

**MINUTES – WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, MAY 16, 2007**

DATE: May 16, 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
Gary Bartell, Citrus County Commissioner
Richard Hoffman, Sumter County Commissioner
Rose Rocco, Hernando County Commissioner
Mike Francis, Sumter County Commissioner
Dale Swain, Bushnell City Councilman
Sophia Diaz-Fonseca, Inverness City Councilwoman
Joe Bernardini, Brooksville City Councilman
Diane Rowden, Hernando County Commissioner
David Russell, Hernando County Commissioner

MEMBERS ABSENT

Dennis Damato, Citrus County Commissioner
Christopher Kingsley, Hernando County Commissioner
Daniel Owen, Ocala 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 Utilities
Diane Salz, Legislative Liaison
Peter Rocco, Hernando County
Terry Clark, SJRWMD Liaison
Robert Knight, Citrus County Utilities

Agenda Item #1 Call to Order

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 also introduced members of the public and welcomed them to the meeting. He then recognized Sophia Diaz-Fonseca who wished to make an

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announcement. Ms. Diaz-Fonseca announced that she had resigned her seat on the Inverness City Council effective May 14, 2007 to run for the District 43, State House of Representatives seat. Because of her resignation from the City Council, she also needed to resign from the Authority. The Board wished her well on her future activities. Ms. Diaz-Fonseca exited the meeting. Mr. Sullivan suggested that the Board send a letter to Inverness and Crystal River requesting that the cities caucus and select a representative to the Board.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY GARY BARTELL AND SECONDED BY MIKE FRANCIS TO DIRECT MR. SUPPIVAN TO WRITE LETTER TO THE CITIES OF INVERNESS AND CRYSTAL RIVE AND REQUEST THAT THE CITIES CAUCUS AND SELECT A MEMBER TO REPRESENT THE CITRUS COUNTY SMALL CITIES ON THE AUTHORITY BOARD. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mr. Sullivan then made the following announcements:

He brought to the Board's attention that recently Kay Adams had passed away from cancer. Ms. Adams was the Hernando County Utilities Director and also a member of the Authority's Technical Advisory Committee and the Technical Review Committee. Mr. Sullivan gave a short synopsis of Ms. Adams' service to Hernando County and suggested that the Board recognize Ms. Adams and present that recognition to the Hernando County Commission

A MOTION WAS MADE BY ROSE ROCCO AND SECONDED BY DIANE ROWDEN TO PREPARE A TOKEN OF RECOGNITION OF MS. ADAMS' SERVICE AND TO PRESENT IT TO THE HERNANDO COUNTY COMMISSION ON BEHALF OF THE AUTHORITY. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Technical Review Committee (TRC) will meet in Room #166 at the Lecanto Government Center (3600 W. Sovereign Path, Lecanto, Florida) for the kick-off meeting for the Phase II and VII work program on Thursday, June 14 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Agenda Item #4 Approval of Minutes of April 18, 2007 Meeting

A MOTION WAS MADE BY RICHARD HOFFMAN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 18, 2007 MEETING. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY GARY BARTELL AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item #5 Legislative Update ... Diane Salz, Legislative Consultant

Ms. Salz reported on the outcome of the 2007 Legislative session. She said the most important portion of the session was what did not pass rather than what did. She reported the following bills failed to pass:

- Alternative Water Supply Trust Fund reduction of \$30 million (HB 7059);
- Reorganization of Chapter 373, F.S. including all water resources and supply planning and permitting statutes (SB 2882);

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- Springs protection legislation requiring a task force to report recommendations for a program encouraging best management practices to protect springs from agricultural and non-agricultural activities (CS/HB 299);
- Pre-emption of local government wetland regulation (HB 957);
- Expedited processing of environmental permits for certain economic development projects (HB 1031);
- Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) would annually evaluate works of each water management district (HB 1493);
- Independent special districts with taxing authority power would have elected governing boards (SB 1912);
- Special districts would be periodically abolished and revived (SB 1904).

Of the legislation that passed, she mentioned the following:

- Southwest Florida Water Management District Governing Board changes, including adding one additional member from Polk County and requiring that one at-large member be appointed from Hernando or Marion counties, among other things (CS/HB 1039), effective upon becoming law.
- Growth management legislation authorizing a pilot program to expedite the local comprehensive plan amendment and review process in selected urban areas, among other things (HB 7203), effective 7/1/07.
- Public construction bond legislation clarifies that for design-build contracts the bond may not be conditioned on the performance or payment of non-construction services if those services are excluded from the amount of the bond, and provides flexibility to decide when and if a guaranteed maximum price and completion date may be required (CS/HB 1489), effective 7/1/07;

The Board thanked Ms. Salz for her efforts at the Legislative session.

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

a. Bills to be Paid

Mr. Sullivan stated that the bills for May had been handed out separately. They total \$14,576.98.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY GARY BARTELL AND SECONDED BY RICHARD HOFFMAN TO PAY THE MAY 16, 2007 BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$14,576.98. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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b. Report on Water Resources Development Account

Mr. Sullivan reported that the Water Resources Development Fund earned \$4,907.99 in interest during April. The fund balance on March 30, 2007 was \$1,099,267.88.

c. 2007-08 Budget Planning

In order to prepare next year's budget and present it at the June Board meeting, Mr. Sullivan said he needed the Board's direction on several issues.

First, was the per capita assessment rate at for the year. Mr. Sullivan said that the Authority have been at \$.20/cpaita since 2001, coming down from \$.25/capita in 1996 one cent per year to \$.20/capita. He provided you a spreadsheet of the impact of the per capita assessment in the Board Package. Mr. Sullivan recommended that the Board remain at \$.20/capita for the 2007-08 fiscal year.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY GARY BARTELL AND SECONDED BY RICHARD HOFFMAN TO MAINTAIN THE PER CAPITA ASSESSMENT AT 20¢ PER CAPITA FOR THE 2007-08 FISCAL YEAR. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Second, was the amount of money the Board wants to allocate for the Local Government Grants Program. In Mr. Sullivan said that in 2004-05 the Board said it would fund local grant projects at \$125,000 per year for three years and then decide where to go from there. The Authority has gone through three budget years at \$125,000. Mr. Sullivan recommended that the Board extend the \$125,000 per year for another year and reevaluate whether to continue with this program next year.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY GARY BARTELL TO ACCEPT THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION TO FUND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT GRANT PROGRAM AT \$125,000 PER YEAR FOR THE 2007-08 FISCAL YEAR. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY ROSE ROCCO AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The third item was a recommendation from Mr. Sullivan to withdraw a 2004 grant allocation to Wildwood for its proposed wellfield relocation. Mr. Sullivan explained that this was a \$50,000 grant that has never been consummated by Wildwood. He said he had sent an e-mail to Wildwood to determine what they want to do, and have not heard from them. The unused grant money would go back into the Water Resource Development Fund. Mr. Sullivan said that if Wildwood wants to reapply, they could do that during this year's grant cycle.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY ROSE ROCCO AND SECONDED BY MIKE FRANCIS TO WITHDRAW THE GRANT AND INFORM WILDWOOD THAT IF THEY WANTED TO CONTINUE WITH THE WELL RELOCATION, THEY COULD REAPPLY FOR THE GRANT DURING THE CURRENT GRANT CYCLE. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mr. Sullivan then reminded the Board that part of our local government contract is that each recipient of a grant has to provide us with an audit report and/or a letter from the auditor that the

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money was spent in accordance with the contract. He provided the Board a list of the grants and where we stand relative to receiving those reports.

d. Update on Marion County Issues

Mr. Sullivan said that he and Joyce Valentino and Larry Haag met with Pat Howard, County Administrator and Troy Kuphal. Mr. Sullivan said he had mixed feelings about the meeting. He felt that Marion County's reaction was not very enthusiastic. He said that he thought part of Pat Howard's reaction was based on the problem everyone has with not knowing what is going to happen with property taxes and that the issue came at a bad time.

Mr. Sullivan said that Troy Kuphal presented his recommendations to the County Commission on May 8. Mr. Sullivan said he went to that meeting, but there was no opportunity to insert the issue of rejoining the Authority into the discussion at this point. The Commission directed Troy to prepare an action plan on each of the recommendations that would be presented at a later time. Mr. Sullivan said that might be a better time to broach the issue.

Pat Howard made the comment that he did not know how the Board would react to the issue of rejoining and therefore he thought Mr. Sullivan had to sell it to the County Commission. Mr. Sullivan said that he told him that he didn't think we wanted to sell the County Commission on this issue. If they were interested in rejoining and wanted me to discuss it with them, he would be happy to do so.

Chair Joyce Valentino also stated that she thought Mr. Sullivan gave a good report to Marion County of what the Board wanted should Marion County wish to rejoin the Authority. However, she also felt that the County did not express much enthusiasm for making this request to the County Commission. She said that she had expressed the opinion that if Marion County was not interested in rejoining, they should say so and we could leave this issue and move on to other Authority business. Larry Haag expressed a similar reaction to the meeting with Marion County.

The Board members expressed the opinion that we had done what we could to bring Marion County back into the Authority. The consensus of the Board was to see if there was any further interest by Marion County. If there were, we would respond; if not, we would move on to other issues.

e. Hydrologic Report

Mr. Sullivan said he downloaded the hydrologic report from SWFWMD's web page. He stated that the weather report is about the same - we still need rain. All levels of the aquifer, lakes and rivers are down and the only solution is rain.

<< Gary Bartell left the meeting at 5:15 p.m. >>

f. Correspondence

Mr. Sullivan said he had four pieces of correspondence.

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First was a letter Mr. Sullivan sent to Pete Hubbell authorizing Water Resources Associates to proceed with the Phase II and VII contracts. We will kick-off the program on June 14 with a meeting of the TRC Committee in Lecanto. Second was a letter Mr. Sullivan received from Dave Moore regarding the Conservation Summit. Third, was an announcement of a Rule Development Workshop on consumptive use criteria applicable to public supply wells in the Central Florida Coordination Area. A set of the proposed rules was attached to the announcement.

The fourth piece of correspondence had just come in and Mr. Sullivan stated it was a letter from the SWFWMD requesting that the Authority appoint a primary and alternate representative to the Public Supply Advisory Committee. To provide the SWFWMD Governing Board input on District regulatory program, rule revisions, water conservation activities and other water supply activities. Mr. Sullivan recommended that the Board appoint him as the primary and Diane Salz as the alternate representative to the Public Supply Advisory Committee.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MIKE FRANCIS AND SECONDED BY ROSE ROCCO TO APPOINT JACK SULLIVAN AS THE AUTHORITY'S PRIMARY REPRESENTATIVE AND DIANE SALZ AS ITS ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE TO THE SWFWMD PUBLIC SUPPLY ADVISORY COMMITTEE. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

g. 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 ... Larry Haag, WRWSA Attorney

Mr. Haag had no business to report.

Agenda Item #8 Other Business

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

Agenda Item #9 Public Comments

Robert Knight, Utility Director for Citrus County reported that the County had acquired eleven new water systems making a significant increase in County water customers. He also mentioned expansion of three wastewater plants with the Meadowcrest wastewater facility being the primary facility for reuse.

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

Agenda Item #10 Next Meeting Time and Location

Chair Valentino stated that the next meeting would take place on June 20, 2007, 4:30 p.m., at the Citrus County Courthouse, Commission Chamber, First Floor, 110 N. Apopka Ave., Inverness, FL 34450.

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Agenda Item #11 Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:27 p.m.

Joyce Valentino, Chair

Jackson E. Sullivan, Executive Director