

**MINUTES – WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, APRIL 15, 2009**

DATE: April 15, 2009
TIME: 4:30 p.m.
PLACE: Withlacoochee Regional Planning Council
Headquarters Conference Room
1241 SW 10th Street (SR 200)
Ocala, Florida 34474-0323

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
Jim Adkins, Hernando County Commissioner
Richard Hoffman, Sumter County Commissioner
Randy Mask, Sumter County Commissioner
Mike Amsden, Marion County Commissioner
Barbara Fitos, Marion County Commissioner
Stan McClain, Marion County commissioner

MEMBERS ABSENT

Kent Guinn, Ocala City Councilman
Daniel Owen, Ocala City Councilman
Dale Swain, Bushnell City Councilman
Gary Bartell, Citrus County Commissioner
Jeff Stabins, Hernando County Commissioner
Phillip Price, Crystal River City Councilman
Joe Bernardini, Brooksville City Councilman
John Druzbeck, 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
Peter Rocco, Hernando County
Troy Kuphal, Marion County Water Resources Manager
Andy Neff, Marion County Utilities Director
Jimmy Brooks, SWFWMD
John Ferguson, SWFWMD
Ken Herd, SWFWMD
Jeff Halcomb, City of Ocala Utilities
Matt Bower, Ocala Assistant City Manager
Pete Hubbell, Water Resource Associates
Josh Schmitz, Water Resource Associates
Brian Huston, R.W. Beck
Al Grubman, TOO FAR
Jan Grubman, TOO FAR
Dale Jenkins, Black & Veatch
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 2:00 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. The briefing and tour will begin at 11:00 am. 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. He pointed out that a tentative schedule and map to Wildwood Community Center is in the Board Package.

Agenda Item #4 Approval of Minutes of the March 18, 2009 Meeting.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY ROSE ROCCO TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 18, 2009 MEETING. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY STAN McCLAIN AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item #5 Update on Marion County Compendium and Regional Water Supply Plan . . . Pete Hubbell, Water Resource Associates and Jack Sullivan, WRWSA

Mr. Hubbell reviewed the planning process, explaining that a compendium was being prepared to include Marion County in the Authority's water supply plan. He expected the

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compendium to be complete by June 2009. He referred to F.S. 373.0361, which states that water supply plans are to be developed jointly between water Authorities and Districts. His team had made progress on identifying future water supply projects, but there was a lack of concurrence between Marion County and the two Water Management Districts on the demand projections on which the drive to implement projects would be based. Mr. Hubbell then turned over the presentation to Josh Schmitz, P.E..

Mr. Schmitz discussed the history of inter-District coordination within Marion County. In 2006, a Northern District Strategy was implemented, and a proposed North Central Florida Coordination Area was identified for portions of Lake, Marion, and Sumter Counties. This coordination effort covered 6 areas: water supply planning, resource assessment, MFLs, Conservation, resource regulation, and outreach. The SJRWMD withdrew its participation in the coordination effort in the summer of 2008 after several attempts to revise the plan. Staff level meetings and letter correspondence had continued between the WMDs and the Authority. The WMD executive directors have acknowledged the need for continuing the coordination, and stated that they would follow up with a coordination effort by May 30th.

Mr. Schmitz listed the future actions to complete the Marion County compendium. The Authority would continue to monitor the coordination between the WMDs on setting acceptable demand projections. The regional groundwater assessment will incorporate Marion County. A wellfield analysis for Marion County will be completed. Water supply projects will be prioritized and interested parties will be identified.

Mr. Sullivan noted that recent correspondence with SJRWMD showed that they were willing to participate in the planning process.

Mr. Sullivan then referred the Board to two letters in the Board Package regarding water demand projections for Marion County. Mr. Sullivan said there was some confusion between him and the Marion County Administrator, Lee Niblock, which was expressed in this exchange of letters. Mr. Sullivan clarified that County staff and WMD staff were still engaged in adopting demand projections for the county that were approvable by both districts. Marion County planners had been using projections from their 2007 WRAMS, and were currently updating the projections. They were meeting with SWFWMD staff later in the week to discuss the methodology. The SJRWMD would be reviewing the projections at a later time.

Mr. Sullivan then addressed his presentations to local governments on the Regional Framework Proposal. Mr. Sullivan reminded the Board of the presentation he gave at the previous meeting that introduced the process of developing a regional framework that would lead to the development of an regional integrated water supply system. Such a system would allow the tie-in of future alternative water sources for Authority members. By giving the presentations, he has the opportunity to judge the amount of buy-in the commissioners have to the plan. Mr. Sullivan provided in the Board Package a list of the dates when he has presentations. He recently made a presentation to the Brooksville City Council on April 6. Generally, he feels the presentation went well. The City Council

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declined to make an endorsement of the regional framework proposal, but said they wanted to monitor the situation and have a follow-up report in the future. Mr. Sullivan also made a presentation to the Hernando County Commission on April 14. He has presentations scheduled to the Marion County Commission and the Belleview City Commission on April 21, and to the Sumter County Commission on May 19.

Rose Rocco stated that her fellow members in Hernando County were interested in going forward with a regional framework.

Mr. McClain asked Mr. Hubbell that if projections warranted was there ability to change the framework proposal in the future. Mr. Hubbell answered yes. Mr. McClain then asked how the WRAMS projections were being used in the regional plan. Mr. Hubbell responded that GIS Associates prepared the previous projections, and the County is updating the WRAMS projections for potential use in the water management plan. Those projections were inconsistent with the Water Management District projections and adequate documentation needed to be provided to make them consistent and usable in the Master Plan.

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

a. Bills to be Paid

Mr. Sullivan presented the bills for payment for April in the amount of \$57,475.47. and recommended approval.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY STAN McCLAIN TO APPROVE THE APRIL BILLS FOR PAYMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$57,475.47. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY RICHARD HOFFMAN AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

b. SWFWMD Cooperative Funding Agreement – Northern Sumter Data Collection and Monitoring Project

Mr. Sullivan reported that this is a project that the Board approved last year to be cooperatively funded with the SWFWMD, the Authority and The Villages. The project includes geologic data collection and construction of four (4) surficial wells and three (3) Upper Floridan wells in North Sumter County. Information from this project will be incorporated into groundwater models for use in assessing impacts to groundwater withdrawals on lake levels, spring flow and the Withlacoochee River. He said the Authority’s interest in the project is that it needs this information for development of the proposed wellfield in North Sumter County. Both Mr. Sullivan and Larry Haag have reviewed the Agreement and find it acceptable. Mr. Sullivan recommended approval of the Agreement.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY RICHARD HOFFMAN TO APPROVE THE PARTICIPATION OF THE AUTHORITY WITH THE SWFWMD

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**COOPERATIVE FUNDING AGREEMENT IN THE NORTHERN SUMTER
COUNTY DATA COLLECTION EFFORT. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY
WYNN WEBB AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

c. Hydrologic Report – SWFWMD/SJRWMD

Mr. Sullivan said that he has been providing the hydrologic information to the Board over the past several years. The information is pretty self-explanatory. Unless the Board wants a more detailed explanation of the information, he will in the future, just provide the information for the Board to review. If there are any questions, Mr. Sullivan said to just ask and he will either provide answers or find an answer. He also commented that he could have someone from either SJRWMD or SWFWMD come and give a hydrologic report biannually. Ms. Rocco agreed that the Board should have someone either from SJRWMD or SWFWMD come and give a biannual hydrologic report.

d. Correspondence

Mr. Sullivan stated that he had several pieces of correspondence that he thought the Board would be interested in.

1. First was a letter from Inverness saying that Inverness and Crystal River have decided to rotate its representative again and the new representative for small cities in Citrus County would go to Inverness. The new representative will be Councilman Ken Hinkle; Mr. Hinkle will begin his term on May 1st.
2. Second was a copy of the memo, which Mr. Sullivan sent to the city of Brooksville indicating to them what the Regional Framework presentation was about.
3. Third is Mr. Sullivan's annual memo to Utility Directors and Administrators outlining the Authority's grant program. He also provided information on the funding guidelines and the actual application that the Board approved. He mentioned to the Board that they would be dealing with those applications at the July Board meeting.
4. Finally he included a memorandum sent to our Legislative Delegation citing SB 2424 and HB 1111 regarding the complete reorganization of the portions of Chapter 373 dealing with water supply. We asked them to oppose this and if reorganization was needed to have it done later in a reviser's bill, which is better suited to performing routine housekeeping. He mentioned a letter received from Senator Evelyn Lynn in which she indicated that SB 2424 has had little movement in the Senate and she did not expect it to pass. Mr. Sullivan expressed that he still had concerns that it could be attached as an amendment to a bill that is moving. Ms. Salz is watching all avenues closely.

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e. 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.

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 reported that Ms. Salz has been sending, and he has been forwarding, the weekly legislative updates. Her latest update of April 5th came after the Board Packet was sent out, so he copied it, and provided it as a handout. He said if Board members have questions they may contact Ms. Salz directly at 850-339-8550.

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

Mr. Haag had nothing to report this month.

Agenda Item #9 Other Business

Mr. Sullivan wanted to let the Board know that Mr. Steven Minnis, Director of Governmental Affairs with the Suwannee River Water Management District would be attending the May 20 WRWSA Board meeting to report on the start-up of a water supply authority north of us that may include Levy County.

Agenda Item #10 Public Comments

Al Grubman, representing TOO FAR, wanted to express his thanks to Mr. Sullivan and the Board for their memorandum that was sent to our Legislative Delegation regarding our opposition to SB 2424 and HB 1111 which would completely reorganize the portions of Chapter 373 dealing with water supply. He felt that the bill provided many opportunities for eliminating local sources first.

Agenda Item #11 Next Meeting and Location

Chairman Damato stated that the next meeting would take place on May 20, 2009, 4:30 p.m., at the SWFWMD Headquarters Governing Board Meeting Room, 2379 Broad Street (US 41 South), Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899.

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Agenda Item #12 Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:22 p.m.

Dennis Damato, Chairman

Jackson E. Sullivan, Executive Director