

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

DATE: July 15, 2009
TIME: 4:30 p.m.
PLACE: Southwest Florida Water Management District Headquarters
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, FL 34604

Agenda Item #1 Call to Order

Chairman Dennis Damato called the meeting to order at 4:37 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

Dennis Damato, Citrus County Commissioner
Rose Rocco, Hernando County Commissioner
Richard Hoffman, Sumter County Commissioner
Stan McClain, Marion County commissioner
Christine Dobkowski, Belleview City Commissioner
Jim Adkins, Hernando County Commissioner
Dale Swain, Bushnell City Councilman
Randy Mask, Sumter County Commissioner

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mike Amsden, Marion County Commissioner
Barbara Fitos, Marion County Commissioner
Winn Webb, Citrus County Commissioner
Kent Guinn, Ocala City Councilman
Ken Hinkle, Inverness City Councilman
Daniel Owen, Ocala City Councilman
Jeff Stabins, Hernando County Commissioner
John Druzbeck, Hernando County Commissioner
Gary Bartell, Citrus County Commissioner
Joe Bernardini, Brooksville City Councilman

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, WRWSA Legislative Liaison
Peter Rocco, Hernando County
Fred DeFelice, Natural Water From Air, LLC
Ron Kule, Natural Water From Air, LLC
Janey Baldwin, Withlacoochee Basin Board
Tom Baldwin, Hernando County
Bernadine Flood-Nichols, Citrus County Utilities
John Ferguson, SWFWMD
Jimmy Brooks, SWFWMD
Brent White, SWFWMD
Cara Martin, SWFWMD
Miki Renner, SWFWMD
Ken Herd, SWFWMD
Cheryl Paradis, Spring Coast EEC
Bob Moresi, Black & Veatch
Kent Weissinger, HNS.Com
J A Gain, GCA
Todd Petrie, Marion County Utilities
Emory Pierce, Brooksville Public Works Department
Pete Hubbell, Water Resource Associates
Donna McMurdy, Belleview Deputy Director, Public Works
Al Grubman, TOO FAR
Jan Grubman, TOO FAR
Dale Jenkins, Black & Veatch
Alys Brockway, Hernando County Utilities
Tahla Paige, Recording Secretary

Agenda Item #4 Approval of Minutes of the June 17, 2009 Meeting.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY STAN McCLAIN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 17, 2009 MEETING. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY RANDY MASK AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item #5 Water Conservations Options . . . Brent White, Water Conservation Analyst, SWFWMD

Mr. Sullivan stated that this Board meeting would be devoted mostly to water conservation. Consequently, he invited Brent White from the Southwest Florida Water Management District to make a short presentation on water conservation programs that can be co-funded through the Water Management District.

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Mr. White introduced himself to the Board and others present. He spoke on Cooperative Funding for Water Conservation. Mr. White related to the Board that partnering with local Governments and Water Authorities is very important to meeting the Southwest Florida Water Management District's Mission. The Cooperative Funding Initiative (CFI) covers 50% of costs to projects that help create sustainable water resources, has conservation efforts, restores natural systems or provides for flood protection.

He said there is six degrees of preparation that need to be addressed through all applications. The first step is to identify your project. Each project should address each basin board's priority list. The second step is to identify at least 50% of the hard dollar match from other sources to match the Water Management District 50% funding level. The third step would be to ask for help, District staff is available year round, they will provide application packages, review successful project ideas and assist in helping successful CFI proposals and strategies. The fourth step is to know who else is applying for that grant within your basin – your competition. The fifth step is to take the test. Use the forms available at watermatters.org to evaluate your project in house. Use the same forms the staff uses to evaluate your projects and provide a ranking for District staff to be able to gauge funding. The sixth step in preparing an application is to watch the clock. The CFI schedule requires that all requests are due by 2:00 pm on the first Friday in December. That is a hard date, and you need to get the application in on that date.

Mr. White then went over the basin priorities in the Withlacoochee area, for both the Coastal Rivers and the Withlacoochee River basins.

After Mr. White's presentation Chair Damato commented that this is the most informative thing he has learned since he has been here. Ms. Rocco agreed that this was a great presentation. There were other questions and comments made by the Board.

Executive Director Sullivan then asked the Chair if Ms. Salz could come up and explain in a very brief statement what the Authority is working on currently with the water conservation coordinators within the region to use economies of scale for water conservation. Ms. Salz said all of the member government water conservation coordinators were looking at the easiest way to reach that 150 per capita goal for water consumption by 2018, pursuant to SWFWMD's rules. The regional program is about residential outdoor irrigation and landscape evaluations or audits. This is only in discussion stages, but each member government would contribute a yet to be determine amount of money that would be matched by the Regional Water Supply Authority as the co-operator, and then in turn that total amount would in theory be matched by the Withlacoochee River Basin Board and the Coastal Rivers Basin Board as well as the District. That money would be used to market a regional irrigation audit program. Such a regional program of this kind has not been done before. So, we are actually plowing some new ground and hopefully bring some parity to this end of the Water Management District to achieve greater water conservation and water use efficiency. Ms. Salz said we would be marketing this program and also contract with some certified individuals who would go out into the field and perhaps target high water users and make recommendations through those contractors as to ways in which greater water

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efficiencies can be achieved. We would then audit the program performance and check to see just how well we have done at the end of the period. This will in all likelihood be a multiyear period that we would be looking at and is targeted for FY2011.

Mr. Sullivan added that they would probably be coming back to the Board in September of this year for approval of the application to SWFWMD, which would not go into effect until October of the next year, should it be funded. However, he probably will be coming back to the Board asking for a small amount of money to do some training for contractors within this region, possibly doing two different sessions; one at the southern and one at the northern end of the region in order to have contractors spread throughout the region that could do these audits. Mr. Sullivan said they had a very good meeting this afternoon with all coordinators and he feels that there is a lot of intellectual buy in to what the Authority wants to do and he feels it could be an excellent program. He said that in September there would be a lot more information to let the Board know how the coordinators want to proceed with this program. Ms. Salz commented that the CFI application is due to the District the first week in December.

**Agenda Item #6 Local Government Grant Applications . . . Jack Sullivan,
WRWSA and Local Government Applicants**

Mr. Sullivan presented to the Board seven local government applications for grant funding of water conservation programs. He said he wished to thank all of the local governments that applied for taking time to do so.

The total request from local governments is \$227,755. The Board allocated \$100,000 in this year's budget for grant funds. He said he has reviewed all of the requests to see where the Board might cut to accommodate as many of the applicants as possible.

He said he had provided a sheet in the front of the applications that summarizes his recommendations. To keep the time as short as possible in considering these applications, and if the Board agrees, he asked to summarize the proposed program for each application and what he has recommended for that applicant. He said some of the applicant sponsors are in the audience and they may want to make further comments or answer questions on their proposed program as the Board moves through them.

Before starting with his summary, Mr. Sullivan said that he has a bias in making recommendations on these programs. He said that he cut very little in county programs that have an active water conservation coordinator who is providing community water conservation education programs and running rebate and water audit programs. He believes this is where the region will ultimately get the most bang for its buck – having “boots on the ground” doing community education.

For those cities that are trying to do specific programs, he felt a need to provide some support for those programs. That is the reason he recommended that the Board appropriate more money to provide some support to the cities that have applied for water

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conservation projects. Mr. Sullivan then began his summary of each applicant's program, their requests for grant funds and his recommendation.

Marion County intends to use this grant to initially support the hiring of a water conservation coordinator on the County staff. The staff person will develop a water conservation program for the County. Mr. Sullivan stated that he hoped that the County will continue with this position in the future and that the Board's support in following years for Marion County's water conservation program would not be for staff funding, but for actual conservation program support. Marion County requested \$23,005, of which Mr. Sullivan recommended only a \$5.00 cut in their program request.

Hernando County has a mature water conservation program run by Alys Brockway. The Authority has jointly funded Hernando County's program since 2002. The conservation program includes a wide variety of educational and outreach programs as well as conservation incentive programs for everyone in Hernando County. Hernando County requested \$45,750, of which Mr. Sullivan recommended a cut of \$250 from their request for a total of \$45,500.

Citrus County has a Water Conservation program that is going on its fourth year. Bernadine Flood currently runs Citrus County's program. This program includes water conservation education programs including a rebate program, conservation incentives and water audits. Citrus County has requested \$37,500, of which Mr. Sullivan recommended no cuts to their program.

The **City of Brooksville** just concluded a 2007-08 grant program for a wellfield in which the Authority co-funded a submersible pump for their wellfield at a cost of \$19,933. For this year the City requested a grant to replace and upgrade 22 of the City's largest water meters to increase water use accuracy. Their request was for \$67,000. Mr. Sullivan believes the City was using the old guidelines since the Authority only funds up to \$50,000. Mr. Sullivan recommended that the Authority not fund Brooksville's program this year in order to fund some other cities that have not been funded at all or have not been funded for a while.

The **City of Belleview's** grant request is to take water from a stormwater pond, treat it and then sell it as reclaimed water that can be used as irrigation in some beneficial use to replace potable water. This project is part of a large effort by the City. The City of Belleview has never been funded under the Authority's grant program. They did not indicate a dollar amount in their request. Assuming that the City was requesting the maximum of \$50,000, Mr. Sullivan had to reduce their request to something the Authority could afford. He reduced their request by \$42,000 to \$8,000. He contacted Donna McMurdy, Assistant Public Work Director, to determine if the city would move ahead with their program if only \$8,000 was provided. She indicated that they would, and that any amount would be helpful.

The **City of Crystal River's** grant request is to study the feasibility of transitioning from use of effluent in a sprayfield to reuse water that could be used as irrigation and relieve

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the use of potable water within the City. The City has received one grant in 2001 for a water system to serve a small subdivision with water problems. Mr. Sullivan stated that normally he would not recommend just a study for water conservation. However, this reuse, reclaimed water project is one that the regional Master Plan indicated should be pursued. The City asked for \$10,000, of which Mr. Sullivan reduced that request by \$2,000 to \$8,000.

The **City of Ocala** is proposing a demonstration project at its Citizen Service Center and at its Water & Sewer Administration Building to showcase water conservation methods and materials. The City will use optimal irrigation products, plant material and xeriscaping practices to visually show how using those techniques can still create an aesthetically pleasing landscape. These locations have a high volume of pedestrian traffic that is ideal to demonstrate these techniques. The City of Ocala has received a small grant from the Authority about 4 years ago, but not for a water supply or water conservation project. The City has requested \$11,500. Mr. Sullivan reduced this request by \$3,500 to \$8,000 to be in line with the other City requests.

Mr. Sullivan stated that in order to meet his recommendations, the Board would have to appropriate an additional \$30,000 to fund these requests. He recommended that they do that as a means to push forward everyone's efforts for water conservation. He also pointed out that even if the Board appropriates an additional \$30,000, the Authority would still be below the previous year's budget by \$150,000.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY ROSE ROCCO TO APPROVE THE GRANT REQUEST MADE BY THE COUNTIES AND THE CITIES AS MODIFIED BY MR. SULLIVAN'S RECOMMENATIONS. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY RICHARD HOFFMAN AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

<James Adkins left the meeting at this time, (5:27 pm)>

Agenda Item #7 Atmospheric Water Generators . . . Fred DeFelice, EcoloBlue

Mr. DeFelice is from New York where he was a master plumber. Mr. DeFelice has asked for a few moments of the Board's time to make them aware of another option for water supply. His company is Natural Water From Air. This presentation is on a product that will extract water from the atmosphere and treat it to make potable water. Mr. Sullivan stated that he provided some material on this product in the Board Package. Mr. DeFelice then talked about his products that make water from the air.

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

a. Bills to be Paid

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Mr. Sullivan presented the bills for payment for July in the amount of \$17,916.40 and recommended approval.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY ROSE ROCCO TO APPROVE THE JULY BILLS FOR PAYMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$17,916.40. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY STAN McCLAIN AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

b. Contract for Legislative Consultant

Mr. Sullivan provided Diane Salz's contract for Legislative Services in the Board Package. The only proposed change to her contract is to make it a continuing contract that will remain the same until either the Authority or Diane proposes a change to it. That would make it similar to Mr. Haag's and Mr. Sullivan's contracts and would not require that it be approved every year unless a change were proposed. Mr. Sullivan recommended approval. Mr. Haag interjected in paragraph five; on the third line there is a word that needs to be changed from "reviewed" to "renewed."

A MOTION WAS MADE BY STAN McCLAIN TO APPROVE THE LEGISLATIVE CONSULTANT'S CONTRACT TO BE A CONTINUING CONTRACT. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY ROSE ROCCO AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

c. Correspondence

Mr. Sullivan said that under Item #12 in the Board Package he has received two letters. The First is a letter from David Hamilton, Hernando County Administrator thanking the Authority for reducing its per capita assessment by 5%, given the budget constraints that Hernando County is under.

The second is a letter from Marion County Commissioner McClain to the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) Governing Board. Commissioner McClain thanked the SWFWMD Governing Board for the joint meeting with the Authority. He pointed out that several of the SWFWMD Governing Board members emphasized water conservation during the joint meeting. Commissioner McClain then detailed for the SWFWMD Governing Board all of the initiatives that Marion County has taken in water conservation and water supply planning.

Mr. Sullivan said he would like to thank Commissioner McClain for his letter, because the Authority has very little control over actual water conservation practices that it can implement. It is the local government level "where the rubber meets the road" in terms of implementing water conservation measures.

d. News Articles

Mr. Sullivan provided the Board with a number of news articles on water issues that they can review at their leisure.

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Agenda Item #9 Legislative Report . . . Diane Salz, Legislative Consultant

Ms. Salz stated that the only item she had to update the Board on is that the Governor signed the Water Resources Bill, Senate Bill 2080 into law on the final day that he had an opportunity. She reminded the Board that they had requested the Governor sign Senate Bill 2080 into law. This was the water resources bill, which had a number of provisions in it that reenacted the Water Management Districts, who had been subject to Sunset review. It also authorized substantive Senate & House Committees to comment on water management district budgets, authorized the Governing Boards, Basin Boards and Committees to conduct meetings by technology, authorized the issuance of a 50 year consumptive use permit for certain alternative water supply projects and 25 years for consumptive use permits for renewable energy provided there is reasonable assurance. It also expanded water management lands eligible for payment in lieu of taxes. This is a form of compensation to smaller counties and it also incorporated Florida Friendly Landscaping into statute.

Ms. Rocco asked if this overrides the deed restricted communities if they want to put Florida Friendly Landscape in to replace what they had. Are they able to do that now?

Ms. Salz said that it does not allow Homeowners Associations to ban Florida Friendly Landscaping. Some Homeowners Associations have kept some very strict rules that dictated otherwise. This will in fact prohibit that from occurring. It doesn't in anyway dictate what a city or county needs to do but it basically will override any restrictions or prevention from using Florida Friendly Landscaping.

Agenda Item #10 Attorney's Report . . . Larry Haag, WRWSA Attorney

Attorney Haag had nothing to report this meeting, however he said next meeting there will be six contracts to be reviewed by the Board.

Agenda Item #11 Other Business

There was no other business by Board members.

Agenda Item #12 Public Comments

Alys Brockway, Water Conservation Coordinator for Hernando County, wanted to thank the Board for it's funding.

Cheryl Paradis, a teacher at Spring Coast Environmental Center on Weeki Wachee River, told of the students that came through the learning center last year. Part of that experience

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is hands on at the Science Learning Center and involved water conservation. She wanted to thank Alys and the Board for the Center's funding.

Agenda Item #13 Next Meeting and Location

Chairman Damato stated that the next meeting would take place on September 16, 2009, 4:30 p.m., at the Southwest Florida Water Management District Headquarters, Governing Board Meeting Room, 2379 Broad Street (US 41 South), Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899.

Agenda Item #14 Adjournment

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

Dennis Damato, Chairman

Jackson E. Sullivan, Executive Director