

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

**Minutes of the Meeting
February 17, 2016**

TIME: 3:30 p.m.
PLACE: Lecanto Government Building
ADDRESS: 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

Commissioner Dennis Damato, Chairman, called the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (WRWSA) meeting to order at 3:33 p.m. and asked for a roll call.

2. Roll Call

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

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Dennis Damato, *Chairman*, Citrus County
Commissioner
Earl Arnett, *Treasurer*, Marion County
Commissioner
Jim Adkins, Hernando County Commissioner
Al Butler, Sumter County Commissioner
Scott Carnahan, Citrus County Commissioner
William Kemerer, Brooksville City Councilor
Dale Swain, Bushnell City Councilor

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Nick Nicholson, *Vice Chairman*, Hernando
County Commissioner
Ken Brown, Crystal River City Councilor
Kathy Bryant, Marion County Commissioner
Don Hahnfeldt, Sumter County Commissioner
Carl Zalak, Marion County Commissioner
Ron Livsey, Belleview City Councilor

ALTERNATES PRESENT

Doug Andrews, Interim Utilities Director,
Marion County
Alys Brockway, Water Resource Manager,
Hernando County
David Burnell, City Manager, City of Crystal River

WRWSA STAFF PRESENT

Richard Owen, Executive Director
Larry Haag, Attorney
Diane Salz, Governmental Affairs
LuAnne Stout, Administrative Assistant

3. Introductions and Announcements

- *Introductions.* Mr. Owen recognized Authority staff and audience members present for this meeting.

OTHERS PRESENT

Jacob Arnette, Marion County
Ken Cheek, Citrus County
Dr. Anne Shortelle, St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD)
Lou Donnangelo, SJRWMD
Richard Radacky, City of Brooksville
Kevin Smith, Marion County
Chris Zajac, Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD)

4. Approval of Minutes

A copy of the January 20, 2016 minutes was provided in the Board's meeting materials. Following consideration, **Mr. Adkins moved to approve the minutes for the January 20, 2016 meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carnahan and carried unanimously.**

5. Public Comment

No one submitted a *Request to Speak* card to address the Board.

6. Presentation of Plaque Recognizing Past Chairman Al Butler

Mr. Damato read into the record activities attributed to Mr. Butler's chairmanship during the past year and presented him with a plaque noting his dates of services. Mr. Butler thanked his fellow Board members.

7. Johns River Water Management District Update

Dr. Anne Shortelle, SJRWMD Executive Director, thanked the Board for inviting her to speak. She introduced Mr. Lou. Donnangelo who is the Regional Water Supply Planning Coordinator for the Marion County area. Dr. Shortelle provided the Board with an update of significant activities at the SJRWMD including staff realignment with core mission, its planning priorities, collaboration with adjacent districts and stakeholders, water supply planning regions, Central Springs/East Coast Regional Water Supply Plan timeline, and project funding assistance implemented through an aggressive cost-share program.

(Mr. Arnett entered the meeting.)

Discussion ensued regarding modeling, nutrient loading, Central Florida area, cost sharing, and water supply diversification. Dr. Shortelle, Mr. Andrews, and Mr. Owen provided clarifying responses. Chairman Damato thanked SJRWMD staff for attending today's Board meeting.

This was an informational item and no Board action was necessary.

8. Board Member Orientation

Mr. Owen, WRWSA, provided Board members with an overview of the Authority, its mission statement, current work program, and ongoing priorities. He summarized that the Authority's current priorities are continued partnership with Citrus County on the Charles A. Black Wellfield, regional water supply planning maximizing traditional and alternative water supplies and avoiding competition for limited groundwater supplies, water conservation meeting and surpassing the water management districts' requirements, minimum flows and levels established to stay ahead of the curve with prevention strategies, and partnering with local government members and the water management districts in water supply development.

Chairman Damato requested this presentation be posted to the Authority's website.

This was an informational item and no Board action was necessary.

9. Local Government Grant Program

Mr. Owen, WRWSA, said that, since 2005, the Authority has funded an annual grants program that provides matching funds for water conservation and water supply development projects. Member governments and other utilities in the region have applied for and received cooperative grants for projects of mutual benefit. The 2016/17 grants cycle will begin with an announcement to be sent to utility directors and water conservation coordinators regarding the Authority's Local Government Grant Program (LGGP). A copy of the proposed announcement was included in the Board's meeting materials.

Mr. Owen noted that, in order to provide for this continuing program in the upcoming 2016/17 fiscal year and to allow staff to prepare the 2016/17 budget, staff requests the Board establish the total amount available in the fiscal year for the LGGP. In the recent past, the Board has established a total

amount of \$130,000 and limited funding to water conservation projects. This amount would be a significant contribution toward implementing conservation in the region.

Staff recommended the Board set the total allocation of funds in fiscal year 2016/17 for the LGGP at \$130,000, limit such grants to water conservation projects, and include that each individual award be not more than \$50,000.

Following consideration, **Mr. Adkins moved to set the total allocation of funds in fiscal year 2016/17 for the Local Government Grant Program at \$130,000, limit such grants to water conservation projects, and limit each individual award to no more than \$50,000. Mr. Butler seconded the motion.**

Ms. Brockway, Hernando County Water Resource Manager, said she appreciates the Board's efforts to support water conservation.

The motion carried unanimously

10. Charles A. Black Wellfield Water Supply Contract, Status Report

Mr. Owen, WRWSA, informed the Board of progress on the proposed new water supply contract with Citrus County. Authority representatives met with the Citrus County representatives, including the County Administrator, County Attorney and Water Resources Director on February 2, 2016 to discuss the major provisions of the proposed new Water Supply Contract between the Authority and Citrus County. Mr. Owen reviewed the outcome of these discussions and sought direction from the Board on any outstanding issues. He noted that another meeting with parties involved is scheduled for early March.

Chairman Damato thanked Mr. Owen for the excellent report. He said his expectations as a Board member is (1) that discussions are fair with a balanced resolution of outstanding issues, (2) final agreement include future year implications, (3) coordinating efforts with Citrus County and its recently adopted rate study to be implemented over three years, and (4) the final product will result in a new model to be utilized by other local governments for future water supply projects. The Board concurred with Chairman Damato.

This was an informational item and no Board action was necessary.

11. Executive Director's Report

a. Bills to be Paid

Mr. Owen presented the February 2016 bills and requested approval of payment for administrative invoices in the amount of \$ 16,573.35 and project invoices in the amount of \$465.00, totaling \$17,038.35. Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. Swain for payment of the February 2016 bills in the amount of \$17,038.35, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carnahan and carried unanimously.**

b. Bank Signature Cards and Resolution – Mr. Owen explained the new process required by SunTrust Bank. **Mr. Adkins moved, seconded by Mr. Butler, for new officers to sign the Bank Signature Cards and Resolution to meet requirements of SunTrust Bank. Motion carried unanimously.**

c. Correspondence – Items were included in the Board's meeting materials and the supplemental information.

- *Proposed Legislation.* Mr. Owen pointed out the letter was sent under Chairman Damato's signature to state the Authority's position regarding SB 526 and HB 745. This legislation would require special districts to provide an interactive website which is potentially very costly. Ms. Salz noted this legislation is stalled at the moment. Discussion ensued regarding this item

and potential impact. Mr. Owen said the Authority wants to be a transparent organization but a responsible entity when using taxpayers' dollars.

d. News Articles – News articles of interest were included in the Board's meeting materials and supplemental information.

e. Other – None

12. Legislative Report

Ms. Salz briefed the Board regarding ongoing activities occurring during the 2016 Legislative Session. She said that budget allocations and conferencing should begin soon. Also discussed was utility relocation legislation. It was noted that the Florida Association of Counties has agreed to the amended bills, although the Florida League of Cities continues to have concerns regarding payment of moving utilities. The Southwest Florida Water Management District governing board members and executive director Senate confirmations have all been approved and now ready for floor action.

Chairman Damato thanked staff for keeping the Board informed.

13. Attorney's Report

Mr. Haag said he had nothing to report at this time.

14. Other Business

No other business was brought before the Board.

15. Next Meeting Time and Location

The next monthly meeting is scheduled for March 16, 2016 at 3:30 p.m. The meeting location is the Lecanto Government Building, Room 166 (3600 W. Sovereign Path, Lecanto).

16. Adjournment

Chair Damato adjourned the meeting at 5:05 p.m.

Dennis Damato, Chairman

Richard S. Owen, Executive Director