged from 3-4 inches in northern Marion to 1-3 inches in the rest of the County.
- Rainfall for the past 12 months for the County ranges from 45 to 65 inches.
- Lake levels for the past year show levels better than the average in far eastern Marion where more rain fell and less than average in the west part of the SJRWMD area where less rain fell.
- Generally the groundwater levels in Marion were stable over the past year.

f. News Articles

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

g. Correspondence

Mr. Sullivan stated that he had no current correspondence but that he wanted to convey concern about correspondence he had sent and received last month. He said he had received a letter from Kirby Green, Executive Director of the St. Johns River Water

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

Management District. The letter was in response to the Authority's water supply planning efforts in the St. Johns portion of Marion County. Basically, the letter said that St. Johns feels that WRWSA shouldn't expect to develop any additional ground water in Marion County in our regional plan, and if we propose additional groundwater wells, we should use only St. Johns Water Management District's analytical tools - their groundwater modeling and their water demand estimates.

Mr. Sullivan penned a letter in return to St. Johns saying we believe not looking at possible ground water in Marion County was a significant omission from our water supply plan and was a disservice to our member governments. Therefore, Mr. Sullivan said we plan to evaluate groundwater development in Marion County in both the Southwest Florida Water Management District and the St. Johns River Water Management District areas.

Mr. Sullivan said he also encouraged the St. Johns district to work closely with SWFWMD to resolve boundary issues in Marion County that are causing uncertainties in water planning and project development for the Authority.

Mr. Sullivan went on to say that he and the Authority's consultants are concerned with how conservative St. John's is with its groundwater modeling which they feel unrealistically limits the amount of groundwater that can be used and the fact that they use a drawdown of .35 feet as the limit for no further groundwater available. Mr. Sullivan said he is told that just the calculation errors in a regional groundwater model could result in a .35-foot drawdown.

Mr. Sullivan said he had talked with David Moore, Executive Director for the SWFWMD and Mr. Moore said that he and Kirby Green would respond jointly to his letter to Kirby Green. Mr. Sullivan said he had not received that response, but Mr. Moore indicated that SWFWMD and SJRWMD would resume working together to try to resolve the differences between the two Districts as those issues impact our water supply plan.

Mr. Sullivan said that although he felt that SWFWMD is doing all that it can to resolve these issues, it is not going to be enough to help us move forward with our water supply plan in Marion County by the end of our contract period. In addition, another issue for Mr. Sullivan and the consultants is that they believe that in the process of St. Johns trying to force much of its District toward alternative water supply development and based on its method of groundwater modeling and its strict use of model results to regulate groundwater, it is forcing Marion County into a "water caution area" designation and making it necessary for Marion County to move to alternative water supplies sooner than necessary. That is going to make the cost of water very expensive for Marion County residents.

Mr. Sullivan said that once you cross I-75, SWFWMD's groundwater modeling tools and reliance on actual field information on water impacts rather than depending on theoretical models to regulate withdrawals, has indicated that there is significant groundwater resources still available to develop in Marion County. For our regional water supply

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

plan, this is a major difference in water management that impacts our regional water supply planning efforts.

Mr. Sullivan made the point that the WRWSA and SWFWMD’s Basin Boards, (Withlacoochee and Coastal Rivers) are currently expending about \$750,000 to prepare this plan and Marion County is spending about \$145,000 to bring its water supply information into the regional plan. Before it is over, collectively well over one million dollars will have been expended on this regional water supply plan. Unfortunately, we cannot get a resolution to the technical differences between the two Districts resolved so that we can complete the water supply plan.

Mr. Sullivan related that he personally wonders if it would not be appropriate to ask our Legislative consultant to explore with Legislators putting into place some legislation that would require WMDs that divide a County to prepare a report back to FDEP and to appropriate legislative committees as to how they will resolve differences in their technical approaches to water supply and how they will resolve differences in their technical approaches to water supply source availability and how they apply their technical findings to actual regulation.

He also added that barring a legislative requirement, might it not be appropriate to ask Marion County whether they would support moving all of Marion County into SWFWMD to resolve this conflict between water management districts.

The Chair said Mr. Sullivan had raised some interesting issues and asked for Board input. Rose Rocco said that she thought it might be helpful if Diane Salz looked into the issue and provided us with input. She also said that any attempt to place Marion County completely in the SWFWMD would require that Marion County be on board with that idea and that if necessary, we should discuss this with the Marion County representatives.

**Agenda Item #7 2009 Legislative Review . . . Diane Salz, Legislative
Consultant**

Ms. Salz could not be in attendance because of the Legislature being in session. Mr. Sullivan sent out her preliminary report last week. He said she has updated that report with a handout that has been provided to the Board. She also provided an e-mail on House Bill 1111 that would completely reorganize Chapter 373 with regard to water supply. The bill concerns Mr. Sullivan because whenever you start moving everything around it can change the meaning of the legislation. His concern is that there are a lot of folks out there that would like to see local sources first change, or they would like to see it removed. Some want to see the public interest issue clarified in a way that would reduce the effectiveness of the local sources first criteria. If all that is required is a housekeeping bill, Ms. Salz indicates that you can do that better through a revisers bill, as opposed to a regular piece of legislation. Mr. Sullivan asked the Board to talk to their legislators to keep an eye on House Bill 1111. He stated that if a Board member needs a

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

copy of the bills that Ms. Salz is tracking and where they stand in the process, you can just e-mail Mr. Sullivan or you can call Ms. Salz directly at 850-339-8550.

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

Mr. Haag had nothing to report, but wanted to echo what Mr. Sullivan had been saying about this rewrite of the water statute. With everything the Legislature has on it's plate, as far as trying to work with the budget and the shortage of funds, he doesn't think any of our Representatives or Senators have the time to review pieces of legislation as complex as Chapter 373 to make sure that our interests in this region are being protected. He recommended that if any of the Board get the ear of their Senators or Representatives, tell them now is not the time to be messing with Chapter 373.

MR. BERNARDINI MADE A MOTION TO SEND A LETTER TO OUR DELEGATION TO ADVISE THEM THAT WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE REWRITE OF THE BILL AND IT CAN BE DONE IN A DIFFERENT MANNER IF IT NEEDS TO BE TWEAKED. ROSE ROCCO SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item #9 Other Business

There was no other business by the Board.

Agenda Item #10 Public Comments

There was no further public comment at this time.

Agenda Item #11 Next Meeting and Location

Chairman Damato stated that the next meeting would take place on April 15, 2009, 4:30 p.m., at the Withlacoochee Regional Planning Council Headquarters Conference Room, 1241 SW 10th Street (SR 200), Ocala, Florida 34474-0323

Agenda Item #12 Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

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

Dennis Damato, Chairman

Jackson E. Sullivan, Executive Director