



**WITHLACOOCHEE
REGIONAL
WATER
SUPPLY
AUTHORITY**

Board Meeting Package

November 20, 2013
3:30 p.m.

Meeting Location:

Lecanto Government Building
Room 166
3600 W. Sovereign Path
Lecanto, Florida 34461

**MEMORANDUM**

To: Water Supply Authority Board of Directors and Interested Parties

From: Richard S. Owen, Executive Director

Date: November 6, 2013

Subject: November 20, 2013 Meeting of the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority

The next meeting of the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority will be on **Wednesday, November 20, 2013, at 3:30 p.m., at the Lecanto Government Center Building, Room 166, 3600 Sovereign Path, Lecanto, FL 34461.**

Enclosed for your review are the following items:

- Agenda
- Minutes of the October 16, 2013 meeting
- Board Package*

Please note that if a party decides to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at the above cited meeting, that party will need a record of the proceedings, and for such purpose, that party may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes that testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

Enclosures

- * Copies of the Board Package are available through the Internet. Log on to www.wrwsa.org. On the Authority's Home Page go to the left side of the page and click on "Meetings." On the slide out menu is a button for the current Board Package. Click on the Board Package to download and print the Board Package.

Driving Directions to 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Lecanto Government Building

From Brooksville:

- Go North on N. Main St. toward S. Broad St./E. Jefferson St.
- Take the 1st Left onto S. Broad St./W. Jefferson St.
- Turn Right onto US 98/Ponce De Leon Blvd.
- Turn Right onto CR 491 toward Lecanto (about 13.5 miles)
- Turn Left on W. Educational Path (traffic signal)
- Turn right at the Park onto W. Sovereign Path; continue to the right to the Lecanto Government Building

From Ocala

- Go southwest on SR 200 into Citrus County
- Turn Right onto CR 491 (stay on 491 through Beverly Hills, crossing Hwy. 486 and SR 44)
- Turn Right on Saunders Way
- Turn Left onto W. Sovereign Path; follow to Lecanto Government Building

From Bushnell

- In Bushnell, Go West on FL-48W
- Turn Right onto US 41; continue to follow US 41 N
- Continue straight onto FL 44 W/W Main St.; continue straight on SR 44
- Turn Left onto CR 491
- Turn Right onto Saunders Way
- Turn Left onto W. Sovereign Path; follow to Lecanto Government Building

From Wildwood

- Go West on SR 44W; continue on SR 44 through Inverness
- Turn Left onto CR 491
- Turn Right onto Saunders Way
- Turn Left onto W. Sovereign Path; follow to Lecanto Government Building.



**WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
AGENDA**

**LECANTO GOVERNMENT BUILDING
3600 W. SOVEREIGN PATH, ROOM 166, LECANTO, FLORIDA 34461
November 20, 2013 @ 3:30 p.m.**

At the discretion of the Board, items may be taken out of order to accommodate the needs of the Board and the public.

- | | | |
|-------------|------------|--|
| Item | #1 | Call to Order |
| Item | #2 | Roll Call |
| Item | #3 | Introductions and Announcements |
| Item | #4 | Approval of Minutes |
| Item | #5 | Public Comment |
| Item | #6 | Conservation Program Performance . . . Alys Brockway, Hernando County |
| Item | #7 | Regional Water Supply Plan Update . . . Gregg Jones, Cardno ENTRIX |
| Item | #8 | Irrigation Evaluation Program Status Update . . . Nancy H. Smith |
| Item | #9 | Executive Director's Report . . . Richard Owen, WRWSA <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Bills to be Paid [bills to be provided in hand-out]b. AWWA Florida Section Conferencec. PC Laptop Upgraded. News Articlese. Other |
| Item | #10 | Legislative Update . . . Diane Salz, Governmental Affairs Consultant |
| Item | #11 | Attorney's Report . . . Larry Haag, WRWSA Attorney <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Revised and Restated Interlocal Agreement Update |
| Item | #12 | Other Business |
| Item | #13 | Next Meeting Time and Location . . . December 18, 2013 3:30 p.m., Lecanto Government Building, Room 166, 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Lecanto, Florida 34461 |
| Item | #14 | Adjournment |

Please note that if a party decides to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at the above cited meeting, that party will need a record of the proceedings, and for such purpose, that party may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes that testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

Item 4.
Minutes

**WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
October 16, 2013**

TIME: 3:30 p.m.
PLACE: Lecanto Government Building
3600 W. Sovereign Path, Room 166
Lecanto, Florida 34461

The numbers preceding the items listed below correspond with the published agenda.

1. Call to Order

Chairman Dennis Damato called the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (WRWSA) meeting to order at 3:37 p.m. and asked for a roll call.

2. Roll Call

Mr. Richard Owen, Executive Director, called the roll and a quorum was declared present.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jim Adkins, Hernando County Commissioner
Rebecca Bays, Citrus County Commissioner
Al Butler, Sumter County Commissioner
Dennis Damato, Chairman, Citrus County Commissioner
Gary Ernst, Belleview City Councilor
Don Hahnfeldt, Sumter County Commissioner
Joseph Johnston, Brooksville City Councilor
Stan McClain, Marion County Commissioner
Dale Swain, Bushnell City Councilor

MEMBERS ABSENT

Scott Adams, Citrus County Commissioner
Ken Brown, Crystal River City Councilor
Kathy Bryant, Marion County Commissioner
Wayne Dukes, Hernando County Commissioner
Nick Nicholson, Hernando County Commissioner
David Russell, Hernando County Commissioner
Carl Zalak, Marion County Commissioner

3. Introductions and Announcements

Members of the audience introduced themselves. There were no announcements.

STAFF PRESENT

Richard Owen, WRWSA Executive Director
Larry Haag, WRWSA Attorney
Diane Salz, Governmental Affairs Liaison
Nancy Smith, WRWSA Administrative Assistant

OTHERS PRESENT

Jim Tully, Jones Edmunds
Al & Jan Grubman
Debra Burden, Citrus County Water Resources
Kim Dinkins, Marion County Water Resources

Gregg Jones, Cardno Entrix
Brian Malmberg, Hernando County
Jack Overdorff, Eco Land Design
Chris Zajac, SWFWMD
Robert Beltran, SWFWMD

4. Approval of Minutes of September 18, 2013, 2013 Meeting

A copy of the minutes was provided in the Board packet for review.

Following consideration, a motion was made by Mr. Adkins to approve the minutes for the September 18, 2013 meeting. Mr. McClain seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

5. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

6. Introduce and Meet . . . Robert Beltran, Executive Director, SWFWMD

Mr. Owen introduced Robert Beltran, newly selected to serve as the SWFWMD Executive Director. Mr. Beltran briefly summarized his experience with water resource management and discussed a number of ongoing projects at the District. He distributed copies of the District's *Strategic Plan, 2014-2018*, to the Board. The Board welcomed Mr. Beltran and discussed the need for water and water supply planning in this region and the state.

This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required.

7. Regional Water Supply Plan Update . . . Gregg Jones, Cardno ENTRIX

Mr. Jones reported on progress made in drafting the Regional Water Supply Plan Update. Mr. Jones focused his update on the changes in the potential for seawater desalination and a review of the potential wellfields within the WRWSA region.

This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required.

8. Conservation Program Performance . . . Jamie Padgett, The Villages Utilities

Mr. Owen mentioned that Alys Brockway had a conflict with this meeting and will give a status report next month. Jamie Padgett, Arnett Environmental, presented information on The Villages' utilities water conservation program. The overall program includes alternative water supplies, management of water resources, and education. The Villages coordinate with WRWSA through water supply planning, cooperative funding for irrigation system evaluations and conservation information sharing.

This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required.

9. Executive Director's Report ... Richard S. Owen, Executive Director

a. Bills to be Paid – October 2013

The October 2013 bills were provided in the Board's Packet. Mr. Owen requested the Board approve payment of the October 2013 bills totaling \$100,251.34.

Following consideration, a motion was made by Ms. Bays to approve payment of the October 2013 bills of \$100,251.34. The motion was seconded by Mr. McClain and carried unanimously.

b. Update on the Florida Water Forum

Mr. Owen reported that he and Diane Salz had attended the Florida Water Forum in September. Ms. Salz provided a summary of the meeting for the Board's packet. He stated that it was valuable to attend for the opportunity to network and share priorities with other water supply authorities and water management officials throughout the state.

This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required.

c. Potential Project with the City of Wildwood and Marion County

Mr. Owen introduced Jim Tully, Jones Edmunds, who will be the project manager for this project if the Board concurs with the staff recommendation. Mr. Owen stated that he was approached by the City of Wildwood a few months ago regarding two Lower Floridan Aquifer wells located in the northwest portion of Wildwood's service area. The City has no immediate need for these wells as the demand is in the southeast portion of the service area. Mr. Owen told the City that the WRWSA would need a potential customer in order to use the water supplied by these wells. Mr. Owen has since learned that Marion County may be interested in using these wells.

Mr. Owen met with City of Wildwood representatives and Flip Mellinger, Marion County Utilities Director, to discuss the potential for this project. Both Wildwood and Marion County are interested in entering into a three-way agreement or memorandum of understanding with the WRWSA. The WRWSA would be the wholesale developer and provider of the groundwater to Marion County and Wildwood. Both agreed that the need is at least 15 years away; however, they would like to enter into an agreement now. Wildwood owns the wells and the land where the wellfields are located. When one or both parties (or potentially a third party within the WRWSA region) have an actual demand for the water, the project would be initiated, and a new agreement created. Wildwood would be looking for compensation for the wellfields, which might take the form of a credit on the cost of providing the water. These are the types of details that would be worked out in the agreement.

The WRWSA, as developer of the project, would begin to create a regional system to meet future water needs within the WRWSA region. In addition, a regional water supply system would be able to leverage additional funding from SWFWMD.

The staff recommendation is to approve the work order with Jones Edmunds, consistent with the As-needed Services agreements that were approved last year. Jones Edmunds would provide the additional depth of knowledge needed to prepare an Interlocal Agreement or memorandum of understanding. The cost would not exceed \$10,000, which is well within the amount budgeted for this fiscal year in As-needed Services. The Board discussed the location of the wells, the timing and use of the water, and the potential water customers.

Following consideration, a motion was made by Mr. Hahnfeldt to approve the work order for Jones Edmunds, not to exceed \$10,000, to provide technical assistance to the Authority in support of the proposed regional water supply project including development of an Interlocal Agreement between the City of Wildwood, Marion County and the WRWSA. The motion was seconded by Mr. Adkins and carried unanimously.

d. Correspondence

This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required.

e. News Articles

News articles were presented in the Board's package. Mr. Owen pointed out that the SWFWMD held a public workshop on the ranking of water bodies for establishment of MFLs. He noted that several of the water bodies in the WRWSA region had been previously scheduled for adoption in 2013 and are being pushed out to 2014 and beyond. Chairman Damato requested a copy of the schedule be provided to the Board members.

This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required.

f. Other

There were no other items for discussion.

10. Legislative Report . . . Diane Salz, Governmental Affairs Liaison

Ms. Salz reported that the week of September 23rd kicked off interim committee weeks leading up to the 2014 session beginning in March. She stated that she is tracking a small number of bills that are already drafted and circulating, such as the draft springs legislation sponsored by Senator David Simmons. Chairman Damato asked that the draft springs legislation be made available to the Citrus County Board of County Commissioners.

This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required.

11. Attorney's Report . . . Larry Haag, WRWSA Attorney

a. Revised and Restated Interlocal Agreement Update

Mr. Haag reviewed the status of the revised and restated Interlocal Agreement. The major unresolved issue is the number of WRWSA Board members and how to provide for equity in representation with a smaller number of board members. The Board discussed the need to adequately represent their constituents, to keep the small cities involved in the process, and the ability to have a quorum for each board meeting, particularly those meetings where the assessments and the budget are adopted.

Richard Owen asked for a clarification of the proposal regarding the membership of the WRWSA Board recommended earlier by Chairman Damato. The proposed membership was for Marion County to have 3 members; Citrus, Hernando, and Sumter counties, 2 members each; and, each county to have 1 representative from its municipalities. This configuration would result in a total of 13 Board members. Chairman Damato asked for a consensus of the Board. By consensus, the Board agreed to the representation formula proposed, resulting in 13 Board members.

The Board also discussed whether alternates would be allowed and whether the alternates should be other elected officials. It was agreed by consensus that alternates should be elected officials.

The revised Interlocal Agreement will be on the November 20, 2013 Board agenda. After the revised Interlocal Agreement is approved by the WRWSA Board, the Interlocal Agreement will go to each County Commission for their review, and if acceptable, adoption.

12. Other Business

There was no other business.

13. Next Meeting Time and Location

The next meeting is scheduled for November 20, 2013, 3:30 p.m., at the Lecanto Government Building, Room 166, 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Lecanto, Florida 34461. Please note that the meeting begins at 3:30 p.m.

15. Adjournment

Chairman Damato announced there was no further business or discussion to come before the WRWSA and adjourned the meeting at 5:28 p.m.

Dennis Damato, Chairman

Richard S. Owen, Executive Director

Item 6.
Conservation Program
Performance

Item 6. Conservation Program Performance . . . Alys Brockway, Hernando County

Alys Brockway, Water Conservation Coordinator, will present information on the Hernando County Utility's water conservation programs and how the Authority's grant funds are utilized within this program. This is the last presentation in the series on the local water conservation programs.

Staff Recommendation: This item is for information only and no action is required.

**Item 7.
RWSP Update**



Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority
Water Supply Plan Update
Progress Report #8 (October 2013)

Cardno ENTRIX

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1) Task 2. Availability of Ground- and Surface Water

Continued efforts to work with SWFWMD to coordinate the impact modeling of proposed wellfields. SWFWMD delivered their updated and expanded Northern District model in September but significant additional work (listed below) is being completed by Cardno staff prior to use of the model.

- a. Developed the 2010 and 2030 well packages for use in the model.
- b. Re-evaluating the need for and locations of the wellfields proposed in the WRWSA's 2010 Water Supply Plan Update. The re-evaluation is based on the 2035 population and water demand projections that have recently been developed. We will be meeting with the major utilities in each county to solicit their input on the work we are doing to determine the need for new wellfields.

2) Task 3. Water Conservation and Reclaimed Water Strategies

- a. Continued to work with the University of Florida EZ Guide staff to assist in their efforts to complete the EZ Guide modeling for public supply utilities.

3) Task 4. Water Supply Project Options

- a. Sub consultant is refining the update on the feasibility of a seawater desalination project option at the Crystal River Energy site.
- b. Continued with update of the feasibility of surface water supply options for the Withlacoochee River.

Item 8.
Irrigation Evaluation Program
Update



MEMORANDUM

TO: Jay Hoecker, SWFWMD
FROM: Nancy H. Smith, WRWSA *nhs*
DATE: October 29, 2013
SUBJECT: N278 Progress Report

The WRWSA Irrigation System Evaluation Program (N278) is on schedule for completion by December 1, 2013.

Follow-up Evaluations

To date, 84 follow-up evaluations have been performed, or 37 percent of the 230 original evaluations. Homeowners have implemented 51% of the recommendations made overall. This portion of the contract is on schedule to be complete by November 1, 2013.

Pre- and Post-Evaluation Water Use

Pre- and post-evaluation water savings data from the utilities is complete for 134 customers. These 134 single-family customer accounts show that a total of 20,545,275 gallons of water were saved in the one-year period following their irrigation system evaluation. This is 420 gallons of water saved per residential account per day, or 12,776.8 gallons per month per account. The chart below shows the water savings achieved in the water utility data available to date.

Pilot Irrigation System Evaluation: Gallons of Water Saved



MGY – Million Gallons Per Year

Customer Satisfaction Survey

The customer satisfaction survey is complete, with 73 completed surveys or 32% participation. The results show a high degree of satisfaction from the survey respondents.

- 96% made changes to their irrigation systems;
- 97% would recommend the program to their neighbors;
- 97% were pleased or very pleased with the irrigation system evaluation.



**WITHLACOOCHEE
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AUTHORITY**

MEMORANDUM

TO: Utility Coordinators
FROM: Nancy H. Smith, WRWSA *NH Smith*
DATE: October 31, 2013
SUBJECT: Phase 2, Irrigation System Evaluation Program Update

Phase 2 evaluations of single-family residential irrigation systems have been ongoing for 6 months, or halfway through the first year. Evaluations are complete on 45 properties, or 12 % of 384 possible evaluations. Contacts with high water users continue to be made either by mail or phone contact.

Phase 2 Irrigation System Evaluations				Program Goals	
<i>Utilities</i>	<i>Applications Received</i>	<i>Completed Evaluations</i>	<i>Pending</i>	<i>Total Program Evaluations</i>	<i>% Complete</i>
Citrus	14	9	5	96	9.4%
Hernando	14	9	5	96	9.4%
Marion	13	11	2	96	11.5%
Villages	21	16	5	96	16.7%
Total	62	45	17	384	11.7%

Table Prepared October 28, 2013

Summary Data

Once the on-site evaluations are complete, the reports are sent to the property owner, the conservation coordinator for the utility or the county, and to the WRWSA. The information from the reports is summarized in a table for use by the utilities and for review at the time of the final report to SWFWMD.

Average Turf Areas

An example of useable information is the amount of turf area being irrigated, since the size of the area corresponds to the amount of water used. The average turf area of the residences evaluated is shown below.

Utility	Turf (Square feet)
Citrus	11,189
Hernando	9,122
Marion	7,295
Villages LSSA	7,743
Villages NSCUDD	6,933

Frequently Cited Problems

Each irrigation zone is evaluated during the on-site inspection. There are a number of factors that are identified on each report and recommendations are provided to the homeowner to improve watering efficiencies. The most frequently reported problems are blocked heads and overspray. Shrubbery, turf, or other items or equipment in the yard block numerous heads. Overspray sends water beyond the turf area and onto mature plantings, buildings, paved areas and pool and patio areas.

Rain Sensors

With each on-site evaluation, the rain sensor is inspected and replaced as needed. Out of 45 inspections, 35 rain sensors have been replaced, or 78%.

Rain Sensors	Replaced	Percentage
Citrus	7	88%
Hernando	9	100%
Marion	8	73%
Villages LSSA	10	100%
Villages NSCUDD	1	16%

Subject: Irrigation System Evaluation Program

From: Dahlene Sprague <shopad40@gmail.com>

Date: Sun, Oct 06, 2013 8:27 am

To: nsmith@wrwsa.org

Cc: Dahlene Sprague <shopad40@gmail.com>

Dear Ms. Smith,

I want to advise you that we are extremely pleased with the report provided by Mr. Jack Overdorf. He spent considerable time doing the on site survey and then as shown by the report he also spent considerable time and effort to analyze the data. We are in process of implementing as many of the recommendations as possible and fully expect to have a positive impact on our water usage while still maintaining the vibrant and healthy garden that we desire. Jack was personable and fully addressed all of our questions. He is definitely the right professional to represent the program.. We also want to thank the involved organizations that made this program available to us.

Sincerely,

Alan & Dahlene Sprague
The Villages

Item 9.b.
AWWA Florida Section

FSAWWA Florida Section 2013 Fall Conference

For A Better Water Future



Join water professionals at Florida's premier water conference.

The FSAWWA Fall Conference provides an opportunity for utility managers, directors and operators, to stay current on relevant topics and new technologies. Over 180 exhibitors will give you first-hand information on the latest developments to help your utility take actions to implement our future.

Opening General Session: Monday, Dec 2, 2013, 2:30 to 4:00 pm

Workshops/Symposiums:

- Water Distribution Symposium
- Leadership in the Water Industry
- Skills for Leaders
- Alternative Delivery - Differences & Drivers
- Water Conservation Symposium

Technical Sessions:

- Water Distribution Innovative Piping Solutions
- New Innovations in Membrane Technology – joint session by SEDA and AMTA
- Instrumentation and Automation
- Water Treatment Solutions
- HDPE Applications
- Membranes 2 – A Variety of Alternative Solutions
- Water Management Issues Going Forward
- Assessing Pipe Infrastructure
- iTAP /World Water Corps
- Modeling, Risks and Solutions for Utility Managers
- Ion Exchange Water Treatment Solutions

REGISTER ONLINE AT <http://fsawwa.org/2013fallconference>

Hotel Accommodations

Host hotel is Omni Orlando Resort at ChampionsGate. Call 407-390-6664 by 5 pm, Monday, November 4. and mention the American Water Works Association for a special rate of \$139.



Poker Tournament
to benefit the
Roy Likins
Scholarship Fund
Tuesday, Dec. 3, 2013
Starts at 9:00 pm



Golf Tournament
to benefit the Roy Likins
Scholarship Fund
Thursday, Dec. 5, 2013
8:00 am Shotgun Start



Item 9.c.
PC Laptop Upgrade

Item 9.c. PC Laptop Upgrade . . . Richard S. Owen, Executive Director

The WRWSA has a Compaq Laptop computer (PC) that is used for running the QuickBooks' program. The QuickBooks' program output is copied and sent to Purvis Gray & Company's (PGC) each quarter and at the fiscal year end to maintain accountability of the Authority's financial status.

The laptop has a Windows XP operating system that will not be supported by Microsoft as of April 8, 2014. After that date, there will be no new security updates, nor any other support or technical updates. In addition, we are using a 2009 version of QuickBooks, which is no longer supported with online assistance from Intuit. This program must also be updated.

In order to have a secure system for the WRWSA financial reports, staff recommends an upgrade of the laptop with the installation of Windows 7 operating system and the purchase and installation of QuickBooks Pro 2014. The cost estimate to upgrade the laptop with the new operating system is \$225; QuickBooks 2014 is estimated to cost approximately \$249.00 for a total estimated cost of \$474.00. Staff has reviewed other options, such as purchasing a new computer or using QuickBooks Online; however the recommended options are the most cost effective options.

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends the Board approve updating the PC laptop operating system to Windows 7 and acquisition and installation of QuickBooks 2014 for a total cost not to exceed \$500.00.

Item. 9.d.
News Articles

Draft springs legislation would reserve spring flows, require septic tank hook-ups

Bruce Ritchie, 10/25/2013 - 04:05 PM The Florida Current responses

Draft springs protection legislation being prepared by **Sen. David Simmons** would designate 21 "outstanding Florida springs" and require the establishment of springs protection zones around them.

The draft legislation also would direct the **Florida Department of Environmental Protection** and the water management districts to restore flow to those designated springs.

Water management districts would be required to establish "protection zones" with restrictions on septic tanks and wastewater treatment plants.

Simmons said he expects to file a bill within 30 days after issuing another draft and receiving more comments from agencies and interest groups.

"I'm looking at a comprehensive methodology for saving and preserving our water resources," Simmons said.

Asked why he is presenting the bill this year, Simmons, R-Altamonte Springs, said, "Because it should have been done five years ago."

Scientists say Florida's springs are becoming choked with weeds and algae whose growth is fueled by increasing nitrogen seeping into groundwater. The nitrogen comes from a variety of sources including fertilizer, septic tanks, stormwater runoff, livestock manure and wastewater spray fields.

Some environmentalists say water management districts already have permitted too much water use in some areas around springs.

Springs legislation filed before the 2013 session by **Sen. Darren Soto** and **Rep. Linda Stewart**, both Democrats from the Orlando area, died without being heard in committees. The bills have been refiled this year as **SB 76** and **HB 49**.

The draft legislation by Simmons would seem to have a better chance of being heard because he is in the majority party and is working with a variety of agencies and interest groups. His draft legislation would require DEP and the water management districts to map by July 1, 2015 the "springshed" areas where groundwater flows to each of the 21 designated "outstanding" springs.

Each water management district would be required to reserve water to restore historic flows to those springs by July 1, 2016. No new water-use permit would be allowed that would reduce the flow reserved for a spring.

Where there is insufficient water to restore historic flows, districts would be required to implement recovery plans to restore flows within 10 years.

On water quality, cities and counties within the springsheds would have to require that landscape fertilizer include at least 50 percent slow-release nitrogen. The DEP would set maximum standards for cities and counties to implement.

Agricultural operations within springsheds would be required to use "best management practices" established by the **Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services**.

Water management districts would be required to establish protection zones around springs where the Floridan Aquifer is vulnerable to contamination.

All wastewater treatment plants within those zones would be required to meet an advanced treatment standard of 3 milligrams per liter of total nitrogen.

Property owners with septic tanks on lots of less than 1 acre would be required to connect to a central wastewater treatment facility by July 1, 2015 at no cost to residential property owners.

Asked about the criteria for choosing which springs are designated as outstanding, Simmons said, the 21 springs in the legislation represented only an initial list.

"If there needs to be some other spring that's on it then somebody needs to come to me and say it should be on there," he said.

Water district to set minimum flows and levels for Silver Springs

By [Bill Thompson](#)

Staff writer

Published: Monday, October 21, 2013 at 5:27 p.m.

Decades after lawmakers decreed that state water managers must determine the potential point of no return for Florida's waterways, the state's biggest spring gets its turn.

The St. Johns River Water Management District Governing Board voted last week to launch the process of establishing minimum flows and levels, or MFLs, for Silver Springs and the Silver River, which flows from the springs.

The process is expected to be completed next year, and when finished, St. Johns' governors will have identified the threshold at which the springs and the river will suffer significant harm.

But some observers question whether the decision will offer any real protection to an already threatened icon.

MFLs help water managers decide when withdrawals in the watershed are excessive and need to be curtailed in order to protect the waterway.

The process, district officials said, will also involve developing a strategy to help keep the waterway above its flow level, or enable it to rebound if it is already below that point.

Such steps could include a combination of heightening conservation efforts, finding alternative water supply sources and changing regulations.

"This marks the beginning of the rule-making process, but it is the culmination of years of scientific work by District staff," Hal Wilkening, the district's director of strategic deliverables, said in a statement.

Silver Springs and the river will be two of 16 waterways that the board will set MFLs for in 2014, St. Johns officials said.

The district's pursuit of MFLs for Silver Springs and the Silver River comes 41 years after the Legislature passed the landmark water-management law directing that those levels be set for all of Florida's surface waters, including springs.

Silver Springs also gets its review 21 years after St. Johns made its first MFL designations.

According to district staff, 123 waterways across St. Johns' 18-county jurisdiction have gone through the MFL process since 1992.

That came about largely because of a lawsuit brought by a group in Putnam County who maintained, according to court records, that St. Johns had "ignored" the 1972 mandate, and as a result, local lakes and springs had dried up, or were close to doing so.

An appellate court sided with the group in a 1993 ruling, saying it was "undisputed" that the district had set MFLs for just two waterways in 20 years.

The district countered that the law allowed it to move at its own discretion — an argument the court rejected.

A settlement of that lawsuit led St. Johns to launch the MFL process for 46 lakes and springs between 1995 and 1999, a district report indicates.

And St. Johns begins the process for Silver Springs 17 years after Gov. Lawton Chiles issued an executive order directing water managers to develop the MFL priority list based on "the importance of the waters to the state or region, and the existence of, or potential for, significant harm."

At the time that order was issued, according to St. Johns' data, Silver Springs output was hovering near its historic norm, with fluctuations both well above and well below that mark in the ensuing years.

District officials first added Silver Springs to the priority list in 2001, with the process to be finished by 2004, according to a report St. Johns published last month.

That was delayed, however, and in 2003, when St. Johns released an update to its long-range water-supply

assessment study, Silver Springs and the Silver River were supposed to make the MFL priority list by 2006.

That, too, was delayed.

In the report released last month, district officials explained that Silver Springs and Silver River were “re-prioritized” several times so water managers and the U.S. Geological Survey could work together to clarify the discharge data for the river.

Silver Springs is actually a system of 30 separate springs and 69 vents.

The two agencies apparently were trying to reconcile data recorded at the springs historic measuring site — about three-quarters of a mile downstream from the springhead — and the mouth of the river some five miles away.

St. Johns also wanted to coordinate with the Southwest Florida Water Management District, or Swiftmud, on drawing up MFLs for Silver Springs and Rainbow Springs, which is under Swiftmud.

Developing MFLs is welcome news to many who worry about Silver Springs, whose output has been dropping in recent years, relative to its historic level.

In November 2012, St. Johns released a report that indicated Silver Springs’ flow rate was on a clear downward trend.

For instance, the volume recorded in 2010 was less than 500 cubic feet per second in 2010, well below the historic average of 709 cubic feet per second, based on readings made annually since 1947.

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Rather, Knight said in an email, the district is sidestepping evidence that shows the flow reduction is tied to groundwater pumping in the watershed.

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Andy Kesselring, president of the Silver Springs Alliance, said his group is still trying to understand St. Johns’ findings and its concepts for the springs.

At this point, he described his members — Knight is on the board of the alliance as well — as “happy” that St. Johns has taken this step, but also concerned that more protection might be needed.

Lower Aquifer Under Exploration

By [Sara Drumm](#)

LEDGER MEDIA GROUP

Published: Monday, October 21, 2013 at 12:18 a.m.

WINTER HAVEN | It may sound like a problem for the distant future, but officials are hurrying to find a new source of water before 2035.

By that time, it is projected that Central Florida will be pumping about the maximum amount permitted from the Upper Floridan Aquifer.

Even before that — around 2021 — some municipalities, especially along the U.S. 27 corridor, are projected to need more water than they are allowed to draw from the upper aquifer.

Officials with Polk County and the South and Southwest Florida water management districts say they hope to use a supplemental water source about which not much is known: the Lower Floridan Aquifer.

The Southwest Florida Water Management District, also known as Swiftmud, which covers most of Polk County, is moving forward with a project to test the quality and quantity of water in the lower aquifer, which is separated from the upper aquifer by a thick layer of clay or rocks.

To do that, the district plans to drill three exploratory wells into the Lower Floridan Aquifer. Currently, it is looking into sites in Winter Haven, Haines City and Frostproof.

"We've come to the point where we've really got to come up with some other solutions, some other sources for supply," said George Schlutermann, a senior hydrogeologist for Swiftmud, during a recent presentation to Frostproof's City Council.

"The reality is, these programs take a long time," he said.

COSTLY, BUT PROMISING

The county, in conjunction with the water district, already has drilled one exploratory well as part of its unrelated Southeast Wellfield project.

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Gary Fries, utility division director for Polk County, said tests of the first exploratory well, which is south of Lake Weohyakapka near Lake Wales, were promising. It could pump 2 million gallons per day.

And while the water quality is worse than that of the Upper Floridan, the water could be treated by forcing it through a fine membrane.

The Ledger.com

"It's a lot more expensive than what we typically do. With the Upper Floridan Aquifer, we don't typically have to do any filtering or membrane treatment," Fries said. "But I think it's absolutely necessary long term."

As the population grows, the Central Florida Water Institute has projected that by 2035, 1.1 billion gallons per day will be pumped in Polk, Orange, Lake, Osceola and Seminole counties.

Current permits allow that level of pumping — but some areas already are being overpumped and only 800 million gallons per day are pumped now.

If all 1.1 billion gallons were pumped, it could cause "significant damage to the environment," Fries said.

Water conservation efforts are helpful but aren't seen as a long-term solution.

"The cheapest way of extending your water supply is through conservation," Fries said. "But there will be a time when you need additional water."

Fries said he thinks the data from the exploratory well points to the lower aquifer as a viable source of water.

LIMITED DATA

However, the lower aquifer's characteristics vary from area to area, and Swiftmud's Schlutermann said it is too early to know whether it can be useful in other parts of the county.

The water quality and the amount of water that can be pumped each day need to be determined. Officials also need to make sure that taking from the lower aquifer doesn't affect the water in the upper aquifer.

"There really is very sparse information," Schlutermann said. "These locations are going to help us understand what we have."

Swiftmud's proposition to the cities is this: Work together to find a drilling site and Swiftmud will fund the exploratory well.

If tests show it can be a useful source of water, the city will have the option to buy the well. If it is not productive, or if the city does not wish to purchase it, Swiftmud likely will maintain it as a monitoring well.

If the city does purchase the well, it could be used to provide water to the city's customers or the city could sell the well.

Schlutermann said the project, which has been in the planning stages for several years, will take about three years if the exploratory well tests give promising results.

The Ledger.com

He expects the exploratory phase to take a little more than a year.

If the district then decides to move forward with phase 2, additional monitoring wells and a production well from which water could be pumped will be built.

IN THE WORKS

In the meantime, Swiftmud is working with municipalities in East Polk to find three spread-out drilling sites. A potential site in Winter Haven already has been chosen.

Kim Hansell, utilities services director for Winter Haven, said she is excited about the project, but the city and the district still have to work out more details, such as a lease for the site, before making anything official.

If Winter Haven, Frostproof or Haines City officials decide they don't want a drilling site, the district will seek other locations.

Schlutermann said drilling is expected to begin next summer.

The Southeast Wellfield project is moving forward, as well.

The county is waiting to get a permit from the South Florida water district. If the permit is granted, there will be several more steps of preparation before construction of the wells would begin about 2019.

Fries said the project is estimated to cost \$320 million, quite a bit more than the \$4 million per well site that Swiftmud has budgeted, because the pipeline to transport the water around the county will be extensive and expensive.

Swiftmud has said it would help fund the county's project because it will extend into Swiftmud's territory. The district still is pursuing its own project because staff members have said they don't think the Southeast Wellfield would produce enough water to meet the increased demand of the future.

Both projects are fueled by the same worry, though.

"Without something like this, the water supply in Polk County could be in jeopardy," Fries said. "We all plan to grow, and we all plan to need more water."

[Sara Drumm can be reached at 863-401-6971 or sara.drumm@newschief.com. Follow her on Twitter at @saradrumm.]

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Water district to set minimum flows and levels for Silver Springs

By [Bill Thompson](#)

Staff writer

Published: Monday, October 21, 2013 at 4:56 p.m.

Decades after lawmakers decreed that state water managers must determine the potential point of no return for Florida's waterways, the state's biggest spring gets its turn.

The St. Johns River Water Management District Governing Board voted last week to launch the process of establishing minimum flows and levels, or MFLs, for Silver Springs and the Silver River, which flows from the springs.

The process is expected to be completed next year, and when finished, St. Johns' governors will have identified the threshold at which the springs and the river will suffer significant harm.

But some observers question whether the decision will offer any real protection to an already threatened icon.

MFLs help water managers decide when withdrawals in the watershed are excessive and need to be curtailed in order to protect the waterway.

The process, district officials said, will also involve developing a strategy to help keep the waterway above its flow level, or enable it to rebound if it is already below that point.

Such steps could include a combination of heightening conservation efforts, finding alternative water supply sources and changing regulations.

"This marks the beginning of the rule-making process, but it is the culmination of years of scientific work by District staff," Hal Wilkening, the district's director of strategic deliverables, said in a statement.

Silver Springs and the river will be two of 16 waterways that the board will set MFLs for in 2014, St. Johns officials said.

The district's pursuit of MFLs for Silver Springs and the Silver River comes 41 years after the Legislature passed the landmark water-management law directing that those levels be set for all of Florida's surface waters, including springs.

Silver Springs also gets its review 21 years after St. Johns made its first MFL designations.

According to district staff, 123 waterways across St. Johns' 18-county jurisdiction have gone through the MFL process since 1992.

That came about largely because of a lawsuit brought by a group in Putnam County who maintained, according to court records, that St. Johns had “ignored” the 1972 mandate, and as a result, local lakes and springs had dried up, or were close to doing so.

An appellate court sided with the group in a 1993 ruling, saying it was “undisputed” that the district had set MFLs for just two waterways in 20 years.

The district countered that the law allowed it to move at its own discretion — an argument the court rejected.

A settlement of that lawsuit led St. Johns to launch the MFL process for 46 lakes and springs between 1995 and 1999, a district report indicates.

And St. Johns begins the process for Silver Springs 17 years after Gov. Lawton Chiles issued an executive order directing water managers to develop the MFL priority list based on “the importance of the waters to the state or region, and the existence of, or potential for, significant harm.”

At the time that order was issued, according to St. Johns’ data, Silver Springs output was hovering near its historic norm, with fluctuations both well above and well below that mark in the ensuing years.

District officials first added Silver Springs to the priority list in 2001, with the process to be finished by 2004, according to a report St. Johns published last month.

That was delayed, however, and in 2003, when St. Johns released an update to its long-range water-supply assessment study, Silver Springs and the Silver River were supposed to make the MFL priority list by 2006.

That, too, was delayed.

In the report released last month, district officials explained that Silver Springs and Silver River were “re-prioritized” several times so water managers and the U.S. Geological Survey could work together to clarify the discharge data for the river.

Silver Springs is actually a system of 30 separate springs and 69 vents.

The two agencies apparently were trying to reconcile data recorded at the springs historic measuring site — about three-quarters of a mile downstream from the springhead — and the mouth of the river some five miles away.

St. Johns also wanted to coordinate with the Southwest Florida Water Management District, or Swiftmud, on drawing up MFLs for Silver Springs and Rainbow Springs, which is under Swiftmud.

Developing MFLs is welcome news to many who worry about Silver Springs, whose output has been dropping in recent years, relative to its historic level.

In November 2012, St. Johns released a report that indicated Silver Springs' flow rate was on a clear downward trend.

For instance, the volume recorded in 2010 was less than 500 cubic feet per second in 2010, well below the historic average of 709 cubic feet per second, based on readings made annually since 1947.

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From: Diane Salz <salz.govconsultant@gmail.com>
To: WRWSA <richardowen@wrwsa.org>
Cc: Nancy Smith <nsmithnhs@aol.com>
Subject: Counties search for water...
Date: Mon, Oct 21, 2013 10:01 am

Counties Search for Water Solutions

By [Tom Palmer](#)

THE LEDGER

Published: Monday, October 21, 2013 at 12:29 a.m.

BARTOW | Officials in Polk and some surrounding counties are going to have to work together to find an additional 250 million gallons a day of fresh water to meet the next two decades' projected demand, but it's unclear what the sources will be, the County Commission was told Tuesday.

"We have to develop strategies that will not demand increased groundwater," said Mark Hammond, director of the Southwest Florida Water Management District's Resource Management Division.

Tentative information shows that the region, whose water consumption grew from 300 million gallons a day to 800 million gallons a day between 1960 and 2010, is at or near its capacity to tap the aquifer, he said.

Meanwhile, the projected water need is expected to grow to 1.1 billion gallons per day by 2035, Hammond said.

The work is part of something called the Central Florida Water Initiative, which involves efforts by major water users in Polk, Lake, Orange, Osceola and Seminole counties to come up with long-term water supply solutions.

In addition to local governments, the effort involves representatives from industrial, agricultural and environmental interest groups.

Hammond said the effort to pursue a more cooperative, regional approach to water-supply planning involves not only five counties, but also three water management districts.

In addition to Swiftmud, the South Florida and St. Johns River water management districts are involved.

The next steps will be discussion of a draft water supply plan at a public meeting Dec. 12 in Clermont and before the various water management districts' governing board meetings later that month.

Swiftmud's Governing Board will consider the draft plan Dec. 17, Hammond said.

The action by the water boards will trigger changes in local government growth plans that will require local officials to detail how they will meet future water needs, including listing specific projects they will pursue to accomplish those goals, he said.

Hammond said part of the efforts involves trying to standardize permitting and evaluation procedures among the three districts to create a more coherent, seamless water regulation system.

Following his presentation, County Commissioner Ed Smith asked what water officials in Central Florida have learned from Southern California, which taps water sources far from urban areas.

"Southern California is a hotbed for lessons," Hammond said, adding that Central Florida officials examined water-supply strategies used around the world in places such as Australia, too.

"They (Southern California) have practically drained the Colorado River," Smith said. "I hope we don't do that to the Kissimmee River or the St. Johns River."

Following the meeting, Hammond said there's still much to be done using technical teams of experts from all of the user groups to come up with ways to boost conservation.

He said the coordination has been challenging.

"It's like a man with three watches trying to tell time," he said, but said they've reached agreement on modeling for groundwater use and for setting minimum flows and levels, which is a state-mandated procedure to preserve flow in rivers and protect other water bodies from overexploitation.

Gary Fries, Polk's utilities director, has been involved in the technical discussions.

He said one of the challenges will be figuring out ways to store and retrieve reclaimed water, which now is used primarily for irrigation, but is unneeded during the rainy season.

"This is a move in the right direction, though," he said, explaining that looking regionally is critical.

Water Desalination Capacity Climbs on Power, Energy Needs

Demand for water to generate power, energy and refining needs sparked such growth in desalination plants that 50 percent more capacity is due online this year than in 2012, according to newly published data.

A 30 percent improvement in energy efficiency of the best performing desalination plants contributed to the rise, said Christopher Gasson, publisher of Global Water Intelligence, which today released the DesalData report with the International Desalination Association.

“You could see this as the water–energy nexus in action,” Gasson said in a statement. “The [energy industry](#) needs water, both in refining and power generation as well as upstream. The water industry also needs energy, and the two seem to be coming together in increased demand for desalination.”

Desalination plants being commissioned this year alone can produce 6 million cubic meters a day -- as much fresh water as 28 months of rain in [London](#), the report said. That raises the total capacity of the world’s 17,277 commissioned desalination plants to 80.9 million cubic meters, it said.

Seawater is the largest source of water for desalination at 59 percent, brackish water is next at 22 percent, then river water 9 percent and wastewater at 5 percent, according to the data. Towns and cities use 61 percent of the desalinated water, industry is the next biggest user at 26 percent, with power stations third at 7 percent.

[Saudi Arabia](#) has the largest online capacity of seawater desalination for its energy and domestic needs at 9.2 million cubic meters a day. Next is the United Arab Emirates at 8.4 million cubic meters and Spain at 3.8 million, according to the data.

Cleaning Water

Water cleansed of salt and impurities is used from cooling [power plants](#) to oil exploration, where it helps separate oil from sand in a process called low-salinity flooding that boosts recovery from older wells as much as 30 percent, according to data presented online that accompanied today’s statement.

More than two-thirds of desalination plants now use more efficient membrane and pumps to purify water, with the remainder employing conventional thermal systems that heat water to boiling and recover the salt-free steam, Oxford, U.K.-based GWI said.

Markets expected to see the fastest growth in desalination during the next five years, more than doubling capacity, are [South Africa](#), Jordan, Mexico, Libya, [Chile](#), India and [China](#).

The report was released ahead of the 2013 IDA World Congress taking place Oct. 20 to Oct. 25 in Tianjin, China.

To contact the reporter on this story: Peter S. Green in [New York](#) at psgreen@bloomberg.net

To contact the editor responsible for this story: Nicholas Johnston at njohnston3@bloomberg.net

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From: Diane Salz <salz.govconsultant@gmail.com>
To: WRWSA <richardowen@wrwsa.org>
Cc: Nancy Smith <nsmithnhs@aol.com>
Subject: Fwd: SWFWMD will lose 36% of its budget...
Date: Fri, Oct 18, 2013 8:31 am

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Diane Salz <salz.govconsultant@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Oct 18, 2013 at 8:30 AM
Subject: SWFWMD will lose 36% of its budget...
To: Diane Salz <disalz@yahoo.com>

By JEFF ROSLOW

Staff Writer

Last Modified: Jan 11, 2012 07:30AM

Property owners in Polk County will see their property tax bills drop about \$16 next year due to \$210 million sliced from the water management districts in the state.

In return for those cuts the Southwest Florida Water Management, which contains most of Polk County, there will be fewer water resource projects, less money for local governments for projects they may be working on, and the district will no longer be able to buy conservation lands to protect.

Last week, Gov. Rick Scott signed a bill that cut the budgets for not only Southwest Florida Water Management District, also known as Swiftmud, but also for South Florida, St. John's, Suwanee River and Northwest Florida water management districts.

For Swiftmud, the cut will amount to 36 percent of its budget.

Robyn Felix, media relations manager for Swiftmud, said that will mean the budget will drop from \$280 million to \$161 million. That new budget will take effect on Oct. 1. The cuts could also mean a loss of jobs in the agency but whether that will happen is not known.

Scott acknowledged the likely job losses, but said they were a means to stirring private-sector growth.

"Most people believe government is larger than it should be," he said.

Specifically what these cuts mean to the average person is in the Cooperative Funding Program. In this program, each town can apply for money from the water management district for programs to help them save money on a toilet rebate program or on a flood protection project or to fix stormwater runoff into a lake, Felix said.

"Towns will still be able to apply for money but there won't be as much money to go around," Felix said.

She also said that Swiftmud is changing its focus from trying to save land in conservation buys. There is not any land in Polk County it will stop trying to buy, but in Pasco County, for instance, the agency will no longer try to buy land near the Starkey Preserve. The price tag was about \$8 million.

"That's also been the direction of the Environmental Protection Agency; purchasing for conservation is no longer part of our core mission," she said.

Scott signed the bill as he stood before a large banner proclaiming "Promises Made, Promises Kept" and said the law would help fulfill his campaign mantras of stimulating the economy and job growth.

"The most important step we can take to create jobs in our state is to lower taxes," he said.

The new law requires the Legislature to annually review the budget and tax rate for each of the state's five water management districts and sets caps on the rate. Scott said, in effect, "the public will have a lot better handle on how their money is spent" and it holds the districts accountable.

Kirk Fordham, head of the Everglades Foundation, said the savings to homeowners would be insignificant and said Scott's appearance was especially insulting given a severe drought that has hit the state.

"Since the water management district's mission is to protect our natural resources and water supply, I'm not certain that gutting the agency in the midst of a massive water crisis is either smart politics or very good policy," he said.

But with the reality of less money this will give the agencies a reason to focus on cutting.

From: Diane Salz <disalz@yahoo.com>
To: Richard Owen <richardowen@wrwsa.org>
Cc: Nancy Smith <nsmithnhs@aol.com>
Subject: Fwd: St. Johns River Water Management District Water News
Date: Tue, Oct 15, 2013 2:19 pm

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Water News <waternews@sjrwmd.com>
Date: October 15, 2013 at 2:02:52 PM EDT
To: <disalz@yahoo.com>
Subject: **St. Johns River Water Management District Water News**

Email not displaying correctly? [Click to view online](#)

St. Johns River Water Management District **Water News**

News, meetings
and notices

October 15, 2013

Process under way to set minimum flows and levels for Silver Springs and Silver River

The St. Johns River Water Management District Governing Board has voted to begin the process to set minimum flows and levels (MFLs) for Silver Springs and Silver River in Marion County to help prevent significant harm to those important water resources.

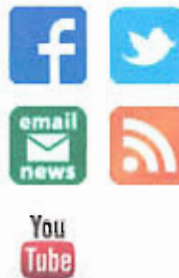
Establishing MFLs is an important step in continuing to plan for adequate water supplies in the region while also protecting water resources. During the consumptive use permitting regulatory process, MFLs are used as a basis for ensuring the protection of water resources in the area where withdrawals are being made.

"This marks the beginning of the rulemaking process but it is the culmination of years of scientific work by District staff," said Hal Wilkening, director of strategic deliverables. "Nothing is etched in stone yet, and there will be multiple opportunities for public comment."

In addition to setting MFLs for the two Marion County water bodies, prevention strategies are anticipated to be needed for each of the MFLs. If it is determined during the rulemaking process that MFLs are currently not being met, then recovery strategies will be needed.

Prevention and recovery strategies are measures that are undertaken to ensure MFLs will not go below their minimum levels (prevention) or will recover to their required levels (recovery). These measures include water conservation, alternative water supply projects and regulatory changes that

Connect with us



Upcoming meetings

For a listing of upcoming meeting dates, times and locations, visit:

- [Governing Board meetings and agendas](#)
- [Other District meetings and notices](#)

Contacts

District staff contacts for:

- [Local governments](#)
- [Public and media](#)

[How to contact your local government](#)

About us

The St. Johns River Water Management District is a regional agency of the state of Florida whose mission is to protect and ensure the sustainable use of water resources. The District is responsible for managing groundwater and surface water resources in all or part of 18

when combined, will protect the water resources of the area.

Silver River will be the seventh river and Silver Springs the tenth spring in the District to have MFLs established since 1992. During that time, the District has set 123 MFLs. The District plans to establish MFLs on a total of 16 water bodies in 2014.

Workshops will be held in 2014 to obtain public input. The public will also have opportunities to provide input throughout the process and when the Governing Board considers adopting the MFLs.

counties in northeast and east-central Florida.

floridaswater.com

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WATER SUPPLY

Projects to Test Water in Lower Aquifer

Swiftmud plans to drill three wells around Polk

By [Sara Drumm](#)

News Chief

Published: Monday, October 14, 2013 at 2:25 p.m.

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[Sara Drumm can be reached at 863-401-6971 or sara.drumm@newschief.com. Follow her on Twitter at @saradrumm.]

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Item 10.
Legislative Report

DRAFT "SPRINGS" LEGISLATION

NOTE: Please be advised that the draft "springs" legislation is only an initial draft, intended as a starting point for input and discussion purposes. Senator David Simmons (R--Altamonte Springs) has asked that we take this opportunity to provide comments and suggestions so that "a workable solution can be obtained with the input of all the stakeholders."

The draft legislation identifies "Outstanding Florida Springs," including (Chassahowitzka Springs Group (Citrus County); Homossassa Springs Group (Citrus County); Rainbow Springs Group (Marion County); Silver Springs Group (Marion County); Silver Glen Spring (Marion County); Weekiwachi Spring (Hernando County)), and requires water management districts (districts) to delineate the springsheds and "protection zones" of each of these springs by July 2015. The bill also requires districts and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to establish a "Baseline Flow Regime" of each Outstanding Florida Spring, defined as the "pattern of flow variability... as determined for a period of record prior to 1980," and to either reserve such water to maintain or restore the Baseline Flow Regime, or to implement a recovery plan to accomplish that goal.

To maintain water quality, the bill would require local governments within these springsheds to adopt, at a minimum, the DEP Model Fertilizer Ordinance, and at least 50% slow-release nitrogen at rates recommended by the University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Services (IFAS). For springs determined to be impaired, DEP must develop by 2017, Basin Management Action Plans (BMAPs) with detailed allocations for agricultural and residential fertilizer, septic tanks, animal waste and wastewater treatment facilities. There are also provisions for mandatory agricultural best management practices (BMPs) and septic tank connection and upgrades, *at no cost to property owners* – with rebates and/or reimbursements dependent upon documentary stamp collections and appropriations. The bill also provides a list of prohibited activities within springs protection zones, such as new wastewater disposal systems, Rapid Infiltration Basins (RIBs), new septic tanks, and hazardous waste facilities.

**Item. 11.a.
Revised and Restated
Interlocal Agreement**

Item 11.a. Revised and Restated Interlocal Agreement . . . Larry Haag, WRWSA Attorney

Authority staff have received comments from each county's staff on the Revised and Restated Interlocal Agreement and have made changes where appropriate in response to these comments. The updated Interlocal Agreement is included in the Board packet shown in strike through and underline as well as a clean copy.

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends approval of the Revised and Restated Interlocal Agreement as shown in the exhibit (clean copy) for submission to each of the county member governments for their respective approvals.

REVISED AND RESTATED INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT

THIS INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT, made and entered into this _____ day of _____, 2013, by and between the following political subdivisions of the State of Florida: Citrus, Hernando, Marion and Sumter Counties.

W I T N E S S E T H:

WHEREAS, it is the finding of the parties hereto that cooperative efforts are necessary in order to meet the water needs of areas experiencing the results of rapid growth and diminishing available water resources, in a manner which will provide adequate and dependable supplies of water without resulting in adverse effects upon the areas from which the water is withdrawn; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 373.713, Florida Statutes, units of local government are encouraged to create regional water supply authorities; and,

WHEREAS, it is further the legislative finding that units of local government and regional water supply authorities are to have the primary responsibility for water supply;

WHEREAS, previously the parties hereto entered into an Interlocal Agreement, dated February 23, 1977, as amended on September 18, 1984; and,

WHEREAS, the parties hereto, pursuant to the provisions of Section 373.713, Florida Statutes, and to the provisions of Section 163.01, Florida Statutes, desire to enter into a REVISED AND RESTATED INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT among and between themselves regarding the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority.

NOW THEREFORE, the parties hereto do hereby agree, and join together to continue the formation of a regional water supply authority for the region comprising said counties represented as parties hereto upon the following terms and conditions and do mutually agree as follows:

SECTION I. – Name: The name of the organization formed pursuant to this Interlocal Agreement shall be the WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY, hereinafter referred to as the AUTHORITY.

SECTION II. – Purpose: The Authority is created and shall function for the purpose of developing, recovering, storing, and supplying water for county and municipal purposes and designing, constructing, operating and maintaining facilities in order to ensure that an adequate water supply will be available to all citizens within the Authority while attending to the following:

1. Giving priority to reducing adverse environmental effects of excessive or improper withdrawals of water from concentrated areas;
2. Not depriving, directly or indirectly, any county wherein water is withdrawn by the Authority, of the prior right to the reasonable and beneficial use of water which is required to adequately supply the reasonable and beneficial needs of the county or any of the inhabitants or property owners therein;
3. Ensuring that each party hereto shall have preferential right to purchase water from the regional water supply authority for use

by said party for the reasonable and beneficial needs of all citizens therein;

4. Maximizing the economical development of the water resources within the boundaries of the Authority.

SECTION III. – Authority: The Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority as provided for herein was established pursuant to the provisions of Section 163.01 and Section 373.1962 (now Section 373.713), Florida Statutes. The Authority shall have all powers authorized by Section 373.713, Florida Statutes.

SECTION IV. – Organization: The Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority as provided for herein is organized in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 163.01, Florida Statutes.

SECTION V. – Membership and Representation: The Authority shall be governed by a Board comprised of representatives of the parties to the Interlocal Agreement, as well as up to one municipal representative from a municipality within each member county. Each Governing Board member shall have one vote. A County and municipality represented on the Board may appoint an alternate to each Board member representative from that respective County or municipality and such alternate shall have the power to vote in the absence of the primary designated representative. Alternates must be appointed by the respective county commission or city council and need not be a member of the appointing county commission or city council.

(1) County Representation – County representation shall be as follows: Citrus County shall have two (2) Board representatives; Hernando County shall have two (2) Board representatives; Marion County shall have three (3) Board representatives; and Sumter County shall have two (2) Board representatives.

(2) Municipal Representation – Authority membership, and Governing Board representation, is hereby extended to all municipalities as follows:

(a) Any municipality, upon adoption of a resolution indicating a desire to become an Authority member, shall be included as a party hereto upon such terms and conditions as set forth herein.

All cities within each member county will have one (1) joint representative who shall be selected by all member cities within their respective county by selecting the said representative who will thereafter represent all member cities within the respective county. (c) All municipal representatives

heretofore selected to serve shall remain as the representative to the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority with any new representative to be appointed pursuant to the provisions of SECTION V.

(2) (b) set forth above.

SECTION VI. – Term and Compensation of Governing Board Members:

1. The balance of the term of any Governing Board member who resigns or is unable to continue to serve shall be filled in the

same manner as prescribed in SECTION V. 1. or SECTION V. 2.

B. as the situation may dictate.

2. Members of the Governing Board shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for travel expenses as provided in Section 112.06¹, Florida Statutes.

SECTION VII. – Powers: The Governing Board of the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority may exercise any and all powers and all authority as may now or hereafter be vested in said Authority by law including but not limited to its powers and authority as provided for in Section 163.01, Florida Statutes, and Chapter 373.⁷¹³, Florida Statutes.

SECTION VIII. – Officers: The officers of the Governing Board shall be as follows:

1. A Chairman, who shall preside at meetings of the Governing Board; sign, as authorized by the Governing Board, any contracts or other instruments which are deemed to be in the best interest of the Authority; and perform such other duties incident to the office as may be prescribed by the Governing Board.
2. A Vice Chairman, who shall act in the Chairman's absence. The Vice Chairman shall perform such other functions as the Governing Board may from time to time assign.

3. A Treasurer, who shall be entrusted with the receipt, care and disbursement of Authority funds in accordance with fiscal policies and regulations adopted by the Governing Board.

4. 3.4. If none of the above officers are present at a Board meeting where there is otherwise a quorum, the Authority Board may elect a chairman pro-tem for the duration of the meeting.

SECTION IX. – Staff: The Governing Board may appoint an Executive Director and prescribe the Executive Director's duties and compensation. Among other duties, the Executive Director shall:

1. Be responsible to the Governing Board, for supervising and administering the work program of said Authority;
2. Act as Secretary to the Governing Board and shall prepare minutes of each meeting and be responsible for distributing copies to members of the Governing Board.

SECTION X. – Meetings: Meetings of the Governing Board shall be conducted in accordance with Chapter 120.525, Florida Statutes, and shall be held at intervals to be determined by the Governing Board.

1. The date and time of regular meetings of the Governing Board shall be determined annually and published as required by law.
2. Emergency meetings of the Governing Board may be called by the Chairman or a majority of the members in accordance with Section 120.525(3), Florida Statutes.

3. A quorum at any meeting, except as provided in SECTION X. 4. below, shall be declared when a majority of the counties who are parties hereto have at least one member present. County members and municipal members shall represent their respective county for purposes of establishing the county membership quorum.
4. In addition to SECTION X. 3. above, a quorum for purposes of approving the annual budget shall require at least one county commission member representative from each of the member counties.

SECTION XI. – Committees: The Chairman, with the advice and consent of the Governing Board, shall appoint such committees as may be designated by the Governing Board to carry on its work. Committee membership is not restricted to members of the Governing Board.

SECTION XII. – Budget and Finance: Each of the counties represented as parties hereto shall appropriate funds on a county-wide per capita basis as may be necessary or desirable for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of Section 373.713, Florida Statutes, and the powers and duties of the Authority or its Governing Board.

1. The per capita appropriation shall be based upon the most current annual population estimates by the Bureau of Economic and Business Research, University of Florida.
2. No appropriation shall become effective until it has been adopted by the Authority Governing Board and approved by the official action of each of the respective Boards of County Commissioners representing the parties hereto.
3. Said per capita appropriation may be reduced or eliminated by the Authority Board for any stated or unstated period should other sources of revenue make it unnecessary to require per capita appropriations.
4. The Authority shall prepare an annual budget for the fiscal year October 1 to September 30, including the proposed per capita appropriation rate and the amount of revenue from each county, and forward copies of same to the governmental bodies of the counties representing the parties hereto by June 1 of each year in order that said counties shall have an opportunity to take considered action in approving or disapproving the proposed per capita appropriation, if any.
5. The budget and such other changes, amendments or supplements as may be necessary to conduct the fiscal affairs of the Authority may be amended from time to time by action

of the Governing Board to include any funds accumulated from time to time from sources other than per capita appropriations. The budget may be amended to increase or decrease the annual per capita appropriation by the counties representing the parties hereto by the same method set forth in paragraph 2 above.

SECTION XIII. – Amendments: This INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT may be amended in writing by the signatories in the same manner as this Agreement.

SECTION XIV. – Affirmation:

1. Citrus County hereby affirms that, at a duly constituted meeting of the Board of County Commissioners on the _____ day of _____, 20__, it approved the terms of this Agreement and the execution thereof by Citrus County.
2. Hernando County hereby affirms that, at a duly constituted meeting of the Board of County Commissioners on the _____ day of _____, 20__, it approved the terms of this Agreement and the execution thereof by Hernando County.
3. Marion County hereby affirms that, at a duly constituted meeting of the Board of County Commissioners on the _____ day of _____, 20__, it approved the terms of this Agreement and the execution thereof by Marion County.

4. Sumter County hereby affirms that, at a duly constituted meeting of the Board of County Commissioners on the _____ day of _____, 20____, it approved the terms of this Agreement and the execution thereof by Sumter County.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Agreement on the day and year first above written.

CITRUS COUNTY

By: _____
CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

HERNANDO COUNTY

By: _____
CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

MARION COUNTY

By: _____
CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

SUMTER COUNTY

By: _____
CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

REVISED AND RESTATED INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT

THIS INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT, made and entered into this _____ day of _____, 2013, by and between the following political subdivisions of the State of Florida: Citrus, Hernando, Marion and Sumter Counties.

W I T N E S S E T H:

WHEREAS, it is the finding of the parties hereto that cooperative efforts are necessary in order to meet the water needs of areas experiencing the results of rapid growth and diminishing available water resources, in a manner which will provide adequate and dependable supplies of water without resulting in adverse effects upon the areas from which the water is withdrawn; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 373.713, Florida Statutes, units of local government are encouraged to create regional water supply authorities; and,

WHEREAS, it is further the legislative finding that units of local government and regional water supply authorities are to have the primary responsibility for water supply;

WHEREAS, previously the parties hereto entered into an Interlocal Agreement, dated February 23, 1977, as amended on September 18, 1984; and,

WHEREAS, the parties hereto, pursuant to the provisions of Section 373.713, Florida Statutes, and to the provisions of Section 163.01, Florida Statutes, desire to enter into a REVISED AND RESTATED INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT among and between themselves regarding the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority.

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1. Giving priority to reducing adverse environmental effects of excessive or improper withdrawals of water from concentrated areas;
2. Not depriving, directly or indirectly, any county wherein water is withdrawn by the Authority, of the prior right to the reasonable and beneficial use of water which is required to adequately supply the reasonable and beneficial needs of the county or any of the inhabitants or property owners therein;
3. Ensuring that each party hereto shall have preferential right to purchase water from the regional water supply authority for use by

said party for the reasonable and beneficial needs of all citizens therein;

4. Maximizing the economical development of the water resources within the boundaries of the Authority.

SECTION III. – Authority: The Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority as provided for herein was established pursuant to the provisions of Section 163.01 and Section 373.1962 (now Section 373.713), Florida Statutes. The Authority shall have all powers authorized by Section 373.713, Florida Statutes.

SECTION IV. – Organization: The Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority as provided for herein is organized in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 163.01, Florida Statutes.

SECTION V. – Membership and Representation: The Authority shall be governed by a Board comprised of representatives of the parties to the Interlocal Agreement, as well as up to one municipal representative from a municipality within each member county. Each Governing Board member shall have one vote. A County and municipality represented on the Board may appoint an alternate to each Board member representative from that respective County or municipality and such alternate shall have the power to vote in the absence of the primary designated representative. Alternates must be appointed by the respective county commission or city council and need not be a member of the appointing county commission or city council.

1. County Representation – County representation shall be as follows:

Citrus County shall have two (2) Board representatives;

Hernando County shall have two (2) Board representatives;

Marion County shall have three (3) Board representatives; and

Sumter County shall have two (2) Board representatives.

2. Municipal Representation – Authority membership, and Governing Board representation, is hereby extended to all municipalities as follows:

(a) Any municipality, upon adoption of a resolution indicating a desire to become an Authority member, shall be included as a party hereto upon such terms and conditions as set forth herein.

(b) All cities within each member county will have one (1) joint representative who shall be selected by all member cities within their respective county by selecting the said representative who will thereafter represent all member cities within the respective county.

(c) All municipal representatives heretofore selected to serve shall remain as the representative to the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority with any new representative to be appointed pursuant to the provisions of SECTION V. 2. (b) set forth above.

SECTION VI. – Term and Compensation of Governing Board Members:

1. The balance of the term of any Governing Board member who resigns or is unable to continue to serve shall be filled in the

same manner as prescribed in SECTION V. 1. or SECTION V. 2.

(b) as the situation may dictate.

2. Members of the Governing Board shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for travel expenses as provided in Section 112.061, Florida Statutes.

SECTION VII. – Powers: The Governing Board of the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority may exercise any and all powers and all authority as may now or hereafter be vested in said Authority by law including but not limited to its powers and authority as provided for in Section 163.01, Florida Statutes, and Chapter 373.713, Florida Statutes.

SECTION VIII. – Officers: The officers of the Governing Board shall be as follows:

1. A Chairman, who shall preside at meetings of the Governing Board; sign, as authorized by the Governing Board, any contracts or other instruments which are deemed to be in the best interest of the Authority; and perform such other duties incident to the office as may be prescribed by the Governing Board.
2. A Vice Chairman, who shall act in the Chairman's absence. The Vice Chairman shall perform such other functions as the Governing Board may from time to time assign.

3. A Treasurer, who shall be entrusted with the receipt, care and disbursement of Authority funds in accordance with fiscal policies and regulations adopted by the Governing Board.
4. If none of the above officers are present at a Board meeting where there is otherwise a quorum, the Authority Board may elect a chairman pro-tem for the duration of the meeting.

SECTION IX. – Staff: The Governing Board may appoint an Executive Director and prescribe the Executive Director’s duties and compensation. Among other duties, the Executive Director shall:

1. Be responsible to the Governing Board, for supervising and administering the work program of said Authority;
2. Act as Secretary to the Governing Board and shall prepare minutes of each meeting and be responsible for distributing copies to members of the Governing Board.

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3. A quorum at any meeting, except as provided in SECTION X. 4. below, shall be declared when a majority of the counties who are parties hereto have at least one member present. County members and municipal members shall represent their respective county for purposes of establishing the county membership quorum.
4. In addition to SECTION X. 3. above, a quorum for purposes of approving the annual budget shall require at least one county commission member representative from each of the member counties.

SECTION XI. – Committees: The Chairman, with the advice and consent of the Governing Board, shall appoint such committees as may be designated by the Governing Board to carry on its work. Committee membership is not restricted to members of the Governing Board.

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1. The per capita appropriation shall be based upon the most current annual population estimates by the Bureau of Economic and Business Research, University of Florida.

2. No appropriation shall become effective until it has been adopted by the Authority Governing Board and approved by the official action of each of the respective Boards of County Commissioners representing the parties hereto.
3. Said per capita appropriation may be reduced or eliminated by the Authority Board for any stated or unstated period should other sources of revenue make it unnecessary to require per capita appropriations.
4. The Authority shall prepare an annual budget for the fiscal year October 1 to September 30, including the proposed per capita appropriation rate and the amount of revenue from each county, and forward copies of same to the governmental bodies of the counties representing the parties hereto by June 1 of each year in order that said counties shall have an opportunity to take considered action in approving or disapproving the proposed per capita appropriation, if any.
5. The budget and such other changes, amendments or supplements as may be necessary to conduct the fiscal affairs of the Authority may be amended from time to time by action of the Governing Board to include any funds accumulated from time to time from sources other than per capita appropriations. The budget may be amended to increase or decrease the

annual per capita appropriation by the counties representing the parties hereto by the same method set forth in paragraph 2 above.

SECTION XIII. – Amendments: This INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT may be amended in writing by the signatories in the same manner as this Agreement.

SECTION XIV. – Affirmation:

1. Citrus County hereby affirms that, at a duly constituted meeting of the Board of County Commissioners on the _____ day of _____, 20____, it approved the terms of this Agreement and the execution thereof by Citrus County.
2. Hernando County hereby affirms that, at a duly constituted meeting of the Board of County Commissioners on the _____ day of _____, 20____, it approved the terms of this Agreement and the execution thereof by Hernando County.
3. Marion County hereby affirms that, at a duly constituted meeting of the Board of County Commissioners on the _____ day of _____, 20____, it approved the terms of this Agreement and the execution thereof by Marion County.
4. Sumter County hereby affirms that, at a duly constituted meeting of the Board of County Commissioners on the _____

day of _____, 20____, it approved the terms
of this Agreement and the execution thereof by Sumter County.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Agreement
on the day and year first above written.

CITRUS COUNTY

By: _____
CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

HERNANDO COUNTY

By: _____
CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

MARION COUNTY

By: _____
CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

SUMTER COUNTY

By: _____
CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS